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Mining's Legacy Hits Home

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A Tribute To Our Founder and Fearless Leader

By Donna Reibslager

This month, Patagonia Regional Times celebrates five years of publication. The man who first conceived of this newspaper—and whose guidance and enthusiasm has kept it going ever since—is Walter Andrew.

Since its inception, Walter has tirelessly pursued ways to make this newspaper better, by searching out contributing writers, going through the legal hoops to establish us as a nonprofit, creating structure and strengthening administrative support, and coming up with new ways to better serve the needs of the community. He has done all this while also serving as our most intrepid reporter and photographer. His illuminating photos of the many people who have appeared in our pages are testimony to his ability to put his subjects at ease and bring out the best in them. And those who have been subject to his inquiry for information about a story can attest to his relentless tenacity.

That he established this publication is but one measure of Walter Andrew’s investment in this community. He has also been a loyal fan of PUHS sports, a keen observer of local politics, and a strong advocate for solutions to the problem of affordable housing.

As his next door neighbor and one of his first PRT recruits, I have exchanged proofing pages, photos, and letters to the editor over the wall with Walter every month for the past five years. In the early days, neighbors could hear our occasional loud arguments over some aspect of an issue on which we couldn’t agree, as we sat in his backyard or mine, always remaining the best of friends.

Recently, due to health problems, Walter has had to absent himself from his role as mentor and ringleader (and reporter, photographer, board president, and more). It now appears unlikely that he will be able to return to PRT—and that is a tremendous loss. Every one of us at PRT knows what this newspaper owes to his inquiring mind, his tireless energy, and his inspiration.

— Robin Baxter
By Ann Katzenbach

It’s been over a month since two streams in the Patagonia Mountains that feed into Harshaw and Sonoita Creeks were found to be flowing with orange water, but so far there are no clear answers as to the origin of the leaks, what metals and chemicals are in them or what can be done to mitigate the flows. Many agencies have become involved in assessing the problem, including the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Arizona State Parks (ASP), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the University of Arizona (U of A).

Heavy rains in September apparently flooded old tunnels in the Lead Queen and Trench Camp mines. Experts familiar with the mountains and mines say there could be some aluminum, iron, manganese, sulfur, lead, silicon, copper, or cadmium in the stream, but definitive results are still pending. Floyd Gray of USGS collected the water samples that are being evaluated. He was quoted by the Arizona Republic as saying when he saw the contaminated streams, “... everybody’s freaked. We’ve never seen it like this anywhere in the mountain.”

ADEQ works closely with a trust that was set up in 2009 as a result of a lawsuit brought against Asarco, the mining company that once owned the Trench Mine here—as well as mines and smelters all over the United States. That trust oversees approximately 18 sites in 11 states, and it has paid out settlements of $70 million or more. The Salero Mine (in the Santa Ritas) and Trench Camp Mines were allotted a combined sum of about $3 million for cleanup.

ADEQ and EPA have been concerned about surface and groundwater pollution at the Trench Camp Mine for awhile. In the 1990s, Asarco created an artificial wetlands to treat the water that discharges from the mine. ADEQ thinks that wetlands overflowed in September, but that other factors are also at play—so they can’t be sure what the source of contamination really is.

According to Wendy Russell, spokesperson for Patagonia Area Regional Alliance (PARA), when the first observers came from Tucson, they all could see the source of the leaking orange water, and were in agreement that it was coming from both the Trench Camp tailing piles and the artificial wetlands. She says she isn’t sure why ADEQ is now saying it is uncertain about the source.

The USFS is also awaiting the results of Gray’s tests. They are responsible for the other source of contamination, the Lead Queen Mine. Unlike ADEQ—who can go to the Asarco trust—the Forest Service has no money in their budget to deal with mine clean ups. There are abandoned mines all over Forest Service land in Arizona that were there before the federal agency existed. These mines are like time bombs because none of them was closed with care. Walk almost anywhere in the Coronado National Forest and you will see signs warning of open mine tunnels and shafts. When contamination occurs at the level of this recent event, the USFS has to apply for funding to mitigate the hazard. According to Heidi Schewel, District Ranger in Sierra Vista, they have received $150,000 in emergency funds and a group of geologist, hydrologists and engineers will evaluate more mines in the upper Harshaw area. From these surveys, they will develop a mitigation plan.

Although a determination has not yet been made as to the water samples submitted by Floyd Gray, recent tests of Patagonia’s drinking water show it to be safe to drink. As for Patagonia Lake, Robert Casavant, Natural Resource-Science Manager for Arizona State Parks says “Fish and lake waters are sampled regularly at the state park. At this time, ASP is not aware of any direct impact that affects its resource management and/or public safety missions at the lake.”

Dr. Peter Reinthal, a professor at the U of A, has been studying Humboldt, Alum, and Harshaw Creek’s water, plant and animal life for some years. He was slightly less definite, saying that he worries about the effect of mining on all the waterways in the region, not just from contaminated water but also from mine tailings dust that gets into the air. His studies have shown that Alum Creek has a pH of (continued on page 4)
Sierra Vista District Ranger Mark Ruggiero signed a Decision Memorandum (DM) for the Sunnyside exploratory mineral drilling proposal by Canadian mining company, Regal Resources, granting the drilling project approval with a Categorical Exclusion designation. A Categorical Exclusion project is considered to not have significant impacts. It's a category that is exempted from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, both of which would analyze potential impacts of a proposal.

The Sunnyside mineral drilling project is located on the Coronado National Forest in Humboldt Canyon in the Patagonia Mountains, roughly six miles south of Patagonia. The project is also located within federally protected critical habitat for jaguar and Mexican spotted owl. The DM declares that the drilling project “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” threatened or endangered jaguars, Mexican spotted owls, ocelots, and lesser Long-nosed bats.

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance has expressed concern about the potential effects that the Sunnyside drilling project would have on the Town of Patagonia Municipal Supply Watershed. The DM states, “If project water is purchased from a supplier within the Harshaw Creek watershed or upper Sonora Creek, the Town of Patagonia municipal supply may be affected.” Furthermore, “quantitative scientific studies have not been performed by the Forest Service regarding the water supply for the project and the possible effects to the town.” The DM concludes, “Since the location of the water supply is unknown, the water supply of the Town of Patagonia may be totally unaffected as the supply source may be drawn from an entirely different groundwater basin.”

There is no objection or appeals procedure offered by the Forest Service for Categorical Exclusion decisions. They are final. After accepting the conditions required by the Decision Memo and posting a reclamation bond, the Sunnyside drilling project will be allowed to begin in Humboldt Canyon. A start date has yet to have been set.

Mining’s Legacy
cont. from page 3

1—3, which essentially cannot sustain living organisms. (Decent drinking water has a pH of 7). Humboldt and Harshaw Creeks are healthier. "Right now," Reinthal says of the lake, "I know of no deleterious impacts, but that doesn’t mean they’re not occurring.

Reinthal stressed the need to act proactively when it comes to stresses in the environment. "It always seems to take a crisis before people take action," the professor noted. At this point, with so many unknowns and so many agencies trying to figure out what to do, it seems like this crisis has produced very little action.

Many Patagonia residents remain uneasy about the fact that the leaking water flows into Harshaw and Sonora Creeks, important pieces of the town’s watershed, and from there into Patagonia Lake, a popular fishing and recreational area with an estimated 330,000 visitors each year. Hopefully, the test results and some strong mitigation action on the part of ADEQ and USFS will calm people’s fears.

FS Approves Sunnyside Drilling Project

By Wendy Russell

Workers from Environmental Response, Inc., a Tempe company, at the Trench mine on October 17

By PRT Staff

Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) and Earthworks have released a new peer-reviewed report on the impact to Patagonia’s water supply from the proposed Hermosa mine, to be sited within the upper reaches of Harshaw Creek—a portion of Patagonia’s Municipal Supply Watershed. Earthworks is an established national environmental organization whose mission is to protect the environment from the impacts of irresponsible mineral and energy development. The primary focus of their study was the effect of the mine on our available water supply, acid mine drainage, heavy metals leaching, and groundwater contamination.

The report concludes that the Hermosa silver mine could deplete the town’s drinking water and perpetually contaminate area groundwater with acid mine drainage, as well as threaten the drinking water wells of surrounding residents.

The mine would be 4,000 foot wide and 1,500 foot deep. It would consume 670 million to 1.2 billion gallons of groundwater per year – up to 53 times the amount of water the town uses today. The report concludes that the mine’s water consumption will lower the recharge rates for the aquifer on which the town depends, and is also likely to produce acidic runoff, requiring ongoing treatment in perpetuity.

Because the mine is proposed within the Coronado National Forest, it is subject to the 1872 Mining Law. Federal land managers interpret that law as requiring them to permit mines, whether or not the land is better used for other purposes – like protecting a town’s drinking water supply watershed.

“Because the Hermosa mine proposal threatens area water supplies, it obviously should not be permitted,” said report author Pete Dronkers of Earthworks. He continued, “That it’s being considered at all is a strong argument for reforming the 1872 Mining Law to allow for the consideration of other potential land uses.”

The report also analyzes other adverse impacts, such as air pollution and endangered species. It can be found online at www.hermosa-report.earth-worksaction.org.

PRT Teams Up With PUHS Journalism Class

You may have already noticed a new addition to Patagonia Regional Times—Lobos News—which first appeared in our previous issue.

The journalism class at PUHS, taught by Journee Hayes, is going to contribute student articles each month, in a special section that will replace the monthly PUHS newsletter mail-out. The arrangement will give the class a chance to be published more widely, and to learn more about the process that all writing goes through at PRT before it goes to print, while eliminating that cost from the school’s budget.

We are pleased to be a part of this venture, and to be able to showcase these young journalists’ writing and photography skills. We think their work will grow in professionalism as the year goes on, and we hope that they will do some reporting that goes beyond the boundaries of the school so you can get a youthful viewpoint on some of the town’s news (such as Exelee Budd’s article on the Fall Festival, page 14).

This is our fifth year anniversary and our first color edition, and it seems a perfect time to add this educational element to the paper as well. As always we encourage readers to write to us and let us know your views - and that includes the student work. They will like having feedback.
It looks like someone forgot to tell these wild turkeys—spotted on the roadside in Elgin—that this isn't the safest time of year for them to be out for a stroll.

Christmas Magic
At Cady Hall

The Patagonia Woman's Club's annual "Magic of Christmas" will be held in Cady Hall, Friday through Sunday, November 28 through November 30 (Thanksgiving weekend), from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature a bazaar and hand-decorated Christmas tree sale. Plus a visit from Santa. Santa will be making a stop there on Sunday to visit with children from 12 to 2 p.m. The Patagonia Woman's Club supports community non-profits and awards two 4-year $1000 scholarships each year to students at Patagonia high school.
When I moved to Patagonia, my new garage already held items from the previous owner. Among the items were a manual wheelchair, crutches, and two nice walkers. New to the community, I wondered where I could donate those items so those who needed them could use them. I wonder how many of us have items stored from previous accidents or caregiving stints with friends and loved ones.

Family Healthcare Amigos, a local service organization that promotes health education and supports the ongoing presence of Mariposa Clinic, has joined with the Patagonia Community United Methodist Church to provide a “Lending Shed,” located at the end of Rothrock Alley. Together, Amigos and PCUMC will be available to lend wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, toilet railings, bed pans as well as adult diapers, briefs and chucks which have been donated to these organizations. There are too many items to list here. For more information, go to the FH Amigos website at www.fhamigos.com for a full inventory of items available.

Both organizations would appreciate any donations from community members who have items that are in good repair. Call Linda Huffstetler-Dearing at 394-0268 or the Church Office at 394-2274 and someone will meet you at the storage facility to take your tax-deductible items. Call these numbers if you, a friend or loved one is in need of medical equipment. Both organizations will keep a running inventory of items available and can answer your questions about whether the Lending Shed has what you need.

I love the way the people of Patagonia care about each other and take care of each other. Rather than sitting in our garages and storage units unused, circulating this equipment within our community is just another way Patagonians can take care of each other.
Little Free Libraries (LFL) are a new idea that has become popular throughout the US and in other parts of the world. The libraries are handcrafted structures that contain a constantly changing menu of books donated and shared by people in a community. Most LFLs are placed in front yards, parks, gardens, and other easily accessible locations. Some are located in coffee shops, restaurants, schools, and community centers.

In 2009, Todd Bol built the first LFL in Hudson, Wisconsin, as a tribute to his mother—a dedicated reader and former schoolteacher. When he saw the people in his community gathering around it like a neighborhood water cooler, exchanging conversation as well as books, he knew he wanted to take his simple idea further. Since then, it has become a full-fledged movement, spreading from state to state, country to country. There are now more than 18,000 of the little structures around the world, located in all 50 states and over 70 countries. Bol has said that LFLs are all about connections in a world where so many things push us apart. They often serve as an antidote to the world of Kindle downloads and data-driven algorithms. The little boxes are refreshingly physical and human. When you open the door, serendipity (and your neighbors’ taste) dictates what you’ll find. The selection of books could contain a Japanese mystery, a Mexican cookbook, a field guide to birds, or an old classic.

The Friends of Patagonia Library are launching a fund-raising project, with the goal of raising $10,000 to support library acquisitions and emerging technologies, and to remodel the Friends’ book sale room. The project has three components: sponsorship, design, and an auction. The Friends are asking for donations toward sponsoring artisans or groups to create LFL structures. Each tax deductible $100 gift will fund one artisan, as well as help cover the cost of the project. Checks can be handed in at the library or mailed to PO Box 415, Patagonia AZ 85624.

The Friends are also looking for individuals or groups to design and construct the LFLs, which will be displayed and promoted throughout the area. Information about building the structures is available at the library or by calling the library (520-394-2010) or Jan Herron (520-275-6439).

Next April, the Friends will host an event at which the newly created LFLs will be auctioned off. By purchasing and setting up these unique libraries, individuals, neighborhoods, businesses, organizations, schools, and churches will be establishing a new tradition of community booksharing—one that helps promote literacy, a love of reading, and a sense of community.

Patagonia Library To Promote New Idea for Community Booksharing

By Jan Herron

8987 Tanque Verde Rd.
#301-157
Tucson, AZ 85749

Save The Scenic Santa Ritas

The Rosemont Mine is NOT A DONE DEAL!
With YOUR help, this mine CAN be stopped.

Raise your voice! Keep our public lands public!
Visit www.scenicsantaritas.org for more information
It could have been my father, the farmer, yet it was my mother who took me into the garden and with great patience taught me the simple steps of gardening. Gardening was very different where I grew up. The climate, the soil, the latitude: Wales was wet and green and cool.

In contrast, most of my adult life has been lived in the southwestern United States, a world alien to that of my childhood. I learned to garden in rich, dark soil with rain so abundant that even though slugs, snails and rabbits ate our crops, and weeds grew rampant, I could return to my garden and find something green and growing.

I was not prepared for Las Vegas.

Feeling a deep need to connect to the place in which I found myself, I turned to the earth. I bought bundles of plants from far away places, dug them into the pale parched soil, watered them and watched them die. No amount of care worked. Then determination set in. I bought manure and grew a lush, green lawn. I was, at last, connecting to my roots.

Almost 16 years passed before a friend suggested that I make compost. Somehow I had not connected the dots from the old-style farming that I knew to the needs of the land where I was living. Through trial and failure, some serious study, and a commitment to succeed, I have, at last, found out how to garden in this high desert of Arizona’s borderlands. And it begins with the soil.

Soil can be made. I have made lots of it and have helped others to do the same. It is like magic and cooking: gathering organic ingredients, creating workable conditions, giving the ingredients an opportunity to interact with each other, adding a pinch of living creatures (soil creatures) and water, and giving the process some time. Twelve inches of topsoil was produced the first time I built a sheet mulch garden. It took three months to develop.

The climate we cannot change (sun, rain, high/low temperatures, cold air/hot winds), but we can create microclimates using trees, fences and buildings that shelter and hold heat. But soil, the game changer, can be made. In this climate, topsoil—the rich, high nutrient layer on the surface—can be generated in a matter of months with relative ease. Great soil allows us to push the boundaries of plant tolerance, not unlike ourselves. We are resilient if our environment supports our needs. Organic matter—decaying plant material that supports soil life—is key to successful gardening.

In my next article, I will describe the sheet mulch process.

Kate Tirion is a horticultural specialist committed to developing sustainable ecosystems and is the owner of Deep Dirt Farm. You can learn more about Kate’s projects by visiting www.katetirion.com.
My brain was shaped during the 1950s and '60s. That perspective and those attitudes and ideas have defined my sphere of technologic skills and my outlook on life, although since then I have expanded a bit. I've learned to use a computer and a digital camera. I even have an Iphone, although I rarely carry it with me.

What my aging brain cannot do well is keep up with life as it is lived today. Very few things move at a leisurely pace. Nearly everything is hurtling along or flashing, jumping, blasting, erupting. There are layers of noise and movement that blur any underlying sense of order. One reason I love Patagonia is because it is sleepy and slow and pretty quiet (barking dogs take note). Even the Fall Festival is a relaxed, slow-moving event. I heard one woman talking on her cell phone exclaiming about the clean air and the mountains and sunshine to someone far away. It is a special place, and it only takes some time away to really appreciate it.

In early October I went away for nine days, two of which I spent in airports. By a stroke of the worst possible luck my early flight from Tucson was an hour late taking off (United Airlines scheduled a plane but no crew), and I missed my connection in Denver, which meant I had to spend seven hours in the Denver airport. I found many places to sit and read and watch the life of an airport. Everyone was either hurrying or waiting, cell phones at the ready. The air was filled with the sound of beeping carts and plane departure announcements. A cross-section of America that could afford to fly was there, and they were dressed in everything from expensive business suits to raggedy jeans and T-shirts. Two large men with dyed hair appeared to be wearing wrestling outfits. For a while I sat and watched the electric walkway—people rushing toward some undefined departure gate, pulling their world in a suitcase behind them.

When I finally got to my first stop in Philadelphia it was 11:30 p.m. A day and a half later I was on a train headed for New York City. Penn Station is another place where you could believe the world has gone off the rails (pun sort of intended). I joined thousands of people in the main concourse who were headed for the street or the deeper departure tunnels—everyone in a hurry, cell phones in hand—a cross-section of America, including the very down-and-out. I walked about 10 blocks through lunch hour pedestrian traffic with my suitcase following behind. I found some lunch and then bravely walked out on Seventh Avenue and hailed a cab. If Tucson is your reference when it comes to city driving, it can't prepare you for New York, and, although I've driven through traffic there before, I still closed my eyes at each lane change. Respite from the fast pace of life came with a weekend stay in New Hampshire and then two days in Vermont. The New England hardwoods were glorious in their fall colors, and instead of speeding, most people were meandering and stopping to take pictures. Nature has a way of helping us slow down.

And finally, I was in Boston, my home for many years, but since then they have built a 3 1/2 mile tunnel under the city. A friend drove me to the airport from Cambridge in early rush hour traffic. I looked in vain for familiar landmarks and quickly lost my sense of direction. We drove into the big tunnel and then into another tunnel and when we came out, we were headed for the departure gates at Logan Airport, where everyone was pulling a suitcase, moving fast, and checking their phones. I segued into the throngs. This time there was only a two-hour delay in Denver, and I was home before dark. Two days later the Fall Festival was under way—as busy as this little town ever gets.
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

E Pluribus Dufus

By Martin Levowitz

Don’t look now, Toto. We’re rotting. Does it bother anyone else out there that almost all of this season’s campaign ads, even those supporting relatively decent candidates, are petty and misleading? “Well, if you’re gonna call me a bad name, I’m gonna call you a bad name. Nyaa Nyaa Nyaa.” How undignified. What does it say about human nature or overripe civilization? If I had children who started down that dismal slope—“Well, he did this!” and “She did that!”—I’d slap both their behinds and take away their rawhide chew-toys.

Does anyone even remember The High Road these days? Not content to restrict themselves to unflattering facts, campaign ads wallow in sleazy innuendo, associating their opponents with everyone and everything that market research has indicated the voters they’re targeting despise. When Sally McSilly accuses Ron Barber of cozying up to Nancy Pelosi it’s like saying he’s willfully stepped in dog poop and will gleefully track it all over The Constitution. But Barber’s ads are loathsome, too. What kinds of morons are fooled by this negative crap? You and I are too smart, are we not? Simpistic ads pitched to small-minded people reinforce stupidity and demean democracy. It sometimes feels tempting to boycott the whole sordid mess and just not vote. The system, in its present state, is deeply out of whack, and anyone who wins or even gets to run at all has almost certainly been tainted by the process, as certain ill-starred babies are by birth.

Democracy, like mothers’ milk and deep-dish apple pie, is one of those concepts we’re taught to revere from the start. Perhaps there’s really no such thing. True democracy has rarely been attempted, much less achieved, because it runs against the grain of animal honesty. Where one looks out for Number One, and, perhaps, for one’s family or clan. Quite simply, you get what you can. (As per Ayn Rand.) The chief commandment of biological prosperity is COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY—Dominate and, if necessary, destroy anyone who might eat you, your children, or your chocolate mouse. It’s Me, Me, Me and Might Makes Right. Among humans, animal nature in its pure form manifests as monopoly, oligarchy, or tyranny. It’s ironic that ancient Greece, long touted as democracy’s birthplace, was a society built upon slavery. The lofty notion of one man/one vote applied only to male citizens of the ruling class. (Women or Mexicans need not apply.)

Hey, remember that discussion of vectors in high school science class? That’s the notion that forces pushing in different directions will arrive at some resultant compromise, according to their strength and mass. Por ejemplo, if one force is coming in from 11:00 and another, equivalent force, from 7:00, their combined effect will move toward 3:00—a compromise or average, so to speak. This holds true unless the two forces are truly diametrically opposed, in which case what results is heat and stress—wasted energy. In politics it’s pretty much the same; when different points of view cannot agree or compromise, no meaningful movement occurs. And that, boys and girls, is called Capitol Hill—where The Impasse Is King. Lewis Lapham, former longtime editor of Harper’s, who now has his own magazine, Lapham’s Quarterly, often says, “Democracy is a very messy process.” (And that, kiddies, is called understatement.)

Democracy implicitly presumes The Golden Rule, so it can be exploited if folks don’t play by the rules—DISTORTED BY THOSE WHO EQUATE THE WORD “MORAL” WITH “GAUCHE.” Democracy, if it deserves that name, assumes good faith: we’re working not only for the success of our particular interests but also for the success of the system—of democracy itself. That this is sometimes not the case is evident of course. Can you say “J.P. Morgan Chase” or “Citigroup” or “Goldman Sachs”? (Those greedy, underhanded pigs who kept their diapers dry by climbing up their neighbors’ backs.) And yet, despite its weaknesses and sometimes grievous flaws, democracy’s the best device we humans have thus far devised for trying to achieve sound, balanced laws. Let’s pray for us.

My Escape From Insanity

By Jon Larsen

I recently returned from a trip to Michigan, where I was born and raised. It was a rough ride coming back to Patagonia. In Nebraska, I-80 had lots of road seams to loosen nuts and bolts. My route branched off to Colorado, and then there was Denver. I decided I was not going to try to match the speed of vehicles around Denver. I would drive no faster than 55, the posted speed limit. It quickly became clear that 55 was too fast. My neck was tense and sore. I dropped my speed to 50. That felt better. I dropped my speed to 45. That felt even better.

I dropped my speed to 40 and started grinning. All of the idiots who raced each other to get another 20 feet down the road ahead of somebody else seemed of no importance. I grinned and cruised at 40 staying “centered” in one of the three I-25 through lanes. They whizzed by at maybe 85 or more like they were being chased by the devil. It was like an insane competition to get ahead running amuck. About two miles from the end of Denver sat two police cars with lights flashing and two officers standing next to two 55 mph signs. I beeped my horn and waved to them as I broke the law at 5 mph below the minimum speed as the other drivers broke the law by six times as much and more. It’s good to be back in Patagonia—which escapes this insanity, being much more calm—and which is home.
OPINION & COMMENT

Chicken Wars
By Cassina Farley

I’m a self-proclaimed chicken rancher—a lover of chickens, a fan of all things fowl. My little flock of 16 chickens gives me lots of joy, and, of course, a few eggs. As with my dogs, my chickens enjoy a charmed life: free run of the yard, fresh greens, and heat lamps in the winter. Since bringing them in the house is not an option (Zach feels that chickens on the couch is where he must draw the line), I must trust that the outside world will be kind.

The first “kidnapping” occurred in the afternoon. All that remained of a glorious Barred Rock were a few scratches in the dirt and a puff of feathers and all the other chickens huddled in the pen looking traumatized. I fantasized that she fought back and gave her attacker a hard time, but in reality it probably was over before it started, and she floated off to the great chicken house in the sky clutched in the talons of a giant owl.

We rallied after that traumatic day. I made adjustments and put the chickens in earlier every day. It didn’t stop that big old owl from coming every evening waiting for me to let down my guard. Then it happened again—this time one of my white Leghorns was snatched up in a split second. I heard the bell on the gate ring when she caught the chicken on the gate as she swooped out of the yard and to her hideaway in Lars’s barn (yep, Lars is harboring a fugitive). White feathers were still floating in the air when I ran out. I could only hope it was quick. I was down to two white chickens, and I soon realized they were targets and I had no way to keep them safe. We were at war.

On one fateful evening I didn’t get home in time to close the pen. I gathered the chickens and realized I was missing yet another white hen. I had only one left. I cursed the open air. I knew somewhere that owl was lurking around having a fine chicken dinner. Even so I couldn’t blame her; I was making it too easy. So we went on lock down. No chickens in, no chickens out, and since my chickens were used to roaming free, there was lots of wailing and clucking. A couple of weeks went by, and every now and then Zach or I would feel sorry for them and let them out, only to put them right back in—we couldn’t chance it.

One morning I looked out the kitchen window and saw a white chicken pecking at the grass. Moments later I saw the same chicken scratching in the compost pile. Then I realized the chickens were still locked up. Somehow the chicken that had disappeared was back. Zach didn’t believe me because when I got him to come and see, the white hen was nowhere to be found. He kind of gave me the “sure she did” face, referred to her as a “ghost chicken,” and went inside. For three days I held a vigil for this chicken, running outside first thing in the morning to try and prove her existence, and for three days no luck, until Zach spied her casually eating grass in the back yard. The “ghost chicken” had somehow escaped her captor and returned home.

Our POW is now safe and sound and reunited with her fellow chickens, and as of now she isn’t talking. We may have won this battle, but there is still no end to this war in sight.

Vote With Your Dollar
By Steve Schmitt

With the midterm elections just around the corner, and while voting is both outstanding and the foundation of our freedoms, I would like to propose how everyone can vote on a daily basis -- with your wallet! You have a much stronger and lasting effect on your lives simply by spending your money with those companies and businesses that mirror your beliefs and convictions. Support and defend your beliefs by how and where you spend your money. It is almost impossible to vote out a well-funded incumbent, but take away their revenue source, and suddenly he or she is gone.

I suggest that you run screaming from anything even related to Monsanto and GMO’s. Buy organic and as locally as possible to minimize your carbon footprint and to keep those options alive. Even if your budget cannot afford going totally organic, at least shop at grocery stores not tied in too closely with the Grocers Marketing Association as they are tied to Monsanto in fighting GMO labeling. Not your cup of tea? Well, even if your economics or location limit your shopping options, there are still multiple choices on which cereal, coffee or bread you buy.

Every day we are bombarded by companies who want our money. All I’m saying is that instead of buying from the company with the prettiest models or most exotic locations, use the internet to find out how their corporate policy aligns with yours. Whether you support them not, remember they are getting rich on your hard earned money! Of course, if the prettiest model is important to you, then by all means go for it. Again, make a personal statement by how you buy. You are the boss.

Can you see now what power you have? Did we not get rid of Coke One and the Edsel simply by not buying them. Granted, they both kind of sucked, but getting back to Monsanto. What do you think would happen to Monsanto and their board of directors if we all said enough is enough? Their profits and bonuses are directly related to our buying what they are selling. Look at the growth of organic and natural foodstuffs now available. Do you think the grocery stores did that out of the goodness of their hearts? No. They responded to economic pressure. We need to tell companies what we want, not succumb to what they want to sell. The almighty dollar has never been stronger.

Back to the mid-terms. One of the really neat concepts of the Dine (Navajo) is the idea that all decisions made must take into account how it will affect the next seven generations. Yes – SEVEN! Just think of all the problems we and our elected officials could have averted by considering that simple concept. A little forward thinking could avoid a lot of problems. Where does your candidate stand on the issues that will affect the next seven generations? I’m just saying......
The Smallest Violin
By Rhonda Brew

Dan Dalton, known to Patagonians as “Miner Dan,” passed away in September. The “smallest violin” was the most wonderful, magical gift he gave me one day after he came home from the hospital.

We always ate lunch at the Senior Center, where I’d sit at the “old guys table.” It was my favorite place to sit, with Wally, Ramon, David, and Arcenio. One day I walked into the center, and Dan was in his usual chair at the head of the table. As I was walking toward him, he had his eyes locked on mine. “You’re late!” he said. As I was stammering my excuse, he pointed his thumb at me, running his index finger back and forth across the top of it, saying, “Do you know what this is?” I stood there with my mouth open, but no words were coming out.

Dan said, “This is the world’s smallest violin playing “My Heart Bleeds for You.” From that moment on, whenever I saw Dan, I would only talk about my blessings. No more excuses for me, and I don’t need to pass them on to others. I try to talk about positive things and take time to compliment the efforts of others. No more reinforcing a negative outlook.

Every time I think of spouting off some negative comment, I think of the world’s smallest violin playing “My Heart Bleeds for You.” Thank you, Dan. I will never be the same, and you will always live in my heart, right where you have been since the day I met you at Charlie’s Politically Incorrect Gas Station, the place you loved to be.

Thank you, Charlie and everyone, for the wonderful party for Dan. Before Dan’s wake, I didn’t realize all the amazing things he had done during his life. It was great to meet his kids. They did the most awesome job of painting the picture of their father’s life for us all. He is my new hero.

The best part of the wake was when they poured everyone a shot of whiskey. You could drink to Dan, or pour it in the crack of the sidewalk by the gas pumps where they put some of his ashes. I drank half of my shot and poured the other half in the crack, drinking with him.

There was so much food. Angel Murrietta serenaded us with his guitar and sang all the oldies that I’m sure Dan knew. His good friends, family, and neighbors pitched in, and there was a huge turnout. We all love you, Dan!

Boots
For Marsden Hartley,
American Painter 1878-1943

They sit there, this old pair of boots, tongues creased from tightly drawn laces, toes in an upward permanent curl, oval holes in toe tips. Together we’ve traveled and lamed, kicked, stomped and soaked up weather.

To see something,
allows me
a few quixotic moments to drift
and for awhile I go, not simply
to lose myself, but to glimpse
perhaps those elements
like a pair of old boots
on the threshold
holding a door from its frame
in the long shadows
of late afternoon.

— Robert E. Druchniak
The Weaving Of An Herbalist

By Jiling Yin

Herbalism, or plant medicine, is deeply woven into the lives of Taiwanese people through their cooking, growing, and wildcrafting of plants. During the first month of a Taiwanese baby's life, the father's mother comes to take care of the new family, bathing the baby in herbs, and cooking nourishing broths filled with warming, tonifying, and healing herbs. These herbs infuse the home with a delicious aroma and take root in the baby's body, heart, and life.

I grew up in southern California. My Taiwanese mom imbued my life with herbs and taught me how to harvest, eat, and appreciate the delicious wild fruits that fell from neighboring trees and that nobody but us came to pick. I spent my favorite childhood days wild-crafting, hiking, climbing trees, playing games, and creating stories.

We refer to affinity or serendipity in Chinese as “yuan fen.” It's the invisible red thread that ties people's lives together. I became an herbalist because yuan fen wove plant medicine through my life and travels.

After college, I traveled around the US and southeastern Asia for almost eight years, exploring diverse traditional healing modalities and spiritual traditions. While in Taiwan, I went through a traumatic surgery to remediate the long-term effects of a near-death climbing accident. That experience taught me that healing is a multifactorial process and a lifelong dance. I returned to the US, where I studied western clinical herbal medicine and botany with 7Song, at the Northeast School of Botanical Medicine.

Yuan fen brought me to Patagonia. Besides teaching yoga, practicing Thai massage, and giving herbal consultations, I'll write a monthly column on herbal medicine. I'm hosting herbalism classes on the first Saturday of each month, from 1 to 3 at Borderlands' retail space. On November 1 from 1 to 3, we'll have a tea party to celebrate the new classes. Welcome! Borderlands' retail space hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-1 and Friday and Saturday 10-3.

Jiling Lin can be contacted at LinJiling@gmail.com.

What I Found At The Fall Festival

By Exalee Budd

The 25th annual Fall Festival has come and gone, and, as always, there was a huge turnout. People come from every corner of Arizona, sometimes farther, and you might be surprised how long some have been making the trip. Art is the largest aspect of the festival. You can find anything from pottery and paintings to glass sculptures or even a new exhibit from this year, “Mediterranean Aquariums.”

I got the chance to speak with a few of the vendors with the most eye-catching art. Robert Sanders, a master of fine glass sculptures, has been working with glass since college. “I started off making pigs and penguins for Sea World,” he said, “and that’s how I made my way through college.” Sue Waddick also includes glass in her unique form of art. She has been involved in stained glass for over 20 years; even though it just began as “something I’ve always wanted to do,” she now has a full-time business. Waddick has won multiple awards and has a schedule full of arts and crafts fairs all across the southwest.

Robert Hughes from Prescott, has been working with clay for close to 40 years. He began Kiote Clay Pottery in 1992, but before that, he worked as a potter in southern California for 15 years. Each piece of his artisan pottery is different in its own way; small variations are what makes his artwork unique.

Joe Figueiredo makes beautiful handmade furniture out of steel and flagstone. Figueiredo came to Arizona in 1976 to work in the mining industry. He discovered the true beauty of flagstone and steel creations in 1998 and has been creating custom flagstone furniture ever since.

Overall, the festival art was beautiful, colorful, and unique, and every artist has a special story. Sometimes you just need to open your eyes and dig a little deeper to find the greatest little details in such a big place. I did, and what I found was worth the time.
Photos by Ann Katzenbach and Donna Reibslager
In honor of PRT's first color issue, here is a sample of work by a few of the talented local artists who have been featured in our pages over the last five years.
Adult art classes have begun again at the Patagonia Art Center. Guest artists host one-day workshops that encourage creative play and the chance to explore a wide range of media at an extremely modest cost of $5 (suggested donation.) Classes are held on Thursdays, from 2 to 4 p.m. There’s now a life drawing class taught by Cornelia O’Connor on the first Thursday of every month. This month, Helen Chester will hold a printmaking class on 11/13 and 11/20. For more information, call Cassina at 394-9369.

Cindy Holt describes herself as a vagabond. She’s traveled all over the country, by horseback and by motorcycle, and she loves a good adventure. Cindy has been making art for most of her life. At some point in her travels, she spent some years in Toledo, Ohio. While she was there, her work was exhibited in several galleries and at the Toledo Museum of Art.

Cindy says that she likes to play with many different art forms, and her ventures include found-art sculpture, wall hangings, painting, jewelry making, photography, and metal work. The exhibit that was on display during October at the Gathering Grounds was an eclectic mix. Horse skulls she had retrieved from the desert during her rides were adorned with beads, and mounted them on the wall with feathers and other small totem-like objects suspended below by a nearly invisible filament. Mesquite trees were fashioned from old barbed wire. One large display panel was devoted to jewelry, such as the example shown above, that wove together many strands of silver and gold chain, with an unfinished stone as its focal point.

Cindy also displayed a belt with dragon heads she fashioned from gold, photos from her travels—which include the Arizona Trail—and a painting, (“Old Friends”, upper left). She says the painting is the result of a wager: she was told that her painting was “aggressive” and was challenged to do a painting that was passive. She won the bet—and a cup of coffee.

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Patagonia’s annual Holiday Artwalk seems to usher in the holiday season for town residents each year. True, many people do a little early holiday gift shopping at the Fall Festival, but the holidays still seem far away. Artwalk, which opens the day after Thanksgiving, is usually accompanied by cool, crisp weather, and the complimentary treats offered by participating locations help to get the holiday spirit going. Not to mention the roving Santa Claus, who dispenses candy and wry comments as he strolls the streets and businesses.

Artwalk not only draws visitors from as far away as Phoenix, it’s an event that locals come out for, as well. After all, Patagonia is home to many artists, and the event provides an opportunity to see a lot of their work—all in a day or two.

The origin of Artwalk seems to have been an undertaking by Linda Chase, proprietor of Painted House Studio. Many years ago, she rounded up some of the local artists and hosted a holiday boutique in her front rooms. That event was so successful that it was perpetuated by Regina Medley, owner of Mesquite Grove Gallery, and Martha Kelly, owner of Shooting Star Pottery. They gradually organized things, drawing in more artists, working with local businesses, and creating a map for visitors. Last year, Creative Spirit Artists Gallery took over that job, and they are looking for ways to make it even better.

So mark your calendar and be a part of Artwalk—Patagonia’s showcase for local talent in the arts. After all that turkey and dressing, the walk will do you good.
The walrus used to find it nice to spend their summers on the ice but not so nice this year they felt, as all the ice contrived to melt, and they were forced to reconvene on land with no space in between, to loll and fight and contemplate the broader question of their fate. But none among them made the link that people put them on the brink, and those their fate depended on stifled yet another yawn.

— Tom Ballard
For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated with snakes. Where I grew up we did not have any poisonous ones, so I could play with them out in the garden with no worries. My parents were supportive of my interest in various creatures, but Mom drew the line at snakes. One of the first things I did when I moved out was purchase a Ball Python. I was thrilled with my new friend, Diablo, and took him places with me, settled around my neck, shocking many when they went to admire my necklace and it moved! I was just a teenager and quite frankly enjoyed the shock value.

Diablo died of a respiratory disease because neither the pet shop nor I knew how to take proper care of him. I then made a pact with myself to never again purchase an exotic animal except from a knowledgeable keeper or breeder and to learn as much as I could beforehand. Today, we have so much knowledge at our fingertips via the internet. Then it was not so easily available.

I set about seeking out a reputable herpetologist and was put in touch with a very knowledgeable snake breeder who had a lovely outbuilding set up like a little jungle at the right temperature and humidity level that allowed these beings to flourish. He became my mentor and good friend. It was perfect for both of us. I would raise babies for him until they reached breeding age. At that point, they were getting too large for me to manage and care for (as long as 16 feet), but, because I had handled them for years, they were tame for the breeder to work with. Our arrangement also took care of the dilemma that many have found themselves in of what to do with a large snake once it has grown to full size. Ball Pythons are quite tame and grow to only six feet. The Burmese Python, less tame, can reach lengths of 25 feet. The Common Boa and Red-Tailed Boa Constrictor grow to about 15 feet.

I prepared perfect habitats for each and took excellent care of them. Being cold-blooded, they can raise or lower their body temperature only five degrees. They require long periods of time to be still and quiet to digest their food. Everything requires energy because of their slow metabolism. I would handle them gently and since I was not afraid of them they were comfortable in my hands, feeling no alarm by raised pulse rates. I was careful to observe what state they were in. For instance during the shedding process, I left them alone. They get itchy and irritable and become blinded by their eye caps. During the digestive process, I also left them alone. Snakes feel amazing to the touch, like kidskin gloves. They are NOT slimy; rather, they are cool, smooth, and very muscular. I was in total awe with each individual. We grew to trust one another. They were familiar with my smell and my touch. I feel so honored to have had these amazing, primitive beings in my life.
Phoenix Improv Group Comes to Patagonia

By Janice Pulliam

Two teams from the Torch Theatre in Phoenix will be visiting Patagonia for a special joint event with our Pick Up Schticks Improv team. This show will feature ‘Long Form’ Improv, a style that involves complete shows made up on the spot. The shows typically last 30 minutes or more, as compared with the short skits such as those Pick Up Schticks has performed. Included in the teams will be “Adult Bakery,” a team that represented the Torch Theatre at an Improv ‘showdown’ in Austin earlier this year and that was accepted into the Coachella Valley Improv Festival in California and the Red Rocks Improv Festival in Utah. Their members include part-time Patagonia resident Scott Schoneman.

The Improv Show will be at 7 p.m. in the Tin Shed Theater on Saturday, November 8. Admission is a suggested donation of $5. The Torch team will also host an Improv workshop in the Tin Shed from 2 to 5 p.m. on the same day. The instructor will be Bill Binder, the founder of the Phoenix Improv Festival and the National Improv Network. Students will participate in a fun and creative environment in which all ideas are supported through improvisation’s core concept of saying “yes . . . and” to help further the scene. Concepts will focus on emotional reactions, listening, character development, and environment work to allow students to be in the moment on stage. No experience is necessary. Cost is $10 per person. Call Janice at 706-614-6959 to register. Limited to 12 students. Scholarships available.

Debra Lynn Luna
March 1, 1972 – September 18, 2014

On September 18, 2014 Debra Lynn Luna lost a hard-fought battle against depression and succumbed in Nogales, AZ to this unrelenting illness at the age of 42. A bright light has gone from the earth. During a vigil held for Debbie in Tucson on September 22, a little friend best described the battle Debbie fought. Levi Padilla, 13, recounted how “Debbie would always go with us on the rides at the fair and she would be screaming in so much fear that the operator would stop the ride to ask if she wanted off and she would always say ‘No, I have to stay on with the kids.’ ” Finally, Debbie would ask the Operator to let her off the ride.

Many Patagonians remember Debbie as a great friend and a wonderful jazz and blues singer who occasionally sang with the local band, Haywire. Though she was often compared to Julie London and her blues could’ve sprung from the Delta, Debra was actually born in Lompoc, California on March 1, 1972, miles from the Mississippi. She was such a dimly, cheerful baby that her family nicknamed her Pooh Bear. She had a wicked sense of humor and, when she was older, there wasn’t a joke too corny or too bawdy for her to tell.

Debra learned to play flute in high school and later got into the University of Arizona’s music program purely on her flute and vocal audition for the program’s director. She focused on jazz and business and graduated with a B.A. in Music Business in 2007. During her college career and afterwards, Debra performed at venues such as Cuvee’s, the Desert Diamond Casino, Hacienda del Sol, La Misión de San Miguel and the Tucson Jazz Festival–to name a few. She forged a career in the tough, male-dominated field of jazz music that far too often devalues female artistry and brilliance. Her favorite jazz guitarist, Dan Griffin, recognized her as a peer and they recorded a few CDs together.

Debra’s family was central to her life and her brother and sisters remember her as a someone who would do anything for family including donning a hot, itchy Pooh Bear costume to celebrate her niece, Kali’s, fifth birthday, or smuggling the kids into jazz nightclubs to listen to her sultry vocals, or sing at any fund raiser her ever-scheming sister would push her into for the local Montessori School. Her boyfriend, Tom Tellez, loved how she would hike into wilderness with him, then head to Scotty’s for a round of pool. Her best friend Ric Howell remembers her steadfast support of him at the VA Hospital in Tucson.

At the end of her life, Debbie could not overcome her grief for those who died before her: her mother and father, Peggy and Gilbert Luna, and her beloved sister, Julia. She still sang for her family despite her constant mental anguish and pain. Her sisters who remain, Kathy Anderson, of Goshen, California, Sherry Luna, of Tucson, AZ, Angela Luna, of Sequim, WA and her brother, Gilbert Luna, of Bossier City, LA, are picking up the pieces of their shattered hearts with the help of those who loved this wild, energetic, brilliant woman. Bye, bye blackbird. We’ll see you on the other side.
The Duke Comes To Sonoita

John Wayne fans of all ages gathered at the County Fairgrounds in Sonoita on Saturday, October 18, to view a documentary about John Wayne and a feature film starring the legendary film star.

Donald and Nancy Webster of Sonoita hosted the movie event. Over 40 guests started the evening with dinner provided by Russell Compton's R-B-Cue mobile diner. A 20 minute documentary, produced by local resident Francis Causey, was shown first. It featured clips from the numerous western movies John Wayne filmed in Tucson and at locations in Santa Cruz County. Movie historians and friends of John Wayne reminisced about working with Wayne in his movies. Following the documentary was a showing of the feature film starring Wayne titled “McLintock”.

A surprise visitor to the movie event was Fred Moreno. A life-long resident of Patagonia, he revealed that he was a business friend of Wayne many years ago, when they worked a cattle business on South River Road.

This event was just one of many presented throughout the weekend as part of the Third Santa Cruz County International Film Festival. Participants were treated to films, documentaries, workshops, movie location tours and parties.

Educator of The Month

Valerie Etchart was recently honored as Elgin Elementary School’s Educator of the Month. Valerie has served as the school’s kitchen manager for 14 years. She received a gift certificate for dinner at Tia Nita's and her name will be placed on a permanent plaque at the school.

Christmas in Elgin

Don't forget to mark your calendar for this annual holiday festival, to be held on December 6, with over 30 vendors. Call Ginny at (520) 455-4641 for more info. Or check next month’s “What’s Going On?”

Accessible?

In response to our article on the Sonoita Landfill, (Sept 2014), a reader who is disabled wrote that she is unable to climb the stairs to the roll-off container (shown at right) to drop off cardboard. Replacing the stairs with a ramp would provide handicap access.
Restructuring and Renewal

By Molly McCormick

Most of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro watersheds were historically a cienega habitat without gulies and erosion channels. Borderlands Restoration crews have been working at the Babocomari Ranch, south of Elgin, for the past two summers, building erosion-control structures that function by slowing rainwater, increasing soil moisture to support plant life, stabilizing soils to reverse erosion, and recharging groundwater. We have seen erosion structures bring surface flows and vegetation back to waterways, supporting ranching operation, wildlife, and people.

This project is funded by a grant from the Walton Family Foundation. Collaborators in the effort include a growing number of local ranchers, the Audubon Research Ranch; the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The current effort extends through 2015, and we fully expect to receive continuing support after that.

Our crew created a series of erosion structures to keep channels from deepening and losing grass, (photo, above right). Everyone can build these kinds of structures to slow water—look for our workshops and events to learn how!

A gully cut in need of some attention was plugged with rocks to stop further erosion (photo, bottom right). Because there was no vegetation to slow rainwater coming off the banks around this channel, the water cut into the banks as it slid into the deepening hole. Channels like these can lower groundwater levels, causing wells to go dry. The rocks will work to keep soils in place and slow water to rebuild the channel. We used sandbags to slow and spread rainwater as it flows through a badly eroded canyon.

Borderlands’ trained landscape techs include crew leader Ernesto Cabrera, Oscar Majalca, Hugo Mingura, Tony Segebartt, and Zach Yourgules. They continue to hone their skills in the field, and their work to date has impressed not only the landowning family, but also agency officials and other practitioners who have been involved in this kind of work for decades. Look for a public presentation in Patagonia on our projects and methods later this fall.

Molly McCormick is the Restoration Project Manager/Outreach Specialist for Borderlands Restoration.
Obviously, life in a Chinese city of 14 million is much different than life in Santa Cruz County, yet there are some similarities. The Chinese people want the same things we do. They want to raise their families, have financial security, and be happy. While we strive for the same goals in our lives, the environment in which we live here in the US compared with that in China is incredibly different.

For the Chinese, raising a family is filled with challenges. One of the most important things a newly married couple can do for their extended family is to have a baby, and having a boy is seen as a blessing. In the recent past, the pressure to have a boy was so great that a woman would have an abortion if she found out she was pregnant with a girl. It was a matter of family obligation, and family comes before your own desires, no matter how great.

Unfortunately, there is still a large portion of China that is living in poverty. As there are few social programs, and a good education is key to success, underprivileged people have difficulty securing a financial future for themselves. In a large city, it is not unusual to walk by a neighborhood of fancy high rise apartments to find a small field filled with growing vegetables tucked in a corner among the construction rubble and a small humble shack filled with a family that is still making a living by farming.

There seems to be a perception among Americans who have visited China that the Chinese people are unhappy or rude. This was not our experience at all. We found the Chinese people to be extremely helpful and friendly. We lived and worked side by side with Chinese citizens and developed good relationships, all while speaking very little Chinese. Despite the fact that we lived in Chengdu, a city of 14 million, it seemed to us that life was more laid back. People stop to chat, take the time to smile, and aren’t obsessed with time, as is so common in the US.

One of my fondest memories is of families in the park by our apartment complex spending time together in the evenings. There is often Tai Chi or a small group exercising to music, grandparents doting on their grandchild, parents mingling with neighbors, and, in general, a warm and welcoming environment, even for strangers like us. We were always welcomed with a smile and an encouraging wave.

We cherished our time in China, but it sure is great to be back in Santa Cruz County. Our time in China taught us how special a place this is. The clear blue skies, the clean air, the desert and mountains are all here, and we are glad to call this place home.
Every year, during the events of homecoming, the students of Patagonia vote on a single individual to be Grand Marshal. This year the honor went to Jim Schrimpf. Many will remember Mr. Schrimpf as a teacher in Patagonia. He taught everything from third grade math to 12th grade US Government. Before coming to Patagonia, he taught in South Dakota. All in all, he taught for 29 years. Mr. Schrimpf holds a teaching degree from the University of Minnesota.

For those who don’t know, Mr. Schrimpf is an accomplished photographer and taught a photography course. Since his retirement in 2012, he continues to contribute to the school by taking photographs.

Mr. Schrimpf said that being elected Grand Marshal was a big surprise. He said, “No joke, it touched my heart; it made me very, very happy, and it meant a lot to me.” He enjoyed his ride in a fire truck and worked on his wave before meeting the public. He apologizes for not throwing candy.
This year’s Homecoming Parade was held on September 26. The theme was “Eras of the Past.” The freshmen class chose the 1990s, with a handmade timeline containing some big events that happened in that era. The freshmen class royalty, Chris Miranda and Christina Novack, rode in the back of their truck. With them were the two class senior nominees, Greg Zapata and Mariah Acevedo.

The sophomore float depicted the era of the 1940s, showing the troops coming home and one of the traditional dances of the time. The sophomore attendants sitting in the back of the truck were Christopher Quiroga and Lily Wharton, along with their senior nominees, Andrew Goodnough and Savannah Foster.

The junior class was judged to have the best float, with a stunning creation of a larger than life Rubik’s Cube, boom box, and class members dressed up in their brightest neon colors from the 1980s. The junior attendants were Daniel Miranda and Anastasia Lucero. Their senior nominees were Grace McGuire and Jorge Martinez, who had been crowned queen and king during halftime at the football game the night before.

The senior class float portrayed the era of the 1970s, with all of its grooviness. Carlos Mingura did a radical dance while dressed in some amazing tie dye! The seniors’ nominees were Cesar Diaz and Nicole Manriquez.

Homecoming at Patagonia Regional High School is filled with school spirit and fun. One event always manages to get all of the students, big and small, to scream and cheer at the top of their lungs for their favorite team: The Powder Puff Game. This year, the teams for the Lobos’ all-girl flag-football were freshman and seniors pitted against the sophomores and juniors. The game was played during school so that everyone could come.

Before the game and during halftime, the high school participated in class competitions such as the three-legged race, an egg toss, and other fun activities. Then the main event was played in two 20-minute halves. While both teams played happily and with good sportsmanship, the sophomore/junior team obliterated the freshman/seniors with an end game score of 28-7.

Our student body appreciates and would like to thank the following people for going out of their way and providing lunch for everyone: Pete Acevedo, Lisa Nathan, Joy Quiroga, and Michael Quiroga. At the end of this awesome day, the whole school got together and enjoyed drumstick ice-cream.
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### meetings

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<tr>
<td><strong>The Patagonia Museum</strong></td>
<td>Regular meetings w/topics including local history; highway cleanups every 90 days, &amp; monthly workdays at Lochiel Schoolhouse. For more info, visit <a href="http://www.thepatagoniamuseum.org">www.thepatagoniamuseum.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>AA</strong></td>
<td>The Patagonia Com. Ctr., Sun., 8 a.m.; Sonoita Bible Church, Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri., 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Al-Anon</strong></td>
<td>Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Sonoita Hills Comm. Church. 52 Elgin Rd., just off Hwy 83; Info: 237-8091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.)</strong></td>
<td>Board Meeting 3rd Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overeaters Anonymous</strong></td>
<td>Meetings - Patagonia United Methodist Church, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 604-3490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patagonia Town Council</strong></td>
<td>2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rotary Club</strong></td>
<td>1st Thursdays, 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua winery, 6 p.m. For info: (520) 907-5829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Rafael Community 4-H Club</strong></td>
<td>2nd Monday at the Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall at 5:30 p.m. Contact Tami</td>
</tr>
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### community services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch for Seniors</strong></td>
<td>Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. - Fri. at the Community Center. Tuesday is Pie Day! Try the Special!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service</strong></td>
<td>Medical transportation available Mon.- Fri. for seniors &amp; disabled to Sierra Vista, Tucson, Green Valley &amp; Nogales. By appt. only. 394-2494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patagonia Food Bank</strong></td>
<td>Community Ctr; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop</strong></td>
<td>Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop</strong></td>
<td>Our Lady of the Angels Mission Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Thurs-Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 455-5262</td>
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</tbody>
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### events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 1—30:</strong> Exhibit by Michael Schwartz at the Gathering Grounds</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 2:</strong> Dia de Los Muertos Circle of Life Celebration</td>
<td>noon to 5 p.m. at Global Arts Gallery, Patagonia.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 2:</strong> Dia de Los Muertos at Tubac Presidio</td>
<td>exhibits by artists and merchants, food, music. 10 a.m.—4 p.m. $7.50 / adults, $2/kids age 7 - 13. <a href="http://www.TubacPresidio.org">www.TubacPresidio.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 3:</strong> Royal Thespians of the Club Theater presentation - “Rumpelstilskin’s Daughter” at the Tin Shed Theater; 10 a.m. for schools, 7 p.m. for friends and family.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 7:</strong> Author Richard Collins</td>
<td>6 p.m. at the Patagonia Library, to talk about his new book, <em>Riding Behind the Padre</em>. Light refreshments to be provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 8:</strong> Improv Show by the team from “The Torch” in Phoenix, together with local Improv participants. 7 p.m. in the Tin Shed. Suggested donation of $5. See p. 22.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 24:</strong> Black &amp; White Casino Night, 5:30-9 p.m. in Pioneer Hall, Santa Cruz Co. Fairgrounds, Sonoita; a fundraising event by The Mountain Empire Rotary Club. Tickets/ $50. For more information call 520-990-4648 or visit <a href="http://www.ticketriver.com/event/12739">www.ticketriver.com/event/12739</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 27:</strong> Thanksgiving Dinner at the Patagonia Community Center. Turkey dinner. Serving from noon to 1 p.m. Bring a potluck side dish.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 28 &amp; 29:</strong> Patagonia Holiday Artwalk</td>
<td>Local artists will exhibit at shops and other businesses throughout town. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Complimentary refreshments.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 28-30:</strong> “Magic of Christmas”</td>
<td>The Patagonia Woman Club’s annual bazaar and Christmas tree sale, at Cady Hall, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa stops to visit children, Nov. 30, noon to 2 p.m.</td>
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### special interests

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Herbal Medicine Classes</strong></td>
<td>at the Borderlands Retail Space. 1st Saturday of each month, 1-3 PM. Opening celebration Nov. 1. Call Jiling (626) 344-9140.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improv:</strong> Pick Up Shticks will hold two practices on Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Tin Shed Theater. Improv team from Phoenix will hold a workshop on Nov. 8 (see p. 22 for details.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singers Wanted</strong> for the Community Christmas Celebration Practices start Nov 2 at 12:30 at Sonoita Hills Community Church; Contact Ron Izzo at 455-5696.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Art Classes</strong> at the Patagonia Art Center., Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m.; Nov. 13 &amp; 20: Printmaking. Figure Drawing: first Thursdays of the month. 394-9369.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Art Makers</strong> - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. $3-5 suggested donation. Call Cassina @ 394-9369 for info.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adult hand-building ceramics classes</strong> Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. $65 for 4 classes. Call Martha Kelly @ 604-0300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bikram Yoga</strong> - Patagonia; call 520-604-7283.</td>
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<td><strong>Play Bridge</strong> - Patagonia Community Center, Mondays &amp; Thursdays at 6 p.m. 455-5681</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong> - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st &amp; 3rd Mondays at 6 p.m. 455-5681</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Crossroads Quilters</strong> - Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd &amp; 4th Mondays at 9 a.m.; call Polly Lightner at (520) 732-0453.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open Tennis</strong> - PUHS, Tues. &amp; Thurs. at 5 p.m., Sat. at 8 a.m., except during school matches. Contact Tod Bowden at 394-2973</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club</strong> - contact <a href="mailto:clarebonelli@gmail.com">clarebonelli@gmail.com</a>.</td>
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**HELP US GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR MEETING, CLASS, OR EVENT**

Send your info to ptevents@gmail.com  NEXT DEADLINE: DEC. 20
Sonoita Realty presents:

38 Black Oak Drive, Sonoita Meadows - *Pride of ownership* reflected throughout this delightful 2 Bedroom/2 Bath custom home plus Den/Office that may easily convert to add’l bedroom. 2214 sq ft on 1.24 acres w/private well. End of road privacy with plenty of storage space, breathtaking views, 2 car attached garage w/dog bathing station, velvety lawn with colorful flower gardens, mature fruit & pine trees. Many add’l features include hot tub, dog kennel, beehive fireplace, electric roll up window, wood beams, flag pole, storage shed and much more. Big price reduction offered @ $298,000. A MUST see property!

Kathy O’Brien, Broker/Owner
Sonoita Realty, LLC
520-405-1800
kathyobrien@sonoitarealty.com

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HOUSING RENTALS

GRACE GARDENS / PATAGONIA - Boarding rooms, $400/mo. Daily or wkly. Beautiful home on 10 acres. Privacy & view! fritzfrey@gmail.com, (480) 215-1907

SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2 BD/2BTH. All appliances, W & D, front & back yards. Walk to Sonoita crossroads. $900/mo. 520-400-2949.

COTTAGE & SPACE for residence / small business, available now. Right on the main drag! $750/mo. May finish to suit. Call 520.303.1475 or 520.604.2829

SUNNY PRIVATE 1 BD/1 BTH VACATION RENTAL right in town. Kitchenette, priv. entrance. Seasonal Spcls. Claire:520.303.1475, or CasitaEncanta.com

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED, FRIENDLY HELP wanted for yard cleanup & basic landscaping prep in Patagonia. Please call (520) 904-0877.

CLEANING PERSON WANTED w/excellent attention to detail & references, to clean our small vacation rental cottage in Patagonia between guests. (520) 904-0877.

Are you a certified caregiver or CNA? Patagonia Assisted Care is now accepting applications for employment. Please call 520-604-8179.

GALLERY/BOUTIQUE ASST. MGR - 30+/- hours /wk.; includes weekends, holidays & some travel. Job description available upon request. Please email your contact information, interest, availability and experience to: Adrienne@globalartsgallery.com

MISC.

STORAGE - need more space for your antiques, car, family treasures? Monthly4re rental - 5x10,10x10, 10x20; call Ginny 520-455-9333 or 455-4641. SONOITA SELF STORAGE

ADOPTABLE PETS OF THE MONTH

OREO
Oreo is one cool senior dude. He was tearfully surrendered with another cat, who has since been adopted, and over the last few months he's become a staff and volunteer favorite. An active and very talkative 10-year old guy, Oreo has a sweet demeanor and loves human affection. Won't you give him his second chance?

SARGE
Look at darling little Sarge! A car drove by the shelter recently and dumped this little chihuahua over our gate. We immediately gave him the care and affection he needed, calming his fears and telling him it's all going to be ok. Sarge is a real sweetheart. He's looking for a stable home where he knows he will loved and cared for.

Adoption fees include spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchip. SCHS is located at 232 E. Hwy 82, Nogales. (520) 287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org.
www.LaFronteraAZ.com

Homes, Land & Ranch Properties throughout Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Lake Patagonia, Tubac & the extended environs of Santa Cruz County

16 ROSETE COURT near LAKE PATAGONIA

Superb Lake Patagonia home w/stunning views, privacy, quality & owner care. The gracious 2,642sf split-floorplan includes 3 Bedrooms, 2 full Baths, Laundry Room & o/s 2-car pull-through Garage w/Work area (ideal for boats, projects...). Premier quality w/soaring ceilings; 19" Italian porcelain tile floors; o/s Anderson windows & sliders w/plantation & security shutters; granite counters; stainless appliances & backsplash; stacked rockFP w/gas logs; Alder hardwood cabinetry/doors/trim; dual heating, cooling, water heaters. Gated entry & paved drive to the motor court; concrete tile roof; walled garden courtyard w/incomparable views. Room for a pool; move in ready; tremendous value. TAR/MLS #21425875, $455,000

423 SONOITA AVENUE, PATAGONIA AZ
TAR/MLS #21426811, $320,000

1,100sf Territorial cottage on 1/4ac w/2Ba, 1.5Ba + 308sf Studio, 533sf new Multi-Purpose Bldg & 2-car Carport. An exceptional home for its quality, integrity & creativity—NEW EVERYTHING! Alder cabinetry, counters; Pella windows; Mexico tiles + myriad gate; great neighbors, setting & reduced price.

70 CIRCULO MONTANA near LK PATAGONIA
TAR/MLS #21406410, $279,500

2,866sf hilltop home on 4.13ac w/360 views, 2 Master Suites, 3Ba; 2 Living areas; Formal Dining + Breakfast area; Laundry w/Pantry; covered Patios + 300sf screened AzRm; private Well; 2-car o/s Garage w/ Utility Room; cvd Boat & RV areas + clean-storage; heavy-duty construction; fully fenced, elec. auto

La Frontera REALTY LLC

340 NAUGLE AVE (HWY 83) / POB 98 / PATAGONIA AZ 85624 / 520-394-0110

GARY RETHERFORD, 520-604-0897
Designated Broker, Owner, REALTOR®

KATHLEEN JAMES, 520-604-6762
Owner REALTOR®