Scenes From The Santa Cruz COUNTY FAIR

A portrait of Dave Martin, by seventh grader Gianna Martin

A fairgoer displays her country pride

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Judging summer’s bounty
As earlier reported in the media, Jeffrey Cooper of Patagonia admitted that he was guilty of felony theft in connection with funds belonging to the Mountain Empire Trails Association (META). On September 23, he was sentenced to two years of probation and four weekends in the Adult Correctional Facility.

Nearly everyone who knows Jeffrey Cooper describes him as a “charming” man. Well-liked, environmentally active, community minded, Cooper was a popular member of the Patagonia community for years.

The news that he had been prosecuted for stealing $4,625 from the Mountain Empire Trails Association came as shock to many, but not to everyone. PRT has learned that over the last seven years, Jeffrey Cooper took financial advantage of other community institutions as well, in one case as much as $10,000 is unaccounted for.

In 2002 when Cooper was laid off by the Nature Conservancy (staff say it was for funding reasons) he was hired as Patagonia’s librarian. Staff members report that during his time at the library, Cooper was rarely there, and that responsibilities that he claimed to have attended to were, in fact, left undone. (Boxes of inner-library loan books were discovered that had never been returned.) He was deemed a failure by those who worked with him and in 2005 was about to be fired for mismanagement of operations and funds when he resigned to take a position with La Semilla, a community stewardship organization that was working with the Three Canyons development.

According to library board minutes, The Friends of the Library provided $3,000-$5,000 to clean up the deficit that Cooper left. His bookkeeping was in disarray and no one can say just how much money was unaccounted for. The library board’s minutes indicate that nothing would be done about the sloppy accounting. Cooper was granted “amnesty.”

In 2005 The Community Coalition of Eastern Santa Cruz County was incorporated by Cooper and several other area residents. Cooper was elected vice president. Their stated purpose was to “promote and facilitate healthy intergenerational and community building activities.” At some point in the succeeding years, the formalities normally required of corporate directors and officers appear to have been abandoned, leaving the Coalition’s administration solely in Cooper’s hands.

In 2006 Cooper, on behalf of the Coalition, applied to the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation (PRCF) for a grant to start a youth center, and was awarded $10,000. During this time Cooper became a PRCF board member. There is no evidence that he did anything with this money until 2010, when he reported that $2,000 was used to set up a gathering place for young people known as “The Den.”

In September of 2011, Cooper told the PRCF board that he was working to put together an agreement with the schools. The board wanted a deadline for a full report, otherwise the remaining $8,000 would have to be returned. After he was told, this Cooper’s attendance at PRCF board meetings became very sporadic.

In Arizona, most community foundations report to the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) in Phoenix, run by paid professionals who oversee grants and finances. In November 2011, staff from ACF began coming to Patagonia to question Cooper about the youth center. In January and February of 2012, ACF staff reassured the Patagonia chapter that they still thought Cooper was carrying out the stated mission of the Community Coalition and that a report was forthcoming.

Meanwhile the Mountain Empire Trails Association (META), because it had no nonprofit status, had put itself under the umbrella of the Community Coalition. Cooper was one of META’s founding members. The Trails organization turned its funds over to him, believing that the Community Coalition was still a viable organization.

On February 24, 2012 Cooper, under pressure to account for some bounced checks provided the Trails Committee with checks from the Coalition totaling $4,625. The bank told META there were insufficient funds to clear these checks. It appeared there was no money in the Coalition account. META’s $4,625 was gone, along with the balance of the $10,000 grant money for the Youth Center. It wasn’t until these discoveries that action was taken. META reported their missing funds to the police.

They also reported the loss to the ACF, who quickly sent a representative to Patagonia. At the ensuing board meeting, ACF told the PRCF board that their legal department would deal with the loss of $10,000. They were urged to talk about their feelings in the meeting, but were made to swear to tell no one else.

In the intervening months, ACF’s legal arm did nothing. When the Patagonia Regional Times asked about it, the ACF at first denied that they knew anything about the problem and then explained that the cost of legal action would be more than the $10,000 that was missing. As it turns out, justice does not have to cost a lot of money. (continued on page 17)
Some Applause, Please
By PRT Staff

We often take the operation of our town government for granted. With little money and limited staff, we need to be reminded of what it takes to make a small town such as ours function. For instance:

The Patagonia Town Council - It is easy to forget that not many years ago the Patagonia Town Council was deadlocked and could not even agree on who should be mayor. The current council in our opinion is the hardest working, most cooperative and effective town council we’ve had in the last ten years and deserves the full appreciation of the townspeople. Among other things, they have hired an extremely capable town manager, have taken on the huge job of revising the town code, and established Saturday morning work sessions. Their decisions may not always coincide with your views, but we are a town of differing views and that is to be expected. Kudos to Mayor Ike Isakson and the other council members.

The Town Marshall - Do you remember when the conflicts related to the marshal’s office took up a good part of each Council meeting? Good riddance to the old contentious Marshall’s office. Joe Patterson and his deputies, especially Ron Davis, have done an excellent job of keeping the peace, seeing that the traffic laws on Route 82 are enforced and avoiding controversy. Kudos to Marshall Patterson and his deputies.

The Town Manager - Dave Teel has brought his extensive experience to this small town and has done a fantastic job of working with and advising the council so that the town runs smoothly. The position of the town Manager is not a beauty contest, and it is one where you are bound to step on some toes and upset some people. Dave’s capability and patience have made a major difference in our town government. Kudos to Dave Teel.

Assistant Town Clerk - Everyone knows that if Isabel Van Ness decided to retire or leave the town it would be a catastrophe. She is the fount of all knowledge when it comes to all those tiny details that make our town function. And, she willingly shares them with all of us when we need them. If your water usage appears to indicate a leak, you get a call from her. If you want to know about a rule or regulation, she’s there to help you. She HATES to be in the limelight, manages to avoid the political potholes and continues to be the longest serving member of the town staff. Kudos to Isabel.

Marion and Wally Paton have both passed away, but their legacy of welcoming bird enthusiasts to their backyard has informally continued for a number of years now while the family looked for a way to protect the property as a birding mecca.

The good news is that the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has contracted with the Paton heirs to purchase the property. With combined contributions from ABC, Tucson Audubon and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, $120,000 was initially raised towards the purchase price. These organizations, looking towards the future, are hoping to raise $300,000 to pay for the property and start an endowment to keep the property maintained.

Birders from around the world have come forward with contributions and the balance needed as of September 17 was $50,000. The deadline for this purchase agreement is October 15, 2013.

Once purchased by the American Bird Conservancy, ownership will be transferred to Tucson Audubon to run Paton’s Birders Haven for the birding community in perpetuity.

Birders who are familiar with Patons have been encouraging one another to donate. Here’s a quote from a comment posted by a birder named Edge Wade: “Many a first-time Arizona birder has been escorted into the Paton backyard to spend an hour or two enthralled by the action at 10 hummingbird feeders, the constantly changing visitors to the feeders at the far end, or the quiet skulkers on the perimeter or at the water feature. If you've been there and gotten one or more life birds, please acknowledge the joy you experienced with a donation.”

For Patagonia, this sale is significant. More than 7,000 people visited Paton’s last year. Their contribution to the local economy is not easy to assess, but it is significant. These people buy food, clothing, gas, and art. They eat in restaurants. They pay for lodging in town or at Patagonia Lake. Without Paton’s Birders Haven, birders from around the world would not be coming here in such numbers. It’s rather miraculous to think that two generous and simple people could leave such a legacy to a small town.

If you would like to help make this purchase possible, go to “http://www.abcbirds.org/paton. You can also look at the impressive number of people who have already donated to the effort.

Artwork from the County Fair, made by the 2nd Grade students at Patagonia Elgin Elementary School

October 16 Deadline for Saving the Paton's Legacy
By Ann Katzenbach

Marion and Wally Paton's Legacy...
County Fair Counts
Its Successes

According to Marion Vendituoli, co-chair of this year’s Santa Cruz Fair, 4,100 people came through the gate the weekend of September 20-22. Many of those people were students from the county who were given the day off from school and bussed to the fair on Friday morning. There they found a special program designed just for them. There were performances, art projects, games, and a chance to learn about seed planting. County Superintendent Alfredo Velasquez provided buses and worked with the fair committee to involve all the county schools.

A talent show produced by Suzanne Clasen was a huge hit on Saturday night. It brought out a wide range of ages (from 3 years to 80 plus). Allyson Lloyd took first prize with a display of acro dancing.

The 4-H auction brought in a record-breaking, $152,000. The top steer went for a whopping $10,000. As always, 4-H was the heart of the fair, with youngsters showing off their animals and handiwork and keeping the livestock part of the fair clean and friendly.

"Everyone pulled together," says Vendituoli, who didn’t want to start thanking people because the list was so long. She added that everyone who participated in the fair got a free pass, and the point of the event is not about money. "The point," she said, "is to have a big community party!" Hurrah to those who worked so hard to put this party on.
One of the distressing aspects of the Jeffrey Cooper affair is the fact that a second and larger theft of funds by Mr. Cooper, namely of all or a large part of a Patagonia Regional Community Foundation (PRCF) grant of $10,000, was intentionally concealed from public view. (see related article on page 2). Although it is cause for embarrassment, the reality is that all organizations, charitable or not, are subject to the threat of theft, but these organizations must be candid about their losses, including thefts, even if it affects their image.

Ethically, charitable organizations need to be transparent and deal with their donors with integrity. Cover-ups damage an organization’s reputation and create an atmosphere of distrust, which most often does more harm than initially admitting unpleasant facts. Unfortunately, in this case, Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) personnel elected to direct PRCF not to talk about the theft.

On the advice and direction of their parent, ACF, the PRCF decided at their March 13, 2012 meeting not to publicize the loss or seek to recoup the remaining funds from their $10,000 grant to Jeffrey Cooper’s Community Coalition. He had told PRCF in January, 2012 that $7,200 remained of those monies. At the March meeting, Jackie Alling from the ACF swore the members of the PRCF to secrecy and then told them that the legal department of the ACF would deal with the problem. ACF did nothing in this regard; they did not contact the Marshal’s office, they apparently did no research into how the funds might be recouped, and took no other action. A police report dated March 19, 2013 notes that “PRCF had money problems in that the $10,000 grant from ACF seemed to have disappeared.” It also notes that “the ACF is not interested in pursuing the matter legally.” In short, the ACF decided that it was better to avoid the negative publicity and take the loss of $7200 in locally donated funds.

When the Patagonia Regional Times (PRT) heard rumors of other thefts by Cooper, it attempted to discuss the rumor with PRCF members and was told they could not comment. After emailing the current Chairman of PRCF to ask if PRCF had lost any funds to a Jeffrey Cooper theft, we were contacted by Megan Brownell of ACF, who set up a call to PRT, together with Steven G. Seleznow, President & CEO of ACF. Ms. Brownell is ACF’s Business Development & Brand Officer. In this telephone conversation and a subsequent one the same afternoon with Ms. Brownell alone, the ACF provided PRT with an oral outline of what occurred. Browning stated that the ACF deferred to local affiliates on decisions. When asked for an opportunity to look at the PRCF board minutes, the ACF declined to make them available. The reason for this appears to be obvious, since the PRCF minutes assert that the decision not to proceed against Cooper came from the Arizona Community Foundation. The minutes show that the ACF came to Patagonia, required confidentiality agreements of all those at the PRCF board meeting, took control and told the PRCF board they should leave it to the ACF to handle things. I can understand a local volunteer board panicking and covering up a loss, but for paid professionals of a statewide charitable organization to advise a local board to take this action was shameful. Especially when ACF senior staff later sought to transfer the blame to our local PRCF volunteers.

The cover-up had a number of consequences. First, Jeffrey Cooper was sentenced more leniently than he would have been had the ACF prosecuted this theft and the judge been aware of the amount of multiple felonies. Second, Cooper made restitution for the funds stolen from Mountain Empire Trails Association (META) and it is possible that restitution might have also been ordered in the case of the PRCF funds. Third, and most damaging, is the harm that ACF’s advice has done to our local PRCF, an important and worthy local community organization. There is sufficient evidence in the possession of the marshal’s office to prove that at least $7,200 of funds was stolen by Cooper. Hence, the ACF could still proceed to file a criminal complaint against Cooper, seek to recoup the funds, and send a message to the community that while their advice to the prior local board was extremely poor, they want to restore the reputation of ACF in our Mountain Empire communities.
Did you know that The Patagonia Fall Festival is known throughout the state as one of Arizona’s best small town celebrations? With 125 exhibitors and non-stop entertainment, the Fall Festival is well-attended by local town folk as well as by all the visitors who descend on Patagonia for the three day event. This year marks the 25th year for the event – which has gained a reputation as one of the best events in Southern Arizona for quality arts and crafts, great entertainment, and fantastic food.

Whether you take advantage of all the unique arts and crafts to do a little early holiday gift shopping, or just enjoy wandering through the park and people-watching, there’s a lot to see and do...and eat. More than a dozen food service booths will be offering favorites, such as Zuni and Navajo Indian fry bread and tacos, Greek foods, Texas Twister fruit drinks, vegetarian offerings, and gourmet sandwiches.

This year’s entertainment includes the country western duo, Partners. They’ll be on stage Friday serenading the crowd with waltzes, two-steps, country cha-chas, line dances and much more. Next comes Ft Huachuca’s 62nd Army band and the Brass Quartet, bringing the sounds of Dixieland. Saturday kicks off with our own Aztec Blue, followed by Nancy McLillion and Danny Krieger. Danny is one of the Southwest’s most respected guitarists and Nancy is a well-known singer songwriter formerly with The Mollys. They play Americana music with Celtic influences. The rest of the day the park will resonate with the sounds of blues, folk, and some rock by Grams and Krieger, Members of the Arizona Blues Hall of Fame, to leave you dancing, singing, and smiling.

On Sunday, Gazebo action begins with Acoustic Starseed Band. Utilizing acoustic guitars, mandolin, accordion, and drums, the band seasons its global mix with fiddles, steel drum, penny whistles, and a variety of shakers, rattles and percussive odds and ends. Next on stage is the Bluegrass band, The Mule Boys. The festival wraps up with Scott & Becky Reyes, Jim Harrelson, Mike Montoya and Anji Kate in the Latin Powerhouse band, Conjunto Royal. This amazing group is a must see for any lover of authentic Latin dance music-bossa nova, trova, focolrico, tango, cumbia, and more.

This year’s Silent Auction will offer nearly 100 works contributed by participating arts and crafts vendors. The revenues from the auction, and from the festival will benefit the Patagonia Park Preservation Fund and will be used to help maintain and preserve the Patagonia Town Park’s facilities, shade trees, and landscaping. Festival Coordinator Kazz Workizer states, “The Town Park is the heart and soul of Patagonia. It’s the site for Tai Chi exercise, picnics, Fourth of July festivities, birthday parties for people and pets, leisurely strolls, and reunions of all kinds. It needs to be protected and preserved.”

Once again, McKeown Avenue will be closed to traffic. So after you stroll through all that the Festival offers, check out the enterprising local vendors that set up on McKeown, for even more treasures.
Town to Vote on SSVEC Renewal
By Meg Gilbert and Carolyn Shafer

The Town of Patagonia will hold an election on Tuesday, November 5, to approve or reject the granting of a franchise to Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), to maintain and operate an electric energy transmission and distribution system within the corporate limits of the town of Patagonia.

SSVEC is currently providing Patagonia’s electric power, through a contract which is due to expire. The new contract, if approved by the voters, would provide for continued service through SSVEC, with some amendment to the old contract.

Following are some questions and answers about this proposed contract:

WHAT IS THIS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT?
It is a legally binding agreement between Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Company and The Town of Patagonia describing the terms under which SSVEC can provide electricity in this town.

WHAT ARE WE VOTING FOR?
A yes vote would allow SSVEC to continue to have its poles and electric lines traverse the town’s rights of way and supply electricity to the community. It would also define the rules for how SSVEC would interact with the town.

WHY ARE WE VOTING ON THIS?
State law requires the voters to approve plans for electric service. SSVEC has just applied for a rate increase. That pending increase has nothing to do with the new franchise agreement with the Town of Patagonia.

CAN I PROPOSE CHANGES BY COMING TO A COUNCIL MEETING AND SPEAKING?
No, the language in this document has been approved by the SSVEC Board of Directors and the Patagonia Town Council (after review by Town legal counsel) and has been submitted to the official ballot preparers.

WILL MY RATES GO UP?
Your electric utility rates are approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission and SSVEC must apply to that organization for any rate increases. SSVEC has just applied for a rate increase. That pending increase has nothing to do with the new franchise agreement with the Town of Patagonia.

CAN WE GET OUR ELECTRICITY FROM SOMEONE ELSE?
No, the Town would need another contract with a different electricity supplier. Unisource is close but it would cost too much to connect to their system.

HOW CAN I LOWER MY ELECTRIC BILL?
There are many ways to reduce your energy consumption to lower your electric bill. Talk to SSVEC about an energy audit. You can also install solar panels or other renewable energy sources on your property and create your own energy.

If you have additional questions, contact Meg Gilbert at 604-0063 or Carolyn Shafer at 394-0252.
I love most weather. It’s always good to be reminded of the power of the natural world and remember again that we are not really in control. Many years ago, on the island of Martinique, my husband and I found ourselves at an unforgettable crossroad of natural phenomena. A good monsoon storm comes close, but the earth doesn’t move here in Arizona.

In 1989, we sold our small hotel on the island of Carriacou to an English couple. It was November. Suddenly we had no responsibilities and some money in the bank. We quickly discarded the idea of going back to the U.S. and decided instead to see what life was like on a big Caribbean island. So we headed for Martinique, where the mix of French and African cultures seemed a perfect antidote to hotel-keeping on a 25 square mile island that had once belonged to England.

On the plane, a French couple recommended that we visit an inn on the slopes of Mont Pelee, an active but sleepy volcano.

With nothing planned, we spent a few days in the capital city, rented a car, and made our way to the steep narrow road that led up to the volcano—which had last erupted in 1902, wiping out the city of St. Pierre and its 30,000 inhabitants. The lone survivor was a thief imprisoned in the town’s dungeon.

L’Auberge de la Montagne Pelee was in the clouds, surrounded by thick grasses, ferns and lichen-covered guava trees. Brahma cattle wandered through the misty landscape. The lone employee told us we were the only visitors, and could have any of the five bungalows. The dining room was closed, but he would bring us a light supper before dark.

As darkness overcame us, we crawled between the damp sheets, Within moments there was wind howling through the louvered windows. Torrents of rain pounded the steel roof, the noise so loud it nearly drowned out the claps of thunder. This cataclysm continued for a long time. We huddled in our chilly bed, sure that we would be swept down the mountain. Then, as the storm diminished and we began to feel that we would survive, the whole building began to shake. Our bed moved, the dishes rattled, and the golden outdoor lights went out. The little bungalow seemed impossibly fragile. “It’s just a tremor,” Lee reasoned, hopefully. Unconvinced, I waited for Mt Pelee to erupt and carry us into oblivion.

We woke at the first signs of light. Outside the green grass and ferns seemed not to know of the tempest or the tremors. As the sun climbed out of the sea, 2,500 feet below, the clouds lifted, revealing a blue sky. Cattle grazed peacefully in the distant pastures.

At breakfast I asked our pleasant waiter, who seemed to be on perpetual duty, if the storm in the night was a normal occurrence. He smiled. His poetic response in French translates easily into English: “Nothing is ordinary when you have a volcano in the basement.”
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

The Minefield

By Martin Levowitz

Here's an old Sufi teaching-story: Walking home late at night through the quiet streets of his village, a man is startled by a loud noise. Turning the corner, he sees a dog and a donkey fighting. "Friends, Friends" he implores, rushing between them, "Surely there's some better way to settle your differences." Whereupon the dog bites and the donkey kicks him.

Obviously, we all need copper. Each of those huge wind-turbines emblematic of "green energy" contains more than a ton of copper. Hmm. If some clever thief steals all those turbines, he might feel that way. Normal animals, human or otherwise, feel violated when someone new invades the region which, till recently, was comfortably theirs. Consider Palestine.

So, let's agree that 50 years is longer than five years. The mountains, however, are not much impressed either way, since they've been here for several million years. The question, then, in this dispute, might be: "Which group has the mountains' best interests at heart?" Does that question sound silly to you?

When you go to town or Forest Service meetings hereabouts, you don't have to be Claude Levi-Strauss to notice broad differences between those who root for mining and those who already own their cabins in the woods and now oppose further development. A much older folk-saying declares: "A full man cannot understand a hungry one."

There are certain long-standing rift-lines which are so deeply established that any minor disturbance or passing disagreement tends to reignite the twin flames of mistrust and resentment. Visit Ireland, for instance, or consider cats and dogs, dogs and donkeys, donkeys and elephants, Suunis and Shiites, rednecks and "rich retirees," as "the gas man" likes to call us more-recent arrivals to Patagonia.

Until recently, this town has been a ranching /mining town. At public meetings, hereabouts, Misters Bowdon, Montoy, et al., like to mention how long they and their families have lived here. (Suggesting, I suppose, that their opinions should carry more weight than those of us more recent immigrants.) It's easy to see how they might feel that way. Normal animals, human or otherwise, feel violated when someone new invades the region which, till recently, was comfortably theirs. Consider Palestine.

So, let's agree that 50 years is longer than five years. The mountains, however, are not much impressed either way, since they've been here for several million years. The question, then, in this dispute, might be: "Which group has the mountains' best interests at heart?" Does that question sound silly to you?

When you go to town or Forest Service meetings hereabouts, you don't have to be Claude Levi-Strauss to notice broad differences between those who root for mining here and those who strongly don't. Steering clear of inflammatory language like "class warfare," let's refer instead to "perceptible lifestyle differences." Generalizations are both useful and dangerous, of course. But, please relax and take this little quiz.

QUESTION 1: Which team has the stocky guys with burly shoulders, thicker necks, work-boots and "manly" guts? (These people worship beef and beer.) And which group has the slender guys with sandals, shorts, and maybe beards? (They like their algae green or blue and are excited by tofu.)

QUESTION 2: Which faction loves the mountains and is worried about squirrels, owls and whales? And which group loves the mountains since they used to hunt there with their dads and still hunt there today?

QUESTION 3: Which clan moved here from Wisconsin to enjoy their golden years in peaceful hikes on quiet mountain trails? And which group loves the mountains and is worried about tourists burning down immense tracts of virgin forest. Do these dudes just not give a damn or are they unaware what harm they wreak? Yet, who am I to judge these guys? (Some middle-class, twit in a land far away who has rarely known hardship or need.) People who work and have families to support, those who hunt there today, that you have come here from the moon and don't know squat about reality, complain to them about an owl or minnow in the woods whose happiness their jobs may compromise. To them it sounds as if you'd rather see their children starve.
Knowledge is Power
By Walter Andrew

There seem to be two predominant views when it comes to a renewal of mining in the Patagonia area. One view is that Patagonia has always been a mining town and that the less affluent population desperately needs jobs—where they believe the new mining operations will provide. The other view is that tourism has taken the place of mining as the sustaining industry in the Patagonia area, and mining will bring an end to tourism, will provide few long term jobs for local residents, and will devastate our environment.

There are a substantial number of residents in this community who are pro-mine, but are reluctant to express themselves publically. By the same token, there are many older residents who fear the environmental degradation that mining activity would have, but for various reasons have limited their public comments. Acknowledging the legitimacy of each other’s position may be the only logical starting point toward a more civil discourse and intelligent discussion of the issues.

Although these opposing views are not delineated according to strictly socio-economic lines, many of those in favor of mining are from families who have lived here all their lives, while those in the forefront of the environmental opposition are newer residents. Many of the older families believe that the newer residents cannot appreciate the hardships of chronic unemployment. They argue that mining created this town, and has provided jobs to many previous generations. The newer residents see that perspective as one that would sacrifice this area’s tourism and, the ability of its environment to support future generations—for the sake of a few unskilled jobs.

How can these two groups begin to listen to each other’s position, and to directly address the issues raised in a thoughtful manner? We can succeed in securing the future of Patagonia and our surrounding area only if we can stand together. Rather than perpetuating division, we all need to adamantly pursue the answers to questions that can lead us to informed choice. We need to look at credible sources to determine the type and number of jobs that will be available to local residents during the construction and operation of these mines. We need to know what would be the financial cost to our economy were we to lose tourism. And we all need to know what effect each mine (or group of mines) would actually have on the quality of our air, and the quality and quantity of our water. Only by better informing ourselves can each of us decide whether the proposed tradeoffs make sense for our community as a whole. Knowledge is power.

Farewell to Betty Myers

Betty Myers, one of Patagonia’s most prolific volunteers, has sold her house and is moving to Ashland, Oregon. Her services to the charitable and non-profit organizations in the Patagonia area are innumerable and include her years of service for the Senior Citizens, PRCF, CHOP, PRT and The tennis Fundraiser. Kelly Fleming says “Betty has been an important asset to the community and treasured friend, unfailingly good-natured and a terror on the tennis court.” She will be sorely missed by all those who had the good fortune to know her. Here at the PRT, we are sorry to see her go, but wish her well in her new and very fortunate community. There will be a going away party for Betty at the Community Center on October 19.

Patagonia town government and management should refrain from involvement in issues outside of town limits, which are overreaching its boundaries, jurisdictions and authority.

— Will Stack, Patagonia
I took a handful of dog pills the other day— but only because I was distracted. How could this happen? Simple. I am a volunteer-a-holic. I am on the board of the PRT, the Community Garden, KPUP and the Creative Arts Association. I work two jobs, sometimes three if you count the family farm. I write for the paper (if you haven't noticed) and if that isn't enough. I make wedding cakes on the side. I am also “in training” for two 5k runs. This simply means I have given up my daily dose of peanut M&M’s. (For now)

If I’m not fund-raising for the radio station, I’m at some sort of meeting at least once a week. Sometimes I find myself running to back to back meetings all on the same day. It’s tricky, but somehow it always works out.

I often have dreams where I am running. I guess I’m saving time by running in my sleep. I’m in too deep. That being said, I couldn’t imagine giving any of it up.

So back to the dog pills. I was in the middle of giving my ailing dog some pain pills when my phone rang—newspaper business. As I chit-chatted away, pills in my hand, something happened and I just tossed the pills in my mouth and swallowed. Right away I froze, realizing what I had done. I still finished my conversation, hung up and panic set in. The worst part was I had to be at yet another meeting and I didn’t want to go all hopped up on dog pills. I did the only logical thing I could do. I won’t go into details but it involved me in the bathroom and a pretty strong gag reflex.

This was my “aha” moment. I am way too distracted. I have way too many things going on. I really do need to make a change. When Zach came home from work I told him what I had done expecting him to say something about my constant state of distraction. He simply said “You’re too used to taking pills.” Well if that’s the case I can cut down on the flax oil. I can always count on Zach to ignore the big picture, which in the long run suits me just fine. Who else is going to sell the beer, wine, T-shirts and eggplants in this town?

Too Much Goin’ On  
by Cassina Farley

A special thank you...  
As the old saying goes, “it takes a village”, and as this year’s 9th Annual Patagonia Community Garden Pie Auction & Harvest Festival shows – that truly is the case. Once again a great success and fun was had by all.

We would like to include in this a special thank you to the Community Garden Board and to helpers behind the scene: Maggie and Jerri for the PR and tickets, and Ann Caston too at the Visitors Center for the pre-sales.

Set-up and teardown: Katie B., Pam and Jerri, Saul, Richard, George, Michael, Joyce and Wayne. Ticket collection at the gate, Jeran and Jessi. The Fire Dept., the Art Center and the Montessori School for the loan of tables and chairs.

Emily Rainey of the Happy Cookers and Annie R. and Charlie Farley for keeping the food flowing.

The Grillers: Richard, John M. and Tom B. and Mary Helen for keeping the folks on track.

Dr. Dean Fish and this year Saul L. for the pie auctioning and keeping the excitement up on those great pies.

The Pie Management team: Janet W., Jessica Cobb, Jerri (Again! – the same Jerri!) Andy Woods and Mary Jane for keeping everyone happy while they were retrieving those pies.

The Lighting Crew: Pam, Helen, Jerri (seriously?!?) and James, and a special thanks to Pam for the trouble-shooting in the midst of “Uhh-Ohh!, the light didn’t turn on over there!”

Cassina and Zac for bar set-up, tear-down, bar tending and the great presentation.

The music Team: Zac, for his equipment and set-up. Evan and Oliver for jumping in with Zac – the music was great and a lovely back ground for the dinner time.

Helen for the straw bale donation for the garden’s extra seating and future mulch.

Pie Spotters and Runners: Elizabeth McKay, Johnny M., Steve and Lexi.

The Garden tidy-up crew: Wayne, Andy and Patrick – the garden looked great.

With all that said – a special thank you to our Woodie and Janet for bringing the Pie Auction idea back to us. A great idea that has been our one and only fund-raising event for the last 9 years. And Thank You to our Town of Patagonia, friends and neighbors for your support – you make this all work.

Martha Kelly. Co-President, Patagonia Community Garden
A Man of Many Talents

By Ann Katzenbach

Many Patagonians know Dean Fish as the flamboyant auctioneer who gets called on from time to time to lend his skills for a charitable auction. He is smart and funny and seems to know everyone.

But farmers and ranchers in the county know Fish as a go-to person who can help them solve problems, especially when it comes to cattle. From 1998 until recently, he held the job of county extension agent for Cochise, Pima, Pinal and Santa Cruz counties, the person who brings university know-how to the farmer. Fish holds a PhD in animal science, but his expertise is based largely on experience. He was a 4-H child who raised a steer every year and once even a pig. The money he made selling his beef helped put him through college and imprinted him with a life-long passion for the 4-H programs.

He is now ranch manager at the Santa Fe Ranch, taking over for his father, who has retired. He also works for the Paula and Cabot Sedgwick Family Foundation. The Sedgwicks bought the Santa Fe Ranch in 1956. They have passed away, and their son, Tony, heads up the foundation, whose mission is to preserve the land, advance research in environmental science and agriculture, encourage safe, healthy, active living, and share the importance and privilege of learning with the leaders of tomorrow, our children. The foundation owns Los Lagunas, a wetland between Nogales and Rio Rico that is a popular place for recreation and nature study. Its mission is to get kids involved in the outdoors.

In addition to these jobs, Fish owns the Anchor F Cattle Company, does livestock consulting, with reproduction and nutrition as two areas of specialization, and still volunteers at the county fair as the sale manager for the 4-H livestock auction and as “beef leader”—which means he counsels youngsters, who, just like the young Dean Fish, want to raise a steer as their 4-H project. He is passionate about 4-H, says it teaches kids critical skills, like public speaking, hard work, respect, dedication and caring. Needless to say, his own children are 4-H-ers.

Over the years he has been an integral part of the fair, sitting on the board for 9 years, holding the presidency twice, and chairing the fair four times. At this year’s fair, he was honored for his long service. He received a big inscribed buckle, the perfect gift for a well-dressed cowboy who also teaches from time to time at the University of Arizona and can sell a pie for over a hundred dollars.

Auctioneering is a sideline for Fish. He says he fell into it when a friend asked him to head up an auction. “He figured I wasn’t afraid to make a fool of myself and I thought it would be fun.” His friend was right—Fish has a natural talent for the complicated, fast-paced business. With everything else that he is involved in, he would like to find time to go to auctioneer school to become licensed. He says the charity work is a lot of fun, but he has his eye fixed on—yes you guessed it—auctioning livestock. It’s a profession that requires not just lightning speed of mouth and eye, but knowing how to urge people on, when to keep going and when to stop. A sense of humor doesn’t hurt, either.

The fair, of course, is sorry to see Dean Fish move onto other ventures, but it seems quite likely that he will always be around to help farmers, kids and charities. He is a great model for those 4-H qualities he mentioned: public speaking, hard work, respect, dedication and caring.
Making a Miracle

Tom Cummings, a lifelong member of the Santa Cruz ranching community, is waiting for a much needed liver transplant. Tom’s liver disease was discovered during a routine checkup and subsequent treatment, which was not successful, left Tom with the need for a medical miracle of a liver transplant.

On Sunday, October 27 at the county fairgrounds, you can help make this possible. Let’s Make a Miracle is an event that will include a barbeque dinner, a live auction, a boutique shop, a quilt raffle, a silent auction, music and fun. The activities will begin at noon and go into the evening.

Friends and family of Tom, who have formed a group which they call Miracle Workers, are putting on this October event. The family is also working with the non-profit organization HelpHOPELive, which is dedicated to helping raise funds for transplant and catastrophic injury patients. The funds raised will all go to the surgery costs and medication costs for Tom.

HelpHOPELive holds a four-star rating with Charity Navigator. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information see HelpHOPELive.org, click on find a patient, and enter Tom Cummings. Being part of a miracle is rewarding and fun. Call Joyce Rosenbach at 520 642 8399 or Janice Johnson 520 287 7882 to be part of this miracle.

The Patagonia Museum will meet on Saturday, October 12, in the Patagonia Library. Historian Mike Anderson will be the guest speaker. His topic will be “Posses and Politics: Law Enforcement of Southern Arizona in the 1800’s.”

Prior to the meeting, a walking tour of historic Patagonia sites will commence at 9 AM in front of the railroad depot, 310 McKeown Ave. The tour will be completed before the start of the meeting. Another tour will be conducted on Sunday at the same time and location. The Patagonia Museum will host a workday at the Lochiel Schoolhouse on Saturday October 26 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Please bring water, lunch, gloves and tools if available. Up-to-date information is available on our web site: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org. For more information contact German Quiroga at 343-5641 or Ralph Schmitt at 394-2732.

Help with Senior Dental and Vision Costs

The Senior Citizens of Patagonia, through a grant from Patagonia Regional Foundation, is offering help with dental and vision costs.

Who is eligible? Anyone over 65, has an income of less then $21,576.00 (single) or $27,195 (married,) and has no vision or dental insurance. If you are 65 or older and on Arizona Health Care Containment System, you are automatically eligible.

See Erika at the senior center between the hours of 10 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday for more details and an application.

Each eligible applicant can receive up to $200.00 to use for vision costs, and up to $500.00 for dental. You can get both. The center will also provide a ride to your medical appointments.

They’re B-a-a-a-c-k!

By Elizabeth Zinn

Many of you have remarked on the resurgence of drones (correctly called Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or UAS) above us in recent weeks. For more information about these noisy machines, refer to our Nov. 2012 article, “About Those DRONES,” in the PRT online archives: https://www.thepatagoniaregionaltimes.com/2012/11/about-those-drones.html. Questions about the UAS flying out of Ft. Huachuca can be directed to the Ft. Huachuca Office of Public Affairs, Angie Moncur, at 520-533-1850, or angela.l.moncur2 civ@mail.mil

More information about aircraft noise can be found at http://www.noisequest.psu.edu/
The Apache warriors Geronimo and Cochise have become icons in the American psyche, representing the brutal retaliations of native people driven off their ancestral lands by the encroachment of white settlers. None was more feared than Cochise, who ranged across southern Arizona and into Mexico, robbing, raiding, kidnapping and slaughtering many whites and Mexicans, including women and children. His legend was formed during the 25-year frontier war between the Chiricahua Apaches and the US Army, during which thousands of innocents lost their lives and the Chiricahua way of life was forever extinguished.

Local author Terry Mort (who won widespread praise for his earlier book, *The Hemingway Patrols*) has written an account of the events leading up to the incident that ignited the Apache wars. His book masterfully describes the three main groups of players in the drama – the white settlers and the Army charged with their protection; the Mexicans living on both sides of the border, caught up in political and economic difficulties of their own; and the Apache civilization, made of a complex set of tribes with customs, beliefs, and culture so foreign to the white new comers.

The reader's perspective is often like a bird's eye, shifting from one side to the other, examining the various circumstances that caused each faction to behave in the way it did. We are shown the training of a typical Army officer, Lt. George Bascom, beginning at West Point and then traveling to the very edge of the Western frontier where daily existence was fraught with illness, hardship and mosquitoes, and the rigorous West Point training often proved irrelevant. We look into the harsh lives of the settlers trying to eke out a living and merely survive amidst drought and constant danger. And, most important, we are given a meticulously researched understanding of how an Apache warrior such as Cochise was raised and trained, what his beliefs were, why his unthinkably cruel actions were justified in his own mind.

To his credit, Mort takes no sides. He goes to great lengths to present each viewpoint with equal weight and detail. And because we are aware from the outset that the many strands of the narrative are building toward an explosive finale, the book reads like a thriller, with mounting tension as the incompatible ways of the white and the Apaches are presented in juxtaposition. Drawing from first-hand accounts and secondary materials, Mort describes the kidnapping of Felix Ward, the son of a local farmer living near Sonoita, by Indians - no doubt Apaches. The conviction of the boy's father that it had to have been Cochise was understandable - but as it would turn out, mistaken. However, events were set into motion when Cochise was accused, his family kidnapped and held hostage, and a series of escalating attacks from both sides shattered the fragile peace in the area and led to decades of slaughter.

Locals will appreciate descriptions of many places familiar to us, such as Fort Buchanan, now a part of the Crown C Ranch. And all readers will come away enriched by a deeper understanding of the mindset of the Apaches, so often presented as two-dimensional villains in the tragedy that unfolded after the kidnapping of Felix Ward.
NEW COUNTRY CONNECTION
PHONE BOOK NOTICES
Sonoita Proofreaders Needed

The new Country Connection phone book is in the works and is at the stage where proofreaders are needed. They would like to have some from Sonoita. Much of the information was taken from the last edition (at right) and is probably out of date. Having some readers from Sonoita would help the editors to get a more accurate book. If you are willing, please call Ann Caston at 604-2544 or email her at maripo@theriver.com

Is your info up to date for the new Country Connection?

If you never sent in your information when the form arrived months ago or if you have changed your info or it is different from the last book, please send your corrections to Ann.

If you'd like to have a dedication in the newest Country Connection, time is running short. Send dedications, acknowledgements and remembrances to Lars at lars@westwordvision.com or drop them off at the visitors center.

Crafting Diversity
By: Molly McCormick

My muddy hands smell like the sea. I have been potting native plants all morning at Deep Dirt Farm Institute in Patagonia. The organic potting mix contains compost, forest materials, peat moss, perlite, vermiculite, kelp or seaweed and crab shell. The diversity in this mix creates a tiny ecosystem in the soil that is resilient, not reliant on expensive inputs like synthetic fertilizers, and is healthier to work with for folks like me who like to play in the mud.

The soil is dark, musky, and looks good enough to eat. The compost is created from goat manure, straw, old cotton clothing, vegetable scraps, various plant materials from around the farm, and an inoculant of 52 strands of beneficial organisms. All of these items were layered in a kind of compost lasagna, covered, kept moist, and baked for months. The forest product comes from the Ponderosa forests of Northern Arizona. The kelp and crab provide trace minerals and nutrients. Ingredients like peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite give the soil texture and the desired amount of water retention and drainage.

Mixing soil has the familiarity of an ancient craft, like kneading dough. I delight in the physical exertion as I lift shovels of the soil and work towards a thorough mix. I want to give each plant root an opportunity to touch the vast network of diversity I am creating. I add a little water; a dry mix would shock the plant roots. When I’m satisfied, I carefully remove the native plants from their 4-inch pots and place them in their new larger 1-gallon homes, pressing on the soil to rid air pockets, but not too much as to compact the soil. A sort of motherly love emerges during this activity; I am filled with gratitude that this is my job.

These plants will eventually be used in restoration projects, like the site at The Nature Conservancy that was recently planted by Borderlands Restoration and local Patagonia Union High School students. We came together to connect to the landscape by increasing the diversity and thus resiliency of the plant population,
Kim and Cindy Holt, known for their entertaining stories about their adventurous horseback rides, began a new journey on September 5. They walked their horses on the Winter Road to get accustomed to the altitude. Then they rode the Arizona Trail in northern Arizona. Their destination was Patagonia, but the journey was interrupted after ten days when they were stopped at Grand Canyon where the trail had been washed out by rains and was too dangerous for horses. They are now taking a respite before returning to their stopping point to continue their journey.

When they set out, their goal was to survive as the Apaches did, or as closely as possible. They marvel that they feel better now than when they left. Although they were unable to hunt rabbits since they were traveling through a wildlife preserve, Kim and Cindy lived for seven days on grasshoppers and edible plants. They discovered that grasshoppers sauteed in olive oil and the available edible plants at varied elevations did more than just keep them going.

Before Cindy left, she could barely walk three miles as she is missing cartilage in one knee. They walked ten miles a day—and one day seventeen miles. Cindy now has more flexibility in her knee than when she started. They both carried packs of about 20 pounds.

For the first three days they followed a transition diet of summer sausage and avocados, the only foods they brought with them besides apples for the horses. They added prickly pear cactus (nopales) at this lower altitude. Since they forgot to bring the book they were studying on edible plants, they needed to rely on what they could remember. On the fourth day at a higher elevation, they ate dandelions, plantains, a few small rose hips and grasshoppers sauteed in olive oil—about ten a day, which they said were delicious.

It rained for three days. “We couldn’t make a fire one day, and we were soaking wet. It seemed like fall already and we were shaking and felt cold, but we never crossed the line of going into hypothermia,” Cindy recounted. But one evening as they sat near their campfire, they met someone who nearly did cross that line.

A man came running into their camp yelling that he was dying. Nearly naked, he had taken off all his clothing except for shorts and tennis shoes. They described him as overweight, soaking wet and panicked. They learned that he was a survival instructor, but apparently doing all the wrong things. He had left his pack behind, had no more drinking water, and lost his GPS. Fortunately, a rancher who was passing by on a nearby road was able to give him a ride.

Cindy and Kim are enthusiastic about returning to complete their journey. Though they have frequently encountered obstacles in their rides, they are never discouraged. For them, it’s not the accomplishment or outcome that matters, but the experience and the enjoyment of the adventure.

**Binx’s Postscript to the Trip**

Both Kim and Cindy lost weight, almost a pound a day. This process of weight loss provided them with over 2000 calories per day, along with 400 calories from the olive oil, wild plants and grasshoppers. The 2400 calories were about right for their level of exertion. A striking thing is their observation about how much better they felt after their journey. An arterial stiffness measurement on both Kim and Cindy showed that they are in very healthy condition, and both have arteries 20-25 years younger than their actual ages.

Based upon Kim and Cindy’s experiment, we are trying to convince the Gathering Grounds to add sautéed grasshoppers over greens to their lunch menu.
A Trail of Deception, cont. from page 2

The police investigated META’s complaint and laid out a case against Cooper that resulted in his conviction. The cost of this conviction was built into the criminal justice department’s budget. It cost META nothing but the heartache of knowing that a member of the community whom they trusted had stolen from them.

In anticipation of Cooper’s sentencing hearing, META member Betsy McGee wrote to Deputy County Attorney Tom O’Sullivan, “I strongly feel that reducing the felony charge to a misdemeanor would dilute the gravity of this crime. This theft was not only a serious crime it was a grave betrayal of trust and friendship toward myself and many in the Patagonia community. This crime was not a one time occurrence. There has been a pattern of deceit and misappropriation of monies for years. Jeffrey took money that community non-profits worked extremely hard to raise. Jeffrey must accept responsibility for the severity of his actions and experience appropriate consequences.”

Docents Needed

Journey Stories, a Museum on Main Street project of the Smithsonian Institution and the Arizona Humanities Council, is designed to connect us through stories with those who came before and whose curiosity and hunger for a better life have led us to where we are today—as individuals, as Americans.

When Patagonia hosts this travelling exhibit from January 4, through February 16, 2014, Cady Hall will be transformed into our own little branch of the Smithsonian and The Patagonia Library will need docents with an interest in history to enliven the experience for visitors. You are invited to come on board for what will surely be one of the year’s most excellent adventures!

For project information go to: www.museumonmainstreet.org/journeystories. For information on becoming a docent, email Paisley McGuire at paisleymcguire@yahoo.com, or call PK McMahon, at 520-394-2514.

There will be docent orientation on Monday, November 4, at 7 PM at the library.

Lou Padilla and son Levi won the team roping event at the Sonoita Rodeo on September 1, for the third year in a row.

Who’s Really Calling?

“Hello, I am calling from Microsoft regarding some problems we’ve detected with your computer. There are a number of viruses, worms and malware which have infected your system. We need to access your computer to remove the infected files.”

Or...

“I am contacting you because you use the Windows operating system, and we have detected some serious errors on your computer. If you will allow us to access your computer, we can show you the errors which need to be removed.”

Sounds serious, and who wouldn’t want to remove such nasty beasties from their computer? Problem is, the caller is not an employee of Microsoft, and is not able to detect any security threat to your system. Microsoft does not track your computer use, nor do they make ‘courtesy calls’ to let you know when there is a security threat to your system.

If you allow these individuals access your computer, they might show you a list of infected files, or errors on your system, which need removal. The next step in the ‘scam’ is to ask for your credit card information in order for them to install a program to remove any threats to your computer. Sometimes it is a flat-fee, other times it will be a monthly charge for ongoing services.

In the best case scenario, these so-called professionals will install some piece of innocuous software on your system which really does not work but will not do any harm.

In the most malicious cases, if you refuse to pay for any services because you have realized this may be a scam, the files on your computer can be destroyed by these criminals. No kidding, this kind of thing has happened, and if you do not have a good backup of the files on your computer, there will be no getting them back. Documents, gone. Photos, gone. Emails and contacts, gone.

Malicious phone calls are on the rise, with end users caught off-guard by the official tone of the caller. In most cases, the individuals will identify themselves as calling from Microsoft, or Windows. If you are on the receiving end of one of these phone calls, hang up immediately; do not give the caller any personal information; do not allow the caller to access your computer remotely.

Ed Schaefer is the proprietor of Better Bytes, a computer consulting service. He may be contacted at 455-9269, or at eds@better-bytes.com.
The Glory Bird

by Rob vanZandt

What the heck is a glory bird? If you are fortunate to find the unusual, out-of-place bird, lost and blown by storm or just one with a screw loose in its wee brain, then you will get up to 15 minutes of fame as a hotshot birder, and thus, the glory!

A glory bird, the blue-footed boobie, normally found near salt water, was recently spotted at Patagonia Lake State Park, and, as of August 21, was still there, feeding off the lake's fish. The blue-footed boobie is a marvel to watch feed. He rises to a height, and then dives head first, submerging completely and literally flying under water to catch its prey, much like a brown pelican. As a pelagic bird, it is only at breeding time that boobies come to shore. Pelagic means they are quite at home out on the open sea flying and diving for fish or sitting comfortably on the ocean's surface. This one has no chance of breeding; it is in the park alone.

One reason birds wind up in places they have never been before is because of habitat loss. Global warming may have an effect, although the research is ongoing. Giant corporate farming taking place in northern Mexico has destroyed a lot of natural habitat and is the reason for the increase in local sightings of sinaloa wrens, ruddy ground doves, yellow grosbeaks, rose-throated becards, violet-crowned hummingbirds, and many others glory bird species. This includes gray hawk, whose numbers have increased dramatically over the last decade in southeast Arizona.

All of these birds could be considered glory birds, especially if you find one before others do. If you report a glory bird, get ready for scrutiny from the rare bird folks comparable to the Spanish Inquisition. You had better be correct in your observation and identification, or you'll not get the glory, but your name could be mudd, instead.

Maybe this bird of the Pacific Ocean will stick around. A lot of people have come great distances to see it in this new setting, and the park is getting extra revenue as a result. Some people who come here are making the boobie a prize on their list. Some might consider it silly to make a list of birds seen in the USA, when one could see this bird over open water in the Sea of Cortez (Gulf of California), Mexico, or as far south as Guererro on the Pacific Coast. I mentally put it on my USA list, even though I've seen this bird in Mexico. So, I too am guilty of silly lists.

I remember one Freeport, Texas Christmas Bird Count I found a glory bird. I had to get up in front of 130 individuals at the countdown dinner, and the birding guru that started the annual count, Victor Emanuel, and tell why the bird I saw out-of-range in the dead of winter, a bird that should have been in South America, was indeed a rose-breasted grosbeak. I think I rattled off all information defining this bird except one key diagnostic feature. When asked by the guru Emanuel, “Aren’t you forgetting something?” I was lost and nervous and couldn't think to what he could be alluding. I stood there dumbfounded, until he finally asked, “What color was the breast?” I had left out this obvious feature because it was, well, so obvious. It was with relief that I joined the laughter of 130 people. Indeed, I had seen a rose-breasted grosbeak, and that was my small slice (about 5 minutes) of glory.

The Grasshopper

He stands rigid in his armor plate.
Unblinking eyes of
Hundreds of angular facets
Stare out at the wide world, three hundred and sixty degrees.
He lifts his right front leg
And draws his right antenna through
The curved cleft on his foot
To clean thousands of microscopic hairs
That smell rain and grass and fire.
Then the left side.
He raises his head
He stands tall on his six legs
Antennae move to the forward position
As if to say, ready.
No one knows his intentions
As he steps among the dead leaves
Over stone mountains
Between tall grasses.
The sun shines
And his step is confident.
He reaches a patch of bare ground and stops.
One long back leg stretches out and up
Then both back legs engage in a slow cycling movement
As the tips of his antennae touch the soil.
What has he noticed?
Suddenly both back legs vibrate
Making rows of tiny pegs
Scrape against the hard front edges of his wings
And his song pierces the still-fresh air
He celebrates life and calls for love.
— Liz Bernays

The Subject Is

JOBS

Are you unemployed, under-employed, or looking for other employment opportunities? Come to a presentation by Santa Cruz County One Stop Career Center at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10 at Cady Hall in Patagonia. You'll receive information about programs and services available to Santa Cruz County residents that provide tools and resources to maximize earning potential. There is no charge to attend the presentation.

SCC One Stop is a single point of entry to services and programs that prepare individuals for employment, and these programs are funded by the US Department of Labor through the Workforce Investment Act.

For more information, contact Carolyn Shafer at 394-0252.
Jason Schreiber grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, but after getting a Master’s degree in Music, he felt he’d like to teach in a small town. Thus, after a few stops along the way, Patagonia is now his home, and he teaches every student in the system from pre-school through twelfth grade. He likes the blend of people, art, and environmental consciousness here.

The negative aspect of a small town, at least from the point of view of a music teacher, is that the high school band is very small. Schreiber would like to have a band that can hold its own at football games, so he is inviting the community to join in. His goal is not only to build a bigger band, but also to show young people that music is a lifelong endeavor and pleasure. If older people in the area join with students, they will serve as role models as well as adding expertise and power to the music.

In addition to older, more experienced grown-ups, Schreiber invites home-schoolers and Montessori students to come along to band practice which is held on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:20PM in the school’s music room.

What makes this a really unique opportunity is that the school has a set of steel drums and steel drums are simple instruments. You don’t have to know much to learn to beat out a rhythm and lay on a melody. Schreiber knows all about these fascinating instruments. His master’s degree was focused on their sound and their history. He says if there are people interested in adding steel components to the high school band, and people who are willing to carry the drums down to the football field, then he will put them together with his more traditional band members and it should be a lot of fun.

However, time is short and practice is critical. If you are interested, come and rehearse on Tuesdays. Bring your own instrument or use the school’s. The Lobos have two home games in October, on the 11th and 18th. Schreiber would love to have a big band sound to help cheer them on.

Beyond that, he hopes that his idea of a “community band” will carry on to basketball and beyond. Who knows what possibilities lie ahead for this new musical group?

Remember - band practice is from 3:30 - 5:20PM on Tuesdays. If you have questions, call Schreiber at the high school - 394-3000.
Hasn’t technology opened up so many areas of interest all around the world?

Every day I receive amazing stories via e-mail from fellow animal lovers, so I decided to share some of these with you.

A category that never ceases to amaze me is the observation of interspecies friendships.

One of my favorites is the story about an orphaned orangutan who arrived at an animal rehabilitation facility so depressed and listless she would not eat despite everyone’s efforts to cheer and encourage her. Then one day, a stray hound wandered into the facility and he and the orangutan became instant friends. The orangutan regained her desire to live and these two have become inseparable. They play together, swim together and eat and sleep together!!

Another fascinating relationship is one between a female elephant named Tarra and a male Labrador named Bella. Stray dogs are common at this haven, but usually the dogs ignore the elephants and vice versa, choosing to mingle with their own kind. Not so with these two! They met and bonded and stay together as much as possible.

Bella became ill at one point and Tarra waited below the window of the room where he was recuperating, pining for her friend. When the two were finally reunited, Tarra caressed Bella with her trunk and trumpeted, stamping her feet.

Bella rolled on the ground, wiggling his whole body in excitement, tongue and tail wagging simultaneously. Tarra even raised one enormous foot and gently rubbed her friend’s tummy!

In Africa, where farmers normally kill cheetahs who come to prey on their livestock during drought season, the introduction of the Anatolian Shepherd, a big Turkish guard dog, has helped keep the cheetahs away. Observations led to a trial uniting baby cheetahs in captivity, very skittish and untrusting by nature, with Anatolian puppies. The calm temperament of these dogs enables the cheetahs to feel safe and thus less stressed with humans who need to work with them. Who’d have thought?

One of the most spectacular instances of all is of a baby Hippo named Owen, sole survivor of his herd following the 2004 tsunami that hit Kenya. When the hippo was rescued and taken to a sanctuary in Mombasa, he immediately approached a 30-year-old Aldabra tortoise named Mzee and crouched down behind him. By morning, the two were grazing together, and they have developed their own language of communication, both making noises that are not recognized by anyone as what these creatures normally sound like. With these noises, body language and touch, the two happily live together, meandering and munching on grass to their hearts content.

I feel so moved every time I read about or watch a video capturing the miraculous behaviors of survival and commitment between some of the most unlikely combinations of animals one could possibly imagine.

All creatures great and small…indeed!
Beautiful Lake Patagonia
Built in 1996 this 2 BR 3 BA, custom 2050 sq. ft. home sits on 4+ acres. Quality construction, 2 master suites, formal dining area, large Arizona room, covered boat/RV parking area, fantastic sunset and mountain views. Turn key condition! MLS# 21304746 $349,000

JEAN MILLER
520-508-3335

Rustic Elegance in Elgin’s Wine Country
Built in 2008 this 3 BR 3 BA, custom 3600 sq. ft. home is on 15 acres and within walking distance of Elgin Wineries. Concrete construction, luxurious master suite, indoor pool, 2600 sq. ft. workshop, barn, fenced and cross fenced. MLS# 21325128 $675,000

BETH BARTH
520-907-4409

Beautiful Lake Patagonia
BEST BUY IN THE PATAGONIA AREA! Built in 2007 this 3 BR 3 BA, custom 3552 sq. ft. home sits on 4+ acres. Huge country kitchen, living room upstairs with a family room and recreation room downstairs. Large bedrooms, private deck. MLS# 21314160 $379,000

JEAN MILLER
520-508-3335

Lovely Rain Valley
NEW PRICING ON THIS CHARMING ELGIN HOME! Built in 2001, this 2BR 1BA, 1080 sq. ft. home sits on 2.85 acres. Easy care, great screened in porch, nice landscaping, wonderful mountain views. MLS# 21308067 $132,000

DORENE DAISS
480-540-9231

Long Realty Patagonia/Sonoita is LOCALLY owned and operated, but backed by the full power of Long Realty Company, the leading real estate brokerage company in southern Arizona.

Long Realty has been successfully helping Arizonans with their real estate needs for over 87 years. Our vast experience, knowledge and passion for helping people buy and sell real estate shapes who we are. One of Long Realty’s strengths is strong marketing built on solid and proven strategies. Long Realty features its listings on LongRealty.com, the Number 1 real estate brokerage website in Arizona as well as on the top national real estate search sites with exposure to millions of potential buyers.

Sonoita.LongRealty.Com
WHAT'S GOING ON?

meetings

AA Meeting - The Patagonia Com. Ctr., Sun. at 8AM; Sonoita Bible Church, Tues. 7:30PM; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri. 7:30PM

Al-Anon Meeting - Wednesdays at 6PM, Sonoita Hills Comm. Church. 52 Elgin Rd., just off Hwy 83; Info: 237-8091

CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) Board Meeting 3rd Monday of the month at 6 PM in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers. Info: Tod Bowden 394-9051

Overeaters Anonymous Meetings - Patagonia United Methodist Church, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30PM. Info: 404-3490

Patagonia Town Council Meetings, Wednesday, Mar. 13th & 27th at 7PM

Rotary Club Meeting, Thursdays at 6 PM at the Kef Joshua Winery in Sonoita.

San Rafael 4-H Community Club Meeting, second Monday of every month at the Patagonia Community Church, Thurber Hall at 5:30 PM. Contact Tami 455-5561.

events

Fall Festival - October 11 - 13; 125 art & craft vendors, food trucks, music all day, in Patagonia at the park. [see page 7 for more detail].

Dustbowl Revival - Friday, October 18, at 7:00PM; old school bluegrass, gospel, jug-band, swamp blues and the hot swing of the 1930's in a concert to be held outdoors at the Tubac Plaza Main Stage, 29 Tubac Plaza in Tubac. Suggested donation: Age 18 & up - $18; Age 12-17 - $15; Age 4-11 - $4; Age 3 & under - FREE. Proceeds benefit teen & young adult rehabilitation programs and Avalon Gardens Internships. For more information call (520) 398-2542 or visit http://GlobalChangeMultiMedia.org. DBR will also be performing at the Sea of Glass Center for the Arts in Tucson on Saturday, October 19th.

special interests

Equine Training for Professionals - October 25 - 27; Trish Broers provides workshop for practitioners of equine therapies at Borderland Ctr., Sonoita. $425. Call Ann Alden at 820-5757, or go to www.trishbroersma.com for more information.

Guided Hikes - see page 23 for details.


Yoga with Chip & Laura; Tuesdays- 5:30-7PM, Sept. 24 - Dec. 10. $15/drop-in, $50/5 classes; call 604-0830 for more info.

Zumba Fitness with Edda - Elgin Community Club (next to the Village of Elgin Winery), Fridays, 9-10AM. Prepay $7.50/class, Walk-ins $10.00. Call 520-236-2451

Play Bridge - Patagonia Comm. Center, Mondays & Thursdays at 1PM

BINGO - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6PM; 455-5681

Crossroads Quilters - Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9AM; Donna Lee 455-9340

Open Tennis - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 4:30 PM, Sat. at 8:30AM, except during school matches. contact Tod Bowden 394-2973

Bikram Yoga - Patagonia; for information call 520-604-7283

Sonoita Tergar Meditation Practice Group - Sessions held 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at a private home. Free. Information: Jonelle 455-9222, jonelle@tergar.org

Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club - Share info on all kinds of gardening. For meeting info or newsletter contact clarebonelli@gmail.com.

Patagonia Lake Activities - see page 23 for details

Used Books - Patagonia Library; good selection at great prices. Monday - Friday, 10 AM-5 PM, Saturday, 10 AM-2 PM

Send your event information to ptevents@gmail.com. Include time, date location, and contact info.
Next deadline: Sept. 20

community services

Lunch for Seniors Mon - Fri at the Community Ctr. Tuesday is Pie Day! Try the Thursday Special!

Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service - Medical transportation available Mon.—Fri. for seniors & disabled to Sierra Vista, Tucson, Green Valley & Nogales. By appointment only. 394-2494

Patagonia Food Bank, 3rd & Smelter; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11AM

Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop, Fridays 10AM-2PM, Sat. 10AM-Noon.

Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop Our Lady of the Angels Mission Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Open Thurs-Sat. 10AM to 2PM. Donations accepted during business hours. Info: 455-5262

Patagonia Lake Activities - see page 23 for details

October 31, Halloween

Send your event information to ptevents@gmail.com. Include time, date location, and contact info.
Next deadline: Sept. 20
For many years, the Pimeria Alta Garden Club spent one day a month on maintenance of the Post Office garden and grounds. In December of 2012, the Garden Club disbanded, and since then the number of members who have volunteered to continue the job of maintaining and watering has slowly dwindled, to the point that no one is taking on this task. If you are interested in helping to keep our post office grounds looking good by volunteering one day a month to water, weed and prune the surrounding area, please see Jackie in the post office.

Patagonia Lake Activities
The Visitor Center at Patagonia Lake State Park will open for the season on Friday, October 18. Hours are 8:30 until 4 PM. Come for information about hiking, birding, the lake and the area. Displays of animals, plants and geology. Children’s corner. Junior Rangers on weekends.

Sign up for Saturday and Sunday pontoon boat rides: Avian tours 8:45 and 10:00; Lake Discovery tours 11:15; Twilight tours (time varies). Reservations for boat tours required. Call 520-287-2791 after Oct 15th. Cost $5 per person per tour. Visitor Center closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Friday bird walks will begin Nov 1.

October Guided Hikes
Matt Killeen, manager of Nature Conservancy Patagonia-Sonoita Preserve will guide two hikes near Patagonia. No reservations required. Bring water, a snack and watch the weather for appropriate clothing. No dogs please. For more information call 520-455-5016.

Oct. 12, Sat., 9 AM - Geoffrey Platts Trail. Enjoy a wide variety of native grasses in the rolling foothills and drainages at the base of the Santa Rita Mountains north of Patagonia. Moderate difficulty consisting of up and downs for 3 miles. Go north on Fourth Avenue (Patagonia) to Blue Haven Road, turn left. Look for trail signs on right side (0.5 mile before Visitor Center). Parking is limited.

Oct. 19, Sat., 5:30PM - Nash Parcel Trail. Walk in moonlight to the Patagonia Cemetery through Nature Conservancy property. Trail starts near the of west/south end of Mckeown Street in Patagonia where it intersects Hwy 82. Park across the street at picnic table. Easy walk, about 1 mile round trip. Bring flashlight, water, and a sense of adventure.

Your Post Office Garden Needs You
For many years, the Pimeria Alta Garden Club spent one day a month on maintenance of the Post Office garden and grounds. In December of 2012, the Garden Club disbanded, and since then the number of members who have volunteered to continue the job of maintaining and watering has slowly dwindled, to the point that no one is taking on this task. If you are interested in helping to keep our post office grounds looking good by volunteering one day a month to water, weed and prune the surrounding area, please see Jackie in the post office.
240 Duquesne Avenue, Patagonia 85624

Ideal Weekend Getaway - sitting high @ the NE end of historic Duquesne Avenue, overlooking the Village & Mt. Wrightson; you'll be within walking distance of everything. A cozy Territorial of burnt adobe w/1Be/1Ba/sm Kitchanette. Ceilings are high, details charmingly regional & it's move-in ready. Central Air/Heat; fully-fenced; great neighbors; an amazing value!

TAR/MLS #21224880 $189,500

4 Mustang Trail, Sonoita 85637

Custom SW ranch home in a superb hilltop setting conveniently near Sonoita's crossroads & ringed by stunning mountain silhouettes. A stylish U-shaped floorplan w/3Be/3Ba/2Den/Studio/2+Garage/delightful Kitchen & GreatRoom. Tons of storage; Courtyard w/fountain & dramatic views; fully fenced + walled side garden; private well; pride of ownership t/o.

TAR/MLS #21323402 $437,500

321 Pennsylvania Ave, Patagonia 85624

Among Patagonia's few remaining MUD ADOBES - this romantic Casa c.1930 exudes old-town authenticity. The delightful 1,036sf Main house has been extensively renovated; the separate 468sf Guest Casita is new c.2010. Overall, it includes 2Be/2Ba/Study/2-car Garage w/storage + courtyard, front & side patios. Details are rich & engaging & it's priced to sell now!

TAR/MLS #21308149 $219,000

16 Rosete Court, Lk Patagonia 85624

Superbly appointed 2,642sf Mediterranean on 4.2 hillside acres near Lake Patagonia. A gracious 3Be/2Ba split-plan w/high ceilings, Chef's Kitchen, o/l Garage, cvd Patio & walled garden w/stunning views. Stainless w/granite; Anderson windows w/plantation shutters; Italian porcelain tile frs; Aider cabinetry; rock FP w/gas; dual heating/cooling+++.

TAR/MLS #21307269 $465,000

Gary Retherford, 520-604-0897
Designated Broker, Owner, REALTOR®

Kathleen James, 520-604-6762
Owner, REALTOR®