Kazz Workizer: The Force Behind The Fall Festival

By Donna Reibslager

This year’s Patagonia Fall Festival on October 10, 11, and 12 will bring as many as 16,000 people to town. There will be more than a hundred booths, 14 food vendors, and three full days of entertainment. The popular and highly reputed festival features arts and crafts from all over the southwest. For the last 15 years, the person who has made this event happen is Kazz Workizer. If you’ve ever been to the festival on opening day and seen a woman answering questions from people clustered around her while she gives instructions to someone on the phone, hands out check-in packets, you get some idea of the job she does—and how well she does it.

Kazz has been involved in the Fall Festival since 1994, when she and her husband, Pete, began volunteering at the event, which was then being run by the Patagonia Area Business Association (PABA). Kazz says that PABA’s efforts to organize and man the festival with volunteers and a two-person staff was becoming more difficult each year, so Kazz offered to take on the job for a percentage of the margin. She had a background in marketing, and she and Pete had a lot of experience with nature festivals, having organized and traveled to as many as 21 each year to represent their nature products business.

The event’s attendance has nearly doubled since she took over, and the festival, which was originally two days, is now a three-day event. The third day (Friday) was added in response to requests by exhibitors and some interior design firms, galleries, and other business owners, who said they preferred to come on a day when crowds would be smaller.

Kazz is the owner/operator of Kazzam Events, an event production and promotion enterprise. Her largest event is the Fall Festival, which she organizes and (continued on page 2)
Kazz Workizer...continued from Front Page

oversees with the help of three or four volunteers and four paid staff members. Her preparations for each year's festival begin a year in advance. At each festival, Kazz collects applications from vendors who commit to return and updates her database of exhibitors. During the year, she also does a mail out to potential exhibitors and an extensive list of festival goers who have requested that they be sent a "reminder" about the next festival, and by July she sends letters again to potential exhibitors and an extensive list of festival goers who have requested that they be sent a "reminder" about the next festival, and by July she sends letters again to check in with all the vendors.

A volunteer jury reviews all the entries, and Kazz informs each applicant of their decision. As September approaches, she sends out press releases, arranges for program and ad design, and purchases ad space in local and out-of-town publications. With the help of a few volunteers and a professional distribution service, she passes out thousands of programs and hundreds of posters in Tucson's Metro area, at the Art in the Park Festival in Sierra Vista, and in other neighboring towns.

Her "To Do" list is long. She arranges for the delivery of tables, chairs, and portable toilets; prepares check-in packets; marks off and identifies each booth space in the park; and addresses a myriad of questions and complaints. When the festival begins, she must be prepared to field questions and resolve problems throughout the event.

It's a tremendous undertaking, and Kazz says its biggest challenges have been finding volunteers, covering expenses, and keeping up with the physical demands of her job. After setting up tents and the information and silent auction areas, she spends three days on her feet, walking from one end of the park to the other to check in with exhibitors and customers and to deal with issues that arise. Severe knee problems are making this more and more difficult.

Despite the success of the festival, costs have exceeded profits in recent years. The reason, says Kazz, is the expense of three days of music, which now runs over $7,000. Without that expense, the festival would be putting that money in the bank, but music seems to be an important part of the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, Kazz says she'd be willing to continue working with the exhibitors for the event if others were able to take on the general and financial management, logistics, publicity, and set up. Says Kazz, "my body and my budget just can't keep up with the festival."

She plans to return to her work as a fiber and bead artist at the farm she owns in Elgin and hopes that someone else can step in and take over the 2015 festival. Although she admits that she would miss the contact with festival vendors and visitors, she says, "I'm looking forward to getting back to creating art instead of marketing it." Her departure will present a challenge, as new management considers how to ensure a healthy profit and inspire the participation of more volunteers, so that the Fall Festival can continue to thrive.

From Our Readers

Readers Take Issue With Sonoita Landfill's Glass Recycling

The PRT received two reader responses to last month's front page article on the Sonoita landfill. Both were concerned with the landfill's current recycling of glass.

In the article, county landfill manager Karl Moyers stated that recycling glass costs the county money, because by the time a truck gets to Phoenix from Nogales, transportation costs are $400, and the glass is worth only $200. He added that there had been talk about buying a crusher and keeping the glass on hand here in the county to use in building roads, but that, according to engineers, glass is not an adequate substitute for any construction material. In order to sell recycled glass from the landfill to the closest source, in Phoenix, the glass must be in an amount of 25 tons. Moyers estimated that it might take a year to achieve that amount; nevertheless, the landfill is accumulating glass toward that end.

Chuck Hammond of Sonoita, a former chemical engineer, wrote that he once ran a recycling program for Aramco, an Arabian-American oil company in Saudi Arabia. He referred to a British article about the demand for primary aggregate sources from the concrete industry and the incentive to develop alternative aggregate sources from waste materials. The article stated that "crushed recycled glass can be used as a complete fine aggregate replacement" and cited research as to the benefits of using finely ground glass powder at rates of greater than 20 percent of mass in cement. He referred readers to http://www.concrete.org.uk/fingertips_nuggets.asp?cmd=display&id=783 for more information.

Steve Raynis, also from Sonoita, sent us information about a glass recycling program in Santa Rosa, California. The county secured a grant in conjunction with ARC, a resident care facility for developmentally disabled adults. They created a program whereby glass is collected curbside, sorted by ARC residents, and run through a processing system that removes labels and tops and pulverizes the glass, producing a gravel and sand product. The county plans to initially use the product at various government and nonprofit sites and hopes eventually to market and sell it. The product can be used for many purposes, including parking lot gravel, decorative mulch, and septic system filtration material. Santa Rosa County estimates that the landfill saves 1,000 cubic yards of space each year as a result. Readers who would like to learn more about the program are referred to Santa Rosa Clean Community System, Inc. at (850) 623-1930.
Rainfall Totals Get A Boost in September

PATAGONIA’S SUMMER RAINFALL TOTAL

14.5 inches*

* Based on an average of totals from rainlog.org 7/1 through 9/29

Omissions & Errors

Our article on Steve Schmitt in the September issue was headed “Tom Schmitt Is Taking Care of Business”. In the article, we referred to its larger store as Sonoita Feed—which should have been High Noon Feed and Tack. Sorry, Steve!

In the article about the proposal to extend the Richardson Park basketball court, we incorrectly reported that Charles Montoy was offering to match a donation of up to $1,000. In fact, that offer was made by the Patagonia Regional Business coalition.

A listing of the Tree and Park Committee in the September article titled “Town Awarded $5,000 For Trees”, was incomplete. Members are: Jason Botz, Bethany Brandt, Yunghi Choi, Barbara Ellis, Susan Engleby, Ann Gosline, Harry Hower, Mary McKay, Cornelia O’Connor, German Quiroga, Caleb Weaver, Andy Wood. The $5,000 grant they received is through the Arizona State Forestry Division and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This has been our wettest September since 1964, when Patagonia received 8.13 inches of rain*. Two hurricanes in the Gulf of California sent several storms our way after July and August had already brought about 9 inches of rain to the region, which may make this year’s monsoon season total a record high.

Dave Teel reports that the town well has risen two feet, eight inches since its low in June, and he expects it will rise further as recent rains move through the alluvial soils.

More good news on the water front is the town’s recent receipt of two checks totaling $360,000 from the federal government to complete the upgrades to our water system. A bureaucratic mix-up at the U.S. Department of Agriculture put the project on hold for almost a month, but Teel says the contractor is now back at work and expects the project to be completed by December.

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows our part of Arizona as experiencing “moderate drought,” while almost the entire state of California is in a state of “extreme or exceptional drought.” Following six dry months, the monsoon season has put Patagonia’s rainfall total back in the black, and we head into fall with no major wildfires.

*according to the Western Regional Climate Center’s precipitation tables for Patagonia since 1921.

Velvet Elvis Hosts Bug Convention

Water traveled downhill on Fourth Avenue and pooled into runoff on Duquesne Avenue, flooding the street, during a rainfall on September 22.

A caravan of vintage Volkswagons from The Dub Club of Sierra Vista drove to Patagonia on September 14 for pizza at the Velvet Elvis.
On September 24, Patagonia resident Gooch Goodwin discovered a stream of bright orange water running into Flux Canyon. The next day he found a similar situation at Alum Gulch. Goodwin notified U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) officials of the situation, and they, in turn, notified the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Coronado National Forest. On September 26, USGS and ADEQ sent people to Patagonia to assess the streams.

They determined that the polluted water was coming from two old mines—the Lead Queen and the Trench. Apparently, heavy rains had pushed water through the old tunnels, washing tailing materials out and into Patagonia’s watershed and the environment.

The Trench Mine was one of the largest underground lead, zinc and copper mines in the Patagonia Mountains. It was owned by the American Smelting and Refining Company (Asarco) and closed in 1945. The Lead Queen mine was an underground mine for lead and silver that closed in 1940. The canyon where it is located drains into Harshaw Creek, approximately four miles from Patagonia.

Floyd Gray of USGS is familiar with Patagonia’s old mines—where they are and how they drain. Preliminary tests he made on September 24 measured the water’s levels of Ph, conductivity, and total dissolved solids. The numbers are very high, making it clear that the water leaking from the mines and flowing into Harshaw and Sonoita Creeks is extremely toxic to humans and animals. Gray is doing further testing of water samples at his lab.

Seepage from Asarco’s old mines in Patagonia shows up frequently in springs that bubble to the surface in various places in the mountains. It is deeply colored and has an oily sheen. Once it surfaces, rainwater carries it into our watershed. Wildlife and range animals drink this water, which eventually makes its way to Patagonia Lake. Most people know this, but no one recalls seeing this high an amount of runoff.

The same mining company that created the Trench Mine—Asarco—has been associated with a recent spill in Mexico, at the Buenavista mine in Sonora. The mine is run by Grupo Mexico, which acquired Asarco as a subsidiary in 1999. On August 7, overflow from a defective holding pond dumped what is reported to have been 10 million gallons of sulfuric acid into local waterways. [Reported in PRT’s September issue.] The spill was not reported to authorities for several days.

Although the company has allocated $151 million for a trust to pay to clean up the mess, the Mexican newspaper El Financiero quoted a report from Mexico’s Congress, saying “Grupo Mexico is far from being a socially responsible enterprise that respects the environment,” and Mexico’s lower legislative branch has asked President Peña Nieto to cancel Grupo Mexico’s concession and suspend its operations.

Scientists in the United States are trying to determine how much the Mexican spill will pollute the San Pedro River, which flows into Arizona. Heavy rains have hampered this investigation, and the recent hurricanes caused further spills from the mine’s holding pond.

Who is responsible for cleaning up the pollution from Asarco’s old mines that now threatens Patagonia? That question may well go unanswered for some time to come. Arizona may have gotten mitigation money from Asarco nearly seventy years ago when it closed its mines here, but where did that go? The State of Arizona now owns that land. Does that make the state responsible for cleaning up this mess?

Someone on the Sonora side of the border told a reporter that having the pollution reach the United States might be a good thing for Mexico because the United States would put pressure on the Mexican Government to be stricter. It will be interesting to see how strict our own government is about mining and its collateral damage in our own back yard.
The lot next to the fire station on the corner of Smelter Alley is empty. For years it has stored two fire engines made by Sea-graves, one from 1940, the other a year younger. This summer the Fire Department sold them to a man in Vail who restores old fire trucks and tractors. “It was time,” says firefighter, Ike Isaacson. “They were just rusting away and nobody here has the time or energy to do restoration.”

There were two offers on the fire trucks. One was from a salvage company who would have resold the vehicles for scrap. Restoring the trucks had much more appeal than breaking them down for scrap, so they went to Vail.

The fire house is much bigger than it looks from the outside, and houses two other antique fire trucks, the ones they bring out for the fourth of July parade. In addition there are three wildland vehicles used mainly for forest fires, one emergency medical vehicle with a second as backup, two structure engines, one tender/pumper, and a pickup.

Structure engines are used to pump water. They can be hooked up to a fire hydrant and will pump 1,000 gallons a minute. One of these is new to Patagonia. It came from the Raytheon Fire Department and, as Isaacson says, “The price was exactly right.” In other words, it was free. Raytheon was going to sell it, when they heard through Isaacson’s stepson that Patagonia would be happy to have it. All Patagonia had to do was write a letter describing their need. Isaacson explained that big fire departments are always updating their equipment. The structure engine is 38 years old and has only 46,000 miles on it. “With a Detroit diesel engine, that will run for a long long time,” said Patagonia’s mayor.

Pretty good deal. Get paid for two engines that don’t work and get one that will run for years and pay nothing.

The vacant lot behind the cyclone fence has been cleaned up and provides access to the kitchen that is under construction in back. Isaacson reckons there might be a storage shed there one day, and maybe room to have barbecues.

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So summer ends
cicadas seething
thick as worries
on the windowsill.
Short season,
then they’re gone
abandoning their shells
like postscripts
on a warm adobe wall.

— Janet Winans
The town council’s working meeting on September 11 opened with discussion of two agenda items—the town’s purchasing procedures, and oversight on the excavation of the Sonoita Creek bed. Vice Mayor Andy Wood introduced the topic of purchasing procedures in a followup to her request at the previous meeting that it be put on the agenda, and she questioned the town’s level of transparency and due process in regard to its business transactions. Council Member Meg Gilbert initiated discussion regarding digging out of the creek bed. Both events had been brought to their attention by local resident Carolyn Shafer, following her review of the town’s records. Shafer had noted that an emergency repair of the town’s water system was not billed by the contractor, D&M Engineering. Excavation of the part of Sonoita Creek that runs through town, also conducted by D&M Engineering last December, was done without charge in exchange for the excavated gravel. Neither of these jobs appeared to have gone through the proper procedural channels.

Mayor Ike Isakson explained that those instances were emergencies and didn’t require normal procedures, but Gilbert and Wood argued that any work done during an emergency, while not requiring full council approval, should always have a receipt and go through proper accounting managerial channels. Town Manager David Teel agreed that there had not been enough oversight. All agreed that similar matters would follow established procedures in future.

The removal of gravel from the stream bed raised another set of questions. Jack Holder and Susan Belt, who live next to Sonoita Creek, asked if there had been an engineer’s report prior to deepening the wash. Mayor Isakson and council member Gilbert Quiroga pointed out that the town had done this excavation every few years for quite some time and that, in the past, the town had to pay for it.

Councilor Gilbert noted that there were people in the audience who knew quite a bit about stream erosion, flood control, and water harvesting. Ron Pulliam, founder of Borderlands Restoration and Regents Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia, was asked to speak and said that there were no easy answers to the problems of erosion and flood control, but that we “should think of the creek holistically.” He said Borderlands has received a half million dollar grant to determine whether there are economical methods for decreasing erosion, increasing infiltration rates, and, ultimately, recharging the aquifer and increasing stream flow in the Babocomari River, which is part of the San Pedro watershed. He added that there are more grants of this kind available and introduced David Seibert, who is executive director of Borderlands and is working at the Babocomari River site. Seibert spoke about the land we have inherited and the need to restore it. He pointed out that the watershed is far bigger than Patagonia and that everything done affects not only the water but wildlife and plant life. Everyone listened attentively to him and to the following speaker, Kate Tirion, who owns Deep Dirt Farm, which is involved in the same kind of work. Tirion offered to host a tour for the council members to demonstrate a method of creek bed work that provides flood control, erosion control, and water retention.

The question concerning legal ownership of the creek bed was raised by Jack Holder and evoked comment from Luke Reese, the new manager of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. Reese acknowledged that the town has an easement over that portion of the creek bed, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy. He voiced his interest in working with the town on behalf of these concerns.

At that point Mayor Isakson said, “Maybe we need a committee—to make this a positive opportunity.” Town Manager Teel was asked to set up a meeting. There was a clear interest in coordinating the knowledge and resources of the experts who live here in Patagonia. Isakson said that the council’s job was to protect and improve Patagonia, implying that this would be a good direction to take.
Now that the monsoon is winding down, the common questions are, “How much did you get? And where does it go? How can an arroyo be 4 feet deep and running at 500 cubic feet per second one day and be dry two days later?” The following may help to explain some of the factors that affect our region.

**Elevation**
Rainfall variation in our area is studied by the US Department of Agriculture at several locations, including the Walnut Gulch Experimental Station near Tombstone. A network of rain gauges deployed over about 3,000 square acres provide data that demonstrates the relationship between rainfall amount and elevation. Higher elevations get more rain, and how much falls on a given place and at a given time varies greatly, as you see when you drive out to dry pavement on the edge of a summer storm.

**Evaporation**
Hydrology studies in southern Arizona indicate that only a small percentage of rainfall is retained in perennial streams or groundwater. About 95 percent of our rainfall evaporates back into the atmosphere, through a process referred to as envirotranspiration. By placing sensors at various heights above ground on “flux” towers, hydrologists can measure the rate of envirotranspiration within a given area. The time it takes for water to return to the atmosphere can be a few months or many years. In very dry places, like Walnut Gulch, more water evaporates than falls each year, and the soil often ends up drier than it was the year before. This goes on and on until the deep soils eventually dry out, and the area becomes a desert. Plants that cannot hold water within their roots for many years (until a wet one) can’t survive.

**Groundwater recharge**
Wells that tap groundwater are often taking water that is 10,000 years old and is not being replaced as fast as it is being pumped. Places like the central valley of California, or the areas around Phoenix, have pumped so much groundwater that the soil has fallen many feet as a result of subsidence. Even the very large Sierra Nevada mountains have risen measurable levels as the weight of the groundwater has been removed and the bedrock springs back up.

Most groundwater recharge occurs during the winter, when rainfall events are widespread and last for days at a time. Generally, winter rains falling high in the mountains infiltrate to deep bedrock, and then the water moves down the watershed, eventually emerging as surface water in streams. Or it may go deeper and become groundwater. This may take days, weeks, or months. However, estimates of this winter rain recharge indicate that it is not substantial.

**Runoff**
To measure runoff one needs to have a place where all the water that runs off a watershed can be measured. You might have noticed the cable bridges over some water courses—these are places where we can measure large flows. For a study of total runoff in relation to total rainfall, one needs to have similar, but smaller gauges on all the little creeks and gullies. Walnut Gulch is one such study site. Runoff is typically present only very soon after heavy monsoon rains, and can be rapidly absorbed by the runoff channels. Walnut Creek reveals that, overall, the percentage of annual rainfall that goes to runoff is only about one percent.

Together with soil texture, latitude, wind patterns, air temperatures, and other conditions, these are factors that influence the long-term outcome of rainfall in our corner of Arizona.

Mark R. Stromberg, Ph.D, is Adjunct Professor with the University of Arizona.

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**Rail X Break-ins Still Under Investigation**

Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Lieutenant Raoul Rodriquez says that there are presently no suspects in the Rail X Ranch Estates break-ins that happened last February. “We have fingerprints and DNA but there is no match for them in our data base,” said the deputy.

Two incidents on the same day involved both burglary and vandalism in the gated community just north of Patagonia.

Rodriquez said the perpetrators could have been Mexican or juveniles or adult Americans who have never been arrested.

He explained that the fingerprints and DNA are now in the data base and that if anyone is arrested for another crime who matches the information now on file, they will be questioned.
The Enduring Tradition of Lucia Nash’s Legacy

By Ann Katzenbach

When Lucia Nash bought the Circle Z Guest Ranch in 1976, she was motivated by fond memories of being a guest there in the 1930s—and by the fact that the property was about to be sold to developers. A conservationist with a strong attachment to the Patagonia area, Nash has carried on the legacy of the ranch, the oldest of its kind in continuous operation in Arizona. She has also bought parcels of land in the area south of town, so that today the Circle Z comprises 5,000 acres, including a portion of Sonoita Creek. Quite likely, private homes would be sprinkled across these beautiful hills and the Circle Z would be a dim memory if Nash had not taken action all those years ago. We can also thank her for being instrumental in the Nature Conservancy’s purchase of the Sonoita Creek Preserve. Elderly and suffering the effects of a stroke, Mrs. Nash now lives year round in Cleveland.

On October 26, the Circle Z begins its 88th season of giving guests a taste of the west. The horses will be coming down from their summer pastures, along with Tony the donkey. Things that needed fixing are being set right, the newly seeded grass is coming up green, and the seven cottages that have stood the test of time since 1926 are spruced up and awaiting the first visitors. With horseback riding as the main ingredient, along with birding and hiking, and with a swimming pool and a tennis court as added attractions, the ranch has many return guests who spend a week or two each season.

Lucia Nash’s daughter-in-law, Diana, has been helping with staffing and overseeing preparations for the season. She and her husband, Rick, live in Montana, but this year, with their son out of the nest, they plan to be in Patagonia more often than in past years. George and Jenny Lorta, who have worked at the Circle Z for 40 years, are the newly appointed ranch managers, who will see to it that guests are taken care of and everything runs smoothly. The ranch has 15 to 20 people on its payroll. This year’s chef, who has lots of experience and cooks a wide range of dishes, comes to the Circle Z from a similar guest ranch in Sasabe, which closed.

The ranch has always been known for its good food and homey atmosphere. Cottages are booked from Sunday to Sunday, although shorter stay specials are available from November through January, and one fee covers everything. Diana says that everyone leaves having made new friends. Jean Miller of Long Realty first came to Patagonia as a Circle Z guest in 1992. She fell in love with the area and came back here to live in 2006. Now she reserves a cottage at the ranch once or twice a year to be with friends she has kept up with over many years. Carol Ford, another Long realtor, also first came to The Sky Mountains as a guest at the Circle Z.

This year Diana has decided to try offering shorter stays, along the lines of a bed and breakfast, when some of the cottages are not booked. She imagines that these guests will mostly be birders who will see this as a unique opportunity to explore uncharted territory.

Thirty is the average number of guests who sit down to dinner each night at the ranch. The dining room can accommodate 45. School holidays are usually the most crowded weeks of the year as the cottages fill with families. The daily trail rides are the high point for everyone, and even the most tenderfooted guest can learn to ride. Once each guest has found his or her compatible horse, they stay together all week. (It’s also possible to stay at the Circle Z and never get on a horse.)

There is no television at the Circle Z. Last year, Diana, says, they broke down and installed WiFi. “It’s just a reality of how we live,” she said. “Most people get their business done first thing in the morning and then enjoy the day here.”

Patagonia, of course, benefits from having such a renowned dude ranch close to town. A group of riders often heads for the Wagon Wheel for an afternoon beer, and karaoke night is a favorite. Local restaurants, galleries, massage therapists, and guides benefit throughout the fall, winter and spring, as Circle Z guests from around the world, often in a western setting for the first time, discover the uniqueness of Patagonia.
PUHS Students Dig In to Improve Water Retention On Campus

By Grace Mcguire

Keeping landscape lush in the high desert is a perennial challenge. Some areas demand irrigation, while others can be sustained by other means. The Patagonia Union High School is trying to find ways to cut back on irrigation, and Borderlands Restoration members are training students to identify areas where irrigation can successfully be replaced by rainwater harvesting techniques.

On September 12, a group of 14 volunteer high school students, accompanied by PUHS science teacher Kathleen Pasierb and Caleb Weaver of Borderlands, worked to create rainwater harvesting trellises along a dirt and concrete embankment that links the middle and high school pods. Using shovels, picks, and wheelbarrows, students leveled the ground into slightly sloped shelves that are ideal for catching and holding water.

During the summer, Borderlands Restoration youth participants completed half of the project, filling the left side of the embankment with native plants, such as evening primrose, milkweed, desert willow, and four o’clock. These plants attract and sustain bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

This living laboratory is a science project. Kathleen Pasierb, who oversees the effort, is pleased that 14 students turned out for this second phase, adding, “The young people of our community really care about the environment and want this project to benefit wildlife, especially pollinators.”

The difficult work of structuring the beds is complete, but a few more work sessions will be needed to add rock support and plant native vegetation. The perks to this hard work were a pizza and pool party put on by Borderlands. The food and fun were part of the satisfaction of contributing to this lasting and sustainable school landscape.
The U.S. Open is over -- that's the tennis one, just so you know, this is not about golf. I am a tennis player and thus I am a fan of the sport which, in my lifetime, has gone from sedate to manic. The court's the same size, the way you make points and keep score hasn't changed, but beyond that, every aspect of the game has accelerated so that what I see on TV these days bears almost no resemblance to what I knew as a child.

Growing up in Philadelphia, a bastion of country club tennis, my most vivid memory is that outdoor courts in the summer were spotted with one color - white. Ladies wore dresses or sometimes skirts or shorts. Men wore shorts (and sometimes white flannel trousers) and polo shirts. These were usually adorned with an alligator from French designer Rene Lacoste or a laurel wreath, or played in tournaments were somewhat déclassé.

Tournaments took place at clubs which Wimbledon still somewhat resembles. These were sedate affairs with no prize money on offer except for the occasional envelope discreetly slid into the racket cover of the top players.

Tennis lived in a comfortable bubble until Althea Gibson, the first African American to win tournaments. She was too good to ignore. Then the Australians started showing up. They were followed by a coterie of California girls (top among them, Billie Jean King, née Moffit) who learned to play on hard courts at their local playgrounds and amazed the country clubbers with their aggressive net play and competitive spirit. The second notable black player, Arthur Ashe was part of this new melting pot of talent, but tradition continued to hold sway. Each September, the U.S. National Championships were played on grass at the sedate West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y. There were no tie-breakers, no prize money, no fashion statements, no security guards, no paid referees and no electronic ball tracking. The spectators could fit into a small stadium.

Today's stadium in Flushing Meadows (named after Billy Jean) seats 22,500 fans in the main stadium (named after Arthur). In 1968 the "open era" of tennis began which meant there was money to be made. Before that many fine players left the sport because it didn't provide a living.

Now if you make it through the first round of a major tournament a few hundred thousand dollars goes into your bank account. Serena Williams took home four million dollars when she won the US Open this year.

Probably no one could imagine that bringing money to the game of tennis would threaten polite behavior. The replays one sees today of Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe screaming at umpires are still startling. Who could have imagined a stretched out composite tennis racket wielded by a player who travels with coaches, trainers, physiotherapists and hitting partners? That could be Serena Williams, who looks and plays like no one before her. She too still shocks the tennis world. And how many amazing players have appeared from Eastern Europe and now Japan and China?

And fashion! What a blast of color and style hit the courts at every tournament except Wimbledon where a white dress code is enforced to the point of lunacy (no red stripes on the soul of your sneakers). Some players obviously care about how they look on the court. There's jewelry, make-up, innovative dress cuts and color combinations - some flashy, others subdued. If you like what you see, you can go out and buy the same outfit or racket or sneakers. I always enjoy the players who don't seem to care much - the more rumpled guys or the newly hatched girls who haven't yet got sponsors to mold their image.

It's a multi-faceted, highly competitive sport on every level, and it's fun to watch and hear the gossip and watch the hard-hitting rallies that could never have taken place 50 years ago. And that's where my nostalgia kicks in, but just a little. I miss the slower pace, the softer courts, the big porches at the old country clubs, the tournament draws pinned to the wall, the lack of hype, a world that may still exist in exclusive clubs that I have no interest in joining.

What gladdens me most about modern tennis is that it has opened a door for so many young athletes of every background with gumption and talent. Its appeal has moved from the east coast country clubs to encompass much of the world. Who would have thought 50 years ago that there would be a major tournament in Dubai or that Serbia and Japan would be represented in the U.S. Open finals, or that a powerful black woman dressed in bright pink would win her 18th Grand Slam title?
While writing this, I am sitting at the beautiful desk of someone I don't know, on the second story of his second (winter) home in a beautiful part of rural New Mexico. The house is far more opulent than most homes I have seen. A friend of ours care-takes the place, which the owner uses for just a couple of months each year. If this guy's second home is so deluxe, what on earth must his real home be like?

All over this country there are people with two (or more) fancy homes. There are also people sleeping in their cars--having lost their houses to the bank--who have barely enough food to keep them alive.

To get and to have are, within certain limits, quite normal needs, of course. The squirrel stashes nuts for harder times. Your dog may choose to bury his new bone. But normal impulse sometimes runs amok. The impulse to acquire can go wrong. Some people have lots, but it's never enough. The Keatings, and Milkens, and Madoffs are bottomless pits. Though richer than Croesus they simply can't stop; fellow humans be damned.

One hears a lot these days about the ever-wider gap between The Haves and The Have-Nots; The so-called "One Percent" and the remaining ninety-nine. Executive salaries are often contrasted to an average worker's pay. It's not a pretty picture, Sister Sue. The ratio is roughly 340:1. In 2011, Apple's C.E.O., Tim Cook, was paid 338 million dollars in cash, stock-options, and bonuses. The salaries of Wall Street parasites are bizarrely high--both before and after the financial melt-down which they, in their self-serving greed, largely caused. Their skewed numbers raise important ethical and political questions.

To my mind, the disproportion between the insiders' profligate rewards program and the average carpenter's, school teacher's, or burger-flipper's wages is outrageous and obscene. The immense gulf between the income of the privileged and those whose job is painful, dirty, or boring renders meaningless--absurd--any normal notion of how much a dollar--or day's work--is worth. Those privileged few are skating on thin ice (although that ice may take decades to break.)

This article aims at promoting thought, not armed rebellion. Everyone knows that violence solves nothing. It may effect short-term change but, in the long run, generates pain, hatred, and more violence. A few, today, are willing to be jailed to make a point, but very few, just yet, would opt to die. For now, in the United States, insurrection is not a reasonable option. The military has us way outgunned (unless they, too, someday revolt).

But some day The Haves will look up from their truffles and champagne and see that the neighbors, with pitchforks and torches, have come. The metaphoric chickens will come flapping home to roost.
We didn't really have any plans for Halloween last year. I guess you could blame it on a lack of enthusiasm. However, I did have that need for candy. For some reason, Zach is always a willing participant in my shenanigans, so when I suggested we go trick or treating disguised as children, he did not protest. My plan was simple—we needed masks to cover our identity, a few properly placed pillows to hide my age-induced aspects, and a couple of pillowcases to hold our loot. We put on our costumes, and right away I noticed some flaws. First of all, Zach needed gloves. No one was going to give candy to a "kid" with old man hands, and, of course, in my case, the more obvious: bad pillow placement.

Once all was resolved we headed out. As we walked down the street we saw people we knew, and, much to our surprise, they had no clue that it was us. That was my first hint that we might actually get away with it. First, we decided to try out our costumes at Red Mountain Foods. Like a charm, Barry handed us our treats and commented on our scary costumes. It was working. Second house in, Zach got questioned about his costume. I was sure we were done. Shut down before we really got started, but like a champ he used his best tenth grader voice, and we proceeded on. We went from house to house collecting chocolates, candies, and apples (not cool, by the way), with no one being the wiser. I was drunk with power. Then Zach started walking slower and hanging back while I collected candy from our adult friends. The guilt was getting to him. Sucker. After a pep talk we collected a few more treats and decided to head back home. Despite being heckled and almost beaten up by a group of high school kids, we managed to get home with our candy. There are a few bonuses to being a 38- or 40-year-old trick or treater: for one, there is no mom or dad doing the candy check and deciding that all the Almond Joys "might" be bad; for another, we could eat as much as we wanted (and we did).

I don't know why we got away with it. Maybe the folks of Patagonia are just used to overgrown kids trick or treating. It might be that we are short. Either way we enjoyed our candy. Lately, I have been thinking about how we can manipulate that Santa situation.
County Fair Days

By Ann Katzenbach

The Santa Cruz County Fair, held on September 19, 20, and 21, succeeded despite downpours and puddles. There were new attractions, new records set, and lots of smiling kids and grown-ups who just had fun.

The Fair included a carnival for the first time in a while--and it was the perfect antidote for anyone who felt a little grumpy about the rain. It also added School Day, bringing kids to the Fair through an arrangement with County schools, who pre-bought carnival tickets and bussed students to the event for a school holiday on Friday.

4-H, which is really the heart of the fair, broke the record for the number of animals at the 4-H auction. Fifty-three hand-raised critters went on the auction block and raised $141,000, of which $18,000 goes for 4-H scholarships. Marion Vendituoli, who coordinates the entire weekend event, noted that Heidi Gonzalez and Amanda Zamudio made the 4-H events go off without a hitch.

Patagonia’s Lars Marshall put on the Got Talent Show, won by Lilly Guzman, of Sierra Vista. Allyson Lloyd, of Elgin, and Marin Tomlinson, of Sonoita topped the junior division and the duet of Hannah Young and Tavannah Padilla, of Patagonia, finished in third place.

The bull riding had to be canceled and other events were rained out, but overall, says Vendituoli, this year’s fair was a success. She reports that many vendors sold out, the carnival would like to come back, and on her way home she started getting calls from people who wanted to volunteer for next year’s hundredth anniversary fair. “That’s when I knew we’d done something special,” said the exhausted impresario. She added that the rain may have even contributed to the strong sense of community that was present all weekend long.
Sonoita Valley Water Company (SVWC), a privately owned business with 85 customers, issued a Stage 2 water restriction order in May, requiring a 50-percent reduction in water consumption. Service can be disconnected if a customer uses water on lawns, shrubs, or trees—even with drip or misting systems—or to wash vehicles or fill pools, spas or fountains.

The company provides water service to many of Sonoita’s restaurants, which use the water to wash dishes and maintain cleanliness and cannot reduce their consumption without compromising health issues. These customers—the Ranch House, The Café, Overland Trout—and others, must pay a high fee for water use that surpasses their quota, which is based on 50 percent of usage prior to the restriction. As a consequence, many Sonoita restaurants now serve water to their patrons only if requested, and some use bottled water.

The Sonoita-Elgin Fire District is also a customer of SVWC. It uses well water to fight fires or wash the fire trucks but relies on its service for water used for cooking, eating, and washing activity in the station. In order to use its well water for these activities, the fire station would need to have it chlorinated and tested monthly, adding an expense that it cannot cover.

The Stage 2 water restriction order, which has been approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission, is considered a Curtailment Tariff. A water company can impose the restriction on its accounts when its total water storage well production becomes less than 80 percent of capacity for at least 48 consecutive hours, or if it can establish that a declining water table or an increased draw down could threaten pump operations. I asked company representatives to clarify the reason for the reduction, but so far they have declined to comment.

SVWC has had complaints from customers over other issues through the years. Their restaurant accounts were required to buy back-flow devices from them and to submit to periodic inspection by SVWC; the penalty for noncompliance would be loss of service. Customers say that these devices freeze and break in cold weather.

Residents have reported that during heavy rains, erosion exposes SVWC’s pipes along the side of the road because they are buried too near the surface.

In addition, EPA tests in the past have found contaminants such as lead, copper, arsenic, and radon in SVWC’s water. The company says these levels have been reduced to meet EPA minimums and are now safe for consumption.

Several Sonoita residents I spoke with stated that SVWC’s new restrictions and frequent rate increases have angered many of its clients. Some residential customers say they have been receiving monthly water bills of $300 or more, and one two-person household claimed they were billed $1,000 for a month’s service.

Is SWVC resorting to the restriction on water use because they are experiencing a declining water table but are unwilling or financially unable to dig deeper? Is their revenue declining because of a loss of accounts? The company has not responded with its answers. In the meantime, customers are stuck with their glass half full until further notice.
Died from Exposure

While going out to the milking Christmas morning Master Jack O’Keefe received a shock he will remember as long as he lives. There had been quite a fall of snow which had covered the ground to a depth of two or three inches, and loading a fleecy whiteness to the branches of all the trees. Drinking in the beauty of the scene and scuffling along in the snow without paying attention to his immediate vicinity he stumbled over a snow covered object lying across his course and fell over a dead man. Frightened half out of his wits Master Jack

Nogales, Circa 1911

In 1897, a railway was built connecting Benson, Arizona to Guaymas, Mexico. The rail line crossed into Mexico at Nogales, which was then called Line City. Twin bilingual communities grew up along the rail-road with lively business districts. In 1899 Santa Cruz County was created and the town of Nogales, Arizona opened its first hospital. By 1904, there were 122 telephones in town.

A significant portion of the town’s revenue came from charging customs duties on the passage of goods between foreign countries and the US, from which a healthy trade in the smuggling of goods and persons developed. In 1910, the Mexican revolution broke out, and troops were sent to Nogales, initiating a full-scale border war. The federal governments of Mexico and the US ordered the dual towns of Nogales to be divided along the border and buildings cleared for 60 feet on both sides. Mexican rebels took over the Mexican side of Nogales in 1913, and it remained under revolutionary control until 1916.
By Donna Reibslager

This year's pie auction, on September 13 at the Community Garden was—as always—the perfect blend of relaxed conversation, good food, and the fine art of pie auctioning. At 4 p.m., people began drifting into the garden. They found tables, met up with friends, and listened as Zach Farley played mellow guitar, accompanied by Matt Franz and Evan Sofro. When preparation at the food tables was complete, a line formed quickly. Guests filled their plates with burgers, sausage, roasted corn, jalapeño macaroni and cheese, lamb stew, beans, and tasty salads.

After Community Garden President Martha Kelly announced the evening's main event, Master of Ceremonies Lars Marshall took on the role of auctioneer, and the bidding began. Thirty-nine pies were ushered out and displayed by Ben Shonkwiler, who wove the tables enticing bidders with a view. There were chocolate pies, raspberry boysenberry pies, key lime, apple, asian pear, lemon quince, and cacao pies. There was even a bison mincemeat pie. Several came with written histories.

Pies like the key lime, coconut cream, and mile-high chocolate cream inspired bidding wars, a fast volley of back-and-forth bidding that hiked the bid up or more (The top-selling pie, “Grandma's coconut custard,” made by Martha Kelly, went for $100.) Some winners took their pies home, while others divided their spoils among those at their table. Finally, just as Lars’ voice began to give out, the last pie was auctioned off, and the evening wound down. Bravo to all those who worked so hard to put the auction together. Many hands go in to the making of this event each year, and all are to be congratulated for helping to provide one of the town's favorite occasions.
Four signs of fall

A single yellow leaf high in a cottonwood at what would be milepost 15 (no road sign there). Flash of gold, small shock, piercing a thick August afternoon.

I realize the single sheet, the only cover used for weeks, is not enough. I need the comforter these nights, its weight reminding me, more chill to come.

Auction at the county fair, small boy who prods his weighty hog in the arena, practiced grin glued to his face, but in his eyes, goodbye my friend.

Oatmeal for breakfast, first time in months. Rice Krispies to the back of the cupboard. Seasonal shift.

— Janet Winans
WANTED:
Old Photos and Stories For Book On Local History

Ann Caston is collecting photos and information about residents and events that make up the history of Patagonia and the Santa Cruz Valley. She is creating a book for the Images of America series, published by Arcadia Publishing. She needs 180 to 240 images. Each image will be accompanied by a minimum of 350 words of text. The information will be edited down to size, so contributors are asked to provide as much as possible. The book hopes to cover history from as far back in time as possible, into the 1900’s. All originals will be returned. Please contact Ann at (520) 604-2544.
Bug enthusiasts may have discovered that the fountain of youth and a new superfood are right in our very own backyards. The thing that could give us greater arterial health, according to local medical researcher Binx Selby, is also the largest grassland predator: grasshoppers!

On September 19, at Cady Hall, about 30 brave individuals gathered to investigate the finer aspects of grasshoppers and other edible insects at the Grassland Insects: Delicious Delights and Other Matters panel discussion and local foods potluck. During this creepy crawly event, hosted by Borderlands Restoration, guest speakers from the community talked about everything from ecology to hunting to survival, and the nutritional aspects of insects in our grasslands. Experts Liz Bernays and Jason Botz taught us more than we ever wanted to know about insects in our backyards, and some of us brave souls even tried these tasty delights. Who knew grasshoppers and cicadas could taste so good? According to Binx Selby, bugs are nutritious, too.

We learned that common edible insects come from the families of Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths, and their caterpillars), Coleoptera (beetles), Blattodea (cockroaches!), Orthoptera (crickets and grasshoppers), and Homoptera (cicadas)—although grasshoppers are the most preferred edible, according to the speakers.

Sisters Cindy Martin and Kim Nenninger shared a riveting tale of adventure and survival foraging grasshoppers during a 10-day trek along the Arizona Trail. Eating grasshoppers gave them the opportunity to experience wild Arizona and to test their boundaries. And if you try grasshoppers, they say, “Don’t forget the Old Bay Seasoning!”

The following Grasshopper recipes are from entomologist Liz Bernays, with additions from entomologist and USDA agriculture inspector Jason Botz:

Collect a load of grasshoppers by sweeping grassland with a butterfly net or by picking them off grasses in the early morning and placing them into a 5-gallon bucket filled with a couple inches of water. Hoppers are slow and easier to catch in the cool morning hours. Remove any rainbow grasshoppers or Mexican generals (large black species). These species eat poisonous plants and are therefore toxic.

Keep the hoppers in a cage or bucket with a lid for 24 hours to allow them to empty their guts; you probably don’t want to eat partially digested plant material. Place them in a bag and freeze. Rinse before (if you’re quick) or after you freeze. When they’re frozen, shake in a big jar to break off spiny back legs.

Fry in butter or olive oil with garlic and rosemary (or Old Bay!) until crispy.

Or place on a jelly roll pan and toast in the oven at 200 degrees for six to eight hours or until crispy brown. Grind the toasted bugs into flour using a coffee grinder. Keep the flour in a sealed container in the fridge. When baking, Jason Botz likes to mix one part of this high-protein, nutty, and slightly sweet flour with three parts of wheat flour. Makes excellent chocolate chip cookies!
Who’s New? Five Teachers Join PUSD

Sara Vicary

By Calvin Whitcoe

Sara Vicary, the Patagonia Elementary School’s first grade teacher, has just begun the first of what she hopes will be many successful years in Patagonia. Vicary taught in Oregon and Colorado for 24 years and then retired. However, she still hoped to teach in Arizona one day. As school begins, she is looking forward to getting acquainted in the community. She is highly qualified, with degrees from a community college in eastern Oregon and from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, as well as an M.A. degree from Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado.

Vicary was raised in eastern Oregon in what she calls “the middle of nowhere,” so she is well aware of the ins and outs of small town life and enjoys small classes. Growing up with a mom as a kindergarten teacher exposed her to the life of teaching younger students. She has a passion for teaching, reading, and watching younger children grow and mature, as well as helping them to succeed.

As a high school student, Vicary enjoyed creative writing. In Arizona, she spends free time in the outdoors, trail riding on her trusty steeds, biking, and enjoying small classes. Growing up with a mom as a kindergarten teacher exposed her to the life of teaching younger students. She has a passion for teaching, reading, and watching younger children grow and mature, as well as helping them to succeed.

In an interview with Elizabeth Anne McCowin, she provided insight into the life of an art teacher. She was born in Iowa but grew up in Indiana. She first created art by drawing on walls with her mother’s lipstick. Later she went to Iowa State University to become a veterinary doctor. She went there for four and a half years (including summers), then realized she wanted to pursue her true passion—art. She got a bachelor’s degree in art and design. She then studied art for two years at Blackburn College in Illinois, where she minored in business.

McCowin moved to Tucson when her husband got a job there. She says she wanted to have fun and found that PUHS was the perfect fit for her. She loves teaching different grades. “Middle school is a challenge,” she says, “but I love them anyway.”

McCowin enjoys art because “It’s very relaxing. Time just passes, and you don’t even notice.” Before she was a teacher, she painted signs outside. “And even that was relaxing,” she says. She tries to motivate her students by being excited about every project, and her number one rule is staying positive. McCowin’s favorite thing about teaching is the moment a student creates something he or she loves. However, she doesn’t enjoy all of the grading, other paper work, and meetings. She would rather be able to tell students they did well and move on to the next project. We asked how old she was when she started teaching, and the answer was, “That’s a big fat secret. Don’t ask that question.” She told her class, “When I get old, grumpy, and tired of this job I will retire, but not until then.”

Elizabeth Anne McGowin

By Exelee Budd, Elizabeth McKay and Christina Novak

LuAnn Beaton

By Garrett Fish and Sabrina Mendoza

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LuAnn Beaton, the newest edition to the Patagonia Pack, is beyond excited to get to know new students, make new friends, and see familiar faces. This year, some of her goals for her second grade class include transforming her students into fluent readers and strong writers and encouraging them to think of math as a puzzle to which they want to find the answer. Beaton intends to implement the important message of always wanting to learn and never to say, “I’ve learned enough.” She describes her teaching style as “structured” but suggests that her students should have fun. When asked what she wanted them to achieve, she quoted from Christopher Robin: “Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

An East Coast native, Beaton did student teaching in Pennsylvania, then lived in Alaska, Oregon, and Hawaii before settling in Arizona, where she has taught for eight years. Retired teacher James Schrimpf influenced her to come to Patagonia because of our elite community and school. Later this year she plans to move to Whetstone and to commute to Patagonia. When not maintaining her organized classroom, she enjoys spending time with her two daughters, husband, and Beemer, her dog.

Charles Mitsak

By Alexis Montañez and Christopher Quiroga

“Students, no matter where they are from, are all amazingly the same,” says Patagonia’s new high school science teacher, Charles Mitsak. During a recent
interview, he gave us some insight on his life and his teaching career. Alexis Montañez and I asked about his education, and he told us he had attended the College of the Holy Cross, which is in Worcester, Massachusetts. He made the decision to move to Patagonia after the closing of Skyview, a school in Tucson where he previously taught. He heard from a teacher friend about the opening for a chemistry teacher at PUHS.

Mitsak's hometown is Sewickley, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has traveled around the world, going to places such as Australia and Spain.

Meet Juli Runberg, the new middle school science teacher, as well as the computer lab advisor for the high school pod. Runberg was first inspired to educate today’s youth by her elementary teachers, and one in particular, Sister Orlando, who taught art and science. Runberg got her teaching degree at Central Michigan University, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, a school known for its teaching program. She has 12 years of teaching experience in northern Michigan at an arts charter school and a residential alternative high school on Beaver Island. She is willing to go out of her way to help a student, stating, “It’s my job, and it’s necessary to be a good teacher.”

During an interview, Runberg exclaimed, “I love Patagonia. It’s extremely beautiful and the people here have been very friendly. I feel at home here.” Runberg spends her time, when she has it, hiking, reading, painting, gardening, and socializing.

### Battle of the Packs
By: Garrett Fish and Dominick Paz

On September 11, the Lobos showed their true patriotic spirit by dominating in America’s favorite game, football. The final score, 34-8, truly reflected their performance. The undefeated 3-0 team’s focus was to incorporate defense and the execution of plays on offense. In their whipping performance, Patagonia defeated Hayden—which share’s the Lobo mascot.

The game started with Patagonia scoring first and Hayden coming right back in vengeance. Then Patagonia made an advance and would not let up for the rest of the game. Senior Greg Zapata played phenomenally, recording several tackles and rushing yards. Zapata’s inspiration for the game was his head coach, Kenneth Hayes. Zapata said, “Let’s do it for Coach!” and without a doubt, they got it done. When asked about the game, Coach Hayes said, “After a shaky start, the team focused and came together to finish strong.”

### 3.1 Miles of Success
By: Exelee Budd and Elizabeth McKay

On Wednesday September 10, the Lobos cross country team had their first track meet in Rio Rico. Starting the races with a gunshot that could wake the dead, and four different schools competing, the runners were off for 3.1 miles of mud, rocks, and hills. Their best time for PUHS was Calvin Whitcoe, who came in 25th with a time of 23 minutes and 37 seconds. Considering they were competing against much larger schools, the cross country team members are very proud of their times.

PUHS’s senior cross country runner, Dawn Novack, says “Our sport is so hard, other sports use it as a punishment.”
A Creepy Crawly Bedtime Story

Ouch! I jumped out of bed. My cat, Dulcie, went flying; my dog, Sunny, sprang to attention; and I went running to the kitchen to see what the heck happened. Something had stung or bitten me. Wow, did it hurt! I popped a Benadryl and a Tylenol, then returned to the bedroom and threw back the sheets. There, looking right at me, antennae raised, was a six-inch-long centipede. Yuck!

I went to find something to capture it in. I grabbed a plastic bowl with a lid. I slammed the bowl over the creature, then realized I had tossed the lid too far away to reach it without letting go of the bowl. I tried to slide it along the bed to reach the lid, but the bowl slipped, and off he went.

I've been told that centipedes are poisonous in this neck of the woods, but then, what isn't? (smile) Not knowing just how poisonous, I googled for information. I read that they are not lethal to humans and that they grab with their pincers then pierce the skin and inject poison. These images were (not) very comforting. I scrolled down quickly to find out how to treat the wound. At a hospital, analgesics and narcotics would be given to reduce the pain. It is important to clean the site thoroughly to avoid infection. A tetanus shot is also suggested. So I washed the area well. I had already taken pain relievers, and my very thorough physician, bless her heart, had given me a tetanus vaccination less than a week earlier.

Since it was midnight, I texted my only fellow night owl friend, and she called me. We talked for about an hour. Of course, just before we hung up, she said she was going to check her sheets and go to bed, then asked me how I was ever going to sleep not knowing where the centipede was now? Thanks, friend. Good night.

Eventually, with lights on and another check of the sheets, I tried to go back to sleep. The pain was excruciating. I got up and took 800 mg. of ibuprofen and another Benadryl. That must have knocked me out, because the next thing I knew it was morning. The bite was just below the fingernail on my left ring finger. My whole finger was swollen and stiff, but the pain had subsided. Within 24 hours, as I expected from my research, an ugly blister formed.

Having time to reflect on the incident, I decided to investigate the significant spiritual message that centipede brings to us. According to the Chinese, it was wealth and winnings. The Chinese are known to carry a centipede pearl in their pocket when they go gambling. So what did I do? I bought two lottery tickets—something I rarely do. What the heck? If you see a Lamborghini with a chestnut mare on the door or a Harley Davidson Heritage Soft Tail Classic with the same picture on the tank, you’ll know the bite was worth it!

Cate Drown, certified Sumerel Therapy technician, specializing in equines, can be contacted at drown_cate@hotmail.com.
Because I grew up in Pennsylvania, some of my fondest memories of autumn are inextricably linked to a combination of flowering asters and the occasional onset of warm, clear days called Indian summer. Add a dash of fall color, and, as you may imagine, I was in naturalist heaven!

Here, the Sky Islands seem a world away from those early days. True, the Sky Islands do show their hues here and there, although not so ostentatiously as back east. Still, an inquisitive amble into a deep mountain canyon might well net you some scarlet canyon maple leaves. Go high enough and you’ll revel in the gold of falling aspen leaves. Other colorful treasures await your discovery both high and low in our region. All that you need is a bit of time and a modicum of physical fitness, and you’ll soon forget the blazing autumns of other regions.

Given our nearly perpetual Indian summer, we have more than our fair share of flowers in October. Foremost among these is our veritable legion of asters. Aster translates as “star-shaped,” which describes the form of most flowers you’ll encounter. You can’t travel far without running into any number of fascinating flowers in this family. Clearly, there is some evolutionary advantage for so many species to flower at this rather late date. Perhaps this nets them a corner on the pollinator market, at a time when few other plant families proffer their blossoms. Maybe they are simply more cold hardy than their cohorts and hence can survive any autumnal frosts that nature might throw their way.

One of my personal favorites grows mostly in high grassland or desert washes and on nearby cliffs. _Ericameria laricifolia_ (goldenbush or turpentine bush) blaze a rich yellow, arresting the gaze of all but the most jaded hikers. The spray of flowers work their magic, and soon you’ve closed the gap and are savoring the sweet scent of this sublime shrub. Never mind that a few native bees or flies share the flowers with you—all the better to see plant sex in action.

Another yellow-flowered beauty is broom snakeweed (_Gutierrezia sarothrae_), which, like so many of our aster shrubs, masquerades most of the year as a small, broumy subshrub. Come fall, however, it bursts into bloom. Snakeweed’s aroma hints of anise or licorice, attracting many pollinators. I have used the dried flower heads as a crucial additive to my fires. They flame briefly, but brilliantly, lending snakeweed an apt alternate name—torchweed.

If you prefer a bit of purple, then look for the aptly named purple spiny aster, or tansyaster (_Machaeranthera tanacetifolia_), which may grow in habitats similar to those of the goldenbush. The leaves are a bit spiny and artificially sticky, inviting a whiff even more than the attractive flowers. Look for them in disturbed areas, in particular. Also be alert for trixis, desert broom, seeppillow, various sunflowers, goldenrods, and a host of other Asteraceae that will brighten any autumn day.

The truth is, however, that most folks will pass by the majority of asters and simply label them as “LYJ’s” or little yellow jobs. This is the botanic equivalent of the nonbirder’s “LBJ’s” or little brown jobs—so labeled because of their fairly mundane plumage and small size. Regardless of identification, revel in the aster family, as you may just catch a “fall-ing” star!

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run Raven’s Way Wild Journeys. They offer local tours dedicated to the preservation of the incredible biodiversity in the Sky Islands.

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**Community Church Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Days and Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community/United Methodist Church</td>
<td>387 Mckeown Ave., Patagonia</td>
<td>394-2274</td>
<td>Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church</td>
<td>222 Third Ave., Patagonia</td>
<td>394-2954</td>
<td>Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</td>
<td>Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church</td>
<td>Justice of the Peace Courtroom</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Saturdays; 10 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Bible Church</td>
<td>3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita</td>
<td>455-5779</td>
<td>Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church</td>
<td>12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita</td>
<td>394-2954; 394-2274</td>
<td>Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Hills Community Church</td>
<td>52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita</td>
<td>455-5172</td>
<td>Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceremony of the Dead</td>
<td>12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita</td>
<td>394-2954; 394-2274</td>
<td>Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
<td>394-2274</td>
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Answer to Our Wild Neighbors

Submitted by the Mowry Tracking Team

Exercise caution, you are on the track of one of the west’s most adorable and malodorous creatures, the Spotted Skunk. (_Spilogale gracilis)_

The skunk isn’t particularly fond of its own odor and will resist spraying until it seems imperative. When sufficiently provoked, it will hiss, foot-stamp and raise its tail. To actually spray, the skunk will do a hand-stand, arch its back and shoot forward. (No, really.) Given time, it may wave its tail from the handstand position as further warning before spraying. If, like your average dog, you ignore so blatant a warning, it can shoot as far as twelve feet with great accuracy and as often as 8 times; your defeat is inevitable. Skunks are very social and several will often share a den, although males are not welcome when offspring are present. Males reciprocate by refusing any child rearing duties. Skunks’ vision is poor, their sense of smell acute, and they are generally nocturnal.
Ian Tyson walks stiff-legged to the center of the stage. This is a cowboy's gait; this is the walk of a man who has sustained his share of falls from horses large and small and who knows that the rancher's life is not the glamorous myth of the old-fashioned western movies.

This is also a preamble to a performance of songs, new ones and old ones, by an artist who tells stories with the unvarnished luster of truth.

Tyson first became known in the 1960's as part of a Canadian folk and country duo, Ian and Sylvia. After many successful years of performing together, they split up, and he continued writing and singing on his own, while working his ranch in Canada.

In the early 90's, Tyson began coming to Sonoita in the winter months to escape Alberta's cold, spending his time riding and writing songs. Now, more than 20 years later, Ian Tyson is returning for his first concert at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, on October 10.

Tyson turned 80 last year. He is also celebrating the complete recovery of his voice, badly damaged six years ago. Tyson was forced to learn, with courage and craftsmanship, how to sing again. The successful operation last year plus continued voice therapy has his touring schedule revved up again. His energy remains undimmed after almost six decades of making recordings of the songs he now writes in the 100-year-old stone building a mile down the gravel road from his ranch house. Six decades of singing stories that tell the real truth about horses and men, love sustained and relationships broken, heroes and heroines and the land and the weather and the prairie sky. Tyson stares at the future with clear eyes and weather-worn face. Bring it on, he seems to say. Meanwhile, the songs keep coming and the stories they tell are true. See calendar page for ticket info.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

meetings

The Patagonia Museum - Regular meetings w/topics including local history; highway cleanup every 90 days & monthly workdays at Lochiel Schoolhouse. For more info, visit www.thepatagoniamuseum.org

AA - The Patagonia Com. Ctr., Sun., 8 a.m.; Sonoita Bible Church, Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Pat. Methodist Church, Fri., 7:30 p.m.

Al-Anon - Wednesdays at 6 p.m., 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 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.

Overeaters Anonymous Meetings - Patagonia United Methodist Church, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 604-3490

Patagonia Town Council, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Rotary Club, 1st Thursdays, 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S.; All others at Kief Joshua winery, 6 p.m. For info: (520) 907-5829

San Rafael Community 4-H Club, 2nd Monday at the Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall at 5:30 p.m. Contact Tami

community services

Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon. - Fri. at the Community Center. 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 appt. only. 394-2494

Patagonia Food Bank, Community Center; 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m.

Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop, Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - noon.

Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop 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

events

Oct. 10: Ian Tyson Concert; Pioneer Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. No host happy hour at 6 p.m., Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets at High Noon Feed and Tack or call 800-838-3006. Limited seating: $30 or $35 at door. For more info: www.gopattywagon.com

Oct 10-11: Fall Plant Sale Extravaganza, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Borderlands Retail Space on Fourth Ave. in Patagonia. Plants will be sold at bargain prices!

Oct. 10 - 12: The 26th Annual Fall Festival, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Patagonia Park. Art & crafts from all over the southwest, food vendors, 3 days of music.


Oct. 11: Octoberfest, Hops & Vines Winery, 3452 Hwy 82, Sonoita; call 888.569.1642 for information

Oct. 10 - 11: Fall Plant Sale Extravaganza, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Borderlands Retail Space on Fourth Ave. in Patagonia. Plants will be sold at bargain prices!

special interests

Adult Art Classes - at the Patagonia Art Center, are now on Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m.; Figure Drawing is offered first Thursdays of the month, 2 to 4 p.m.

Art Makers - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. $3-5 suggested donation. For more info or to sponsor a child call Cassina @ 394-9369

Adult hand-building ceramics classes - Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. (ongoing registration); $65 for 4 classes includes materials and instruction. No experience necessary. Call Martha Kelly @ 604-0300

Witter's Support Group Forming - fiction and nonfiction, monthly or more often, call David @ (520) 604-2829, or Janice @ (706) 614-6959 for information.

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

Play Bridge - Patagonia Community Center, Mondays & Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Bingo - St. Theresa Parish Hall, Patagonia, 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6 p.m. 455-5681

Crossroads Quilters - Sonoita Fire Dept., 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9 a.m.; call Polly Lightner at (520) 732-0453.

Open Tennis - PUHS, Tues. & Thurs. at 5 p.m., Sat. at 8 a.m., except during school matches. Contact Tod Bowden at 394-2973


Sonita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club - Share info on all kinds of gardening. For info contact clairebonelli@gmail.com.

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR MEETING, CLASS, OR EVENT
Send your info to prtevents@gmail.com
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCT. 15
EXPERIENCED, FRIENDLY HELP wanted for yard cleanup & basic landscaping prep in Patagonia. Please call (520) 904-0877.

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

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.

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

Marble
Marble is a fine young lady with an independent personality and classic ‘tortie chortle.’ Surrendered pregnant, Marble gave birth at the shelter this spring and was an excellent mom. Now that all of her kittens have been adopted, she’s ready to be your new favorite feline.

Rebel
Looking for an affectionate gal pal who loves the outdoors? Rebel is your girl! A 2 year-old chocolate lab/bull terrier mix, Rebel would be a great ranch dog or hiking companion. A bit submissive, she has a gentle demeanor and gets along well with other dogs

Adoption fees include spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchip. SCHS is located at 232 E. Hwy 82, Nogales. (520) 287-5654 Other adoptable pets at santacruzhumane.org.

SANTA CRUZ HUMANE SOCIETY
232 E. Patagonia Hwy 82, Nogales 287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumane.org
23 Sonoita Drive in Red Rock Acres, Patagonia AZ 85624
Red Rock retreat at the edge of Patagonia, with innumerable rural & village benefits. C.1987, this architect-designed (Geo. Swan), custom-built, modernist-inspired home sits atop 5 richly wooded acres, enjoying incomparable mountain views & serene privacy. Its 3,972 sf include the light-filled main house w/3 Be & (or 2 Be, Study) & 2.5 Ba, attached 2-car garage + attached guest house w/2 Be, 1 Ba, sitting room w/kitchenette & private patio. The beautiful pool & garden areas are fully fenced & include covered & open patio areas. There's an artist's studio w/ private patio + a separate storage building. Glass sliders t/o, high ceilings, clean lines & evolved space planning are hallmarks of this special home. TAR/MLS #21426634, $489,000

20 McCarthy Lane, Elgin AZ 85611
TAR/MLS #21426399, $349,000
20 ac Elgin homestead 10 min from Sonoita's cross-roads with a modest 1,809 sf 2 Be/2 Ba/2 G slumped-block home & substantial 2,800 sf (40' x 70') 2-story slumped - block utility bldg w/all the bells & whistles. Adjacent to Lightening Ridge Cellars, the new Camelot Cowboy Church site & the San Ignacio del Babocomari – an excellent family business property w/amazing views.

537 Temporal Canyon Road, Patagonia AZ 85624, TAR/MLS #21425543, $410,000
2,523 sf lovingly refurbished & updated solar farm-house on 4.36 ac @ the edge of Patagonia. Included is 3 Be, 3 Ba; fully equipped guest quarters in the walk-out basement below; clear-span great room w/kitchen/living/dining combined; seriously wonderful patio/porch areas w/awesome Red Mtn views; 2 farm buildings; fully fenced; wooded – dreamily bucolic.

Gary Retherford, 520-604-0897
Designated Broker, Owner, REALTOR®
Kathleen James, 520-604-6762
Owner, REALTOR®
La Frontera Realty LLC
340 Naugle Ave (HWY 82) / POB 98 / Patagonia AZ 85624 / 520-394-0110