The Price We Pay for What We Throw Away

By John Fielding

Of the three landfills in Santa Cruz County, Sonoita’s is the most costly. Its balance sheet over the past few years indicates an annual average of $120,000 in operational expenses and $80,000 in revenue from recycling. Do the math. Sonoita’s landfill has been over budget by about $40,000 a year.

Karl Moyers, the county’s solid waste manager, doesn’t like to look at negatives on a balance sheet, and his department has come up with some cost effective ideas for cutting back on transportation and labor costs. New construction, new equipment, and a more streamlined operation are making a big difference in the bottom line.

Sonoita residents have no doubt noticed the two new unloading docks and the roll-off containers, each of which can hold 25 tons of waste destined for the landfill. Before the containers, the landfill materials were moved around each day by a backhoe driver who was paid to compact, spread and cover the trash. Now the containers are emptied out into the landfill area once a week. According to Moyers, this takes about an hour. The four containers have reduced the cost of landfill operations by 43 percent.

Residents may also have seen the solar-powered Ramjet compactors that were donated by the Tohono O’odham Nation as part of a grant that Moyers says was the simplest and smartest grant he’s ever written and received. “The U.S. Government could learn a lot from those guys,” he added. He put the compactors at the Sonoita landfill because, as he says, “Their transport costs are the highest.” The compactors reduce the cubic footage of plastic and paper waste by 60 percent, which means that they can be transported to Nogales once a month as opposed to once a week.

Then there is the matter of how often the dump is open. In an effort to further cut costs, the county wanted to cut down to one day a week. There was a strong negative reaction from voters, so the board of supervisors relented and the facility is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. The minimum use fee is $8—the same as Tubac and Rio Rico.

Recycling has proved to be the most controversial aspect of the solid waste facility. Last year residents learned that glass in the site’s recycle (continued on page 2)
The Feminist and the Misogynist?

When I first called myself a feminist in the 1970s it was in an era of hope that the equality of women would be recognized and the abuse of women reduced. The progress has been slow; decades later gender equality eludes us and violence against women is still rampant.

When my husband (Martin) told me he was writing on the topic of gender issues, I welcomed his insight from a male perspective. But when I read his draft of the article beginning with a story on cleavage, I cringed at what felt like an insensitivity to the trauma of too many women at the hands of men. Like most women I have experienced encounters with arrogant, patronizing, provocative men in positions of power.

Martin didn’t heed my editorial input in his article (PRT’s June issue), and readers reacted angrily (PRT’s July/August issue.) One (Wendy) even called him a misogynist. I write to protest and defend my man! My partner of 30+ years can be labeled with many “ists,” but a misogynist he is not. I have spent my professional life as a nurse-midwife working with women and championing women’s causes; I would not also spend it being married to a man who did not deeply respect women.

Men and women will frequently find each other difficult to understand. Increasingly, science supports the obvious fact that we are hard-wired differently, and at times the gulf feels insurmountable. Let the conversations continue.

—Kathryn Schrag.
groundwater surrounding the landfill for contamination to assure that groundwater is not being polluted and leaching into the aquifer. The basin will insure that this doesn’t happen.

Sonoita’s landfill is experiencing a challenge being faced everywhere. As population increases, so does the problem of waste management. Recycling, although it helps, is still a developing industry. Until technology comes up with a better solution, the rising cost of waste disposal is the price we pay for what we throw away.

**MINING NEWS**

By PRT Staff

**HudBay Minerals Takes Over Rosemont Mine Project**

In June, Canadian-based transnational mining company HudBay Minerals reached an agreement to take over Augusta Resources and its Rosemont open-pit copper mine project. According to MiningWatch, a watchdog organization focused on mining activities in Canada, HudBay has demonstrated "a profound disrespect for the environments and communities where it operates." HudBay Minerals is currently being sued for negligence in Canadian courts in connection with violent crimes at its former nickel project in eastern Guatemala, including the murder of an indigenous Mayan land rights activist by mine security guards. In Manitoba, the company has failed to adequately consult indigenous communities; operated a dirty smelter that was Canada’s largest point source of mercury and other toxic emissions until it closed in 2010; and failed to adequately rehabilitate closed mine sites.

**A Hazardous Month**

Three recent mining spills, caused by tailing "ponds" that overflowed or were breached, have contaminated waterways and affected water supplies for downstream residents:

**August 5** - In British Columbia, 10 billion liters of wastewater and 5 billion liters of solid tailings waste escaped the impoundment at Imperial Metal’s Mount Polley mine. The creek that received the brunt of the flow was completely obliterated, and some of the waste backed up into Polley Lake. These spills were highly toxic mine waste, containing sulfuric acid and heavy metals such as arsenic, copper and lead. The spills went directly into the surrounding streams and rivers causing drinking water restrictions for downstream residents and threatening salmon runs, which traditionally provide half the winter food supply for First Nations. After the spill, there were reports from fishermen of skin falling off of salmon.

**August 7** - An acid spill from the Buenavista copper mine in Cananea, Mexico, about 25 miles south of the U.S. border, sent 10 million gallons (40,000 cubic meters) of toxic waste water into portions of the Bacanuchi and Sonora rivers. Mine officials have been criticized for their delay in reporting the massive acid spill to authorities. According to Carlos Arias, director of civil defense for the northern state of Sonora, the spill was caused by defects in a new holding pond, where overflow from acids used to leach metal out of the crushed rock is stored. Arias said a pipe either blew out or lost its positioning, sending the sulfuric acid downstream. The spill affected the water supply of seven municipalities, including the Sonora state capital, Hermosillo, which is home to nearly 800,000 people. There are reports indicating that the contamination has killed fish and cattle, and is affecting milk production.

**August 10** - In the municipality of El Oro, Durango, Mexico, the Magistral Mine tailings dam spilled about 2 billion cubic meters of cyanide solution downstream into La Cruz Creek, when heavy rains caused an overflow of the dam. Residents reported the death of cattle that drank the contaminated creek water.

**ASARCO Expands Operations Locally**

The Buenavista mine is run by Grupo Mexico, whose American subsidiary, ASARCO, is nearing a deal to gain full ownership of the Silver Bell copper mine in Marana, Arizona. Asarco, which also operates the Mission Mine near Green Valley, has been subject to major environmental misconduct charges in the past relating to its mining operations.
Late last winter Lynda Prim arrived in Patagonia to take over management of the Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S) conservation farm. An anthropologist, educator, farm advisor, and advocate in sustainable organic agriculture for over 30 years, she found a daunting situation. The man who ran and maintained the farm equipment had quit, and nearly every machine was in need of repair. Then the well pump broke down and had to be replaced. Here she was with a new job in an unfamiliar place, and her closest support system was in Tucson.

Now, as harvest time approaches, everything is working, including a dedicated staff, the machines, and the innumerable small insects that carry pollen around. Whew! Good for Lynda and the farm—and for Patagonia, as we benefit in many ways from having the farm here.

Native Seeds/SEARCH was started in 1983 to help the Tohono O’odham, who, when they were given broccoli and radish seeds by local nonprofit groups, asked if there were seeds for plants like those that their ancestors had grown. Two people listened and understood. Gary Nabhan and Mahina Drees began searching for the ancestral seeds of southwestern Native Americans, and whenever they found any, they planted some and then saved the seeds from the new plants. Essentially, that’s what NS/S has been doing ever since, but in 20 years, the Tohono O’odham Nation has multiplied just as the seeds have, and today Native Americans throughout the southwest are saving seeds and growing ancient crops. They are also studying, along with NS/S, how to adapt old organic farming practices that used less water and were kinder to the soil. This work with Native Americans is at the heart of today’s NS/S, but the crops and farming practices that work for their Native American clients have implications for all small farmers.

The farmland in the valley just north of town was purchased by the Nature Conservancy and NS/S in 1997. The Conservancy took 100 acres of land along Sonoita Creek, and NS/S began its farm on 60 acres of old flood plain. The land had previously grown alfalfa. Sixty acres is a lot of land when you look across the fenced area where the conservation farm is located. It’s hard to see all the things that are planted there, but right now the sunflowers stand out as they tower over the corn and beans planted next to them, acting as a wind break. It makes an appealing environment for pollinators (which Lynda said are more numerous and varied than anywhere she has ever been), not to mention providing shade for other plants.

Then there are the mysterious, big, boxy structures covered with honey-colored netting. This is where special plants grow, safe from pests and pollinators. There’s a row of rare red runner beans, a special pepper whose fruit is the size of pebbles, and other native plants that will grow through their cycle and be harvested for their seeds. These seeds get sorted at the farm and then go to Tucson, where they are deposited in the seed bank, a place that holds what many people consider to be true treasure. Some of these seeds are frozen, while others are kept in just the right combinations of dryness and darkness.

Back in July a small but violent
storm hit the farm. Hail and winds up to 60 miles an hour arrived out of the blue, toppling the pollination tents and beating down the young plants. Several tents were destroyed, as were some plantings. Staff member Matt Franz, an adept fixer of broken things, has been restoring the tents. Matt is also skilled at inventing equipment for special purposes, and, along with many other projects, he created a special blade for everyone’s favorite machine, the Farmall Cub, an antique tractor that just keeps doing its job.

Despite the difficulties, there have been many positive undertakings. One of these is collaboration with Borderlands and Deep Dirt Farm. Borderlands is leasing the greenhouse at the far northern end of the NS/S property, and its staff is growing native plants that they share with NS/S. The water harvesting and gardening going on at Deep Dirt Farm makes it a great neighbor for NS/S. There is always botanical information being shared up and down the valley.

The crew that works with Lynda puts in long hours. Clark Lydick is a volunteer who happily mows and tills and can repair broken machinery. Morgan Parsons was formerly a wildlife manager in Mississippi. Along with many other tasks, he spends long hours on the tractor keeping the cover crops and grasses mowed, hoping not to kill or injure moles, mice, snakes, or quail that have made their home at the farm. Andrea Stanley is a Navajo/Acoma volunteer who, with Morgan, is looking for a local place to rent that they can afford because they hope to stay here. Kelsey Bearden comes from Tucson to work when she can, and Matt Franz, who was an apprentice last summer, now has a paid position farming and fixing everything. In addition, there is a crew from Tucson that comes down periodically to help pollinate corn, plant, and harvest. Everyone pitches in.

The search for seeds that began with the Tohono O’odham Nation has led NS/S to be educators, collaborators, and farmers. They are part of a wave of international organizations that believe that agricultural biotechnology will not support the world’s growing population. Many innovations are challenging our food systems, most aiming toward one kind of seed and one genetically modified crop grown on huge farms. The contrast of small farms, diverse seeds, and resilient crops is a more positive look at the future, and it’s sprouting right here on 60 acres.

You have a chance to visit the farm on the second weekend in October, when there will be farm tours associated with the annual Patagonia Fall Festival. By then most of the crops will be picked, but the seeds are what’s important. At this farm the harvest is both the end and the beginning of a new cycle.

To learn more about NS/S and see all that they offer, visit their website: nativeseeds.org.
Patagonia is a dog-walking town. It is also a town that doesn’t much care for regulation. When it comes to dogs, some folks feel that—just as was the case 50 years ago—they should be able to let their dogs roam freely and should not be burdened with the bureaucracy of licensing or I.D. tags.

Dogs who have made unprovoked attacks on people or their dogs have been reported in our pages with disturbing regularity since we began publishing nearly five years ago. In nearly all cases, the fault lies with the owner, who has allowed the dog to get loose. In 2010 an article described the frustration of a woman whose dog was attacked by two dogs on Second Avenue. It took weeks before our then chief law enforcement officer, Ed Dobbertin, did anything, and then it was only because the victim appealed to the mayor. Penny Shellenbarger, who was attacked by a pit bull while riding her horse on Pennsylvania Avenue, says, “There were pit bulls roaming the streets, and no one was doing anything.” An elderly woman she knew had stopped taking her daily walk because a dog belonging to Penny’s neighbor routinely came after her when she passed the house.

Four years later there are still vicious dogs in Patagonia, and they do get loose from time to time, but things have improved. Last year, the Town Council devoted long hours to amending the town code pertaining to animal control, requiring greater accountability from dog owners. Improvement is also credited to Marshal Joe Patterson and his deputies, who are more responsive to complaints and are making a greater effort to enforce the town animal codes. But Marshal Patterson says some victims find the prospect of confronting their attacker’s owner intimidating. Without a victim who can give a clear description of what happened, there is not much of a case to be made. “Everyone wants to complain,” Patterson says, “but very few want to stand up in court.”

Some residents would like to see the town adopt stricter laws and a dog licensing requirement that might keep better track of dogs and their rabies shot status, and perhaps might encourage people to have their pets spayed or neutered by charging higher fees for unaltered dogs. However, Vice Mayor Andy Wood, who notes that “Dogs have been part of the fabric of Patagonia for years and years,” feels that such measures might not solve the problem. “A lot of people aren’t going to be able to afford those fees,” she says, adding that if a dog gets too expensive, people might put it down or set it loose.

The advice from veteran dog walkers? Avoid streets that are known to be frequented by loose dogs. And, if you or your dog is attacked, and you want to prevent it from happening again, report it promptly and follow through on your complaint. If town residents actively support enforcement of the animal code, it will go a long way toward making lax dog owners aware of the problem.
Patagonia Schools Begin Year With High Marks

By Ann Katzenbach

It seems that almost all the news is good when it comes to Patagonia schools. At an information breakfast held in the cafeteria the day before school started, Superintendent/Principal Denise Blake started by pointing to the excellent AIMS (Arizona’s Instrument To Measure Standards) scores in math reading and science achieved by last year’s tenth grade. She cited the fact that PUHS (Patagonia Union High School) has the lowest dropout rate in Santa Cruz County, adding that, according to US News and World Report, PUHS ranks in the top 20 percent of the nation’s high schools. One hundred percent of the fourth grade passed the reading portion of AIMS testing, and they outperformed county and state averages in the science portion of the test. The one piece of bad news is that the elementary school’s overall grade slipped from a B to a C in state results. The high school maintained its B grade.

Looking ahead to this year, Blake reported that the Governing Board supported expanding the teaching staff so that there are now separate faculties for middle school and high school. For the first time in years, kindergarten through fifth grades will be on one campus. The Old Main school buildings will house only the Early Childhood Learning Center and the Patagonia Family Resource Center. This leaves a lot of empty buildings up on the hill, but most school staff are pleased to finally have all Patagonia’s schoolchildren in one place.

Superintendent Blake talked about the new social studies materials that will be part of the high school curriculum this year, noting that social studies is often given short shrift in most schools because there is no AIMS testing in the subject. She stressed the importance of a well-rounded education. In this vein, Blake announced there are also upgraded science materials for the elementary and middle schools.

The computer labs at the high school and elementary schools received funding in the amount of $250,000, and by October, Blake says, there should be a new phone system and expanded bandwidth for the schools.

Here’s another impressive number—2014 graduates were awarded nearly $300,000 in scholarships! Other numbers include a $5,000 grant from the Laura Bush Library and $140,000 worth of books donated by Mountain Empire Rotary.

In the sports department, last year’s teams had a great record, with middle school volleyball, basketball, and baseball teams winning regional championships, and the girls’ high school basketball team making it to the state tournament.

Blake noted that schools are more than grades and grants. She recognized all the community organizations that work with schoolchildren: the Patagonia Marshal’s Office, Red Mountain Foods, the Patagonia Museum, Borderlands, KPUP, the Patagonia Woman’s Club, and the Patagonia Arts Center.

She also made sure that everyone at the breakfast knew how much work the Facilities and Grounds Crew have done in the past few years, as evidenced by improved playing fields, paint, electronics upgrades, a fitness trail, and many other accomplishments that keep the school clean and safe.

New Faculty

Dean of Students Gerry Rhoades introduced the six new teachers. Aracely Olivarria is not new to the staff, but this year she joins the middle school team and will teach sixth grade language arts and social studies to grades 6-8. She’s also the school nurse.

Sara Vicary hails from Colorado and teaches first grade; LuAnn Beaton takes the helm at second grade. Matt Bentley, who came on as a replacement teacher last year, begins his first full year of teaching fourth and fifth grade math and science.

Juli Runberg teaches science in the middle school and is computer lab coordinator for the high school. Charles Mitsak comes with a wealth of credentials and experience. He will teach biology, advanced biology, chemistry, and physics. And last, but not least, filling in with right brain learning is the K-12 art teacher, Elizabeth McCowin.

Blake was pleased to note that Patagonia has managed to hire well-qualified new staff. She said other schools in the area are scrambling to find experienced teachers, and she credits Patagonia’s small size with giving it the ability to move more quickly than larger bureaucracies when it comes to advertising and filling positions.

Student Journalism

The Patagonia Regional Times plans to work with young reporters at the high school this year. The school will not publish Logo Lingo but instead will have its journalism students write for us in a special school section. We look forward to working with Journee Hayes and her students. Look for their news and views in our next issue.

AT RIGHT:
New second grade teacher LuAnn Beaton enjoys a chat with school board members Beatrice Pomeroy and Janet Winan at the breakfast held on August 5 in the PUHS cafeteria

Photo by Ann Katzenbach
Cecilia San Miguel of Patagonia and Bernard Walter Neugebauer of Oxkutzcab, Yucatán, Mexico, were married in a simple ceremony at La Misión de San Miguel in Patagonia by local magistrate Constance Brocamonte on June 28.

The bride is the proprietor of the Velvet Elvis Restaurant and La Misión. The groom owns Chan Ka Vergel, a permaculture farm in the Yucatán. Bernard met former Patagonia resident Philip Ostrom on a research trip to the Yucatán, and when Bernard visited Phil's plant in Rio Rico last December, they had dinner at the Velvet Elvis. Cecilia and Bernard were introduced and found they had similar outlooks. There was a flash of interest, but Cecilia soon left on a trip to India. However, after her return, she corresponded with Bernard, sharing her experiences about the journey—which coincided with some of his own. The couple began to meet, and a short while later Bernard proposed marriage. Cecilia says that she thought to herself, “This is crazy . . . but, why not?”

Bernard was born in Germany and had long dreamed of coming to the Americas to study the destruction of the rainforests. In 1976 he moved with his family to a traditional Mayan Indian village of 25,000 people. The village had one telephone, and inhabitants carried water from a central deep well. With funding from Germany and Mexico, Bernard did an intensive study of how and why the rainforests were being decimated. He concluded that the primary cause was projects financed by the Government of Mexico and the World Bank—not small farmers, as was generally held to be true. Bernard says that the government declared his report to be "confidential" and did not release it to the public.

Since then, Bernard has been learning the ancient food processing and preservative practices of the Mayans. He created Chan Ka Vergel farm from deforested lands, at which he produces medical restoratives. The couple intends to sell these restoratives at the Velvet Elvis and to run workshops at La Misión to raise public awareness about deforestation and the benefits of the products being produced at the farm. They plan to divide their time between Patagonia and the Yucatán.
Steve Schmitt Is Taking Care of Business

By Ann Katzenbach

Patagonia Bird and Pet, at the corner of McKeown and 3rd Avenues, opened early this summer and provides locals with most of the same services and products available at its larger sister store, Sonoita Feed. The Patagonia store stocks a variety of pet food and bird seed, along with books, feeders, sunglasses, pet toys, buckets, and other items. You won’t find saddle blankets or hay bales, but if you ask owner Steve Schmitt, he’ll bring what you need from the other store or can get it. “I’m just waiting for people to tell me what they want,” says the easygoing shopkeeper. Oh, yes, and you can also buy a copy of Richard Collins’s book *Riding Behind the Padre* (reviewed this month on page 18). Steve takes cash for this sale and gives it directly to Richard.

Most days, when you go into the store Steve’s retro turquoise radio will be tuned to KPUP. This is the only station he can get, but, luckily, it’s his favorite. He says when the store gets a little ahead financially he wants to become a KPUP underwriter. Prices at the small corner store are competitive, and service couldn’t be friendlier. Steve, who spends the quiet times in the store listening to KPUP and reading books about history and spirituality, is always happy to have a customer.

Steve and his wife, Carol, love Patagonia and hope to make it their permanent home one day. Right now they live in Sonoita, where they own and raise Boer goats, fruits, and vegetables on their five-acre farm, in addition to running Sonoita Feed. If you chat with Steve for a few minutes, you might learn that Boer goats were bred in South Africa to have tasty and healthful meat and that you can actually order goat meat from Schmitt’s Walk in Beauty Farms and have it delivered to Patagonia the next day (not Sunday or Monday). It will also become clear that the Schmitts believe and practice sustainability, growing much of what they eat and contributing to the local economy.

If you feed the birds, if you have a pet, if you need a pair of sunglasses or a copy of *Riding Behind the Padre*, or if you would like to try some goat meat, stop by and tell Steve Schmitt what you are looking for. He’s likely to have it or know where and how to get it for you.

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SUV Overturns On Harshaw Road

On Saturday, August 23, a Toyota SUV with four passengers went off the road a mile south of the little ghost town of Harshaw. At 1:36 p.m. a call came to the county sheriff’s office, and police and emergency vehicles rushed to the scene. The vehicle was upside down among the rocks in the wash that runs beside the road. Amazingly all passengers were able to get out and there were no serious injuries. The driver said he was going 25-30 miles per hour and skidded on the curve.
Colonel Johnson’s Legacy

By Ann Katzenbach

I have come to loathe Johnson grass, a plant unknown to me before I moved to Arizona. This is not to say that Arizona has an exclusive on this nasty weed. Turns out it has made its way to almost every state, including Hawaii, and it grows on every continent except Antarctica. How did I manage to miss it for all these years? Just lucky, I guess. But now, my lack of relationship with Johnson grass is being repaid tenfold. Every day, and especially now, in the monsoon season, I can become obsessed with it, and I know I am not alone.

As with so many scourges, this one was imported with good intentions. It was brought to South Carolina in the early 1800s as a forage crop and is named after Col. William Johnson, an Alabama plantation owner who sowed its seeds on river-bottom farm land circa 1840. The Colonel must have bragged about his brilliant crop before he realized it could kill his livestock, crowd out most good plants, and outsmart any attempts to eradicate it. His namesake is ranked among the top 10 noxious weeds in the world.

Aside from poison ivy (which, thank heaven, does not grow on my land, although it has been spotted at slightly higher altitudes not far from here), the most noxious weed I have ever encountered is something called bindweed, aka convolvulus or wild morning glory. This vine, if left unattended, can wind its way into and around and over everything. I spent hours of my gardening life in Washington trying to control this pesky plant, which is also on the top 10 list. Its stem breaks easily, and its white, wormy roots go down and down and down so far that I used to think there was an enormous central knot of bindweed at the center of the earth. When I discovered it growing in New Zealand, I realized I could be right.

Imagine my terror (not too strong a word) when I learned that there were morning glories in these parts. And how delighted I was to find that what we have here is just a naturalized morning glory from an old Burpee seed packet, not the dreaded convolvulus. I love seeing the small blue or pink flowers scattered over the fences and climbing up whatever comes to hand (sometimes a stalk of Johnson grass) as they open to the morning light.

At this time of year the plant world goes nuts. I sometimes think I can hear the good grasses and the bad weeds growing in the moonlight. We mow and then we mow again, and a few rain storms later, you can’t tell the difference. Often, among the dense green growth, I lose sight of the Johnson grass. But when I’m pulling weeds, I always find it. Johnson grass is tough, and its roots hold onto the earth with uncanny strength, finally breaking free if pulled and mangled enough, but almost always leaving some piece of itself behind to spring to life again. Bindweed was gentler, and it did produce white morning glory blossoms. Johnson grass just sets thousands of seeds, and wrestling with it hurts my hands, back, and brain.

Across the road from my house is a field of Johnson grass. Right now it is taller than I am and full of seeds for the next growing season. In my mind, just below the surface of the field, I picture a thick mat of gnarly roots. I’ve heard tell that ranchers of old used to plow such fields before seeds formed and then bring in a herd of goats to chomp on the exposed roots. This seems like a brilliant solution. Of course, I don’t own the land, or a tractor, or a herd of goats. All I can do is tend to my own territory, excavate the grass when the soil is wet, and look forward to the dry season when the whole plant world and I get to take a rest.
The Babble of the Sexes

By Martin Levowitz

In 1729, Jonathan Swift published a satire called *A Modest Proposal*, which has since become standard high school reading. He proposed that many socioeconomic problems could be solved if the rich would just start dining on the children of the poor. Some of his readers were miffed, not amused. They took him at his word and failed to catch the irony. Alas. Alack.

Words and thoughts can be clunky and misleading. The brain is constantly discriminating. Is it this, or is it that? Are you part of the solution or part of the problem? Are you gonna enlist, or don’t you love your country? This tendency deserves our mistrust, because the questions it asks often create false dichotomies.

A year ago, or so, I thought it might be interesting to write a series of articles embracing opposing points of view on various subjects: The pros and cons of mining, for instance, or gender equality. The results have been both interesting and scary. Reaction to my June PRT article about sexism is a good example. Many readers looked right past the points they agreed with and fixed on the stuff that made them mad.

A letter from Wendy Russell to the PRT berated me for joking about some woman’s cleavage. It then went on, quite vehemently, to accuse me of being a misogynist: “disliking, despising, and being strongly prejudiced against women.” That’s simply not true. I like women better than men, see them as better adapted to reality—and almost always take their side in questions of social justice. While not less numerous than men, women are an oppressed minority. The world has a nasty case of testosterone poisoning.

As a man, perhaps I was on thin ice by even raising gender issues, much less teasing about them. Joking about sensitive issues is touchy business, like defusing a bomb, and it sometimes goes wrong. Would-be humor is wasted on those who are angry or scared. In such a case, the messenger is likely to get thumped. When will I learn?

About that ill-starred article . . . after the silly Cleavage Rap came a survey of atrocities that many women face. Finally, I mentioned that thwarted desire can make men real jerks. Some readers apparently thought that I actually expected to be elected King and really intended to levy a tax on beauty. I was being silly. Silly. When I mentioned “honor killings” of women in primitive cultures, or the humiliating treatment of rape victims by police and prosecutors, and men’s brutish tendency to control and sequester “their” women, etc., did they think I was endorsing these behaviors? C’mon. Gimme a break. If Wendy had merely called me a bad writer or a lout, she’d have a point. But misogynist, NO, I am not.

I read, somewhere, that “jesters—fools”—were William Shakespeare’s saints. More than most “normal” folks the jester gets to tell the truth; to make his neighbors wince and (maybe) think. To earn that special privilege he must be willing, though, to be regarded as an ass. Mission accomplished.

Redefining Rural Economic Development

By Carolyn Shafer

On August 7 and 8, I attended the Eighth Annual Rural Policy Forum in Globe to learn more about the experiences of other Arizona rural communities. The sold-out conference was presented by the Arizona Rural Development Council and Local First Arizona. Attendance was evenly divided among government representatives, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

There were 22 presentations about local economic development through the lens of education, housing, infrastructure, research, grants, workforce development, branding, and several other topics. All the critical components of creating a thriving community were covered. And there was lots of valuable networking—which is the best reason for attending conferences.

One important “take away” from the conference is the evolving definition of community economic development. The concept of economic development is transforming to include recognition that a community's economic health is also about stewardship, a sense of place, and quality of life.

Economic health is not measured only by jobs and dollars. It is also defined by a resilient community with increased interdependency within and reduced dependency on outside sources and/or events. Identifying and fostering a community’s revenue base is as important as assisting community members and entities in reducing their expenses (through locally grown foods, education to reduce utility costs, and other such practices).

During one session, there was a discussion about recruiting committed and involved citizens. From the back of the room, I shared that in my community probably 15 percent of the population is involved in approximately 41 community organizations. Just about everyone in the room turned around and wanted to know what community I represented. On the basis of their reaction, I’d say we are definitely on the right track, fellow community members.

So what next? In a May 2014 PRT article, “Coming Together as a Community Through Discussion,” I offered to speak with local business owners and community organizations to establish a plan that truly perpetuates a strong and sustainable economy. Over the summer, I talked with and received preliminary feedback from a number of individuals and organizations. With that feedback and with the information gained from this conference, I will continue the outreach with the intention of creating a collaborative, long-term vision for a thriving and resilient community.
It wasn't until recently that I realized just how much goes into a glass of milk—meaning the hard work and dedication, and I'm not talking about the cow. My aunt had a dream: build a farm and be a farmer. Seems reasonable. Why not have fresh vegetables, farm-raised meat, and eggs? She even went a step further and invited the public to share in this dream. She enlisted the help of her sisters, and they in turn enlisted the help of their kids. Some of the kids in the family will lead you to believe it’s forced labor, and I suppose it can be when you are 14 and picking weeds.

The new milk cow came on a Saturday. After a long day, we were excited with the prospect of fresh milk, and this one was promised to deliver six gallons a day. Problem was, none of us had much experience with milking a cow. (No details such as these ever seem to bother my aunt.) Since Ginger, the cow, showed up earlier than the milking machine, it seemed that this girl was going to have to be milked by hand. How hard could it be? Our family spent the day cleaning out the milking stall, readying the buckets, and preparing the metal contraption that would eventually hold the cow while milking.

I was excited but not exactly keen on the act of milking, but when 7 p.m. hit I was out in the barn with everyone else. Ginger knew exactly what to do; after all, this wasn’t her first rodeo, and she went right into the stall. Waiting for her inside was a wheelbarrow of sweet grain for her to snack on, and she dug in. We all gathered around and watched as my aunt pulled up a stool and proceeded to milk. I don’t know what it was I was expecting to see, but what I saw was one skinny little stream of warm milk landing in the bottom of a huge stainless steel bucket. This was going to take forever. In my mind I was thinking of that image that I’m sure everyone has of the farmer holding two udders and rhythmically squeezing out large streams of beautiful white milk, filling that bucket in no time. What did happen was everyone grabbing an udder and taking a turn—each of us thinking we had the magic touch. When the bottom of the bucket could no longer be seen and we all felt some sense of accomplishment, Ginger took charge and put her foot in the bucket. Only an hour of work ruined.

We started again, all of us gathered around her, taking turns milking, milking, and milking. Then, of course, she kicked the bucket, sending what little we had all over the ground. Frustration set in, and those of us with less patience than others (meaning me) walked away. I decided to line myself up with the front of the cow instead. I watched her eat, oblivious to the fact that she had six different people handling her in ways that sometimes seemed comic. I couldn’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday night—surrounded by my family, covered in milk and dirt. It’s true, the family that farms together, stays together.
Within the past couple months or so, as the buzz surrounding Chip and Laura Fieberg's impending move to Oregon trickled through the Patagonia rumor mill, people who know that I used to live with them ask me about their move. They most often say, "You're going to miss them so much!" As if I didn't know.

By the time you read this they'll be gone -- another family who moved away because of a lack of opportunities in the saga that is Patagonia. And I know that Ann wrote a lovely article about them in last month's paper, but this is my commentary piece. It is what I'm coping with at the moment.

As locals here in Patagonia and the surrounding area, we're used to people coming and going. We're often surprised when a person has chosen to live here, not because the area isn't without its charm but because someone else has seen the magic that this place holds. We're willing to sacrifice convenience, privacy, and the luxuries of living in a larger town or city for simpler rewards: the way Red Mountain looks when the sun hits it early in the morning, the respite of cool monsoon showers in the summer, our wonderful little saloon with its uncomfortably bright lighting and crumbling taxidermy, how practically everyone--if they see you in the street or pass you in their car--waves, says hello, and has a smile.

However, unless a person is retired or has lived here for his or her entire life, for many Patagonia tends to be a resting spot. A place that—although it is magical, beautiful, cruel, and kind—is not a permanent home. I have gotten used to meeting wonderful people who have no intention of living here forever. There is an immeasurable loss when I become close to people like Chip and Laura.

I moved out of their home in February, with no bad blood or hurt feelings, and even now I miss them. I miss the Easter when Chip and I were home alone and we blasted Slayer over the speakers outside and giggled and head-banged in the yard. Or, after I'd only lived at the house for maybe a month, Chip was gone, so Laura and I got to know each other on a one-on-one level, drinking wine and telling secrets. I'll miss the three of us driving up to Cherry Hill, with cinnamon whiskey tucked away in our bellies, to watch a true Arizona sunset against a sky filled with clouds.

I will miss the occasional bonfire in their yard, the trampoline, all of their slackline gear hanging precariously in the trees outside my window. I'll miss the cops coming to our parties (or at least the rumor of them coming to our parties) and chain-smoking cigarettes on warm, damp summer nights around a table outside. I'll miss singing our hearts out at karaoke: Chip doing songs by Cake and the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Laura doing The Fugees and Mariah Carey. I'll miss their infectious laughter. I'll miss Laura's blue robe which garnered the nickname of "Cookie Monster."

I left my family in Elgin two and half years ago when our well dried up. Since then I've lived in Patagonia and can say that Chip and Laura have been like family to me. They barely knew me when they took me in and now we're best friends. I say all this at the risk of sounding cheesy but it's difficult to write through tears.

So yes, folks, you may tell me I'm going to miss them. Believe me, I already do.
This year's Santa Cruz County Fair, which will be held during September 19-21 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, promises to be a weekend of fun and entertainment. As always, there will be plenty of to do, and the fair committee is particularly excited about several events that are new this year.

**Sun Valley Carnival Rides** will bring a carnival to the fair. Tickets for unlimited rides are for sale at the fairgrounds and through several local merchants. The Sisters on the Fly will set up camp at the fair for the weekend. They are a national organization of freewheeling women who get together to enjoy the outdoors and to show off their vintage travel trailers, all meticulously decorated and outfitted.

Friday morning, September 19, the fair hosts **School Day**, providing free admission to all children under 15. Several activities are planned, including a magician, clowns, balloon animals, games, face painting, crafts, skits, and music. Special performances by the Peña Blanca Folklorico Group and the Challenger School Chorus will take place on the stage.

**The Perishable Foods Contest**—where fairgoers can sample dishes entered by our county's cooks—also takes place Friday morning. This year there will be both adult and youth divisions. Entertainment continues on the stage all day. Friday evening, the Rio Rico FFA is hosting a barbeque and dance, with music by Chuck Wagon and the Wheel Chairs. During the same time period the Colt Hagan Memorial Roping contest will be held in the arena.

Saturday features include a working stock dog demonstration, draft horse races, and a barrel racing competition. Bring your favorite pet to enter the pet show and pooch parade on the ramada, and come hear the acclaimed Rio Rico High School Jazz Band. And don't be surprised to see Elvis himself up on the stage!

**The Second Annual Santa Cruz Fair Talent Show** will take place Saturday afternoon. Anyone interested in entering this competition is encouraged to contact Lars Marshall at 394-0230. Following the talent show, there will be a dedication to longtime fairgrounds supporter Diane Collins, and the 4-H/FFA Parade of Champions. The ramada will then be turned over to the kids for a teen dance. The big event Saturday evening is professional bull riding, produced by the Dirty Money Cattle Company from Queen Creek. Riders will vie for the silver champion's buckle and $1,000 in prize money.

The fun continues Sunday, starting with Cowboy Church, followed by live music by Jim's Amazing Front Porch Band and Mary Carter and the Dragoon Mountain Boys. The entertainment continues in the ramada all day, with Maria-plata, who never fail to get the audience up and clapping. Also on Sunday, the fair will host the first annual Santa Cruz County Car Show, to benefit the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center. For more information about this event, contact the fairgrounds office at 455 arena.

A horse and rider Play Day Competition will go all day. 4-H and FFA will wrap up their shows. The traditional 4-que will be served Sunday at lunchtime, and the highly anticipated 4-que will take place at 2 P.M. Last year's auction brought in $152,255 for the 4-que with the highest selling steer going for $10,000.
And everyone is encouraged to bring their jellies, preserves, pickles, baked goods, vegetables, photos, artwork, and crafts to Pioneer Hall on Wednesday, September 17, to be exhibited during the fair. You just might go home with a blue ribbon.

The Farmers Market at the fair, organized by Kate Tirion, is always full of great locally grown vegetables, meats, and one-of-a-kind items. Local craft vendors are encouraged to call the fairgrounds office at 455-5553 for information about becoming a vendor at this year's fair.

Great food vendors, inflatable rides, even a mechanical bull, will all be there to add to the fun. See you at the fair!
Elgin Elementary School District Superintendent Christopher Bonn announced this week that every student at the school will now have access to computer technology. Students in grades K-2 will have an iPad assigned to them as part of their classroom materials. All students in grades 3-8 will be assigned MacBook Pro or MacBook Air laptops.

Providing these high tech tools for all students will help prepare them to “be the next generation of great leaders by teaching them critical thinking, problem solving, and research,” explains Bonn. He continues that computers will also strengthen their skills in meeting the requirements of the Arizona State College and Career Readiness Standards.

The students at Elgin School are already using these computers every day in the classroom. Bonn does add that a few more iPads and laptops are needed to be on hand to fill in when others are being repaired. He welcomes public contributions and can be reached at 520-455-5514.

Elgin K-2 Students Log In to Learn

Elgin K-2 Students Log In to Learn

By John Fielding

By John Fielding

Photo by John Fielding

Elgin School second graders at work on their iPads

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The Arizona Department of Education recently released the results of the AIMS testing from last April and Elgin Elementary School once again scored a high B.

AIMS stands for Arizona Instrument for Measurement of Students and is used to measure their proficiency in reading and math. Grades 4 and 8 also test in science, but their scores do not influence the AIMS letter grade score. Fifth graders are also tested in science, but their scores do not influence the AIMS letter grade score.

Fifth graders are also tested in reading. About 40 percent of the schools improved a letter grade, 63 percent maintained their letter grade and 17 percent earned lower grades.

Elgin School kids scored far above average in reading but fell below average in math. Local teachers stress reading in all classes, utilizing both printed books and electronic media.

To bring up the school’s grades in math, they have hired a new teacher, Manuel Gatica. He is helping the other teachers enhance their math curriculum so the children can improve their math aptitude. In the past, elementary school teachers did not stress mathematics, which received more emphasis beginning at the junior high level. At Elgin School all students will now study math starting in grade 6 and continuing through the eighth grade.

Mr. Gatica is challenging the students with many new experiences and techniques to help them understand math concepts. He points out that “Math skills are important in developing critical thinking.”

New goals mean new opportunities as expectations continually rise with the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards. Superintendent Bonn says he plans to expose his teachers to all possible technologies to challenge the students to achieve. “Next year we will get an A. We have a game plan,” Bonn proclaims.

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**Sonoita’s New Clinic Opens September 6**

By Heather Dodge

A new medical service, Sonoita Sage Clinic, will host its Grand Opening on Saturday, September 6, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Nurse Practitioner Elaine Hooper saw the need for a clinic to serve the most rural areas of Santa Cruz County and decided to set one up herself. Once she had gathered her staff and selected the location, she mailed out a survey designed to find out what residents needed and wanted in a local medical clinic. Respondents recommended that the clinic combine illness/injury treatment and chronic disease management with wellness and nutrition advice and protocols. Hence, the name, Sonoita Sage Clinic, emerged along with the clinic’s mission: to care for the whole person with sage advice and sound skills.

“We can’t do everything a big clinic can do, obviously, but we can provide basic medical services, along with wellness guidance, in a widespread area whose residents previously did without or drove long distances to a hospital or called EMS at great expense,” Mrs. Hooper commented. “We think the Sonoita Sage Clinic will fill this gap and also be able to improve community health through our wellness workshops.”

The Grand Opening ribbon cutting will be performed by Arizona State Representative Rosanna Gabaldón, who will speak on the health care needs of a predominantly older population in this corner of Santa Cruz County.

Guests will enjoy refreshments by The Happy Cookers and Tia Nita’s Cantina, along with fine wines from Kief and Joshua Vineyards. Live musical entertainment will be provided, along with clinic tours and a drawing for 10 copies of the acclaimed reference book Disease Prevention and Treatment, Scientific Protocols that Integrate Mainstream and Alternative Medicine.

Sonoita Sage Clinic is located at 3123 AZ Hwy 83 in Sonoita, next to Sonoita Realty. For more information call 520-415-0330 or view the clinic’s services online at www.sonoitasageclinic.com.
Riding Behind the Padre
Horseback Views From Both Sides of the Border
By Richard Collins, Wheatback Press

Richard Collins has given us a lively, openhearted look at life in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands with his new book "Riding Behind The Padre: Horseback Views From Both Sides of the Border."

Collins' C-6 cattle ranch is headquartered in Sonoyta. Many years of ranching here have given him a deep love of and respect for this land. A thoughtful man, he has long wished to know more about the lives of inhabitants on both sides of the Arizona-Mexico boundary. Finally, in February 2008, despite being a busy rancher, he was able to accept an invitation from neighbors Oscar and Lea Ward to join the horseback riders of Los Caminos de Kino who explore the country in which Father Kino worked, encompassing the borderlands in Arizona and Mexico.

The riders sponsor a yearly group ride called cabalgatas to spotlight a portion of the remarkable travels of Father Eusebio Kino, a Jesuit priest who spent the last 24 years of his life in the Pimeria Alta (Sonora, Mexico, and southern Arizona) around the turn of the 18th century. The first year Collins joined the riders, 2008, they traveled from Sonoyta, Mexico (just across the border from Lukeville, Arizona, to Caborca, Mexico, 125 miles in four days. There were long days in the saddle, campfire cooked dinners, lumpy ground for beds, caring for the horses, and wonderful conversations...adventures cherished by all who come along.

Collins's fellow riders on the cabalgatas are a welcoming, engaged group of middle-class Mexicans, including a father-son pair of veterinarians, businessmen, and members of the Salgado family from Hermosillo, who originated the rides in the mid-1980s. This small band of horseback travelers becomes quickly bonded when facing the thrills and perils of riding through relatively wild land threaded with dangers Father Kino never faced. The Pimeria Alta on both sides of the border is heavily used by smugglers of drugs and people. The smugglers, in turn, are controlled by the drug cartels, who brook no interference. It can be a dangerous trip for the inexperienced. Often local guides are hired to take them through areas that may be unsafe because of large marijuana fields or other illicit activities. Trip participant José Luis Salgado says, "Father Kino had the Apaches, while we have the sicarios (assassins) to worry about."

Los Camino de Kino riders have covered much of Father Kino's paths in the last 20 years. Most of the journeys have been taken in Mexico, although in 2010 the cabalgata entered Arizona, following Father Kino's footsteps from the Arizona border north to near Cascabel. These physical pilgrimages become excursions through the historic past, days and nights of agreeable companionship and fresh, firsthand looks at our borderlands now addled by furtive illegal activities and drug smuggling—and semimilitarized by the U.S. Border Patrol.

Collins presents a thoughtful, balanced view of life on our borderlands, tempered with equanimity and fairness to all factions living, working, and crossing the line.

As he and his fellow riders are planning their next ride he says, "So once again, I am on the brink of embarking on Father Kino's trails with the hope of new visions, some further understanding and the companerisimo urging me along."

"Riding Behind The Padre" is an important work deserving of a wide audience. It is available online, and locally at the Mini Mart in Sonoyta and Bird and Pet in Patagonia.
The Nature Preserve Has a New Manager

By Carolyn Shafer

Luke Reese is the newly appointed manager of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. Reese has a degree in forestry and worked part-time at the preserve in 2012, as a member of AmeriCorps, a civil society program. Providing education and outreach, he worked with volunteers in stewardship activities such as managing trails and mapping the size and location of every Fremont cottonwood tree on the preserve.

Reese and his fiancee, Anna, arrived in early July, during the summer rainy season. That means that, right now, a lot of his time is taken up with controlling plant growth. (Reese notes that his biggest concerns are two invasive species: Johnson grass [see article on page 10] and Tree of Heaven.) As manager, he plans to focus on offering educational outreach programs, increasing the number of visitors to the preserve, creating a volunteer program, working with the community on its Firewise program, and keeping the Arizona chapter of The Nature Conservancy apprised of water-related issues.

The Conservancy's first acquisition in the State of Arizona was 312 acres along Sonoita Creek at the south end of Patagonia, purchased in 1966. Since then, it has made this the centerpiece of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, adding five more tracts of habitat for a total of roughly 920 acres. It has also facilitated the establishment of conservation easements along riparian areas on approximately 450 acres of private property in the area. The area of wetland bordering a stream, known as the riparian zone, is a critical place for plants and new life to take hold. In Arizona, such areas (even if they are dry for part of the year) compose less than one-half percent of the state’s total land mass but are considered the most productive habitat for ecosystem diversity. They are also crucial wildlife corridors for migrating birds.

People from all over the world travel to Patagonia to visit the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, described as “some of the richest of the remaining riparian habitat in the region.” The preserve, which contains the first two miles of Sonoita Creek's permanent flow, is an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area, providing critical habitat for several species. It also protects an area of riparian forest populated by magnificent examples of the rare Fremont cottonwood and Gooding willow and provides habitat to a wide array of species.

The Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve is open Wednesday through Sunday year round. From March through October its hours are 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from November through February it is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no entry fee for Patagonia residents.

Bread – baked fresh daily, pastries, fudge, ice cream, gourmet food, and gifts.

Mon/Tues/Wed 7am-5pm
Thurs/Fri 7am-8pm
Sat 8am-8pm Sun 8am-4pm

277 McKeown in Patagonia (520) 394-2330

Our Wild Neighbors

Submitted by the Mowry Tracking Team

These tracks are approximately 1 to 1.5” long by 1 to 1.5” wide. They look similar to house cat tracks. You may never see this animal as it is nocturnal and elusive, though miners used to keep them in their cabins to control mice.

Who is this wild neighbor?

Can’t guess what animal makes these tracks? See answer on page 22

Carolyn Shafer
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- Learning to Walk in Beauty
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The abundance of life in the grasslands during monsoon season is such a treat! Come with me as I take a deeper look. Imagine we are walking around in the green abundance, hoping to avoid chiggers and looking for flowering plants.

We are among the tall, slender side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), with its bowing seed heads. Sprangletop (*Leptichloa dubia*) is there, with seed heads that seem to leap up and shoot in all directions like a team of acrobats. We are looking for a unique flowering herb, lemon beebalm, or, as botanists call it, *Monarda citriodora var. austromontana*, which means the lemon-smelling plant of the southern mountains. Other people call it Mexican oregano. It is in the mint family.

As we walk, listening to the buzzing of pollinators, a fragrant aroma wafts by. Ah, there it is, lemon beebalm, a patch of white emerging from the grass. Pluck a leaf from one of a few square stems emerging from the ground. Rub it between your fingers, and let the spicy aroma fill your senses.

The flowers rise from the grassland like miniature worlds perched on platforms of long slender leaves, whorled around the stem, sending out rings of tiny lavender to white blossoms. The flowers are two-lipped; the lower petals are fused together, creating a landing pad for pollinating insects. The upper petals are like an awning, protecting the reproductive parts of the flower. Nectar is produced deep within the neck of the flower. This design is the result of co-evolution with floral visitors: the struggle to reproduce, to spread pollen, without using too many resources.

Remember the buzzing pollinators you heard earlier in the walk? Let’s take a look around and notice who else is visiting *monarda*. We probably will spot one of the 500 or so native bees that visit these grasslands. The bees may be perched on the fused lower petals while crawling inside to sip nectar. Watch as the long stamens reach over the bee and shake pollen onto its unsuspecting little back. Now watch to see if it flies off to the next flower cluster to deposit some of that pollen.

If everything works out, it won’t be long until the fragrant worlds are filled with seeds. The seeds will disperse to be eaten by various creatures or to germinate into more of this lemon beebalm of the southern mountains, which will support next season’s pollinator frenzy. Now go investigate that patch of red flowers by the oak tree . . . .

To find out more about native plants, check out events at BorderlandsRestoration.org.

Molly McCormick is the Restoration Project Manager/Outreach Specialist for Borderlands Restoration.
After sharing my life with many different animals, I feel compelled to share a horrifying experience for it’s value in enlightening others and in hopes of preventing this happening to anyone else.

Several incidents out of my usual routine led me to allow something to happen to my dogs that I am normally hypervigilant about not allowing, and have been quick to judge and chastise others for.

My two precious canines, Sunny and Kiddo, ended up locked inside the car with all the windows up. I ran to the car in horror and opened all the doors. Sunny, my Lab/Spaniel was panting but not severely over-heated. My elderly Saluki, on the other hand, was in utter distress, as was I. Thanks to friends who were there, one helping me cool her with wet towels and the other on the phone to our vet, we were able to revive her a little and bring me to my merciful vet.

Thank goodness for our veterinary angels. On a Sunday afternoon, he and his assistant greeted me at the door, helped me carry her in and immediately began ministering to her, taking her temperature and other vital signs, then quickly getting fluids into her intravenously to balance her electrolytes, offer her comfort and reverse any damage done to vital organs.

Certain breeds, including Salukis, elder dogs, obese and short-nosed dogs are all more susceptible to overheating--so she had two strokes against her right off the bat, being a twelve-year-old Saluki.

I learned many facts that day:

- Temperatures of over 106 degrees fahrenheit can be fatal to a dog. Getting the dog’s temperature down is paramount and best done by placing cool, not ice-cold, towels over the body or by immersing the dog in a tub of cool water, particularly the head and back of neck but not getting into the nose.

- Dogs eliminate heat by panting and a little bit through their foot pads, not through the skin like we humans do.

- Humidity exacerbates the effect of high temperatures and since we are used to a dry climate most of the year, this is something that must be considered during the monsoon weather.

Getting your dog to the vet as soon as possible could save its life and/or prevent severe and irreversible complications such as kidney failure, liver damage and neurological conditions. Other symptoms resulting from heat stroke are electrolyte abnormalities, abnormal clotting, changes in blood pressure and high body temperatures. The sooner your vet can begin to replace important fluids in your dog’s system along with monitoring ministreries, the better chance your dog’s body has of being able to reverse damage done and keep it from becoming fatal.

I believe the universe offers me experiences to allow me to have compassion for others whom I might otherwise judge. I am so shocked that this could have happened to me and so very, very grateful that my friends and my vet were there for us and that my beloved Kiddo is happy and healthy again. Thank-you.

Cate Drown is the proprietor of Beyond Reason Ranch, where she provides "specialized animal care for all beings large or small." You can contact Cate at beyondreasonranch@wildblue.net.
HISTORICAL HOME IN PATAGONIA
$219,000. Tasteful and cozy remodel of 1915 on a central corner lot in Town within walking distance of everything. 1,210sf, 2BrRm, 2BaRm. The 2nd BrRm has a private entrance. Fully fenced & w/ covered courtyard. Patio in place, the property is rich in mature trees. TAR/MLS#21311062

SPACIOUS, SUNNY PATAGONIA HOME
$189,500. Heart of the village setting—a prime location that rarely comes onto the market. A spacious 1,404sf 3BrRm/2BaRm manufactured home (c. 2008) w/ covered porch, vaulted ceilings & many windows providing lots of light. There's separate workshop/storage. TAR/MLS#21411668

VINTAGE ADOBE/RASTA CONTEMPORARY
Architect designed with plenty of custom details & materials. Soaring ceilings, custom cabinets, windows & sliders for in-outdoor living. Property is fully walled for privacy and includes auto and pedestrian gates. A central in-town convenient Patagonia location. TAR/MLS#21414334

MODERN COTTAGE IN PAPAGO SPRINGS
$194,500, 1,361sf, 2BaRm/1.5BaRm contemporary home in the wooded & rolling Sonora foothills. Perfectly designed Mt. Wrightson views and open Oak grassland for hiking. Master-Built quality ideal for engaging views & sunsets from the covered front porch. TAR/MLS#21122918

UNIQUE AND PRIVATE PATAGONIA HOME
$280,000. This 2,200sf "Lodge-like" home includes 3BrRm/2BaRm, open greatroom & studio/office. Separate 434sf exercise room and detached 806sf 2 bedroom guest house w/ 2BrRm and full kitchen. Impeccable maintenance & innumerable quality upgrades. TAR/MLS#21407193

PRISTINE PAPAGO SPRINGS REGIONAL
$279,500. Regional design this 1,731sf split-plan has 3BrRm/2BaRm/2Ga w/high ceilings and rustic vigas and corner kiva fireplace. Tile, ceiling fans and skylights & 30+ new appliances and ADT system. New circular drive & fully fenced. Detached outdoor storage, new plantings. TAR/MLS#21332942

HEART OF WINE COUNTRY HOME
$269,500. On 3.16ac w/extraordinary mountain views in the Sonora/Elgin grasslands. At 2,409sf this custom home has 3BrRm/2BaRm w/deep wrap around porches ideal for week end or full time living. Vaulted ceilings, energy efficient detail and a strong private well. TAR/MLS#21409806

VINTAGE PATAGONIA ADOBE REMODEL
$379,900, c. 1920 w/ authentic charm & rustic regional details on 2.27ac. Handsomely updated 2,100sf, 2BrRm/2BaRm. A walled garden & two adjacent studio apartments. Great for a B&B or Birders retreat (Adjacent to Audubon's & Nature Conservancy's Preserve). TAR/MLS#21406410

SPACIOUS RANCH HOME IN SONOITA
$335,000. In the heart of the wine country this 3,398sf features 3BrRm/2BaRm, 2 Patios/ Porches & lots of storage. The 1,648sf living area lower walk out has separate entries and an additional 2 car garage. Big views, cul-de-sac privacy & great neighbors. TAR/MLS#21301212

LAKE PATAGONIA HILLTOP HOME
$309,500. On 4.13ac w/ extraordinary mountain views very near the Lake. At 2,056sf this custom home has 2BrRm/2BaRm 2 Living areas & formal dining. A 30x10 screen Arizona in total SF. A detached RV/boat storage and walled grounds and electric gate. TAR/MLS#21406410

HORSE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO FOREST
$199,000. North of Sonora—surrounded by Las Cienegas Natl. Conservation Area & Historic Empire Ranch. This well maintained 1,450sf home features 3BrRm/2BaRm split plan w/Living-Dining-Kitchen Great Room. Horse facilities include 3-stall shelter. TAR/MLS#21404767

25 ACRE FLUX CANYON RETREAT
$849,000. Out of the ordinary residential compound adjacent to National Forest, this magical setting features views and privacy. The home's 3 living spaces include the 1,872sf main home, a 1,453sf guest house, a 565sf guest studio & a 100sf vastu retreat & more. TAR/MLS#21414768

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The 2014-2015 school year is just getting started, but the game schedules are already set for the fall lineup of sports, which include football, volleyball, and cross country.

High School Football
The current high school football roster has 14 boys, eight of whom are freshman and sophomores. Because of the small number of participants, the team will play only a junior varsity schedule this year. Dean of Students Jerry Rhoades states, “This year, we have a young team, with only two juniors and four seniors. We are going to be looking to the upper class members to show leadership and take the team forward.” Head Coach Kenny Hayes continues, “Playing the JV schedule will allow the kids to play other teams at their level.” Patagonia Union High School will host two football games this year. The first is against Hayden High School on Thursday, September 11; and on Thursday, September 25, the Lobos will face off against Fort Thomas High School.

Middle School Football
The middle school football team has 11 players and is coached by Michael Quiroga. Quiroga explains, “The team is very young, with most of the players in seventh grade. This is going to be a year of building skills and learning teamwork. There are only two teams in the River Canyon League, and this year we will be playing Little Red and Elgin.” The schedule is still in formation.

High School Girls Volleyball
The girls high school volleyball team has a roster of 14 and will have eight home games. The first week features three games: Academy of Tucson on September 10, Hayden High School on September 11, and Ray High School on September 12. On October 2, the Lady Lobos play Valley Union; on October 6, they play St. David High School; and on October 9, they face off against the Academy of Tucson for the second time. All the home games will be in the high school gym and will start at 4 p.m. for the junior varsity and 5 p.m. for the varsity.

Middle School Girls Volleyball
This year there are 15 middle school volleyball players, and Coach Luke Bentley is excited about the team’s prospects. He elaborates, “We have a roster of 15 girls, which is enough for an A and a B team. All the players are eager to improve their skills and compete at their highest level.”

Cross Country
Cross country is sporting a team of nine. This is the largest number of students ever to sign up for cross country, and Head Coach Jim McMahon is pleased with the growth of the program. He explains, “Patagonia is a great place to run, with all the hills and the trails at 4,000 feet elevation. We are getting lots of support from the school, including the new half-mile track around the ball fields. This is only the fourth year of the program, and we are amazed by the support and enthusiasm of the students. Last year we had Brooks Shoes as a sponsor, and we are hoping to get a similar arrangement this season.” There are four meets scheduled this year against Benson, Rio Rico (two), and Bisbee, and all of them are away.

Chess
The chess team has 13 high school students and will host a tournament at the school on Saturday, October 4, at 7:00 a.m. The team had its first competition at the Ratings Tournament the weekend of August 23, and Coach Gilbert Melanson was pleased with everyone’s performance. “Every player won ... two or more games. That is a first for our team. Most kids have to learn and adjust to the competitive chess environment, and it is not unusual for students to not do well in the beginning of the season. We are off to a great start, and I am looking forward to working with these students as the season unfolds,” Melanson commented.
We hit the monsoon jackpot this year, as evidenced by our rather ostentatious display of native flowers. While the Sky Islands and the adjoining Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts are all rightly acclaimed for their spring floral fireworks, it is summer’s show that we can most depend upon each year.

Spring wildflowers are mostly annuals and biennials that live and die predominantly within the narrow confines of our usually brief verdant spring. The vast majority of those species will never appear at this time of year. In contrast, our monsoon wildflowers are mainly perennials that are likely to appear every year.

With most summer blossoms it seems the only variable is magnitude, not presence or absence, as is often the case with their spring counterparts.

September normally sees a shift from the earlier monsoon bloomers to those that have evolved to make use of the latter part of the monsoons. A few lingering orange saiyas (Amoreuxia palmatifida) lie atop clay-bound hills. There they demand attention—as the flower corolla (the combined petals) may span several inches, framed by the comely, palmate-lobed leaves. The latter are normally about half green and half pinkish-purple, reminding the curious naturalist to look well beyond the obvious floral exuberance. Throw in that the entire plant is delectable to the discerning palate and you have ample reason to pause at this summer sensation.

You might well confuse the rather uncommon Saiya with the generally ubiquitous summer poppy (a misnomer). While Saiya has an irregular large flower and palmate leaves, summer Caltrop has a more symmetrical bloom of up to about an inch across. Summer Caltrops collectively transform the better part of many local hills into a sea of orange in mid-to-late summer. Interestingly, they are in the same family as our familiar creosote bush.

Sacred datura (Datura wrightii) continues to proffer its behemoth white funnel-shaped flowers. The flowers of this highly toxic member of the nightshade family are hard to miss, although they usually open from dusk till dawn. We are fortunate to behold the fragrant blossoms when, teased forth by a humid and overcast monsoon day, they continue to open throughout the daylight hours. Nocturnal Lepidopterans, such as the various sphinx moths, are their main pollinators. Another white-flowered and tubular monsoon species, Macrosiphonia, which wafts its deeply perfumed aroma throughout the hillsides and gullies, is mala mujer (Cnidoscolus angustidens), a stinging member of the spurge family.

Also look for bird’s foot morning glory, whose flowers are a rich pink. If any one floral group can lay claim to late monsoon season, it is the morning glories. They climb up and over anything in their path and sprawl across the ground when denied vertical opportunities.

Other monsoon bloomers include magenta trailing windmills (Allonia incarnata), blue and white silverleaf morning glory, white and pink buckwheats (Eriogonum spp.), yellow catclaw acacia (Acacia greggii), pink (Mimosa dysocarpa) and white (M. biuncifera) Catclaw mimosas, and yellow trumpets (Tecoma stans)—to name but a few. Enjoy! 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.

By Vince Pinto

Shop on Amazon and Help the Patagonia Pool

By Joel Blumenthal

If you shop on Amazon, you can contribute a donation to the Patagonia Pool fund every time you shop—automatically. Just register for Amazon Smile and chose the Patagonia Environmental Educational Fund (PEEF) as your preferred charity. Then, when you shop, go to Amazon Smile to buy (it’s the same as Amazon), and they will automatically donate money to the pool fund. Thanks to Liz Collier for finding this easy way to raise money!
Avalon Organic Gardens and EcoVillage will host a four-day seminar on a broad number of topics related to sustainability beginning October 23, at their model community in Avalon. The community, developed over the past 25 years, was created as an experimental prototype, and is the largest EcoVillage in the United States.

The seminars will offer groups and individuals the opportunity to learn about their methods of sustainability, through practical advice, providing the necessary consciousness-tools to replicate this model of living anywhere.

Seminar topics include Environment and Agriculture—choosing land with good soil and water above or below ground; Village Development & Housing—focusing on alternative architecture, alternative energy, and water conservation; Economics—on creating environmentally-sustainable enterprises and forming alliances with other organizations; Education—childhood development and parenting in community; Media, Marketing and the Arts; Health Care; and Leadership & Procedures—the nuts and bolts of order, holding a community together, and growing together.

Avalon Gardens community members, a total of 115 adults and children, see the seminars as a way of sharing vital information they have learned in response to a rapidly changing world in which many of our resources are being mismanaged or are in short supply.

The cost includes housing and organic meals, and is $500 for those who register by September 23, or $700 after that date. All seminar proceeds benefit Avalon Organic Gardens & EcoVillage Agricultural Internships, the Personality Integration Rehabilitation Program, and the Homeless Is Not My Choice program.
**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

### meetings

**The Patagonia Museum** - Regular meetings w/topics including local history; highway cleanups 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 Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m.

**Rotary Club** 1st Thursdays at 7 a.m. at Patagonia H.S. 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 455-5561

### 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

**Sept. 7 - The Great Crush Festival** at AZ Hops & Vines, 3450 Hwy 82, Sonoita; Starts at 11 a.m. Call (888) 569-1642 for more information.


**If you’d like to contribute a pie to the Pie Auction on September 13, contact Janet Winans at 394-0001**

**Sept. 14 - Let’s Get Grassed** - from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Deep Dirt Farm Institute. Learn about the diversity and function of our native grasses and how to incorporate these drought-adapted plants into your garden. Potluck social follows. Free 1-gallon native grass plant for the first 20 participants to arrive. Bring a hand loupe, magnifying glass, and notebook. Wear sturdy footwear, bug repellant, water, and a smile. RSVP Kate at ddfjlc@gmail.com

**Sept. 19-21: Santa Cruz County Fair** at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. See page 14 for full details. Adults $5, children 12 & under $3.

**Sept. 28-29: Harvesting of the Vines Festival** in Elgin. Wine tasting, live music, arts & crafts; $15/person; Competition & crowning of the King & Queen of Grape Stomping at 1:30 p.m. For info, call 455-9309.

### special interests

**Club Theater** - Begins Friday September 12, 1:15 - 4 p.m. An after school theater experience for young people ages 9-18 that explores the basics of theater through games, inquiry and discovery, culminating in a performance for family and friends. Don’t miss out. Space is limited. You must call to reserve space. Call Cassina Farley @ 394-9369 or Anita Clovesko-Wharton @ 604-2718

**Art Makers** - After school art classes, ages 5-12; Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. First 10-week session starts September 16. $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

**Writer'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


**Sonoita Plant Parenthood Gardening Club** - Share info on all kinds of gardening. For info contact clarebonelli@gmail.com.
THE PATAGONIA FALL FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU - Volunteers needed for before, during, & after the festival Oct. 10-12. booth sitters, shuttle drivers, silent auction monitoring, program distributors, go-fers. Call 455-5085 or sign-up at Red Mt. Foods

CLASSIFIED ADS FOR HOUSING RENTAL & HELP WANTED TO A MAX OF 3 LINES / 25 WORDS ARE FREE Submit to prtads@gmail.com

We Fix Anything on Four Wheels! YOUR COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SHOP
ATV'S • Farm Equipment • Gas and Diesel Engines • Lawn Mowers & Riding Mowers
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YOU NAME IT, I CAN FIX IT! JIM PENDLETON
688 Harshaw Rd Patagonia, AZ 85624 (520) 394-2490

HOUSING RENTALS

GRACE GARDENS / PATAGONIA - boarding rooms $400/month. Daily & wkly rates. Beautiful home on ten acres—Privacy with a view! fritzfrey@gmail.com, or call Fritz at (480) 215-1907

SONOITA HOME FOR RENT - 2 BD/2BTH. All appliances, W & D, garage & frt. & back yards. Walk to Sonoita crssroads. $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

MISC.

RENTAL WANTED: 2 bd/(1bd+home office), private/quiet location in hills/edge of town. Experience owning & maintaining homes.

RENTAL WANTED: Woman, gardener with 2 cats seeks small (1 bed/ bath) house to rent, October 1. zillacop@gmail.com; (206) 463-4790

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

HELP WANTED

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

THE PATAGONIA FALL FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU - Volunteers needed for before, during, & after the festival Oct. 10-12. booth sitters, shuttle drivers, silent auction monitoring, program distributors, go-fers.
Call 455-5085 or sign-up at Red Mt. Foods

ADOPTABLE PETS

Mickey
Mickey is a cheerful and loving terrier mix who likes to play as much as he likes to be held. The one year-old, happy go lucky guy gets along well with other dogs and makes friend with everyone, including kids. Mickey’s sister Minnie has already been adopted – won’t you be the one to give Mickey his forever home?

Daisy
Daisy is a 4-month old lass with gorgeous coloring and a sweet disposition. Just look at that pose! Daisy is playful with other kitties, but a bit shy and scared of loud noises. We think that a loving home, where she is given lots of affection, will bring her out of her shell.

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

SANTA CRUZ HUMANE SOCIETY
232 E. Patagonia Hwy 82, Nogales 287-5654
See other adoptable pets at santacruzhumanesociety.org

CHURCH SERVICES

Patagonia Community/ United Methodist Church
387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia
394-2274
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
Casa Blanca Chapel of Sonoita
Justice of the Peace Courtroom
2nd & 4th Saturdays; 10 a.m.

Sonoita Hills Community Church
52 Elgin Rd., Sonoita
455-5172
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
222 Third Ave., Patagonia
394-2954
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Sonoita Bible Church
3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita
455-5779
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church
12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita
394-2954;
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

**MLS# 21417684**
$319,900
Jean Miller 520-508-3335 or
Jeff Evans 520-841-4611

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**Lake Patagonia Custom Home**

**LAKE PATAGONIA HORSE PROPERTY ON 36 +ACRES**
2203 SQ FT custom home w/ 3BD/2BA, Cedar flooring & cabinetry, 2 FP w/mountain & city lights views. Close to horse trails and The Lake for miles of riding & recreation.

**MLS# 21302224**
$575,000
Carol Ford 520 604-0162

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**San Rafael Valley Hideaway**

**IMAGINE OWNING YOUR OWN CREEK IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA!**
Custom territorial home off the grid on 17.82 acres, surrounded by National Forest. On a tributary of Parker Creek with year around water. Textured concrete block, wood stove, Mexican tile, 2 BD/1.5 BA, 2 car garage, AZ room.

**MLS# 21422976**
$425,000
Jean Miller 520 508-3335
Beth Barth 520 907-4409

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**275 S Fourth Ave, Patagonia**

**Patagonia Gem!**
Amazing remodel! Everything to the highest standards, AZ room across front of home. Lots of windows, living room, den, super kitchen, laundry room, coffered ceilings, large front patio, privacy walls.

**MLS# 21417693**
$289,900
Jean Miller 520-508-3335 or
Jeff Evans 520-841-4611

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**Patagonia**
520-394-2120
325-A McKeown Ave
Next to the Gathering Grounds

**Sonoita Main**
520-455-5235
Hwys 82 & 83
Next to the Post Office

**Sonoita East**
520-455-4634
N E corner of Hwys 82 & 83

Sonoita.LongRealty.Com
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