Final Permit Issued for Rosemont Mine

By Aisha Sander

In a controversial decision on March 8, 2019, the South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in San Francisco, California issued the last required permit to construct the Rosemont Mine in the Santa Rita Mountains southeast of Tucson.

This permit is the latest blow to environmental groups, including Save the Santa Ritas, and various indigenous tribes who have actively opposed the proposed open pit copper mine. Hudbay Minerals, the parent company of Rosemont, owns 900 acres of private land. In addition, the mine will use 3328 acres in the Coronado National Forest.

The recent Record Of Decision (ROD) is in contrast to the previous public notice given in July 2016 by the District Corps of Los Angeles which denied the Clean Water Act Sec 404 permit to the Rosemont mine. The ROD, written by the Federal branch of the Corps, overturns the district decision for the following reasons: lack of jurisdiction of the Corps to assess groundwater impact; the updated mitigation plan submitted by Hudson Bay; and the anticipated economic benefit at the state and national level of the proposed mine.

Save the Santa Ritas wrote, “The permit authorizes Hudbay to dump millions of tons of potentially toxic mine wastes on more the 2,500 acres of Coronado National Forest. The waste rock and mine tailings will obliterate desert washes and streams that provide significant recharge to the groundwater supplies relied upon by residents of the Tucson metropolitan area.”

However, the ROD states, “the effects of the proposed operations of the mine, including full excavation of the mine pit, are not within the Corps’ purview...The Corps’ scope...extends only to those direct, secondary, and cumulative effects associated with the discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S., including direct, secondary, and cumulative effects to surface water quantity and quality. Any effects related to the excavation of the mine pit, including those related to groundwater quantity or quality, are outside of the Corps’ scope.” “The Corps declines to exercise jurisdiction where none exists, including the operation of the mine and its associated impacts on groundwater. This will disappoint many.”

The Corps recognized that there will be both temporary and permanent detrimental effects because of mining activity. However, the ROD repeatedly iterates that many of these concerns are outside the purview of the Corps. They acknowledge that there will be “temporary detrimental effects to conservation, general environmental concerns and safety; permanent detrimental effects to aesthetics, historic properties, and recreation.” It also states that the mining will beneficially impact economics, wetlands, flood hazards, and floodplain values.

Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Historically both the EPA and the previous Corps decision discredited the mitigation plans offered by Hudbay. Now the Corps seems satisfied with the updated (2017) Hudbay plan which includes compensatory mitigation “activities on the Sonoita Creek Ranch and Rail X Ranch sites and the removal of four stock tanks near the proposed mine site.” (Corps ROD)

The proposed compensatory mitigation is within the floodplain of Sonoita Creek and Hudbay is required to receive local approval for their activities. The Corps decided to provide compensatory mitigation credit to Hudbay for Sonoita Creek because it has been defined by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) as a valuable wildlife corridor.

The Corps requires Hudbay to do the following at Sonoita Creek to “compensate for the loss of waters of the U.S.” because of the proposed mine: Rehabilitation of 61.54 acres of Sonoita Creek and its tributaries; Enhancement of 6.0 acres of Sonoita Creek Ranch ponds; Re-establishment of 34.58 acres of Sonoita Creek channel buffer; Rehabilitation of 6.22 acres of Sonoita Creek channel buffer; Enhancement and preservation of 66.30 acres of Sonoita Creek ephemeral tributaries buffer; Enhancement and preservation of 4.41 acres of Sonoita Creek ephemeral tributaries; and enhancement and preservation of 19.28 acres of ephemeral channels including avoided portions of Sonoita Creek, Corral Canyon, and other unnamed ephemeral tributaries to Sonoita Creek. Overall, the Sonoita Creek mitigation would create approximately 1,590 acres of new conservation area.”

Impact on Recreational Activities

The ROD discusses the temporary detrimental impact on recreational activities, including the relocation of the Arizona Trail. In addition, night sky viewing will be impacted because “the cloudless night skies, minimal atmospheric pollution, and low humidity of the southwestern United States provide ideal conditions for this activity. The Kitt Peak National Observatory and the Smithsonian Institution’s Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory...in the Coronado...rely on the area’s naturally dark, unpolluted skies for optical and infrared astronomy research.”

The Corps admits that the mining activities will cause temporary detrimental effects to the dark skies and astronomy, traffic, air quality, and noise and permanent detrimental effects on recreation.

The ROD concludes that “overall, the proposed action would result in both detrimental and beneficial effects to the needs and welfare of the public.”

Opposition groups to the mine have stated that they will fight this decision in court with lawsuits. Wade Bunting, a Sonoita resident said, “We remain hopeful that planned litigation will prevent the development of the Rosemont mine. If the project is allowed to proceed it will seriously affect our quality of life in the Mountain Empire. Travel to and from Tucson will be hazardous, tourism traffic will decrease, affecting local businesses and area attractions, and, most significantly, our ground water will be affected.”
MISSION STATEMENT
To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz County, including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita, and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

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THE TIMES ARE ALWAYS CHANGING

By Ann Katzenbach

Visitors and locals enjoy a meal in Patagonia, “An American town with more pizzazz than most.”

For most of us who live somewhere for years and years, changes are noted and then fade into the persistence of everyday life. As I recently spent time in Patagonia after being away for two years, I noticed changes that most residents have probably come to take for granted – and some that are still fresh – and some that will linger – like the tragic deaths of two of the town’s leaders in the past year. These will not be forgotten for a long time.

The first change comes into view. It’s the Dollar Store, a controversial enterprise that had everyone up in arms when I left. It seems to have settled into its corner location and I hear there are folks who are glad to have it and others who still refuse to shop there.

Two years ago the Border Patrol parking lot seemed full. Now it’s gridlocked. Cell towers seem to have proliferated as well.

I was thrilled to see that Gracey’s is still there. That eccentric place was my first introduction to Patagonia, and I recall thinking that a shop with crazy signs and antique cars meant the town would be full of surprises.

There are new signs to read. Velvet Elvis’ is newly painted, Patagonia Health and Fitness is a bustling place where Metamorphosis used to be and MJ’s Restaurant has replaced Mercedes’.

That south side of Naugle Ave is a much busier part of town than I remember, and traffic moves at a reasonable speed – a welcome change from the past.

I was delighted to see a new mural on the public bathrooms, and across the street Mesquite Grove Gallery has shrunk and moved next door. The banners that mark its location are new – a bright spot on the street.

Next door to Red Mountain Foods, a daily yard sale was going on. It felt impermanent but it was nice to see some sign of life in the otherwise vacant lot surrounded by an unwelcoming chain link fence.

The hotel finally got its bar open. How long did we wait for that to happen? And it’s cozy and the acoustics are good if the TVs are turned down. The other thing everyone waited for when I lived there was to see what might happen in the old bank building that was unused for so long. South32 Hermosa has made an office there with its quiet sign that belies the impact it is having on the area.

Out on Harshaw Road, the unpaved parking lot by the trailer park is a place for countless mud spattered trucks with orange flags. I’m told that South32 has purchased the rest of the open land on that side of Harshaw. Certainly these trucks represent an upswing in the local economy, but Dave Martin’s long horns are gone and the Tree of Life feels like a ghost town. After awhile these changes will feel familiar, but to see remembered territory in transition is poignant.

What hasn’t changed is the spirit of the town. Patagonia is still a small community with a big heart, a great volunteer fire department, a remarkable library, a youth center like no other, a museum full of rich history, active churches, solid schools, and good basic health care. Here live artists, laborers, merchants, ranchers, environmentalist, treasure hunters, rich and poor, young and old, dark and fair – an American town with more pizzazz than most. I miss it a lot.

PRCF Announces 2019 Grants

With 15 requests for grants totaling over $51,000 this year from other local 501(c) (3) organizations, the Patagonia Regional Community Fund (PRCF), given its available funds to grant of just over $22,000, was forced to make difficult decisions in deciding what grants to make and what grant requests to turn down or limit.

The PRCF Steering Committee and this year’s community guests, invited to participate to help broaden the input into PRCF’s grant decisions, decided to make the following grants:

Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) and the Patagonia Museum to connect youth and elders, to improve the environment at the Lochiel Schoolhouse which has been restored through a multi-year effort of German Quiroga and the Patagonia Museum, and to support their presentation of Earth Fest which is a combined community celebration of Earth Day, Arbor Day and Arizona Trail Day.

Friends of the Patagonia Library to help purchase new folding chairs used at the Library for various educational and other events held there by a wide variety of local organizations.

Matt Bevel Company to present a state curriculum aligned program at the Patagonia Public Schools to help students learn how to think creatively, intuitively and “outside the box” in the areas of math, physics and mechanics.

Patagonia Creative Arts Association to help it provide a “STEM to STEAM” four week summer camp for local youth in conjunction with the Patagonia Library.

Town of Patagonia Flood and Flow Committee, Friends of the Sonoita Creek, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, the Nature Conservancy and BRN to help them obtain the professional planning, engineering and facilitation resources necessary to complete their “Roadmap for Quality” project to protect and enhance the Sonoita Creek watershed.

Patagonia Regional Times to help it obtain donor and customer management software and related training and implementation help. This software will allow PRT to organize and store content in a cloud-based system and organize and grow PRT’s email distribution system.

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and Rodeo Association (SCCRA) to help fund the implementation of Phase Two of its kitchen renovation to commercial standards project. PRCF helped fund Phase One last year and the whole effort has been supported by a wide array of other grants, individual contributions, fund raising, in-kind contributions and help from Santa Cruz County.

Senior Citizens of Patagonia (SCP) to help it purchase a new commercial-grade freezer to replace a defunct old freezer. This new freezer will allow SCP to store food safely and efficiently for its ongoing Congregate Meals Program that provides lunches to area seniors in a setting that fosters social interaction as well as nutrition.

Many of these community efforts supported by PRCF grants are collaborative ventures involving a variety of local organizations. Such collaborative efforts are favored by PRCF to better take advantage of our many local, often complementary resources and of PRCF’s limited funds available to grant. If you would like to help contribute to PRCF online through the website of PRCF’s partner, the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), at azfoundation.org/Patagonia or by sending a check made out to PRCF to ACFs Southeast Arizona Regional Office at 400 W Fry Blvd., Suite 6, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

Visitors and locals enjoy a meal in Patagonia, “An American town with more pizzazz than most.”

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Lions Still A Presence in Patagonia

By Marion Vendituoli

When Justin McEldowney pointed his flashlight up in the trees at his home in Red Rock Canyon on January 24, the light was reflected in the eyes of a mountain lion staring down at him. McEldowney had been woken up around midnight by the sound of his goats running around and had gone out to find three of his nine goats dead before spotting the cat in a tree.

This was the first reported incident of the mountain lions taking livestock since the sighting of a female mountain lion with her two almost full-grown kittens at the Nature Conservancy in Patagonia on September 22, 2018, although there have been numerous reports of sightings of the animals.

Local Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) Wildlife Manager Brittany Oleson is not sure how many of the lions are still in Patagonia. “We haven’t had any recent sightings of multiple animals,” she said. “One or more of them has decided that hanging around town is cool. There are easy pickings.”

Patagonia Animal Control Officer Karina Hilliard believes that one cub is frequenting the area between the kennel and Sonoita Ave in Patagonia. She believes that the mother lion and the other cub may be living at the Nature Conservancy property outside town where the mother lion has lived for the past seven or eight years, according to Hilliard.

On February 15, Hilliard responded to a call from a resident that a lion was eating a javalina under a house in Patagonia. On March 7, a lion was seen on a fence on Pennsylvania Ave. “Patagonia is nestled in all this prime wild space,” Oleson said. “Even if folks were on their best behavior, you’re going to have critters coming through.” But she does feel that the lion’s continued presence is a consequence of people putting food out to attract wildlife. “When you have habituated animals living around town, you can attract predators,” she said.

Interestingly, Oleson reported at the time of this interview that “not a single person has called Game and Fish about the lions, except for one guy in October.” Some complaints have instead been going to Hilliard, who then alerts Oleson. Oleson feels that this may be a reflection of the community’s reluctance to see the lion killed. “People are spreading the rumor that we are planning on killing the lion,” Hilliard said. We have no intention of doing that unless he goes after a person.”

AZGF policy requires that the lion must be classified as a ‘two’ on a scale of one – four to be destroyed. AZGF does not relocate mountain lions, which are very territorial. The agency has the Patagonia lion(s) rated as a ‘three’ at present. Factors that would change this classification would be multiple reports of livestock kills or an attack on humans.

Human attacks are very rare. In the past 100 years, there have been just over 100 mountain lion attacks on people in the United States, according to Oleson. It is legal any time of the year for someone to shoot the lion in defense of livestock. “One lion was lethally removed for preying on livestock after it repeatedly returned to the area to make additional kills,” Oleson said after being called to examine the remains found outside town recently.

The definition of livestock includes horses, cows, goats, sheep and pigs. An attack on a pet dog or cat would not be a legal reason to shoot the lion. Chickens are not considered livestock. “We’ve had a few unfortunate incidents with chickens,” Oleson said. “It’s a bad day for pretty much everybody when a lion goes after chickens.”

McEldowney did not want to kill the animal when his goats were attacked, even when he spotted a lion, the next evening. He was putting his remaining goats away for the night when he spotted the animal 30 feet away in a tree. “I’m an ex-marine so you can imagine what I said,” he recounted. Reluctant to kill the cat, he shot it in the flank with birdshot, causing it to jump out of the tree and take off. The following morning, he once more spotted, and shot at, a lion in a tree. He has not seen any lions since. “I was not intending to kill the cat,” he said, “although there’s plenty of people who would. Nobody is going to be happy with this situation.”

Oleson hopes that she is not put in the position of having to destroy the lion. “I try to give animals as much of a chance as I can per policy,” she said. “No matter what I do, half the town is going to be upset. If I have to get involved with the cat, it’s going to die.”

“If you see a lion, don’t run. Try to make yourself look bigger,” Hilliard advised. “If you do back away, do it slowly and keep your eye on it. You’re startling them just as much as they are startling you. We want our cats to run from people. Make noise. Try to scare them away.”
By PRT Staff Reporters

At the Feb. 27 Council meeting, Mayor Andy Wood delivered an apology to 12 year old reporter Hilde Lysiak for Marshal Joe Patterson’s handling of their February 18 encounter that subsequently went viral on the internet.

“The governing body of the town of Patagonia would like to apologize for the first amendment rights violation upon Hilde Lysiak, a young reporter who is in our community,” Wood said. Other less controversial actions taken on Feb. 27 included the approval in principle of the placement of a memorial boulder with plaque to recognize Brent Bowden’s service to the town and restoration of the town’s former use permit procedure.

That action means the Planning and Development Committee will separately make recommendations to the Council and the Council will approve or deny such applications. Joint meetings for this purpose will no longer be held. Also on Feb. 27, the Council tabled further action on the feral cat problem after hearing that the Marshal is still investigating the regulations used in Sierra Vista and Cochise County.

The Council also scheduled a March 20 workshop to discuss appropriate ways to recognize veterans and was advised of a proposal by an organization called Spirit World 100 to stage a 2-3 day event in town on the second weekend in November, possibly conflicting with, or possibly complementing, Veterans Day activities.

The March 13 meeting was most notable for the large number of people who spoke in support of Marshal Patterson’s work on behalf of the town in the wake of considerable negative press resulting from the incident involving Patterson’s encounter with the young reporter noted above.

During the call to the public, numerous attendees lauded the marshal for keeping the town safe and his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. The final comments, offered by Carrie Bowden, brought robust applause from the audience.

Later in the meeting, Council went into executive session for more than an hour with Marshal Patterson, a meeting that Patterson had requested. The Council then approved accounts payable and adjourned without issuing a report from the executive session. Most of the audience had left the meeting by that time.

Planning & Development Committee Chairman David Budd explained the need for separating items of upcoming business into two future meetings.

He reported that on March 26 an open hearing would be held on the use permit application submitted by Red Mountain Ranch, LLC for a parcel on Harshaw Road, and on March 28 the committee would consider two applications for a variance.

Before going into executive session, citing her long years of service to the town and her familiarity with its operations, the Council named Isabel Van Nest as interim Town Manager until a permanent manager is hired to replace David Teel who has retired.

The Council also postponed discussion of the town’s recycling program because John Hays, Santa Cruz County solid waste manager, was not present, and also rescheduled discussion of road restrictions.

COUNCIL NOTES

South32 Seeks Use Permit From Town

By Aisha Sander

On January 11, 2019 the Town of Patagonia received an Application for Use Permit from Red Mountain Ranch LLC, a subsidiary of the mining company South32. Red Mountain Ranch owns a 27-acre property off Harshaw road, and proposes to build a concrete parking lot, mobile (non-permanent) restrooms and a guard shack. The proposal is to use four acres of the 27-acre property and was submitted with a site plan. Next to the parking lot there is also a large area marked as Holding Area for Site Delivery. This entire area will include six light poles, parking for 150 vehicles and perhaps shuttle buses.

At a community meeting on March 9, 2019 the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) shared details of the use permit and concerns for town residents. Concerns included the lighting, continuous use of the site, traffic deliveries, storage, and the potential presence of hazardous materials.

The Use Permit was deliberated in an open hearing of the Planning and Development Committee at 7 p.m. on March 26. They will forward their recommendations to the Town Council, which intends to hold its open hearing on April 10 at 7 p.m. Both these open hearings are opportunities for residents of the town to participate in this process.

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Barbara Neville Johnson
October 17, 1949 – March 14, 2019

Barbara Neville Johnson rode off into the sunset on March 14, 2019. Barb was an avid horsewoman, artist, author, and lover of animals and nature. She had an adventurous life. She started life as an Air Force brat, living in many different places in the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska. In the early 60’s, she lived in Madrid, Spain with her family. That is where she became proficient in Spanish, but more importantly, where she had her first horse.

Barb was a talented and creative artist. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Sculpture at the University of Hawaii. She expressed her art through painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and jewelry making. She painted a multitude of oil paintings for much of her life. Many of those paintings are now hanging on the walls of family, friends and purchasers’ homes today.

In the last years of her life she expressed her art through writing. As Barbara Neville she wrote: the Spirit Animal series (11 titles), Cha’a Many Horses series (3 titles), Max Storm Shadow Mysteries (2 titles), “The Cowboy Dictionary” and “The Cowboy & Injun Dictionary.” “Bury the Hatchet” (her final book, part of the Cha’a Many Horses) was released in the last couple of weeks. Her writing was a real passion in her life.

Barbara married Peter Johnson, her first horse. Her greatest love were her children, Tiger and Fox. She was proud and joyful that Tiger is a pilot, following in the footsteps of the grandfather he never got to meet. She was proud and joyful that Fox shares her passion for animals, especially horses. She was a loving aunt to her nieces, Chelsea and Michelle Neville Cordell, introducing them to the care and feeding of a menagerie of farm animals. Barbara and her husband Peter were some of the last people to have a residential homestead in Alaska. She also homesteaded and proved up on a business site in Alaska.

Upon moving to Arizona, Barbara got Tiger and Fox involved in 4-H. She participated as a leader even after her children were old enough to move out of 4-H. For more than 10 years, she was active in Farmer’s Markets in Santa Cruz County. She was an organizer and a vendor, selling eggs, jewelry, homemade goat cheese, and honey. She served on the Board of the National Resources Conservation District in Santa Cruz County.

In Arizona, her love of horses grew into a love of many different animals, including cats, dogs, goats, chickens, guinea fowl, peacocks, turkeys, ducks, horses, cows, and maybe more. When visiting her Rancho De Los Osos, one never knew what critters to expect to see.

Barbara is survived by her son Tiger, daughter Fox, husband Peter, sister Nancy, brother-in-law Martin Cordell, nieces Chelsea and Michelle Neville Cordell. She was preceded in death by her parents Bertie “Sam” Mart (Grange) and Harry Walter Neville, maternal grandparents Ellen Alverda (Jensen) and Ray Clifford Grange, and paternal grandparents Ruth Ann (Boyd) and Walter Henry Neville.

Barbara was a loving daughter, sister, wife, and mother. Her surviving family and friends already miss her warmth, loyalty, wisdom, keen mind, and wit. Happy Trails Barbara. We miss you and love you.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your local Humane Society, Animal Rescue or the American Heart Association.
Stories We are Following

In the next issue of the Patagonia Regional Times, we will be bringing you an update on the fate of the Patagonia Pool, the effects of light pollution in Santa Cruz County, a report on South32’s application for a use permit, efforts to restore public access to Forest Service lands, and much more. Look for the May PRT in our new, beautiful newsboxes, painted by talented local artists. These boxes were generously donated to us by the Arizona Daily Star.

Research by the Sonoita-Elgin Community Group reveals that, while property taxes have increased in Santa Cruz County for the last seven years, Cochise County has reduced taxes the last three years. “Although taxes are a major concern in this area, we also must consider services received, solvency of the counties, and their overall quality of management,” said Green.

In addition to increasing taxes and decreasing service, there are additional concerns with the Santa Cruz County unemployment rates. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the long-term unemployment average for Santa Cruz County is 13.63% in contrast to Cochise County at 7.16%. “We are concerned about the continued debt for the county detention center that opened in 2011 which failed to generate the projected income, now shifting the burden to the tax payers,” said Green.

Green is impressed with Cochise County’s Strategic Plan which identifies seven countywide priorities for committing time and funding. “I am not aware that Santa Cruz has a similar document to identify county priorities, but if so, it is not transparent to the residents,” said Green.

“We also have similar shared geographic and economic interests in ranching, agriculture, wine and spirits industries and tourism, all of which are comparable with those of Cochise County. In contrast, the west side of Santa Cruz County focuses primarily on produce imports,” Green pointed out.

“While Cochise County has consistently supported the wine industry, our county officials in Santa Cruz are confrontational, at best. The Sonoita-Elgin Community Group is optimistic that passage of H.B. 2486 will provide greater insight into some of the potential challenges and benefits the community may experience as it continues its rapid growth moving forward. “The information provided by this study will be essential to understanding the best way our community can support its economic base and receive value for the taxes it pays.”

Green welcomes and encourages community feedback. If you would like to express your opinion on the issues, you may contact the Sonoita-Elgin Community Group by email: sonoitaelgincommunitygroup@gmail.com.

CERT Team Trains for Disasters

By Bob Brandt

Santa Cruz County Emergency Management Director Ray Sayre demonstrated the Simtable, a disaster simulation tool for the Patagonia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) at the team’s monthly meeting held March 6 in the Patagonia Town Council chambers.

Sayre noted that only about 15 of these devices are currently in use in the U.S.. The system consists of a sandbox-like rectangular table containing crushed walnut shells that can be sculpted to resemble a specific geographic area.

Using Google Maps, a projector mounted overhead projects the chosen geographic area onto the landscape. The operator then is able to introduce a variety of weather conditions and intervention resources to show how the disaster would progress or be mitigated.

On this occasion, Sayre demonstrated the features of the model using Patagonia as the test site for different scenarios involving fire, flood or a hazardous materials spill. The model, which was procured with grant funds, can be used as a teaching tool or to guide intervention in a real life emergency. The CERT team is seeking additional volunteers to undergo the required basic training which usually takes place over two weekends. Interested individuals are invited to sit in on the team’s monthly meetings to learn more about the duties of the team and to take advantage of the informal training the team builds into each meeting.

The team meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. The current team leader is Marilyn Miller. She can be reached at 520-394-0184 or mm58624@centurylink.com.

Santa Cruz Named National Heritage Area

Eastern Santa Cruz is now part of the Santa Cruz National Heritage Area, newly designated by Congress in February and signed into law on March 12, 2019. There are 54 other Heritage areas in 32 states.

Gary Nabhan, a Patagonia resident, is a board member of the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance that helped pass this legislation through

Nabhan wrote that Santa Cruz residents live in a “3000 square mile landscape that was nationally-recognized for its distinctive natural, historical and multi-cultural heritage.”

Stand up for a child who has been abused or neglected. Become a CASA volunteer today.

CASA of Santa Cruz County
2160 N. Congress Dr., Nogales, AZ
(520) 375-8159 or mfish@courts.az.gov

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Abbie Zeltzer Retires

Abbie Zeltzer has handed over the reins at the Patagonia Library after earning the library national recognition.

By Kate Kozlowski Peake

After working for several decades to usher Patagonia Library into the 21st century, while preserving its local heritage and meeting community needs, Abbie Zeltzer has retired. But not before helping the library earn national attention by winning Honorable Mention in Library Journal’s Best Small Library in America competition for 2018.

The Patagonia Library caught Library Journal’s attention due to its use of innovative programming and community responsive collections to reach Patagonia’s unique local demographics: more than half of the residents are over 62 years of age, with a large minority under 14. With over 1,100 members, Zeltzer and the library staff get creative to deliver relevant services to this diverse population.

Zeltzer has played a key role in the growth and modernization of the library, overseeing the restoration and two expansions of the library building, creating the Legacy Garden, and providing community computer and internet access at the library. In addition to her dedication to fulfilling the information needs of library users, Zeltzer was instrumental in establishing the Patagonia Museum, developing their Collection Development Policy and ensuring the preservation of the town’s print local history collection.

Even though she has retired, Zeltzer will continue to help modernize the library’s collection by preserving digital local heritage materials through the Internet Archive’s Community Webs project. Out of the 27 libraries chosen to participate, Patagonia Library is easily the smallest, working and training alongside libraries such as the County of Los Angeles, which serves an area of 3.5 million users.

Working with the Friends of the Patagonia Library and other local partners, such as the Patagonia Creative Arts Association, the Montessori school, and Borderlands Restoration Network, among others, the library staff manages to provide a wide-variety of programs and services on a limited budget and only three staff members. Zeltzer was instrumental in creating unique programming that connects various members of the library, such as the Semilloteca seed lending library, which provides seeds, education, and community engagement activities.

In ensuring the library is responsive to community needs, Zeltzer guided the library to expand its outreach events for seniors through cultural heritage speakers and related pop-up libraries at the senior center, as well as an increased large-print collection. She also expanded the youth programming by updating the kitchen to commercial standards and expanding its summer youth lunch program, serving around 1,000 lunches in 2018.

As Zeltzer retires, Laura Wenzel, who has worked with Zeltzer for several years, steps into the role of Director. Wenzel has been instrumental in expanding the library’s youth programming including the engaging Voices for Young Authors program, story time with Ms. Laura, and the upcoming Storywalk in the town park. Readers can stay current with library developments as new programs, collections, and services are constantly in development, by reading Wenzel’s monthly article in the PRT.

Patagonia’s 9th Annual EARTHfest 2019

“Youth are the Future”

Saturday, April 20th

10am- 4pm Patagonia Town Park

Celebrate Earth, Arbor, and AZ Trail Day and the youth of our community!

Enjoy local vendors, a kid zone, fun activities, boogey worthy music, educational talks, delicious food, and much more!

For more information go to our Facebook page: Patagonia EARTHfest 2019
Letters to the Editor

Judges Need to Follow State Rules

While your article, "What’s Next for Keith Barth" did an enviable job of covering most of the facts, there are significant parts of the formal state judicial complaint that I feel need further discussion.

While the underlying judicial political violations might appear trite to the untutored eye, this is anything but the case. The commission’s complaint emphasizes six different violations of our state’s Code of Judicial Conduct by Mr. (formerly the Honorable) Keith Barth, four of which specifically dealt with political activity violations by a sitting judge. The additional two violations (Rule #1.2 and Rule #2.16A), are, in my opinion, the considerably more egregious and questionable ‘activities’ of an elected judge.

RULE 1.2. Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary: A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

RULE 2.16. Cooperation with Disciplinary Authorities: (A) A judge shall cooperate and be candid and honest with judicial and lawyer disciplinary agencies.

The entire unseemly Sonolita Court matter could have been completely avoided if the Code of Judicial Conduct (by mandate, available to all AZ judges) had been reviewed by Mr. Barth. Judges and their court office staff ignore the code at their own peril.

As a twenty year JP, having retired in 2006, I found myself ‘crossways’ with the code on several occasions - and learned that consulting the code is/ was absolutely non-optional.

The bottom line of my communication is to emphasize that I firmly believe that everyone needs to ‘re-calibrate their ethical compass’ from time to time. In this case, it is obviously mandated by state edict. There are higher moral/ethical expectations of all public officials, especially those associated with the Arizona Judiciary.

T.B. (Brock) Fuller
Bernalillo, NM.

Living with Death

The column on death in the recent PRT sparked my wanting to share my personal experiences with dying and living-in with people in their final stages of leaving their physical bodies.

Powerful early-life experiences led me to obtain a degree in holistic medicine, and in 1980 I opened the Colorado Health Clinic. My practice led me to live in with individuals, one at a time, people who were wanting to heal from disease and illness and those who were dying of cancer, AIDS, and other maladies.

I discovered that while participating in the healing of others I am healing myself. And that the healing process is ongoing, all of our life and we have to BE IN that process.

Our individual lives are as unique as they are the same. No disease has the same cause. No symptoms are identical. There are many roads to health. It is for us, the individual, to discover the way on our own with the help, guidance and commitment of our chosen helpers.

What I have experienced, and added to my repertoire, is that the outer reflects the inner of us and that in order to maintain a balance to where they move as one, we must be aware of the dance. Lightness, humor, enjoyment of our work, pleasure from our food and acceptance of ourselves thus others are all medicine in the true sense.

David Krest
Patagonia

Planning & Development

As Mayor Ike once said so concisely, "this town runs on volunteers." Volunteer effort fuels so many of the non-profits in Patagonia, and the several important Town Committees run on volunteer energy as well.

One committee that fulfills an important role is the Planning and Development Committee. Our purview: to advise the Town on "all town planning and development matters," as per Chapter 14 of the Town Code. Time permitting, we might develop recommendations on a host of town improvement or development issues. But what always comes to us by Town statute - any application for a Use Permit. Our system of approving projects and businesses provides that for any use other than single family housing, the project comes first to P and D for review, then finally receives a Town Council decision, based in part on our recommendations.

PVF&R Gearing Up For Busy Season

Summer is coming and with it Patagonia Volunteer Fire & Rescue (PVFR) swings into peak season. Residents should trim around homes and clear brush in beds before this heat sets in. There will not be a town cleanup day this year, but clearings can be dropped across from the high school to be chipped by town personnel.

Look around the house and yard and imagine trying to find your way in the dark and smoke. Remove things that would trip you up or are flammbable next to the home.

The annual Steak Fry is the last Saturday of June. We bribe the town’s people with a good meal at a fair price and hope that they will pitch in to help sustain our local volunteer service members by either bidding on items our local businesses have donated, or by writing a check. We will all miss Brent Bowden in his traditional role of auctioneer and chief grill cook.

Nearly a week later the department members lead the town’s 4th of July parade in an assortment of fleet vehicles. Like last year, there is a prohibition on water balloons during the parade. We hope someday we can entice the members of the Shriners to return to our parade with their fun go-cars. More antique car enthusiasts and floats may enter if they know they won’t be pelted by an overly aggressive audience. Maybe we could make a fundraiser out of a water fight gauntlet. I bet we could entice some of our young-at-heart wildland firefighters to participate in a battle with kids in the park; squirt guns vs spray packs.

The last item hanging on having fireworks again this year, though, again, we’ll miss Brent Bowden’s experience and leadership. I hope those who come to see the fireworks will contribute to help cover the several thousand-dollar cost of putting on the 4th. I would also hope that everyone will drop by the morning after and participate in the yard sweep; picking up shell fragments that litter the school fields. More people participating makes short work of the cleanup. Perhaps the 4th of July committee can organize a light breakfast for everyone to socialize over after the cleanup.

We hope to recruit new members that are willing to serve the public and give back to the community. It’s not all fun, but it’s not all work either. Training is available throughout the year. Our fundraising pays tuition for this training, and we ask new members to commit to giving back to the community for a minimum of one year.

For more information, please talk to one of our members and/or our Fire Chief, like Isakson. PVFR meets at the firehouse on the first Sunday of each month at 9a.m.

Errors and Omissions

In Vince Pinto’s column in the 2/19 issue of the PRT, a photo of an immature red tailed hawk was incorrectly identified as a rough legged hawk. The photo to the right is the bird that Pinto sighted this past winter.

In the recent Western Films Exhibit article, the movie “Devil’s Angels” was incorrectly called “Hell’s Angels.” Many thanks to Melissa Fortney who also wrote that her “mother, brother and sister were all extras in that movie.”

Photo by Axel Esfner
This rough legged hawk was sighted in Sonolita recently

The Patagonia Regional Times encourages everyone to comment publicly on the events and times in which we live. Letters must be signed by the author and include town of residence. Letters are limited to 200 words. PRT reserves the right to edit all letters for language, length, and content. Please send your letter, in MS Word, to prupteditor@gmail.com
David Teel has resigned from the position of Patagonia Town Manager. Teel said that he hopes the next town manager is experienced and professional. In the interim Isabel Van Nest will be the Town Manager.

The challenge will be to find someone with experience as the salary for the position is minimal. Teel said that he was able to take this job because he was retired and on social security.

Teel was hired to be Town Manager in 2011. He has been a town manager for 35 years in seven different towns in five states, after 25 years spent in the private sector.

The Town Manager is responsible for overall operation of the government, budgeting, personnel management, and working with town council. There are nineteen employees, and within these there are various department heads. Teel worked with the department heads to run the town.

The biggest challenge Teel faced as town manager is the low municipal revenue. The Town does not charge any property tax, and its main source of income is sales revenue. Grants are specific, with reporting requirements, and do not make up for the lack of revenue.

Teel said that Patagonia has a “good, engaged citizenry” and “lots of volunteers who contribute mightily to the success of the town.”

Teel is planning to move to Tucson, where he has family, and will look for a part-time job there to keep himself occupied.
Representative Ilhan Omar is outspoken; a woman; and a Muslim. Three strikes. She’s out. Omar receives boacoup de flak for asserting that Zionism unduly influences U.S. foreign policy. She has only to open her mouth for kneejerk choruses of “anti-Semitism” to erupt. But much of what she says is clearly true. You’d have to be estrused to endorse Israel (or to silently allow others to join them). Our “leader” dictated what and do not allow others to join them. Cliques roam this town like rival gangs fighting for superiority. Like the grown ups said in high school, “it’s OK to be you.” Eat the chicken wings and drink the Trader Joes wine, listen to country music if you like it, and if they still don’t invite you to the cocktail party, well that’s okay, you can hang out with us geeks. We promise we won’t tell you what to wear.

“Clique” - A small group of people, with shared interests or other features in common, who spend time together and do not allow others to join them. Can also be groups or “packs” of people. Most commonly seen in high-school students.

I’ve noticed that most of my Jewish acquaintances, when anyone censures or even just questions Israel’s behavior, fall silent or, sometimes, protest. Allegiance to “The Holy Land” is not negotiable. One can’t address this subject without thinking, at least briefly, of The Middle Eastern Mess - its history - particularly, the Israel / Palestine component. (A little like a powder keg, it’s always poised to pop.)

Seven years ago, following WWII, Palestinian territory was given away to desperate Jewish refugees by a consortium of Western colonial powers who declared Israel “The Biblically-Appointed Jewish Homeland." "Oh, really?" said the local people who’d been dispossessed. “What makes you gringos think it’s yours to give? (Your so-called Bible don’t mean squat to me!) Just give me back my olive grove -- or bury me at Wounded Knee.”

Uniquely in the Middle East, Israel is a democracy. We in The West depend on that - and should. Both as idea and actuality, Israel is essential to the psychic security of most Jews. After centuries of bias, bigotry, expulsion, and arbitrary confiscation of their property throughout Russia and Europe, the Jews took great comfort from the establishment, at last, of a nominal Homeland. Perhaps we would never again feel quite so wholly exposed, so vulnerable to the demonstrably inextinguishable smolderings of anti-Jewish sentiment.

Leaving aside the centuries of pogroms, prejudice, and self-serving xenophobia - the stuff that we call “populist” these days - if you consider only Hitler and the Nazi holocaust - just that one quaint inccident - it would not be hard to understand why we Jews are famously “clannish,” and famously hyper-vigilant. People who are routinely hunted down like vermin, violated, humiliated and exterminated do not respond with bonhomie or trust. (Just ask your Ughir or your Tutsi friends.)

The Jewish Homeland, a lonely little place surrounded by passionately resentful neighbors, several of whom have ebuliently proposed Israel’s complete annihilation, seems and is extremely vulnerable. This generates intense concern among all those who hope it will not fail, which clearly means most Jews, of course, worldwide, and also, oddly numerous these days, those Christian Fundamentalists - so prophecy-obsessed - whose doggedly literal reading of The Bible keeps Israel very central to their mesmerized belief in what comes next. Vamos a ver.

To all of this, add A: The high-er-than-average economic/educational status of Jews in the U.S. these days (a little like our counterparts in Germany, before the war) and B: our much-mis-trusted influence on media and Holly-wood, on Wall Street, and all that, and you’ve got yourself a powerful, unified, idealistic engine which widens more than its (demographically) fair share of influence.

It’s natural to feel resentment when you’ve been coerced. Legislators pres- sured to endorse Israel (or to silently ignore her misbehaviors) are being pushed toward anti-Semitism - or, at least, toward legitimate anti-Zionism. I don’t know if Dame Omar, in her deep-est Muslim heart, inclines toward an-ti-Jewish sentiment or not, but lots of what she says is clearly true, and those who deny it are either dishonest or dumb. Or, just scared.
BELONGING
By Aisha Sander

Years ago I had an experience of oneness and connection with all of life. I belonged to everything and everything belonged in me. I felt connected to life in all its forms, no longer separate from the wind, the air, the trees and the earth.

In this expansive belonging my ego-based identity of being a human with a particular skin color, faith and gender fell away. This experience was the culmination of asking many questions, of oneness and connection with all of life. I belonged to everything and none of which are in our control, and I needed the shelter and protection of sameness to pursue connection.

At 18, I could not wait for the adventure of leaving the familiar and known. But once I left home, I saw how deeply intertwined my belonging was to my geographical home. It was only then I saw Pakistan and my life there as exceptional and soon enough I longed for all its familiarity and its flavors.

Living in Montreal, I suddenly had a new identity and a new belonging. No longer surrounded by people who were like me, I saw that I was perceived as different. For years, I focused on these outward differences. As the labels of my various identities amplified in my intellect, my heart remained shallow. I started to define myself as woman, young, South Asian, Muslim, Pakistani or “the other.”

I also saw other people as labels. I was fixated on identities, almost none of which are in our control, and formed judgments. Fueled by this “critical” mind, I found myself where many social activists do at some point: rage towards those with privilege and hopeless despair over the immensity of injustice. In all this ruminating and analyzing I was blocked from connecting with people and seeing beyond my judgments. But then thankfully my heart broke. And in the ravages of a broken heart, I realized that all the labels I had spent so much time learning about and the mountains of resentment and anger that I was harboring held no resolution for my pain and sorrow.

For the first time I felt that I shared a common humanity with all other people, and I did not need the shelter and protection of sameness to pursue connection.

With this critical break I understood I do not “come from” anywhere. I do not belong to a place or a tribe, or an ideology or a practice. I belong simply to the moment I am in with these two intentions: to give my attention to you and to act appropriately as the moment requires of me.

This is a challenging transition. The mind has a need to make judgments as part of human survival. We are conditioned to look for differences, to compare ourselves, to keep score, and to make assumptions and generalizations, even though we know that this conditioning furthers suffering.

Does this mean I believe we are all the same and we don’t make extra room for the voices that are marginalized? No. It means that we act upon our conscience and we fight for equity and justice but with the core beliefs that we belong to one another and that we heal through connection. I ask myself, is what I am thinking or doing fueling the consciousness of separation or is it abating it?

Too often we have not been given the resources and tools to communicate across differences, and in these days, we get less and less chances to practice this difficult skill. I am confronted with a common prejudice or unintentional bias as a migrant not just in this land, but also in the land “I come from.” I can use these experiences as a reason to hate and rage at people and the world, or I can use them as opportunities to dissolve my ego further and deepen my trust for how life presents itself to me.

The choice is yours, too: to burn another tree down when we are starving for air or to find the courage to plant seeds of kindness and acceptance in spite of unfavorable conditions.

OAKS, TOADS AND SLEEPING WOMEN
By Leslie Schupp

I came to this town to get pregnant. I achieved that. Thirty years ago, roaming Gringo Road with my cattle dogs and a baby, I looked across the valley to Red Mountain. She has the profile of a sleeping, pregnant woman, and I thought that she was my patron saint, La Santa Roja Sueno, the one who watches over single mothers and I thought that she was my patron (grandfather) possibly walked to my neighborhood. Between 1947 and 1966 all my grandparents migrated from India to Pakistan. My Nana (maternal grandfather) possibly walked to a brand-new Pakistan in 1947. And so, my belonging began in the fault lines of decolonization, a newly formed nation my home and the world’s fastest growing city my neighborhood.

Rage towards those with privilege and hopeless despair over the immensity of injustice. In all this ruminating and analyzing I was blocked from connecting with people and seeing beyond my judgments. But then thankfully my heart broke. And in the ravages of a broken heart, I realized that all the labels I had spent so much time learning about and the mountains of resentment and anger that I was harboring held no resolution for my pain and sorrow.

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Jim Koweek - Sowing the Seeds of Traditional Music

By Bob Brandt

Grass is big in Jim Koweek’s world. He plants it, studies it and writes about it. He even sings and plays some of it - the bluegrass variety, that is - as long as it feels and sounds like the traditional country music he faithfully delivers from the heart every Thursday at The Café in Sonoita.

But Koweek’s repertoire goes way beyond bluegrass. If he’s calling the covers, you’re as likely to hear echoes of Bob Wills or Hank Williams as of Bill Monroe. But whether it’s grass, western swing, folk or old-time hillbilly, Koweek is likely serve it up wrapped in the traditional country style he has favored since his days in upstate New York when his guitar-playing hippie girlfriend got him hooked on that instrument.

Seeking nothing more than fun after high school, Koweek put girl friend, guitar and gas in his white Ford van and headed for Tucson where he eventually got serious enough to earn a degree in speech communications and went straight to work “digging ditches.” That landscaping job evolved into career of working with plants, which he still does as the owner of Arizona Revegetation and Monitoring Company based out of his Lyle Canyon home.

Koweek has balanced making a living with making music and sharing it with appreciative listeners since the early 1980s when he joined up with three talented friends to form his first band, Riders of the Lost Desert. They quickly dropped the “lost” part of their name, became simply The Desert Riders and rode that name to success for several years on the live music circuit in Tucson, playing more than 100 gigs a year before disbanding in 1987.

“We were lucky if we cleared twenty bucks a piece in those early days,” Koweek recalls, “but we loved it.” He mostly played bass back then, leaving the vocals to other band members. “They wouldn’t let me sing,” he shares with a hint of humor (or is it pique), then adds, “The band had some strong singers.”

After the Riders each went their own way - “It was like being married to three people at the same time,” Koweek recalls, “but we loved it.” He still appears with some of his favorite musicians including his guitarist son Clay and vocalist Rana Tucker who frequently join him in a trio known as the Grassland Band.

Rocky Harper’s influence is likely in play as Koweek’s light-hearted, sometimes self-deprecating humor and obvious love for the music, engage and entertain his audience. And unlike in his “Riders” days, he now handles vocals with ease.

If you appreciate authentic traditional country music, catch one of Koweek’s shows. You’re sure to leave uplifted and with a sense of gratitude that he’s keeping this music alive.

Musicians of Note recognizes individuals and groups who have crafted the rich and vibrant musical tapestry of Eastern Santa Cruz County.

Mickey Ginsburg: AZ’s Oldest Pharmacist

By Pat McNamara

Musician, horseman, pharmacist and the oldest working pharmacy owner in Arizona, Myron (Mickey) Ginsburg, at 88, is still working at his drug store in Sonoita. Born in Cleveland, OH in 1931, he moved to Tucson in 1941 with his family.

Music entered Ginsburg’s life early when he was just five as he was asthmatic and not able to be as physically active as his peers. He studied violin and continued playing into his adult years as a member of the University of Arizona Symphony and later played in the Southern Arizona Symphony. To this day, Ginsburg laments that perhaps a career as a musician would have been a good choice for him.

Ginsburg was also active in the Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle Scout badge in 1945. Four years later he became a scout master. The Arizona National Guard then claimed him, where he served from 1948 to 1951 while attending the University of Arizona studying pharmaceutical science. As a student he was a member of Kappa Psi Honorary Fraternity and the Tri Delta Phi Fraternity.

He graduated with his degree in 1952 and joined his pharmacist father at their Tucson drug store. When the polio epidemic was prevalent in the U.S., Ginsburg was one of the early, ground breaking participants in dispensing the vaccine on sugar cubes to the locals in Tucson.

After the death of his father in 1969, Ginsburg took over the business until finally selling it in 1977. From there, he worked for a number of years at a pharmacy chain before opening Old Pueblo Pharmacy in Sonoita in 1999.

Ginsburg’s other passion along with his music, is horses. Specifically race horses. His mother told the story that when he was just two years old, she took him to a circus in Ohio where he slipped away from her. She finally found him on the back of one of the circus performer’s horses, having persuaded the owner to let him ride.

Having had his own horse as a child in Tucson, Ginsburg retained his love of horses his whole life. In 1957 a friend of Ginsburg owned a racehorse and needed a partner to help with the training and expenses and that started Ginsburg on his road to training racehorses in Tucson and Elgin. At his Elgin Farm Racing Stables, Ginsburg has successfully raised and trained thoroughbreds and quarter horses for the track and still owns five horses, actively preparing them for their future. Ginsburg related that the feeling of coming down the homestretch at forty miles an hour is like flying, though it’s been a while since he has done that.

Ginsburg and his wife Betty Lou raised five children. She came into the union with one son and they added four more children to the family throughout the years. Though he and Betty Lou are no longer together, Ginsburg still sees his children, now with nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren as they live nearby in the Tucson area. His eldest son is a pharmacist, carrying on the tradition passed from his father and grandfather.

Sonoita is fortunate to have Mickey Ginsburg, both as a business owner serving the community and a dispenser of many stories of past adventures in his years as a horseman, a musician and a long-time Arizona resident.

Mickey Ginsburg takes a break from work at the Old Pueblo Pharmacy in Sonoita.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting  From 1932 to 1965 the “Empire Merry Makers,” contributed articles for an Arizona Daily Star column reporting on 4-H Club activities in Pima County. 4-H in Arizona began in 1913 with a club in Chandler. The University of Arizona Agriculture Experiment Station organized 12 statewide clubs in 1914 and by 1915 a U of A extension agent was working full time with boys and girls clubs that were mostly organized through schools. In the 1930’s the activities of the Pima County 4-H clubs were directed by the University of Arizona Agricultural Extension Service and included “the training of the head, heart, hand, and health.” [AZ Daily Star, 2/14/1932].

The Merry Makers attended the Empire School, located on Greaterville Road, which operated from 1917 to 1965. It drew students from Gardner and Box Canyons and the ranches and homesteads in this southernmost portion of Pima County. The Merry Makers’ articles focused on the club and Empire School activities and local events. The authors included Lucy Amarillas, Lena C. Buck, Frank Dojaquez, Eva Ferra, Isabel Greenburg, Harold E., Walter and Seymour Thurber, Fern Stock, and Anne, Lydia, and Angelita Young. The adult club leader in 1932 was Miss Agnes Krentz, Empire School teacher.

For a couple of years articles at the start of the school year documented the number of students enrolled and described how they got to school. In 1933, the four Amarillas and two Romero children took the bus to school; the four Dojaquez children arrived on three donkeys; the three Youngs rode two horses. The three Kennedys walked part way and got a ride with Miss Krentz the rest of the way, and Martin Ruiz and the three Thurburs walked unless they could hitch a ride. [AZ Daily Star 4/3/1933] In 1934 most of the children arrived on a bus that picked up those who lived in Gardner and Box canyons. Seymour Thurber rode his bike and Isabel Greenburg rode her black horse, Prince. [AZ Daily Star, 10/21/1934]

In 1932, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of George Washington’s birth, the Merry Makers’ activities included compiling a recipe book for “each mother and housekeeper” in the district [AZ Daily Star, 2/14/1932], and planting a cottonwood tree and some flowers. [AZ Daily Star, 3/15/1932] Robert Amarillas, president, was the only boy in the club that year. He and all the girls completed their sewing projects by the end of the school year.

Eva Ferra, who lived with her grandparents on the Empire Ranch kept up the contributions during the summer, writing mostly about what she was learning from working for Mrs. Mary Boice and Empire Ranch happenings.

Four boys joined the club in the Fall of 1932 making it possible to consider new activities, such as camping. [AZ Daily Star, 10/23/1932] When school started the next year seven girls and ten boys joined and Ruth Downs was their teacher. [AZ Daily Star, 10/8/1933] In 1934 the boys’ primary activity was the planting of a cactus garden which was unfortunately ruined by Martin Ruiz’s two burros a few weeks later. [AZ Daily Star, 1/21 & 2/12/1934] The Thurber boys, whose father owned the Thurber Hereford Ranch were the only children reported to be raising calves and entering them in 4-H competitions. The club was especially proud when Seymour’s calf “Independence” won 3rd place in the Tucson livestock show of 1935. Major community events reported included the establishment of a reforestation camp in Box Canyon [AZ Daily Star, 5/21/1933]; the completion of the new Box Canyon Road by the Civilian Conservation Corps [AZ Daily Star, 5/6/1934]; a major flood washing out all the fences in Empire Canyon [AZ Daily Star, 9/8/1935]; and the building of H.B. Thurber’s concrete cellar with a 1,500 gallon water tank installed above. [AZ Daily Star, 5/11/1936]

Though the 4H Activities section of the Star continued into the 1940s, articles by the Empire Merry Makers ceased in 1936. Other active groups included the Vail Villagers, the Pantano Stitch in Time, the Sahuarita Sunshiners, and the Greaterville Prospectors.
As a wildlife biologist and professional bird guide, I look forward with great anticipation to the month of April. This is one of the best months of the year to seek a broad diversity of bird species in an equally dazzling array of local habitats. It is now that many neotropical migrants join our wintering and resident species in a veritable onslaught of birds. Traveling by day and/or night, various birds make their way to southeast Arizona which serves as either an important way station or as their breeding destination. Here I proffer a small taste of our avian array, hopefully whetting your appetite for observing some of our unique bird species.

Our Madrean archipelago boasts some of the highest levels of biodiversity for our latitudes, which mark the transition from the temperate to the subtropical realm. The towering ranges that constitute our forested islands harbor many habitats that complement our lowland plant communities. Thus, an idealized ecological trip from a low valley to the tallest of our mountains encompasses the following habitats, (going from low to high):

- Sonoran or Chihuahuan desert, grasslands, chaparral, Madrean evergreen woodland (oaks, junipers, and pines in particular), montane coniferous forest, spruce-fir forest, and montane meadows. We are indeed very fortunate to host a truly impressive spectrum of local bird habitats.

One of the most iconic of our desert species in the Costa’s hummingbird. This is among our smallest hummers and the most common breeder in our arid habitats. It mostly migrates locally in winter, eschewing colder climes in favor of the warmest nearby desert habitats. With a purple gorget - the iridescent throat patch found in most hummingbirds - that extravagantly spills onto its cheeks like Darwinian muttchops, this species is certainly unmistakable. The courtship display of the male likewise gives pause for thought, as the sound produced by the U-shaped dive resonates in your head like a bout of tinnitus. Feathers, not vocalizations, produce this sound. Instead of checking your ears, look skyward and see if you can somehow pull this mere pygmy of a bird literally out of thin air.

Grasslands species include the Botteri’s sparrow. Amidst a local sea of other sparrows - our region has the most species on earth - Botteri’s stands out owing to its ecstatic, bouncing song, often offered in response to monsoonal rains. Though some winter locally, others likely migrate back and forth between their breeding and wintering grounds. Healthy native grasslands are the realm of this long-tailed, large, and mostly reclusive sparrow.

Bush tits migrate mostly locally and are a highly acrobatic species, which serves them well in the dense shrubbery of our chaparral. There they deftly maneuver from perch to perch, while assaulting various tiny insects that comprise the bulk of their diet. Watching a flock of this highly social species is akin to witnessing an avian kaleidoscope, so dizzily are the complex are their collective movements.

Continuing up our elevation habitat ladder, look for sulphur-bellied flycatchers in our Madrean evergreen woodlands, particularly near streamside forests. There this brightly colored species seeks many of the same nestholes as the famous elegant trogon. Biologists have witnessed fierce fights over the tree cavities that each species employs for breeding. Listen for the distinctive “squeaky doll” call of this acrobatic, insectivorous species.

Combining our high elevation habitats under the convenient umbrella of coniferous forests, we arrive at the tops of our highest mountains - the home of the elusive short-tailed hawk.

By Harold Meckler

It doesn’t get much better than April to find your way among the stars. The Big Dipper is high overhead throughout the month. Look northeast to find the distinctive pattern comprised of three “handle” stars and four that give shape to its “pan.”

Seems like everyone knows about the Big Dipper. It’s an asterism, a group of stars, within the larger constellation of Ursa Major, the Big Bear. Its handle is the bear’s tail, while the pan reaches into the beast’s chest. It’s a great tool to find a number of night sky objects. First, find the star furthest from the handle and at the bottom of the pan. Draw a line from that star through the star marking the top of the pan that is also furthest from the handle. That line will take you to Polaris, the North Star. It should be above Mt. Wrightson. Though sometimes thought to be the brightest star in the sky, Polaris is actually very run of the mill, but it will always point the way north. It is one of the handle stars of the Little Dipper, or Ursa Minor, the Little Bear.

Let’s go back to the Big Dipper. As noted, the handle consists of three stars. The one in the middle is Mizar. Focus binoculars on Mizar and you easily find that it is a double star, with the fainter Alcor alongside. The two stars are about 78 light years from Earth. They are forever bound, orbiting each other for eternity. Incredibly, using high powered instruments, it appears that the Mizar double is not just two, but five stars, a quintuple system, moving through space together.

Now, starting with Mizar, start a curving line, an arc, that heads to the outer edge of the handle and continue the arc until reaching one of the brightest stars in our night sky, Arcturus. It is the alpha star of the constellation Bootes, the Herdsman. To me, Bootes looks like a giant ice cream cone.

If you continue the arc through Arcturus, you’ll reach Spica, the only bright star in Virgo, one of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Arcturus and Spica are two thirds of the Spring Triangle, teeming up with Denebola, the tail of Leo, The Lion. Leo sits high in the sky this month, almost directly south of the Big Dipper. Look for the “sickle” that forms its head.

Meanwhile, Jupiter and Saturn, are visible in the early morning hours. Jupiter will rise first in the southeastern sky with Saturn following it about an hour later. Both will move east to west.

With binoculars you can see a modern-day Galileo. In 1610, using a hand-held telescope, Galileo observed four moons orbiting Jupiter and marked their ever-changing positions. Now referred to as the Galilean moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto make for a great observing project. On any given day they may line up to one side of Jupiter. On another day some may be hidden by the planet, leaving, perhaps just one or two on either side.

Compared to Jupiter’s other 75 moons, the Galilean moons are huge. Indeed, Ganymede is larger than the planet Mercury.

Saturn, though, is the real gem of the sky. Seeing its rings for the first time through a telescope brings an inevitable gasp. There are some things that are beautiful without explanation. We’ve all seen photographs of Saturn’s rings, but in real time it’s simply jaw dropping.

And, we should consider ourselves lucky because those rings, according to recent studies, have only been there for the past few hundred million years. If the solar system is roughly 4.5 billion years old, the rings are babies. Further, scientists believe that the rings will disappear, or fall into Saturn, within the next several hundred million years.

So, stay up late or wake up early. Or, pull an all-nighter. There’s plenty to see in the sky this month.

Editor’s note: Harold Meckler shares his love for the night sky in this column. He is the author of "Monsoon," a novel about imagination, awe and self discovery.
Students explored career and higher education options at the MER Career Fair at the Patagonia School.

The Mountain Empire Rotary Club held its 3rd annual Career Fair at the Patagonia School on March 8. Students in grades 7 through 12 from both Elgin and Patagonia schools had the opportunity to meet with representatives at more than 40 resource tables, including colleges and universities, Customs and Border Patrol, utility companies, South32, local nonprofits, health care professions, armed forces, human services agencies and county government departments.

Information about programs designed to give students a head start on certifications and college credits, summer opportunities at Borderlands Restoration, post high school experiences, fun with robotics, presented by the Nogales High School Robotics Club, and the consequences of becoming involved in drug trafficking were topics covered in panel discussions throughout the morning.

Dean Fish, of the Santa Fe Ranch, gave the keynote speech, titled “Sustainable Agriculture: the New Face of Ranching.”

The landing of the Arizona Lifeline helicopter, a bucket truck from Unison, and demonstrations by the Nogales Police Department canine unit all took place outside the gym, while exhibitions featuring drones from the Cochise Technology District, and a robot designed by the Nogales High School robotics club were held indoors.

“It’s exciting to see the kids exploring options for their future,” Randy Heiss, organizer of the event, said. “The program was designed to get our students thinking about their career goals, and it appears we were successful in doing just that, thanks to the support of today’s participants.”

Meet the Sonoita Library Clerks

Jennifer Riehl (left) and Dot Rhodes (right) share their love of reading with patrons of the Sonoita Library.

By Jo Dean

The friendly and helpful library clerks that you see as you enter the Sonoita library are Dot Rhodes and Jennifer Riehl. Rhodes will greet you Mondays and Thursdays, Riehl is there Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The famous quote by George R.R. Martin, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies...The man who never reads lives only one,” certainly applies to Rhodes and Riehl. They are both voracious readers. Rhodes reads one to four books per week and Riehl reads one to two books per week. Their love of reading transfers to their ability to help library patrons find books that will interest and appeal to each patron’s interests.

Riehl is a Tucson native. She attended Pima Community College, married, and has raised two children who are now in their early twenties. She is looking forward to the approaching wedding of her daughter and a trip to visit their son stationed in Italy with the Air Force. She and her husband have been in Sonora since 2013 and are active in the Sonora Hills Community Church, hiking, camping, birding, and gardening. Before coming to work at the Sonoita Library, she worked for over ten years with the Vail School District as a media specialist, ‘para-pro’ in the classroom and with speech therapy.

Rhodes was born and raised on Long Island. She graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in textile design. After graduation, she worked for five years in New York City in the textile trade. In 1966 she joined the Army Special Services with her first duty in Korea. She transferred to Fort Huachuca in 1970 to become the Director of the Service Club off-post at the current Landmark Plaza location.

With the opening of the new Murr Recreation Center on Fort Huachuca in 1973, Rhodes worked to improve the services and programs available for soldiers and their family members. After retirement she built her straw bale home in the Sonoita area in 1997.

The Sonoita library clerk job was a volunteer position in 2000 when she first started at the library. For five years she volunteered until a state grant provided funds to pay for two part time library clerk positions starting in 2005. She estimates she has read close to 1000 books just from the Sonoita Library, not including books from interlibrary loan and other libraries in the area.

Her long history of volunteerism includes involvement with the development of the Friends of the San Pedro River, serving as the organization’s president for seven years, promoting the docent program, youth education, bookstore, bird banding and leading hikes along the river.

Riehl and Rhodes both find that the most rewarding part of working at the library is the interaction with the library patrons and assisting with research. They both have made the library a pleasant and friendly space where one can visit, read, study, and most days have a cup of coffee and a snack while enjoying a quiet and pleasant reprieve.
Check It Out At The Library
Libraries and Librarians in Film:

By Laura Wenzel

Talk to any librarian and you’ll likely find that he or she has a favorite library scene from a movie or TV show (or maybe they aren’t into movies and they only read books, which, okay, I get it). I never realized how many pop culture library scenes there are until I started working in a library myself. Every time I watch something and there’s a scene with a library, or a librarian, my heart feels happy. Some folks may disagree with this list, and the films are not the most intellectually stimulating, but they are definitely entertaining.

“The Mummy” (1999) - Evil mum-mies from the dead are no match for the beauty and brains of Evelyn Carnahan, played by Rachel Weisz. Sure, she’s a little klutzy, but what she lacks in grace she more than makes up for in sass. Evy has one of the most sure-seeker, or a gunfighter, Mr. O’Connor.

“Evelyn: Look, I... I may not be an explorer, or an adventurer, or a treasure-seeker, or a gunfighter, Mr. O’Connor, but I am proud of what I am. Rick: And what is that? Evelyn: I... I am a librarian.”

“Desk Set” (1957) – In this romantic comedy, Katharine Hepburn plays NBC library reference clerk Bunny Watson, whose life is upended by Spencer Tracy’s Richard Summers. This is the kind of audio-book that makes you want to find an excuse to hop in your car and go for a drive just so you can keep listening. I’m sure the physical book is just as enjoyable, but the way the story is read, by full cast, is just delightful. The story follows Daisy Jones, a beautiful young singer discovering her voice and her power in the 1970s music industry and The Six, an up and coming band. The book is full of rock ‘n roll clichés (heavy drug use and alcohol abuse abound, and the unrequited love of the main characters is fairly standard) but the storytelling is captivating enough to keep you wanting more.

Next month, I’ll write about 3 more of my favorite film libraries and librarians.

Take A Hike!

The Arizona Trail Passage 3:
Canelo Hills West

By Grace Fullmer

Every day for the past month I have noticed at least one Arizona Trail hiker walking through town with trekking poles, large backpacks full of gear, and gleeful smiles plastered on their faces. Inspired by their drive to be “out on the trail,” I recently went for an adventure on the Arizona Trail. The Town of Patagonia is lucky to be one of the Arizona Trail Gateway Communities. This means the 800 mile trail, that carries its users from Mexico up to Utah, cuts right through town. The Canelo Hills West Passage, found off of Harshaw Road, is a moderate-hard hike that begins in Patagonia and goes for 16.2 miles, ending on Canelo Pass Road. While 16.2 miles is a long stretch, the beauty of this trail is you can go for however long you want, and then turn around at any point. My hike ended up being three miles roundtrip.

The start of the trail winds through mesquite bosque and sacaton flats. Soon the trail climbs a hillside, where you pass through the first gate, and are offered stunning views of the hills in the distance marked with red minerals, green shrubbery and boulders covered in lichen. The trail continues further into the hills, winding along ocotillo ridges, down into oak woodlands, and up to beautiful vistas. At a high point, at the second gate, you are offered the opportunity to continue down into a valley where the trail moves toward Mexico, or you can turn around, like my puppy and I decided to do. The walk back is easier, and a great reward for the hard work you put into going up.

Dogs, horses and bikes are allowed on this trail. Best used in the spring, fall and winter. The trail is very well defined, with a good map at the trailhead. Check out aztrail.org for more information.

Directions from the Visitors Center: Head north on Mckean Avenue until it turns into Harshaw Avenue, continue for 3 miles. The trailhead will be on the right-hand side after a cattle guard. Parking is free.

One hiking trail per month is highlighted in Take A Hike!. Each description will include access point/s and directions, length, terrain, interesting features, and whether open to dogs or horses.

Our goal is to eventually combine the individual descriptions into a loose-leaf book of local trails. Borderlands is partnering with the PRT to make an accompanying GIS generated map to show the relative locations of the trails. In addition to several hard copies, the trail book will be available on both the PRT and BRN websites. The key, of course, is recruiting volunteers to write the trail descriptions. If you have a trail in mind, email it to prteditor@gmail.com.

Over 250 enthusiastic guests attended the Empire Ranch Foundation Milestone Celebration on March 23 to commemorate the stabilization and preservation work on the historic 1876 Empire Ranch House. (From left) Steve Christy, Pima County Supervisor, Faith Boice, President, Empire Ranch Foundation. Jayme Lopez, BLM Tucson Field Office Manager, Jim Kolbe, former U.S. Representative Az, Dean Bibles, former BLM State Director Az., Or., and Wa.

PUHS students volunteered to clean up the Patagonia Cemetery. (From left) Lizzy Urias, Amaris Ochoa, Janelle Valenzuela, Brianna Young, Hannah Young, Jesus Vasquez, Julian Vasquez, John Hubbell, Raphie Quiroz, Dylan Jacob, Carolina Quiroz, Amanda Zamudio.

On Friday, March 15, the Ag Students from PUHS, along with a few middle school students, provided a community service by cleaning up at the Patagonia Cemetery. Murphy Musick joined in and supplied new flags to replace the worn flags on Veterans’ graves. This community service has become a tradition, one we hope will continue through the years.

The PRT Shed, (behind the Visitors Center) will be OPEN during EarthFest on April 20 2019. Come visit us!
Students Explore ‘The Universe Within’  By Paula Schaper

“The Universe Within,” a world-building course developed by art and education nonprofit Mat Bevel Company (MBC), has launched at the Patagonia Elementary School. The course was inspired by MBC President Ned Schaper’s magical world of Beveldom. Taught by Science and Math Teacher David Clovesko-Wharton, third and fourth graders at the School are the first students to participate in ‘The Universe Within’ curriculum, which launched with a field trip to Schaper’s Museum Of Kinetic Art in Tucson. Students enjoyed a “Welcome to Beveldom” program, then a tour of the museum.

The course was developed to address a national creative intelligence deficit. The premise of the course is that genius and creativity are not so much about IQ as employing daily practices to solve problems. It also fits into STEAM, an approach that uses science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Five course modules have been integrated that align with Arizona state standards - The Daily Doodle, Corrugated Headgear, The Art of Kinetics, Digital Story Book, and Exhibition & Pedestrian Carnival. “The approach used to engage students targets their natural curiosity and imagination,” Patagonia Public Schools Superintendent Rachell Hochheim said.

Dr. Bruce Bayly, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Arizona, works with MBC to translate the world of Beveldom into science and math lessons. Dr. Mark Runco, Faculty at Southern Oregon University, is assessing students’ before and after coursework. A new interactive 3D creativity assessment was developed on the iPad, with support from Patagonia Regional Community Fund (PRCF). Other major sponsors for development of the curriculum include South32, Arizona Commission on the Arts and Doug and Mary Rogers.

Paula Schaper, Vice President and Executive Director, who works from MBC’s Patagonia location, says she is already receiving requests for the curriculum from others in Southern Arizona and “going forward, we hope individuals, corporations and foundations will continue to support new dimensions of ‘The Universe Within.’” In school year 2019-2020, the curriculum will extend to more ages, subjects and schools.”

For more information, contact Paula Schaper at 520-604-6273, email at pschaper@matbevelcompany.org, or visit www.matbevelcompany.org.

South32 is the new owner of the Hermosa Project, a high grade zinc, lead and silver development option located here in the Patagonia Mountains. South32 is a globally diversified metals and mining company.

At South32 we manage our natural resources carefully and strive to ensure the safety and environmental well being of the communities we serve. We work closely with federal and state agencies to comply with strict and comprehensive environmental regulations. We strive to be a strong community partner and are committed to the nonprofit and business organizations that make this region special.

www.south32.net
The Beaver Believers  By Cholla Nicholl

Local resident Cholla Nicoll, who worked with beavers in Colorado, has arranged for the showing of a new documentary film “The Beaver Believers,” at the Tin Shed Theater on April 20 at 6p.m. as part of Patagonia’s Earthfest festivities.

Shot in eight western states, “The Beaver Believers” is a feature documentary that tells the urgent yet whimsical story of an unlikely cadre of activists - a biologist, a hydrologist, a botanist, an ecologist, a psychologist, and a hairdresser - who share a common vision: restoring the North American Beaver, the most industrious, ingenious, bucktoothed little engineer, to the watersheds of the American West.” (Beaverbelievers.com) For more information on the film visit thebeaverbelievers.com.

As a keystone species beavers dramatically increase the ability of their habitat to support other lifefoms including plants, animals and fish. This is the reason more federally managed land managers are bringing beavers back to do the job of storing and cleaning water.

Arizona has its own beaver reintroduction success story on the San Pedro River. Between 1999 and 2003, 16 beavers were reintroduced there. The population has increased to approximately 100 beavers today.

The Santa Cruz Foundation
For The Performing Arts

Benderly-Kendall Opera House, 344 Naugle Ave., Patagonia, AZ

Schedule

April 14: 3 p.m.  William Feasley, Classical Guitar  $30 Prepay / $35 At the Door

April 28: 3 p.m.  Amanda Zory, Soprano & Walter Aparicio, Piano  $25 Prepay / $30 At the Door

Visit www.scpapresents.org for more information

Senior Center News
By Valerie Hing

Senior Citizens of Patagonia (SCP) will buy a freezer thanks to an Arizona Community Foundation grant of $4000, and a new computer from a donation by Legacy Foundation of Sierra Vista.

Next month there is Earth ’n’ Art on April 20 to showcase Senior arts, crafts and homemade sweets. Half of the profit from art sales will be donated to SCP. To participate contact Heather Dodge at 520-732-0598 or hsdodge712@gmail.com.

SEACAP will next offer utility assistance on Tuesday, April 16th from 9:30-11:30 at SCP. A fundraising event is in the works for September to celebrate the 30th anniversary of SCP. If you’d like to be on the planning committee, contact Heather.

If there is anyone with experience in grant writing, and who would like to volunteer their services, please contact SCP. Also, donations can be made to the Woody Winans Endowment Fund for the SCP.
Author, Filmmaker, Team up to Make Movies

By Patra Kelly

Rick Padilla and JPS Brown have been collaborating since 2011.

Well-known western writer, and Patagonia resident, JPS Brown (Joseph Paul Summers Brown) has written 15 books, more than 200 short stories and received two lifetime achievement awards for his contributions to southwestern literature. Now 88, he has a long history in the Patagonia area. Born in Nogales into a family of ranchers, he is related to many of the founding settlers of the region.

Brown is first and foremost a cattleman and a cowboy. He received a scholarship as a heavyweight boxer (he even sparred with Rocky Marciano) to study at Notre Dame University, where he earned his degree, spent four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and worked as an alpine rescue instructor, a gold prospector, cattleman, a stuntman and a movie wrangler. His first book, Jim Kane, was made into a 1972 movie “Pocket Money” starring Paul Newman and Lee Marvin.

Rick Padilla, Brown’s business partner, also has family roots in this area. Padilla is a filmmaker who has described the opening pages of The Forests of the Night as the best work of his career, because I’m home where I belong.”

Padilla explained that he has been influenced by Ashby’s philosophy of movie making that the story is the priority—the “search for the truth of the human condition,” and that Brown writes novels with this at the core of his stories. “I realized Joe’s genius. He is the real Indiana Jones of cowboys! It is unreal what he has done and lived,” Padilla said.

“Joe knows that the real cowboy heroes are not as they are portrayed in this Hollywood version, but are often fifty miles away from any other human. They risk their lives against beast and Mother Nature on a daily basis. There is no box office, applause or audience. “He is considered by many to be the Hemingway of western writers,” and “some literary scholars have described the opening pages of The Forests of the Night as the best beginning of any novel ever written. In the introduction to the French version of that book, local author Jim Harrison wrote that ‘JPS Brown is the restorer of the great American quest,’” Padilla said of Brown.

Brown’s stories being developed for film also include the “The Forests of the Night,” and “The Outfit,” about Brown’s time spent on Art Linkletter’s ranch. “Cowboys Fly,” based on Brown’s unpublished autobiography and memoir of his family’s life here on the border spanning over 150 years, is being developed for TV. “His books were better for film than those from anybody I had ever worked with,” Padilla said. “Adapting and directing Joe’s work into films is humbling and an honor. I feel blessed.”
Patagonia Middle School Girls Win Championship

The Patagonia Middle School Girls Basketball team won their championship game on March 6, beating Sacred Heart 40-38. (From left) Alexis Fimbres, Jayme Dodson, Lizzy Urras, Amaatis Ochoa, Brianna Majalca, Janelle Valenzuela, Heaven Shadrick, Adalyn Thompson. The team was coached by Danitha Valenzuela and assistant coach Francisco Valenzuela.

PRBC Youth Award Applications

The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition (PRBC) is accepting applications or nominations for middle school and high school students that are residents in Eastern Santa Cruz County, 85624, 85611, 85637. Applicants/nominees must be a positive example to peers, demonstrate leadership in school/community, show exemplary character, a “can do” attitude, and show entrepreneurial skills/interest. Applicants must complete an application, essay, and a sealed letter of recommendation. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 20, 2019. For more information, please e-mail Denise Bowdon at dmbowdon@gmail.com. Information will also be available at Patagonia School District, Elgin School, Patagonia Health & Fitness, or South32 Patagonia office.

Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour. Ponder that if you like.

Hayes Named Coach of the Year

PUHS basketball coach Kenny Hayes was named Coach of the Year for the 1A Conference Southern Region. The Lobos finished 9th in their conference, with a record of 16 – 10.

Senior Victor Barajas was named Region Player of the Year, as well, and was named to the All-Region 1st Team and to the All-Conference 2nd Team. Barajas is ranked 1st in the state and 6th nationally in rebounding.

Sophomore Lalo Aguilar was named to the All-region 2nd Team.

Stradling Scholarships Available for Seniors

The Anne C. Stradling Equine Foundation will offer scholarships for students graduating in the class of 2019 who attend local public or parochial high school in Santa Cruz County or are home-schooled. County residents who attend high school in neighboring Pima or Cochise County are also eligible to apply. The number of scholarships varies depending on available funds and number of applications received. The awards are based on scholastic achievement, financial need and extracurricular activities. Enrollment in agricultural studies is encouraged, but not required. Students planning to attend a university, community college or trade/vocational school may apply. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 12, 2019 to be considered.

Applications may be obtained from the school counselor’s office or the Anne C. Stradling Equine Foundation, P.O. Box 248, Sonoita, AZ 85637.

KPUP Broadcast Schedule Spring 2019

Monday:
7:00pm to 8:00pm; eTown repeat of Saturday’s show.

Tuesday:
10:00am to 12:00pm; World Jazz with Mark Berg
7:00pm to 9:00pm; Jazz and Blues with Fred Hansen

Wednesday:
7:00pm to 10pm; Sean Alexander show

Thursday:
7:00pm to 10:00pm; Possibility Explorers. “Celebrating the Evening of Mushkil Gusha, the Remover of All Difficulties”. Hosted by Graves

Friday:
7:00pm to 9:00pm; Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse

Saturday:
12:00pm to 1:00pm; eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire a diverse audience through music and conversation”
Sunday 6:00pm to 8:00pm; Acoustic Café - “Today’s great songwriting talents. A bit of country, rock, blues, folk, pop”
8:00pm to 10:00pm; Folk Alley - “Folk Music Radio from WKSU-FM in Kent, OH”

Daily Shows:
Swing Hour: 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
Best of the Oldies: 1:00pm to 2:00am.
Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8 am., 12pm and 6pm., Sat. 8am & 6pm., Sun. at 8am.
Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour. Ponder that if you like.
**Jesus Vasquez**

I have attended Patagonia Public Schools since 1st grade and grown up with most of my classmates. Sports pretty much dominated my high school years. I played basketball all four years, soccer and football for two years. I also played tennis, cross country and baseball each for one year. I was my class representative in Student Council for three years and class president my junior year.

My favorite subject is English and it has always been the easiest subject for me. Math is a challenge for me. Outside of school I like to hang out with my friends and play basketball. The best thing that happened to me during high school was getting elected the basketball team captain my sophomore year. The worst thing was getting my ear gauge caught on the basketball net and ripped out during a summer league game. It was a bloody mess and I ended up getting 12 stitches.

After high school I want to attend college, hopefully on a basketball scholarship. I have been accepted at Benedictine University. I eventually want to become a physical therapist and stay involved with sports.

At school and through basketball – on and off the court - Mr. Hayes has been a big influence in my life. Both Mr. Hayes and Mrs. Hayes are my favorite teachers. They make sure you understand the subject and they make time to work with their students. They are both easy going unless you make them mad. Then they get serious.

The hardest lesson I learned in high school is that no matter what happens, always be friends with everyone, including the teachers. Patagonia is a small school and you have to get along with everyone.

Hopefully, my friends would say that I am a team player, funny, and that I am driven.

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**Yasmin Quiroga**

I have lived in Patagonia my whole life and have attended Patagonia Schools since I was a child. During high school, I was involved in 4-H for three years and raised market goats. I also played Varsity Basketball and Volleyball for three years. Like many of us at PUHS, I have also participated in several plays and musicals as part of our drama program. I also worked at Borderlands Restoration with the BECY program for three years and really liked it. Outside of school, I like to hang out with my friends and be with my family. I also love being outside, hiking and enjoying the beautiful environment around us.

My favorite subject is English because Mrs. Hayes always knows how to keep the class fun. After high school I plan on going to Pima Community College to get all my pre-requisite classes done. After that, I want to move to Oregon and study to become a pediatrician. The most surprising thing about high school is that it is a lot like middle school but with much more drama! The hardest thing about high school was getting to know myself and to learn what kind of person I am.

The best thing that ever happened to me was being raised by my grandparents. My Nana has definitely had the biggest influence on my life. She is the most strong-willed, kindest lady I have ever met. She is my role model and I aspire to be like her.

If I could change one thing about the world it would be the change how much hate there is. If we could eliminate all the hate, I think we could solve more of our problems. The hardest but best lesson that I learned in high school is that the one person you can always count on is yourself.

I would describe myself as a kind and genuine person and I hope my friends would agree. I think I can add that they would also call me trustworthy and a good listener; a true “Bister.”

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**Megan Muller**

My name is Megan Muller. I played tennis and volleyball during my freshman year. Although I did not play very long, both sports taught me how to be a team player. My favorite subject is English because Mrs. Hayes has taught me how to be a better writer. I like to draw in my spare time, but I also do love going for walks in nature and helping out others if they need it.

My plans after high school are to move to Sierra Vista area, attend Cochise College and become an orthodontist assistant. Nothing surprised me more about high school than how welcoming the people are at Patagonia. The biggest challenge I had was starting my senior year only a week after my mom died. It was hard for me to deal with that but luckily I had my friends by my side.

The best thing for me this year was spending time with my friends and classmates one more year until we graduate. The worst thing that happened to me was dealing with the stress of being a senior, maintaining my grades and trying to get into college.

If I could change one thing about the world I would like everyone in the world to spread peace and love. My biggest influence would be my grandparents and my older sister. My grandparents taught me how to be myself and to love myself. They taught me many valuable life lessons that I will take to heart. My sister taught me pretty much the same things and is my best friend and someone whom I can talk to. My favorite teachers are Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Melanson because both of them have believed in me when I doubted myself. I am grateful to both of them. The hardest lesson for me to learn was to love myself. My best quality is my heart. My friends would describe me as kind hearted, caring and optimistic.
### EVENTS

- **April 6, 4-6 p.m.** Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show at Patagonia Union High School. Fundraiser.
- **April 4, 6 p.m.** AZ Native Plant Society Santa Cruz Chapter monthly meeting at BRN offices, 1 School St. Patagonia, AZ
- **April 6, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Humongous Rummage Sale & Art Sale at the Fairgrounds
- **April 6, 8-11 a.m.** Snake Avoidance Dog Training at Sonoita Hardware. Call beforehand 520-272-1825
- **April 12, 7 p.m.** How Healthy is Your Creek? Speaker: Dr. Peter Stacey. Friends of Sonoita Creek at Cady Hall
- **April 12, 4-6 p.m.** Artist Mingle at the Creative Spirit! Creative Spirit Artists Gallery 317 McKeown.
- **April 13, 8-10 a.m.** Fire Dept Breakfast in Sonoita
- **April 13 and 27, 1-3 p.m.** Western Films Exhibit, featuring movies made in Santa Cruz County. Bowman and Stradling History Center at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. Free admission. brockingbooks@gmail.com.
- **April 19 & 20, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Earthfest in Sonoita Town Park Celebrate Earth, Arbor and Arizona Trail Day. Contact German Quiroga 520-343-7065 to donate items beforehand.
- **April 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Earthfest in the Patagonia Town Park Celebrate Earth, Arbor and Arizona Trail Day. Contact German Quiroga 520-343-5641
- **April 20, 11 a.m.** Children’s program, “Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail” with author Rodo Safranac at the Patagonia Library.
- **April 26, 4-6 p.m.** Artist Reception featuring Bob Haydocy. Creative Spirit Artists Gallery 317 McKeown.
- **April 27, 7-1 p.m.** Free Dump Day in Patagonia, next to High School

*For Tin Shed Theater and Benderly-Kendall Opera House schedules, see page 18*

Visit our website to see the online community calendar. Email prtasted@gmail.com with any community events you would like listed.

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

- **April 27, 1 p.m.** Celebration of the life of Carmen Matus at Senior Center.
- **Patagonia Museum - Oct:** open Thurs-Sat 2-4 p.m. Info: www.theratagoniamuseum.org
- **San Rafael Community 4-H Club** - 2nd Mon, Patagonia Methodist Church, Thibur Hall, 5:30 p.m. Info: Tami, 455-5561.
- **Santa Cruz Singers** - rehearsals Thurs at 5 p.m., Beverly-Kendall Opera House, 348 Naugle Ave., Patagonia. New members welcome!
- **Bingo - 1st & 3rd Mon., St. Theresa Parish Hall in Patagonia, 6 p.m.** Info: 455-5681.
- **Crossroads Quilters** - 2nd & 4th Mon, Sonoita Fire Dept., 9 a.m. Info: (520)-732-0453.
- **Open Tennis - Saturdays, PUHS at 9 a.m.** Info: 394-2973.
- **Border Community Alliance - Monthly cross-border tours. Info:** www.bordercommunityalliance.org.
- **Gratitude Drum Circle - Tuesdays 4-6 p.m.** at the Gazebo in Patagonia Park. Open to everyone. Bring water, chair, & drum. Extra instruments
- **Tai Chi Tues & Thurs 10:30-11:30 p.m.** at Senior’s Center. Free. All welcome.

### MEETINGS

- **AA - Pat. Seventh Day Adventist Church Fellowship Hall, Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Sonoita Bible Church, Tue. at 7:30 p.m. For more AA meetings, info, call (520) 624-4183.
- **Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. & Thurs. at 6:30 p.m.** Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. (520) 404-3490.
- **CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) - Board meeting 3rd Mon. at 5:30 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.
- **Patagonia Town Council - 2nd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m.** in Town Council Hall.
- **Rotary Club - 2nd & 4th Thurs., 5:30 p.m.** at the Steak Out. Info: Sue (520) 990-4648.
- **Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors - 2nd Mon, 3 p.m.** at the Senior Center.
- **The So Az Republican Club meeting,** 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month, Sonoita Fire House Board room, guests and visitors welcome.
- **NEW meeting of Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) - 7 p.m. on Mondays, at Thibur Hall, Patagonia Community Church. Contact (crobin@msn.com or 315-516-5998)
- **The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month 9:30 a.m. at the Bowman Senior Residences located at 189 N Grand Ave, Nogales. Refreshments served.
- **Community Youth Bible Hang Out** (ages 12-18) at the Sonoita Bible Church - 2nd and 4th Wed. April Anderson, andeap@msn.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey 520-559-0155

### CHURCH SERVICES

- **Patagonia Community United Methodist Church** 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274
  - Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
  - Youth Group: Sun. - 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church** 222 Third Ave., Patagonia 394-2954
  - Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
- **Canelo Cowboy Church** Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000
  - Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (except third Sundays) Ranche Family Fun Day: 7 a.m. every 3rd Sunday
- **Sonoita Hills Community Church** 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 455-5172
  - Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
- **Sonoita Bible Church** 3174 N. High way 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.
- **Harvest Christian Fellowship/ Sonoita Foursquare Church** 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita 455-5505
  - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
- **St. Andrews Episcopal Church** Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 2nd & 4th Saturdays: 10 a.m.
- **Quaker Fellowship, Sundays at 10 a.m.** Call or email for more information and location. David Krest, david_krest@yahoo.com, (843) 830-7184 or Janice Pulliam (706) 321-0106
- **Lunch for Seniors** - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon - Fri, noon-1 p.m. at the Patagonia Senior Center.
- **Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service** Medical transportation, Mon - Fri for seniors & disabled by appointment only. Info: 394-2494.
- **Story Time with Ms. Laura** - For caregivers and children aged 5 & under. 1st & 3rd Mon, 9-10 a.m. at Patagonia Library. Info: 394-2010.
- **Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop** - Fri & Sat 10-2 p.m.
- **Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop** - Thurs - Sat, 10-2 p.m. Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita
- **Sonoita/Patagonia Email Newsletter** - usually twice a week. Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonoitatapaginialocals.com.
- **Patagonia Farmers Market** Thursday 10a.m - 1p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods
- **Nogales Mercado Farmers’ Market** - Fri 2-5 p.m. 163 N Morley Ave. Nogales, AZ.
HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING - HIGH SPIRITS FLUTES
Please email your resume to admin@highspirits.com.

STRONG BACK? ABLE TO TRANSFER 200 LBS?
If you’re an experienced or certified caregiver, call Patagonia Assisted Care: 520-604-8179.

BORDERLANDS RESTORATION IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER
To help plant sale events and opportunities.
Email horticulture@borderlandsrestoration.org if interested.

THE PATAGONIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE SEARCHING
for a: 1) Business Manager/Governing Board Secretary 2) Registrar
Both positions are full-time with benefits included. Contact Dinah Mendoza, Human Resources Manager for more information and application at dmendoza@patagonia.k12.az.us

MISCELLANEOUS

SONOITA SELF STORAGE+RV/BOAT STORAGE RENTALS
5x10, 10 x 10,10x 20. 520-455-9333 or 520-455-4641.

WILLA ROSE MASSAGE THERAPY
$65 / hour, $95 / 1.5 hours
By Appointment: 520-604-7389 willarosetherapy@gmail.com

YARD SALE
Apr. 5 & 6, 9 a.m. 334 Roadrunner Lane, Patagonia.

Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshops
Patagonia Creative Arts Center
April 13, 14 and 20
For families with children ages 8 and up, Teens, and Adults
Adults: $20, with children $5
Adults: $25 for 2 hours, or $40 all day
Students (unaccompanied, 12-16 yrs): $10 for 2 hour class
$25 for all day
Pre-registration is required.
Contact to reserve a place and for schedule:
Susan Corl 520-394-2926 susancorl@hotmail.com or PCAC 520-394-9369

CLASSES

JULIA GREEN VIRTUAL VOICE AND PIANO STUDIO
Voice & piano lessons by Skype. $45/45 mins. www.juliagreenmusic.com
505-350-8543

TO PLACE CLASSIFIEDS OR ADS
CONTACT PRTADS@GMAIL.COM

LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!

Santa Cruz Humane Society
232 E. Patagonia Hwy (Rt. 82)
Nogales, AZ 85621 (520) 287-5654

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Aster is a sweet female Mixed breed dog, she is estimated to be 4 years old and has the sweetest and most loving personality. She loves people and gets along great with dogs, she enjoys playing and getting belly rubs.

Coal is a one year old Black DLH gorgeous cat. He is a male/neutered and loves being petted. He is very social, loves head rubs and enjoys chasing toys.

FULL MOON
APRIL 19
JUST LISTED! PATAGONIA CUSTOM HOME

353 SONOITA AVE. MLS # 21900414
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS HOME! Great in-town location, private, walled. Double lot, lovely gardens, guest house, 2305 sf main house, AZ room. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

PARADISE IN THE PATAGONIA MTNS

MLS #21904726 23.92 ACRES
Luxurious estate just minutes from quaint Patagonia. 3bd/2.5ba main house, 593sf guest house, pool, courtyard, barn. Fenced pastures. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

PATAGONIA MOUNTAIN RETREAT

MLS # 21730369 29.3 PRISTINE ACRES
Farm house w/workshop, storage bldg., barn & chicken coop. 2532 sf main house w/4bd/38a, large kitchen, AZ room. Nestled by the creek. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

JUST LISTED! PATAGONIA CUSTOM HOME

$499,000

HILL TOP CLASSIC ADOBE IN SONOITA

MLS # 21906981 16 ACRES
WOW Views! 4bd/2.5ba, 1984 sf. East & West stone patios for all season outdoor living. Raised deck, carport, pond to attract wildlife. LARRY DEMUN 520 732-9179

CASAS ARROYO HOUSE W/STUDIO

MLS #21810533 SONOITA
3 bd/2ba, 2434 sf with fresh paint & carpet. Burnt adobe w/ high beamed ceilings, Saltillo tile floors, 2 patios, 2 car garage & separate studio. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

JUST REDUCED! LAKE PATAGONIA

$298,000

LAKE PATAGONIA GEM

MLS # 21725571 4.14 ACRES
2121sf. 3bd/2ba. Great views, island kitchen, sunken liv rm w/fireplace, lg master bedroom, 3 car garage. Great private well. Great for horses. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

LUKURY HOME ON THE MESA

MLS # 21831077 8.59 ACRES
REMODELED KITCHEN AND BATH. 2623 SF, 4bd/3ba, Great Room, 2 fireplaces. Bonus room w/Bath. Horse facilities, strong prv well. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

JUST REDUCED! LAKE PATAGONIA

$345,000

PATAGONIA COTTAGE

MLS # 21812194 163 DOUBLETREE LANE
Great location. 2bd/2ba, Great Room, high ceilings, large kitchen, A/C, covered patio, fenced, carport, 2 storage sheds. Furnished. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

AMBROSE RANCH HORSE PROPERTY

MLS #21906122 10 ACRES
2189 sf, 3bd/2ba plus 804 sf Casita w/1bd/1ba. Great Room, Lovely views of Mt. Wrightson. Mature trees, 36x36 Steel Bldg. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

EAGLES NEST VIEWS IN RED ROCK ACRES

MLS #21827677 4.98 ACRES
COMPLETELY REMODELED! 2110sf, 3 bd/2ba, Great Room, large liv rm, 2 patios, workshop, garage. AMAZING 360' VIEWS! BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$549,000

$364,000

$949,000

$695,000

$550,000

$489,000

$298,000

$305,000

$350,000