The Town of Patagonia Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is in need of repairs and upgrades. The town contracted Nextgen Engineering from Tucson to assess the WWTP. In their 2019 assessment they offered two options to proceed. The first option is to upgrade the current plant, giving it up to 10 years more of service. The second option is to replace the current plant, which would last up to 25 to 30 years. The Nextgen report states, “since the most recent WWTP upgrade in 2004, some of the plant equipment has fallen into disrepair and the risk for plant interruptions is increasing.” The most immediate issues are to fix equipment that is inoperable or failing, with an estimated cost of $13,800.

The urgent issues to address within a year or two are extensive. Primarily, “the concrete tank walls around the perimeter of the treatment plant have multiple leaks that allow wastewater onto the surrounding grounds” (Nextgen Report, 2019). Some of the plant equipment runs continuously, like the primary blower for aeration, and either need to be rebuilt or maintained. Nextgen also recommends that the two water operators need additional training and certification. For these urgent needs, the estimated cost is $563,500.

Michael Stabile, the Vice-Mayor, said “We can do the immediate repairs and work on the other parts slowly and surely” In time, the plant will need to be replaced. The long-term solution is a newly designed, modular, turnkey plant for approximately $1.6 million. The Town Manager, David Teel, said, “we will take option One to make the repairs and get another 10 or more years out of the plant.” Teel said the “parts are starting to wear and we are trying to stay ahead of the game and keep running it well.” In terms of emergency repairs, Teel said, “it depends on what kind of emergency it is, and we have created a reserve to make repairs and will continue to accumulate reserves to do the required repairs.”

George Deithorn and Juan Urias are town employees and the water operators for the WWTP who work seven days a week to maintain, operate, and report on the various tests required by the state and federal regulations. They also maintain the drinking water plant in town.

They both started working at the plant in 2004, which had just been upgraded from holding ponds to the current sophisticated treatment plant. As the water operators, they are required to do extensive testing, varying from daily, weekly, bi-annually and annually. If there are any issues with any of the testing, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) fines the town and can possibly jail the operators. In the past 14 years there has not been even one instance where the treatment plant has received disciplinary action from ADEQ or other surveying authorities.

Deithorn and Urias both love their work and living in Patagonia. Urias said, “I am here for the simple life, to look around and walk in the beautiful nature.” Deithorn moved to Patagonia from Pittsburgh 30 years ago and does metal work on the side. Between the two of them they do all the administrative tasks, along with water testing. They both know the critical role they play in the health and welfare of the community, and are always on-call.

Though Deithorn said “that other town employees are familiar with the plant and we are not shy to ask for help when we need it,” both agreed that they could use the support of another full-time staff person, especially with the administrative tasks. The Town Manager, Teel, also said that they are looking to add staff for the treatment plant and that he is trying to secure funding for this as well.
Patagonia Receives National Attention

By Marion Vendituoli & Aisha Sander

Patagonia made national headlines this past month after a YouTube video of an incident between Town Marshal Joseph Patterson and resident Hilde Kate Lysiak went viral. First covered by the Nogales International on Feb. 21, the story received national coverage from the Washington Post on Feb. 22, 2019 and has sparked a conversation about social media and law enforcement.

Twelve-year-old Lysiak, a self-published journalist, has been reporting since she was nine. She garnered national attention in the past for breaking the story of a murder in her Pennsylvania neighborhood. She currently publishes her reporting on a website she manages, Orange Street News (OSN).

On Feb. 18 she posted a video and an article about her encounter with Marshall Patterson. This story was quickly picked up by other news outlets, gaining thousands of views overnight. As of this writing, the Youtube video has been viewed 435,701 times and has 1204 comments.

In her written report of the incident Lysiak alleges that the Marshall “threatened the reporter with arrest unless she stopped reporting the news.” In the video Marshall Patterson tells Lysiak that it is illegal for her to put his face on Youtube without his consent, although it is, in fact, legal to video a police officer while he is on duty. He also warns Lysiak to not follow him. Lysiak questions the Marshal about what she is doing that is illegal.

Currently we do not have any corroborating sources for what happened before Lysiak began to record the Marshal. The Town of Patagonia released a statement that they have taken disciplinary action against the Marshall but that the town has the right to not reveal the exact nature of it. Lysiak was not available for comment.

Local responses to the video ranged from “This isn’t news. This new world we live in, what a joke,” “Stupid kid, the police officer was looking out for the kid’s safety” to “You go, girl.” “Thank you, Hilde for your bravery...You rock. Keep up the good work.”

So why did this video garner so much attention? Well, everyone likes a good David and Goliath story, the original underdog tale, and a spunky little girl standing up to an authority figure has great emotional appeal. And in these times, when the press is feeling threatened by the powers that be, it is affirming to think that a reporter stood her ground and shined a light on what could be viewed as an abuse of power.

Patterson has been the center of controversy in the past. His detractors are now calling for the town to fire him. His supporters view this incident as “ridiculous.” As one Facebook contributor labelled it. But did this video merit so much attention that Patagonia residents are now having trouble getting through to the Marshall’s office to report problems?

Should law enforcement personnel be held to a high standard of conduct? Absolutely. Should we vigorously defend the freedom of the press? Absolutely. Had the Marshall threatened the young girl with detention? Maybe. He neither confirms or denies that in the video. Did he falsely tell her that filming him was illegal? Yes. Did the town officials discipline him? Yes.

Did she lie to him about where she was going? Maybe. Did he have the right to demand to know where she was going? Maybe not. What went on at their earlier encounter? We don’t know. Does the Marshall have a history of intimidation? Maybe. Does Lysiak have a history of following law enforcement to crime scenes? We don’t know. Has she put herself in danger or compromised any law enforcement scenes? We don’t know. That’s a lot of “maybes” and “we don’t knows.”

The internet and smart phone technology has become an increasingly large part of media coverage. This is a double-edged sword. They have played an undeniably important role in social movements around the world. They are spontaneous, able to collect footage as a witness to an event, are independent, and are able to reach millions of people through the Internet.

On the other hand, citizen journalists may not necessarily abide to any code of ethics, an editor is not fact-checking their news, and some of the news can be misleading and inaccurate, sometimes with dire consequences.

In the end, the hope is that both Lysiak and Patterson may have learned something from this experience and that people in Patagonia who are trying to get help when a rabid skunk, a feral cat or a mountain lion wanders through their yard can finally get through to the Marshall’s office.
Meet The PRT Board

Donna Lee

Donna Lee joined the PRT Board of Directors in 2017. She is the coordinator for fundraising and has been very active in developing the donor database and communicating the need for continued support of the newspaper. It was largely due to her efforts that the fundraising goals for 2018 were successfully met.

Lee is a passionate supporter of the PRT. “Self-governing democracies need OXYGEN,” she wrote recently. “Local newspapers are that oxygen. The PRT is the oxygen that engages our communities, enriches our lives, helps create informed citizens. Why wouldn’t we all want to be involved?”

Lee, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, splits her time between Sonoita and Chickaloon, Alaska. She and her late husband Sam Wright, a noted biologist, writer and minister, met while they were both studying for the ministry. In between working as interim ministers in the lower 48 states, they lived remotely in a 12’ x 12’ cabin with no electricity or running water in the Brooks Range above the Arctic Circle, 15 miles from the nearest road. The longest stretch of time they spent at the cabin, which they named Koviashuvik, an Inuit word that means “time and place of joy in the present moment,” was a full year. Their last stay at the cabin was in 2012, when Wright was 90. Lee returned with her family to spread Wright’s ashes in 2017. They were both studying for the ministry. In between working as interim ministers in the lower 48 states, they lived remotely in a 12’ x 12’ cabin with no electricity or running water in the Brooks Range above the Arctic Circle, 15 miles from the nearest road. The longest stretch of time they spent at the cabin, which they named Koviashuvik, an Inuit word that means “time and place of joy in the present moment,” was a full year. Their last stay at the cabin was in 2012, when Wright was 90. Lee returned with her family to spread Wright’s ashes in 2017.

In Sonoita, Lee participates in a local international book group and is a member of the Crossroads Quilters.

Jac Heiss

Jac Heiss moved to Patagonia in 1974 to teach fifth grade at the Patagonia Public School. Heiss said “I take every red traffic light as a personal affront and since there is none in Patagonia, I love this place. In addition to a climate that approximates that of Southern California, the people I’ve met here over the years have been fantastic. No small town in America can boast of a disparate cast of resident characters greater than that of this small community. If you want to have a chance to see Bubba shoot the jujubox in the presence of the founder of a major international corporation comfortably seated next to an authentic cowboy and a vagrant hippy, this is the place to be. America as it once was and forever should be.”

Heiss and his wife Denise travel from Patagonia to San Diego and Chandler to babysit their grand-children. In Patagonia they enjoy growing vegetables, butterfly gardens and visiting family and friends. Heiss said, “perhaps the most rewarding aspect of residing here is that we get to see so many of our former students.”

Heiss joined the PRT board in 2017. He recollects when asked to help carry the banner of the PRT, “I was so impressed by his passionate regard for the community and his commitment to the paper that when asked to help carry the banner of the PRT, I felt honored. Without exception, each of my colleagues on the Board and PRT staff reflect that same passion and commitment.”

Heiss discussed that for the PRT “monetary resources are the greatest challenge.” Heiss is a member of the Fundraising Committee, focusing on partnering with local businesses and services to provide coupons for the PRT Press Core members. His hope is that the discounts offered by coupons would offset members’ contributions to the PRT and at the same time give the PRT financial sustainability.

Francesca Claverie

Francesca Claverie joined the PRT Board of Directors in June 2018. A gifted writer and a passionate naturalist, Francesca is well known for her work as the Native Plants Nursery Manager at Borderlands Restoration, where she has worked since 2013. She is also the president of the Arizona Native Plants Society, Santa Cruz Chapter, and serves on the state board for that organization. She serves on the board of the Sweetwater Center, as well, a ranching conservation group based in Cascabel, AZ.

Claverie came to the Patagonia area from California in 2013 as an intern at Native Seed Search. Prior to that, she worked at the arboretum at UC Davis, managing propagation and plant sales for seven years, and as a lab tech working with nematodes.

She grew up on a farm in Calexico, CA and attended elementary school in Mexicali, as her mother wanted her children to be fluent Spanish speakers. This fluency has enabled her to conduct workshops in Hermosillo, Aqua Prieta and Nogales, Sonora to establish native plant programs across the border. She has also been active in agave restoration and bat conservation programs on both sides of the border.

“I really like border areas,” she said. “I think having a community newspaper is so important because everything you hear about the border is coming from national news. Having a perspective from these small communities is important.”

“People are just railing around the PRT,” she said, when asked why she had joined the PRT board. “Making sure that the paper is representative of all perspectives is important.” She added. “I also think it’s really important to have youth contributing articles. I would like to see the paper become more relevant for everyone in the community.”
Meeting Noam Chomsky
By Aisha Sander

Aisha Sander visits with Noam Chomsky after their interview at the University of Arizona.

World-renowned linguist and political dissident Noam Chomsky moved to Tucson in 2017 to join the faculty in the department of linguistics at the University of Arizona. Chomsky’s previous visits to UA with his wife, Valeria Waserman Chomsky, led to his decision. “We’ve very much come to appreciate the intellectual environment and the lifestyle,” Chomsky said.

Chomsky teaches a course called “What is Politics?” at UA. One of the key components of the class is to invite activists to speak. Patagonia Area Regional Alliance (PARA) was invited to speak at Chomsky’s class on Feb. 6, where Carolyn Shafer’s talk was met with great enthusiasm by the Chomskys and the students. The Chomskys are intrigued by the diverse and unique character of the Mountain Empire and hope to visit in the future.

The Chomskys find Tucson very interesting. Chomsky said that it is politically interesting because “it’s very mixed. For example, the split is very wide. There are issues that really grip people - like the border issue - like the group No More Deaths...and on the other hand you have plenty of people who have a cellar full of assault rifles.”

“My wife and I live in a desert paradise,” Chomsky said. Valeria manages a vegetable garden, a chicken coop, and their two dogs. Though they do not have any such thing as a typical day in Tucson, Chomsky said he spends most of his day in front of the computer working on either work related to linguistics, or his other main interest, world affairs.

Chomsky said that the most unexpected experiences he has had are related to these two main interests. In linguistics, he said, “it was almost unimaginable that we could ever reach the point that I think we are beginning to discover.”

When Chomsky started his studies “the prevailing doctrine was that languages can vary arbitrarily, and each language has to be studied on its own without consideration of other,” he said. Now linguists agree that the prevailing theory was “totally impossible.” “If it were true, nobody could ever learn a language, language could never evolve. Language looks like a very complex object, but a child has very simple sparse information and all children acquire their language reflexively, kind of like growing, you don’t even try,” he said. Therefore, there must be “a fundamental basic system, which is at the root quite simple, operates by natural laws of computational efficiency and that out of that comes the minor variations that look like to us different languages. We are well on our way to perceiving to how that could be established, which is a dramatic change from 50 to 60 years ago.”

“On the other side, I think the unexpected thing, is that we have survived, literally. I mean I remember Aug. 6, 1945 very well and it seemed to me at the time that it’s almost impossible for humans to survive...and if you look at the record, we have come so close to nuclear war, often just by accident, that it is literally miraculous that we have survived. At that time, in 1945, the issue of global warming was not at all understood. We now know that that’s a lethal threat in the near future. When you think of these things its kind of amazing that organized society still exists.”

Chomsky also reflected, “If you look back 50-60 years ago, hard to imagine that we would ever come to a point where women’s rights are recognized. Remember 50 years ago the government still had obligatory segregation in federal housing. In the 1960’s the country still had anti-miscegenation laws that the Nazis would refuse to adopt because they were so extreme. That was only 50-60 years ago. So a lot has changed in all directions.”

Chomsky said that he has hope because “if you look back at the things that have improved they didn’t come as gifts from God or from political leaders, they were all won by popular activism and struggle, almost all young people, and that’s still going on. Take the Green New Deal that Ocasio-Cortez introduced. That was done by the work of the Sunrise Movement, young people who just sat in offices, insisted, demanded that changes take place and managed to get a group of some of the new congressional delegates to push it through. It’s not going to be enacted but it’s the right move. And that kind of thing is hopeful.”
Mining Claims On The Mesa

South32 placed this, and other, stakes as part of the process of establishing an unpatented mining claim at Red Mountain.

By Marion Vendituoli

Surveyors for the mining company South32 were observed in early February staking unpatented mine claims in the Mesa subdivision area above Patagonia. According to a USDA website, “a mining claim is a selected parcel of federal land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit, for which you have asserted a right of possession under the General Mining Law.” According to Stu Evans, president of the Mesa Homeowners Assn., the surveyors did not ask for permission to drive into the subdivision.

Evans stated that one of the stakes is on an empty lot in the subdivision. He said that the owners had not granted permission for the survey on their land. When Evans called South32, he was told that the mining company does not comment on ongoing activities for mineral exploration. Greg Lucero, spokesman for South32, later stated that all stakes were placed on Forest Service land.

The process for claiming federal land is relatively simple. After staking the property bounds, the company registers the claim with the county and then must file a claim with the Bureau of Land Management. “The claim is only for mineral rights below the surface,” Lucero said. “We don’t even know if there are any minerals there to mine.”

South32 holds unpatented claims on 23,000 acres at this point.

Lucero said that the mining company was “closing a gap in claims on the north side of Red Mountain” with this recent staking. “This will tie into the rest of our unpatented claims.” Their ‘mining neighbors’ in terms of unpatented claims in the area are Rio Tinto to the north and Teck to the east. The top of Red Mountain is privately owned.

“We’re not contemplating a drilling program in the near future,” he said. “It’s more for protection. It won’t happen in our lifetime.”

A spokesman for the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) feels that the staking in the subdivision once again demonstrates the need to revise the 1872 Mining Law. “The 1872 Mining Law is detrimentally outdated,” she wrote. “We are seeing a foreign corporation invade this ecosystem for purposes of mineral extraction under a law that gives the foreign corporation this country’s natural resource assets for free.”

Romaldo Marin Lopez was a resident of Elgin, AZ since 2001. For the past year his health had declined. He was loved and surrounded by his immediate family at the end. Originally born in Sonora, AZ, He grew up there with his six siblings and his parents until he was 15 years old. His family were miners. When the mine took over the town they moved to San Jose, Ca.

He and his wife Lydia Martinez Lopez were married for 52 years. They were business owners in Patagonia and ran the Metamorphosis Art Gallery for many years. Both were active artists in their 20’s and 30’s. He was a Bronze sculptor and photographer. She was a painter and graphic artist. He and his sculptor friends established a foundry to cast bronze and aluminum sculpture and were instrumental in the art community. They met in San Jose, CA, attended art school together and graduated from San Jose State University. He majored in sculpture and minored in entomology. Many of his sculptures reflected a metamorphosis between human and insect anatomy. He worked at the University as a staff photographer where he retired after 31 years.

They raised their two sons Michael and Rafael Lopez. Between the sons and their families (Daughters-in-Law Meg and Angela), he was loved by his six grandchildren; Michael Jr., Marlena, Anthony, Jessica, Kinsey and Maile. Romaldo loved and cherished his grandchildren and the time he spent with each of them. His youngest granddaughter, Maile, was born in Sonora in August 2018. Her 4-year-old sister Kinsey enjoyed playing with his toy collection of cars and insects. He was their “Buelo” and Lydia is their “Buela”.

For those that knew him, he was known as Romey. He was very principled, opinionated, straight forward, spoke his mind, was a good friend, a mentor to some, and enjoyed throwing a good party. Their annual Super Bowl party was always a hit. He knew how to cook a turkey, his lamb was even better, and his salsa was a winner. He loved his ranch, his sheep, his dogs, chicken, cats and his award-winning vegetable garden. They became parent figures to many in San Jose and to some here in Arizona.

He will be greatly missed by all. We will always love and appreciate all that you did for us, Dad. There will be a Celebration of Life on March 30, 2019 at the Sonóita Fairgrounds from 12-3 p.m. For those that knew him, please feel welcome to attend.
What’s Next For Keith Barth?

Former JP2 Judge Keith Barth, pictured here standing outside the Sonoita Courthouse, is considering a run for Santa Cruz County Sheriff.

By Pat McNamara and Marion Vendituoli

The closing of the Sonoita Courthouse last December, a controversial move by the County Board of Supervisors, brought to an end Keith Barth’s 12-year tenure as Justice of the Peace (JP) for District 2 in Santa Cruz County. This has left him, after 23 years in law enforcement and justice in Santa Cruz County, exploring his options for the future.

Barth looks forward to more time with his family but has also formed an exploratory committee and is preparing the paperwork for a possible run at the office of Cochise County Sheriff in 2020 to replace Tony Estrada, who has announced that he will be retiring.

Barth’s interest in the Sheriff’s office while serving as JP became the subject of an inquiry by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which recently issued a public reprimand to Barth after complaints filed by former Justice of the Peace Brock Fuller, of New Mexico, and Peter Potosky, of Elgin, led to an inquiry by the State Commission requiring a judge to resign before the Facebook page and the Code provisions related to judicial conduct were violated by the Commission that supervised the action.

In his response to the Commission, Judge Barth stated he was only considering the possibility of running for Santa Cruz County Sheriff in 2020. He denied making any public announcement of his candidacy. Judge Barth also claimed that a supporter took the Facebook page live without his knowledge, though he initially refused to disclose the name of that person, claiming the individual wished to remain anonymous.

After being advised by the Commission that such information was material to its consideration, Judge Barth identified the individual as a close family member. “We had no idea the Facebook page went up,” Barth said recently. “As soon as I was notified it was live, we had it taken down in a matter of hours... It happened and even though I was not aware that the Facebook was live, I take full responsibility.”

Barth joined the Patagonia Marshall’s office in 1983. He served as a Patagonia policeman for three years and then spent 17 years as a deputy sheriff for Cochise County. He returned to Patagonia in 2003 as the Marshal, followed by a brief stint with the SCC Sheriff’s department. He then served as Justice of the Peace for 12 years until his position was eliminated in 2018.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted to close the court in Sonoita as a cost saving measure, citing a potential savings of approximately $200,000 per year, most of which represented the salaries and employee related expenditures for Judge Barth, Constable Art Hinker and two full time court employees. All cases that would previously have been heard in Sonoita are now adjudicated in Nogales.

Barth feels that the elimination of the JP2 court was a mistake. “A Justice of the Peace is someone from your community that knows the community and can balance the scales of justice... They’ve lost that community involvement,” he said.

He is proud of his contributions to the community as Justice of the Peace, which include the development of a mediation program for domestic violence and his support for the D.A.R.E. program, where he arranged for students to participate in mock trials and teen court. He also spearheaded the program that has brought Arizona Department of Corrections work crews to the area for the past ten years, providing maintenance and clean up at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, the Elgin Club, Patagonia, and the rest stop on HWY 82.

In August 2018, a Facebook page went live promoting Judge Barth as a candidate for Santa Cruz County Sheriff in 2020. When confronted by Judge Thomas Fink, Presiding Judge, Santa Cruz County Superior Court, regarding the Facebook page and the Code provision requiring a judge to resign before becoming a candidate for a nonjudicial elective office, Judge Barth took the Facebook page down...The Commission’s investigation also revealed that an internet search using the term “Keith Barth Sheriff” produced a result entitled, “Keith D. Barth, Considering a Run for Sheriff for the 2020...” for a website –www.sonoitaelgin.com/elections-2020, though the link to the story was no longer active.

Call to Action

South 32 owns a 26 acre parcel on the Harshaw Road for which they are applying to the town for a use permit. The lot is the one where the cattle graze on the north side of Harshaw. It is NOT Charlie Montoya’s lot that is currently being used for parking.

A joint meeting of the Town Council and the Planning Committee is planned to discuss the application on March 13.

The permit application is to use half the property for employee parking and the other half for “storage and holding.” They are planning for parking for 550 employees.

The property owners abutting South 32’s property have been informed of the permit application, as is required by law. PARA is organizing a meeting with those stakeholders to bring them up to date on the mine activities and why they should vigorously oppose this permit application. Since these properties are within the town limits, their voices are going to be key to the opposition.

PARA is also planning a public meeting on Saturday March 9th at 2pm at Cady Hall to present the issue prior to the meeting of the Town Council. Please mark your calendars for both the public meeting and the Town Council meeting.

We do not want the Harshaw Road to become the transit and storage center for the mine. To allow this permit would hugely impact the traffic along the Harshaw Road and in town, and the quality of life for those living around the property. The town has already expressed its displeasure by passing the ordinance to limit the number of large trucks along the road. Let’s continue to voice our opposition to the encroachment of the mine into our community.

Valerie Neale Patagonia
Western Film Exhibit Opens in Sonoita

By Marion Vendituoli

An estimated 200 people crowded into the two rooms of the Bowman Stradling History Center at the Sonoita Fairgrounds on Feb. 2 for the opening of the new Western Films Exhibit curated by Betty Barr and Cheryl Rogos. The exhibit featured photographs and posters from classic movies filmed in Santa Cruz County, including “Gunman’s Walk,” “McLintock,” “Buffalo Soldiers,” David and Bathsheba,” “Duel in the Sun,” “Oklahoma!,” ”Red River,” ”3:10 to Yuma,” “Tombstone,” “Tom Horn,” and Winchester ’73.” Rogos created thirteen story boards depicting scenes from several westerns filmed in the Sonoita area, using old photographs, with explanatory text by Barr.

Keith Whitney, art director for Arizona Highways magazine created one board dedicated to the movie “Oklahoma,” which included the seven-page article from 1955 with text and photographs of the filming of the movie by the late Alan Reed. Reed’s son Brent also made available his late father’s entire photographic collection from the movie set, which Rogos used to create an additional three boards. “I love to see that these [photographs] are appreciated again,” Reed said. “That’s really neat.” One board was lent to the exhibit by the Canoa Ranch in Green Valley. Several photographs used in the exhibit were from the collection of western movie historian Marty Freese, a former stuntman, and volunteer docent at Old Tucson Studios.

Many locals appeared in films shot in the area. Patty Oliver, of Elgin, loaned the museum photos taken during the time that she and her family worked as extras in the films. Oliver and her children reminisced about their experiences on the sets. Oliver’s parents worked in the classic “Red River,” filmed in 1946, and in “David and Bathsheba,” filmed in 1951. Oliver appeared in several films, including “Oklahoma,” “The Frisco Kid” (1979), and Hell’s Angels.” Oliver remembers that, during the shooting for “Oklahoma,” they had to drive to Nogales every day to get made up and dressed in costume and were then driven by bus out into the San Rafael Valley. “Every day, the bus would get stuck,” she said. Extras were paid more if they performed special tasks. She remembered having to learn traditional Native American dances for one film in which she played an Indian maiden.

Her children also worked in local movies. Both Leah and Johnny Oliver appeared in “The Frisco Kid.” “I remember being dressed up like Laura Ingalls in ‘Little House on the Prairie,'” Leah said. Their sister Hope Ann joined their siblings in “Hell’s Angels.” “They put a ferris wheel in the park in Patagonia,” Leah remembers. “We kids had to ride the ferris wheel all day for the filming.” “It was hot,” Hope Ann said, “but it was a lot of fun, it kept us out of school, and we earned a paycheck.” Hope Ann was 7 at the time. Leah was 5.

The Western Films exhibit will be on display in the History Center indefinitely, according to Barr. The Center will be open March 9 and 23, and April 13 and 27, from 1 – 3 p.m., as well as during the Sonoita Horse Races in May. To arrange a viewing at other times, call the Fairgrounds at (520) 455-5553 to make an appointment. The Bowman Stradling History Center, funded by Bob and Mary Bowman and the Ann C. Stradling Foundation, and which is celebrating its tenth year, houses a collection of local history and ranching artifacts in addition to the current exhibit.
SNOWMAGEDDON

By Cassina Farley

I’ve lived in Arizona my whole life, in Patagonia for half of it, and in all my years I have never seen it snow as long as it did that fateful Friday in February. Snowmageddon started out like any other stormy winter day. The weather forecaster predicted snow - no big deal we’ve been through this, many times before. The school erred on the side of caution and cancelled classes which landed Zach at home all day. How bad could it be? One inch, maybe two, three at most. We made it through the stormy weather as it did that February. We made it through the stormy weather.

Hour 1 - Started snowing at 6:30 a.m., right as I was leaving for the gym. No big deal. The road is wet from all the rain. With any luck it will be over when the sun comes up. Hopefully while I’m at the gym Zach will make breakfast. Looks like we can head to Tucson to do some shopping.

Hour 3 - We are not going anywhere. It’s been snowing now for two hours. The road is already covered, and I don’t want to chance driving on the pass in this weather. Oh well. We get dressed and go out in it. I have some sweaters for the dogs. Took some pictures. Power blinks. I’m grateful it stayed on. Fed the chickens then go next door for some supplies to make cinnamon rolls.

Hour 4 - Sh*t has hit the fan. Power’s out. No internet. Oven has an electric ignitor. No cinnamon rolls. It’s starting to get cold in this old adobe house. The dogs are soaked from playing in the snow and Zach is still playing music in his shop, only this time it’s starting to annoy me.

Hour 5 - Facebook and Instagram are barely keeping me going. It’s agreed that this is the real border emergency. I look outside and realize that the flakes are getting bigger and my truck is getting buried. I venture out to measure the snow - four inches. I’m starting to worry our trees will break. Zach has now switched to playing flute.

Hour 6 - Morale is getting low. I’m wrapped in a blanket with a dog and a cat on my lap and a dog on my feet. My phone battery is almost dead and it’s still snowing. We decide to venture out to retrieve a propane heater. Who knows how long this will go on? Zach and I get in a fight over using a dust pan to clean off the windshield. The dustpan is broken. Now we’re not talking.

Hour 7 - Now we’re both just mad and cold. The propane heater gave me a headache, so I turn it off. Zach has taken to playing whatever annoys me and I’m charging my cell phone in the car. I’m moments away from just sitting in the car. I’m considering sleeping in it if the power doesn’t come on.

Hour 8 - And like magic, the power comes on. Immediately Zach runs and turns on the television. It’s Dr. Phil. The heat kicks on and I celebrate by making brownies. I look out the window and see what seems like the final flurries drifting to the ground and then the sun comes out. We venture out and measure – 5.75 inches. We made it.

We survived Snowmageddon. Did you?
Death: An Invitation

By Aisha Sander

Death is the door to illumination. As those of us left behind, struck with sorrow, disbelief, regret, and much more, we touch our own death by losing people we deeply love.

Death is a reminder that we hold so much in our hearts, and when we swim in these deep waters, sometimes all we can do is hold on tight to the edge of a long rope to keep from drowning. Death is the gasping of air, when our bodies forget how to breathe, because the one we have lost was as close to us as our own arms and legs.

Death is the final goodbye in this realm, pushing us to seek beyond what is here and what we can see. In this past week I have lost two people that I love. One friend left so unexpectedly that as I read the texts from across the world, I could barely keep myself from falling. The tears, sharp and jagged, ripped through a long list of regrets. How caught I am in my self-absorbed web of life that I can forget over and over again: how precious today is, how beautiful life is, and that all this is not forever.

Yet we forget. We are humans, and it is one of our most embedded conditions. My Sufi teachers taught that we must practice remembrance of God to be truly alive. Remembrance is not just a pathway to presence, but also a practice to see beyond what is here. To submit to the plans of the One who is in charge of the entire affair. And as my dear friend and teacher depart from this world, I will submit, in face of all inner resistance, and recite Inna ilaih wa inna ilaih raajoon, “We belong to Allah, and to Him is our Return.”

Reciting, chanting, and gathering in a community to pray and bid farewell are universal rituals which help those grieving to move through their hours and days. We keep vigil and we support one another, not by showing our best faces, but by holding space for grief. We know if the grief is buried with our loved one it would become our poison. There is a deep abiding respect for the process of grief, and the rituals that mark our loss.

Often, it is taught that a Muslim will never stay in despair. A Muslim translates to: “the one who submits.” All the practices of the faith are engineered to practice submission. The five daily prayers remind us to submit our plans to the prescribed rhythm of the day. Praying as a discipline, as a physical expression, and as a way to remember each day is sacred. The yearly practice of Ramadan, a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset without food and drink, helps us practice submission by teaching our animal-self patience and compassion for the millions who do not have regular access to food and drink.

This practice is not aiming for perfection. In fact, the practice of submission is accepting our most intense vulnerability, that at any given moment we have one foot in this world, and one foot in the next. How little we can know and how little we can control. These deep veins of uncertainty that flow through all our lives terrify and paralyze most of us. When those we love die, it reminds us that nothing has changed about being alive.

In this age of great forgetfulness and fixation on what we can see and accumulate, death is a burden of fear people carry to their graves. Carrying our impermanence as a burden dulls our perception of life. We cannot submit, because we hold tight to everything we have or want. When things change, we resist. The illusion of control brings us to a new day, unconsciously believing that if we just do the right things that this terrible fear and this terrible discomfort of dying will be resolved.

Yet all traditions and all inward paths approach death with great honor, and sensitivity of its rightful place in life. Death is illumination, it is not destruction. Its strength and its presence, most palpable when we experience immense loss, can be a transformative invitation into ourselves, asking, “are you really alive while you have the chance?”

There are those of us who have been graced with witnessing a death that is not resisted and when dying is unconditionally accepted. I have these treasures: humans who left without fear; humans who left in gratitude and submission. As I had another conversation with another teacher, I experience an intense collision in my heart of sorrow and indebtedness to her and God. My teacher Shaykha Shahbano Aliani who left this world on Feb. 8 2019, wrote in a poem, “when death arrives this is what I want to say: I’ve done what I came here to do, there are no unsung songs left in me.”

Undies on the Border

By Janice Pulliam

We all have a few undies we wouldn’t want the paramedics to see us in. Such are the panties I’m wearing now. Thank God I left a week’s worth of my destination, on my last visit. While packing this time, I left all my decent underwear neatly into a bag of any sort. As I couldn’t possibly mismanage an essential bit of life. But what if I’d had to leave on a moment’s notice with no possibility of managing the niceties at all? What if gangsters had come to my house to murder my brother, and the family unanimously decided to flee our cattle farm in the night? No planning, no packing, no carefully folding my undergarments or indeed any garments into a bag of any sort.

Last June, on the Mexican side of the DeConcini Gate, Port of Entry to Nogales, Arizona, my husband Ron and I with a band of friends in Voices from the Border saw many people seeking legal asylum in the United States, squatting on the pavement. Talk about the huddled masses! Families and groups of friends camped out on the concrete in front of the gate to cross and hopefully be granted asylum. Some sat for days waiting to be processed, with their children around them.

We decided we would bring them toys and diapers and food next time. But for now, what? A mother with two teen boys told us they had nothing but the clothes on their backs. Ron and I said we’d take them to buy clothes. When they discovered what we were doing (no secrets here), five young women asked us to get them bras and panties. They carried only small bags of snacks. How would I buy brassieres and panties for these female twenty-somethings? Searching back decades in my mind for elementary Spanish, I asked, “Que talla,” what size? Perhaps that wasn’t the word in their country’s idiom. I got no answer and found myself cupping both hands around my boobs and shaking them to explain. Everyone laughed, but I got my answer: four chicas and one grande. Ok, I figured we needed to get going before I was purchasing underwear for the fifty or so women standing in line nearby.

We followed a man familiar with Nogales streets, farther away from the border than we’d ever walked, to buy clothes at a local discount store. “Tienda deropa?” we kept asking. We quickly marched so far I began to worry that we were being led away from our friends and the border and possibly to a sketchy end, but all turned out well. There were stacks of colorful bras and panties to choose from, all affordable, and cheap by U.S. standards.

Standing in front of an array, I tried to think like a young Mexican (Gua temalan?) woman. Hoo boy! What would my daughter have chosen in Victoria’s Secret at their age? I decided to get each girl two pairs of panties and a bra. No dickering for prices, but I searched counter after counter for styles I could find five of, with different color prints, so each gal could identify hers in some imaginary laundry facility in their future. Surreal. When I got to the cashier, the mother of two boys, who had gone with us, saw a pretty, dark blue bra I was rejecting, and asked by hand signals if she could have it. Of course! She needed underwear, too. Ron had purchased jeans and shirts for the family of three. He had it easier than me, I thought, because they were there with him to make their selection. We bought the clothes with cash we had on hand -lucky that we had enough, because we had no idea when the day began how we would be spending our time.

At the border, the five young ladies appeared delighted with their new underthings. I used my phone’s SayHi app and called “Buena suerte!” good luck to the folks we had met. It felt good to have helped a few asylum seekers in their search for a better future, even though I had been able to aid such a pitifully small number compared to the hundreds appearing daily. Our Voices from the Border group had to get more organized, and we needed funding, because these people needed more than just good luck.

It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in MS Word, to prteditor@gmail.com. The PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals for language, length, and content.
AZGF Surveys Local Wildlife

By Marion Vendituoli

Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) conducted an aerial survey over the Sonotia, Elgin and Patagonia region in January to determine the game population of the area. The data collected is used to set the number of hunting permits for game animals.

This year’s survey was conducted in Game Management Unit 35B, which is bounded by Grand Ave., in Nogales on the west, the U.S. Mexico border on the south, the Lochiel-Canelo Pass, Elgin Rd. on the east and Hwy. 82 on the north.

The other three game management units in the Patagonia, Sonotia and Elgin areas are 34A, which runs west of Hwy. 83 and 82, and north from Nogales to Sahuarita Rd, encompassing the Santa Rita Mountains; 34B, bounded by I-10, Hwy. 82 and 83 and Hwy. 80; and 35A, bounded by the U.S. Mexican border, the Lochiel-Canelo Pass, Elgin Rd to Hwy. 82, and the San Pedro River.

“This year we flew 36 square miles in 35B in a helicopter, in about 6.6 hours,” Britt Oleson, Game Warden for Unit 35A and 35B, reported. “35B is about 340 square miles in size, so we surveyed about 10% of it.” They observed 329 white tailed deer and 192 javelina. They also observed a mountain lion, coatis, golden eagles and coyotes during the survey.

Most species are surveyed every other year. AZGF surveys “smaller or more conservatively managed populations” such as pronghorn antelope and Goulds turkeys annually, according to Oleson. Oleson gives out only five tags for antelope in her unit, four of which are archery tags. Hunters typically wait 20 - 30 years to get one of these tags. Hunters wait more than 20 years to get a turkey tag, as well. Only six tags are issued per year for turkeys.

Different species are surveyed at different times of the year. “We survey deer in the winter, when we can still tell the differences between adults and fawns born the previous July/August, and we survey pronghorn in late-summer because their fawns are born in May,” she said. White tail deer and javelina are surveyed from a helicopter, because they tend to be in steeper terrain. Pronghorn and mule deer are generally in open flat areas, so are surveyed using planes. “We survey Gould’s turkeys on foot every spring during their breeding season when the toms are gobbling and likely to respond to calls,” she said. “Fish are surveyed twice per year, usually, using non-lethal electrofishing methods.”

Quail, dove, mountain lion and bear population figures are established by collection of data from hunters.

AZGF does not count every animal but estimates the total population after surveying sample areas within the units. Most permit allocations are based on buck:doe and fawn:doe ratios, rather than population estimates. The number of permits offered is also calculated by what percentage of hunters had a successful hunt. “Not every hunter that gets a tag is successful, and success rates will vary from unit to unit based on populations, terrain, access, etc.,” she said. “Rifle hunts tend to have higher success rates than, say, archery hunts, so we are usually able to offer more archery tags than rifle tags.”

Oleson offers 1315 tags for whitetail in unit 35B, divided into archery, rifle, muzzleloader, and youth hunts. Overall success is around 30% for firearms and archery success rate is typically down in the single-digit percentage, according to Oleson. She offers 450 tags for javelina, as well.

Oleson pointed out the importance of hunting and fishing to the local economy. “By the time you add in my paycheck, dow, bear, and lion hunters, and the anglers visiting Parker Canyon Lake and Patagonia Lake, there are several thousand folks who come to this area for these activities each year,” she said. “They buy gas and stuff at the stores, rent hotel rooms and RV parks, and eat at our restaurants.”

Wildlife Corridors Invites Community Engagement

By Bob Brandt

Wildlife Corridors, LLC (WC) updated some seventy attendees on recent developments at the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve in a meeting at Cady Hall in early February. The group sought participation in planning for responsible recreational use of the land adjacent to the protected corridor.

WC Managing Partner Ron Pulliam showed a series of before and after slides pertaining to the Three Canyons Subdivision. 180 residential building lots had originally been approved for this subdivision northeast of Patagonia. An important wildlife corridor, identified a decade ago in a study conducted by Northern Arizona University and funded by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, is situated in the middle of the proposed development. It is used by a variety of wild animals to move between the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains.

Pulliam explained that after the bank took ownership of the property, a small group of investors formed Wildlife Corridors, LLC and bought the subdivision in 2014 with the intent of setting aside most of the 1345 acres as a protected wildlife corridor. The company took out a sizable mortgage on the property and identified 24 of the original lots to sell in order to repay the mortgage. The former Three Canyons subdivision was renamed Wildlife Haven. To date, about half of the available lots have been sold.

While the company is intent on minimizing the human impact on the preserve, it wants to encourage responsible use of the adjacent property for recreation and demonstration of sound ecological restoration practices. He clarified that dogs are allowed on the roads running through the property but not on the loop trail. Likewise, horses are not permitted on the loop trail but may use another trail that crosses the property. A kiosk has been installed near the new entrance to the property that will soon display maps and text that will orient visitors to the preserve, the residential area and the buffer zone separating them.

During his talk, Pulliam showed photos of some of the animals captured by cameras placed adjacent to each of the three dripping stations the company has installed in Smith Canyon. He estimated that roughly 70,000 images have been have captured over the past few years and called for volunteers who would like to get involved with efforts to establish and maintain a data system to document and report on the wildlife activity in the corridor.

After laying out the history of the project and the importance of protecting the corridor, Pulliam called on Lynn Davison, President of Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN), who explained how that nonprofit entity had been created to coordinate the work of four partner entities. The partners are Borderlands Restoration, L3C, a social limited profit company; Cuenca Los Ojos, a nonprofit binational organization specializing in protecting wild areas and restoring degraded ranchland; Deep Dirt Farm Institute, a teaching and demonstration farm that utilizes permaculture practices; and Wildlife Corridors, LLC.

Francesca Claverie, BRN’s Manager of Native Plants, spoke about a project currently underway to plant agaves throughout the corridor as well as on other properties. Lily Christopher then described restoration work being carried out within the corridor by high school youth. Chris Strohm, leader of the trail building crew known as the Dirtbags, described the crew’s work over the last several years, including creation of the two-mile Smith Canyon Loop Trail which traverses both ridges that form Smith Canyon and asked for volunteers to join the group.

Anyone who would like information about Wildlife Corridors or any of the BRN-related organizations is invited to contact Kate Peake, BRN Communications and Development Officer, at kpeake@borderlandsrestoration.org or (520) 216-4148.
When I heard through the grapevine that a lone rough-legged hawk was plying the skies over our Sonota grasslands, I promptly headed with my wife, Claudia, for what I hoped would be my chance to catch up with this slippery species. Initially instead, I wound up speeding past the bird at about 60 m.p.h. while Claudia coolly and correctly identified it as our target hawk. Though I was pleased to have glimpsed the “roughie” it was nothing more than a fleeting image of a perched buteo. Round one begettingly to the hawk! A few about-faces later, however, and we were treated to a wide range of views and behaviors.

This hawk breeds in and near tundra, often in cliffs. Our open grasslands with cliff-strewn mountains obviously checked the right habitat boxes for this predator. So too did the weather of the day, which was more reminiscent of our recent foray into Iceland, than of most winter days in southern Arizona. While wind and rain buffeted us, the hawk casually went about its business - just another day on the quasi-tundra! It perched low on a fence post at first, but apparently soon tired of the occasional road noise. In the blink of an eye it was several miles away, hovering and kiting in the sub-stantial wind. Roughies are relatives of our familiar Red-tailed Hawk, with proportionately longer wings and tail, allowing it to maneuver more like a Northern Harrier than many of its buteo brethren. Their long, white tail has a distinctive dark terminal band, their bill is small, and their wingspan ranges from 4 - 4.5 feet.

This solitary bird landed on the ground several times, using it as a de-facto perch - as it must often be required to do in treeless tundra. Though coming up empty in terms of quarry, I could see how this large hawk might suddenly pounce upon unsuspecting small prey. While their talons are rather diminutive for their size, apparently this is no deterrent to dispatching small mammals, the mainstay of its diet. Small feet may help to minimize heat loss. Up north, lemmings and voles fill the dietary bill nicely, while a wide range of rodents, including ground squirrels, as well as cottontails and other lagomorphs are suitable prey in our area. Carrion is sometimes eaten, particularly on the wintering grounds.

The cyclic populations of lemmings and other arctic prey helps to account for the corresponding oscillating numbers of rough-legged hawks from year to year. This makes it rather difficult to assess numerical trends for the species, but it seems to be holding its own in a world where many species are not.

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**STARSTRUCK**

**By Harold Meckler**

One night in late Autumn 1985 I grabbed my blanket, pillow, and jacket, draped a pair of binoculars over my shoulder and headed for the bed of my pickup parked outside our home in Howell, New Jersey. The daily newspaper had given the position in the sky for Halley’s Comet and I was determined, like an adventurer set out to find true north, to locate it, stare at it and uncover some deep truth about it. After several minutes of bouncing between the “finder” stars I saw a cotton ball. It just hung in the sky, kind of out of place, but right where it was supposed to be.

In the late 1600s, the English astronomer Edmund Halley opined that it had not been several, but rather a single comet that had appeared every 75-76 years, and that it would be back for another run past our planet in 1758. He died in 1742, but his prediction proved true and the comet was given his name.

I looked at the sight for several minutes and then ran inside. I forced my eight-year-old daughter and four-year-old son to bundle up and join me. I got my wife to come with us, telling her we would very likely never see it come back around. I tried to explain to my kids that the next time they’d see the comet – 2061 - they would be older than their grandparents. But, how do you explain to a lifetime? It is such young children?

For me, though, it was absolutely special. In my own yard, somehow positioned through the trees, I’d seen one of the truly magnificent objects in our solar system. Many people would never get that chance.

That’s what’s possible outside our door. So, are, how, through the combined genius of astronomers, engineers, mathematicians and many others, observatories, museums and labs that exponentially expand our knowledge, understanding and appreciation for not just the night sky, but also for the imagination and determination of men and women who turn dreams into reality.

Several of those places are not very far down the road from us. The Richard F. Caris Mirror Lab on the University of Arizona campus is the place where giant mirrors are manufactured for some of the newest and biggest telescopes in the world. At the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory in Amado the tour begins at the visitor center at the foot of Mt. Hopkins and ends, weather permitting, at the summit where the 6.5-meter MMT awaits.

All of this leads to this month’s special sights. Zodiac constellations Leo, Cancer, Gemini and Taurus are visible for much of the night. You’ll have to stay up pretty late for a view of Virgo, Libra and Scorpius far to the south. All fall within the ecliptic, the path of the sun. Northeast of Taurus is Auriga, the Charioteer. It boasts three open clusters of stars. The best of the lot, catalogued as Messier 37, or as 2099 in the New General Catalog (NGC), is the one my wife always asks to see. Located 4600 light years away, it contains numerous bright stars with a magnificent red giant near the center. It’s like a diamond ring with a ruby for extra effect. Auriga’s alpha star, Capella, is the sixth brightest star in the sky and number three in the northern hemisphere. Only Sirius in Canis Major and Vega in Lyra are brighter.

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**Editor’s note.** Harold Meckler shares his love for the stars in this column. He has had an article published in “Sky and Telescope” and is the author of “Monsoon,” a novel about self-discovery. “I’ve always loved to look at the night sky,” he said.
In honor of her 90th birthday this month, we take this opportunity to celebrate Bernice Pomeroy as our March Musician of Note.

Pomeroy's piano and organ recitals have been enjoyed for over three decades in and around Patagonia. She has taught piano to dozens of children and adults, but folks who don't know her well may be surprised to learn that music was actually her second career. Her first was teaching elementary school, a career she loved enough to write a book about it.

Her interest in music took root in her elementary childhood years in Watarusa, Indiana where her fascination with the pump organs and player pianos, enjoyed by members of her extended Mennonite family, continues to infuse her daily life with joy and purpose. Surprisingly, despite that fascination and her early mastery of the keyboard, her post high school career objective was simply “to get married and have babies.”

Fortunately, Pomeroy’s career path went well beyond those goals. Two days after graduating from Arizona State Teacher’s College (now ASU) she married Tal Pomeroy, whom she had met in freshman chemistry class. She had five children, the first of whom she lost in a tragic automobile accident at 16 months of age. That loss would eventually find expression in the level of dedication and compassion with which she approached her work with elementary school students, which she took up after her own children were all in school.

Although music was always part of her life, it wasn’t until she moved to Patagonia in 1981 that it became a second career. Her introduction to Patagonia was through Doris Wenig who was also the “instrument” of musician Dick Klosterman’s introduction to the area. The Wenigs and Pomeroy's had developed a friendship when the two women worked together in Tucson public schools. The Wenigs invited the Pomeroy's to go along on excursions to the Patagonia Mountains, which the Wenigs had grown to love.

The Pomeroy's, too, fell in love with the area, bought the house Pomeroy had grown to love. The Wenigs and Pomeroys had moved to Patagonia in 1981 that it became a way of life, it wasn't until she moved to retirement. A friend whose still lives in, renovated it extensively, the area, bought the house Pomeroy Wenigs had grown to love.

The Patagonia Mountains, which the public schools. The Wenigs invited the Pomeroy's to take up after her own children were all elementary school students, which she approached her work with dedication and compassion with which she approached her work with elementary school students, which she took up after her own children were all in school.

Music is so much a part of Pomeroy’s everyday life that she tells me, “I feel like I’m living a musical score.” If her life is a musical score, it’s a score that compels her to dance as well as play. “Dancing,” she says, “is great for your brain,” and she practices what she preaches. She dances at every opportunity and, in a regular Sunday ritual, after church she goes across the border to Nogales, Sonora to dine and dance to the live music at La Roca. A dancing disciple myself, I ask if I may go with her sometime and she enthusiastically replies, “Of course!”

Still actively playing and dancing as she closes in on that century mark, Pomeroy is not just a musical treasure, but an inspirational figure who uplifts those who encounter her.

Happy birthday, Bernice!! And save me a dance at that hundredth birthday bash.

Musicians of Note recognizes individuals and groups who have created the rich and vibrant musical tapestry of Eastern Santa Cruz County.
**Glimpses Into Our Past**

By Alison Bunting

Throughout 1918 the Santa Cruz Patagonian featured a column about mining on the front page of each issue. In the February issue of the PRT, I wrote about the 3R Mine and its principal owner, R.R. Richardson. His partner when the mine was sold in 1912 was Arthur Crepin who became a Patagonia resident in 1900. The full text of most of the articles quoted below can be found in the Library of Congress parts.

Arthur was in 1896 he married Ada Corbett, who died a year later. Arthur’s first known involvement with R.R. Richardson was in 1897 when he became manager of the Rollin Trading Company’s branch store in Harshaw. [The Oasis, 2/13/1897]. Arthur was involved in a variety of mining ventures prior to this time in the Oracle area and the desert near San Diego, CA. He was in fact reported dead in 1896 before returning with ore samples from the Salton Sea area of California. [The Herald, 4/12/1896]. In 1899 he married Mamie Watts, of Tucson, and the newlyweds moved to Patagonia. Mamie was postmistress of Patagonia from 1900 to 1907. “Patagonia can boast of one of the neatest and best equipped post offices with Mrs. Arthur Crepin as postmistress.” [Arizona Republican, 8/3/1900]. In addition to the mining partnership, Arthur managed Richardson’s Patagonia Commercial Company for a time. The Crepin home was one of the most hospitable in Patagonia. Newspapers regularly announced the comings and goings of visitors from Tucson and other parts.

Mamie and Arthur had three daughters, Jean, Doris and Mingon. In 1911 Jean and Mignon were diagnosed with infantile paralysis, but fortunately recovered under the care of their uncle, Henry E. Crepin, a respected Tucson physician. [The Border Vidette, 6/3/1911]. The Crepins eventually owned a home in Tucson so that the girls could attend school—all three eventually attended, and Jean and Doris graduated from the University of Arizona. Arthur worked and partnered with Richardson until about 1920 when he operated a trading post at Indian Oasis [Sells]. Many prominent Tucsonans visited the post for hunting and camping trips and barbecues. By 1930 Arthur, Mamie, and Jean were living in Los Angeles where Arthur was an apartment manager. Doris moved to California in 1927 when she married artist Elwin Suman. Mingon married Robert Gilbert in 1925 and was living on a farm in Porterville, CA in 1930. Arthur died in 1947 in Los Angeles, and Mamie died in 1952.

**TECHNOLOChicas**

Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office

South 32, a global metals and mining company that spans the globe including the Hermosa Project in Patagonia, in collaboration with the Televisa Foundation is carrying out the She Will Connect: TECHNOLOchicas panel of females in technology fields. This is a chance for Santa Cruz County students to ask questions and share ideas with role models who work for NASA, Microsoft, Qualcomm, Pinterest, and many other corporations. This panel will share their stories of success about how being well-rounded students is so important. Being bilingual, self-confident, hard-working, and creative will also be discussed as positive attributes when it comes to pursuing a career in technology. The event will be highlighted by workshops dedicated to building teamwork, critical thinking skills, and communication all centered around topics related to engineering, coding, and other types of technology.

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This 1907 government survey map records the location of the 160 acres Arthur Crepin homesteaded in Section 6 of Township 22S, Range 16E. It was located on the west side of 1st Ave. between Sonolta and Pennsylvania Avenues.

Correction: Two sources consulted when researching Frank Powers [see Glimpses Into Our Past in 12/2018 PRT] described Powers as “illiterate.” The Arizona Historical Society (AHS) Library has a set of four diaries kept by Powers between 1883 and 1891 concerning life in Idaho, 1883-1888, a trip south from Idaho to Chihuahua, Mexico in 1888, and prospecting in Harshaw, including mentions of the Santa Cruz River and Mowry Mines, 1889-1891. After consulting these diaries it is clear that he was not illiterate. Though the diaries were given to AHS in 1932 by Power’s daughter, they were not processed until 1998, several years after the sources consulted were published.
The February 2019 edition of the PRT highlighted the issue of the Patagonia pool’s closure. A committee is currently being formed to consider the methods and means to bring the swimming pool back to operational standards. This committee will be making all efforts to restore the pool back into full public use not only to serve our local communities, but also to provide area youth with employment opportunities. The committee will draw on community talent from Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita as well as local business and municipal leadership.

Stay tuned for details and updates in the April issue of the Patagonia Regional Times.

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SEFD Bd Welcomes New Member
Annette Dorney was sworn in to the Sonoita Elgin Fire District Board in January, replacing Suzanne Jenkins, who had resigned. (From left) Seated: Reba Webber, Chris Johnson, Annette Dorney. Standing: Kurt Bahti, Sue Archibald.
Check It Out At The Library

The winning Trivia Night team, “JOBAKL’s Debaucle” (from left) Allegra Mount, Lars Marshall, Orrie Wyatt, Kayla Simpson, Jacob Masters, and Ben Shonkwiler.

By Laura Wenzel

Around 70 community members braved the icy winter conditions on February 23 for the annual Friends of Patagonia Library Trivia Night fundraiser. With hosts Judy Clegg and Lynn Davison, the night was full of laughter and fun. The theme of the game was “All About US,” the “US” referring to United States related scientific, historical, and pop culture facts. At this time, it’s estimated that over $2000 were raised for the Friends of the Library group.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make the event so entertaining, and thank you to all of the people who came out to support the library.

If you’re looking for another quick and easy way to donate to the library, look no further than smile.amazon.com. Shop as you normally would on the site and, at no cost to you, AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the organization of your choice. (In this case, Friends of the Patagonia Library, Inc.) Since the foundation makes the donation directly to the organization, the consumer pays nothing extra. However, this means that you won’t receive a tax deduction.

For more information about AmazonSmile, go to the library’s website at www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org and click on AmazonSmile in the upper-right-hand corner of the home page.

Rotary Hosts Career Fair at Patagonia School

The Mountain Empire Rotary Club is looking for area businesses, entrepreneurs and persons representing professions interested in participating in a Career Fair at Patagonia Union High School (PUHS) for local middle and high school students on March 8, 2019 from 8:00 a.m to noon.

The event will take place in the PUHS gymnasium and consist of individual booths for the participating organizations and professionals and a series of short presentations made to the students. Michael Young, Patagonia Public Schools Behavior Intervention Specialist is coordinating the event with the Mountain Empire Rotary and school administration. Young states, “We want the students to visit the booths where they can have a conversation and gain information on the various career opportunities. We believe that there are education and employment options for students locally and we want to make sure the students are aware of them. At the same time, we want the students to know what job skills and training are going to be expected of them.”

Businesses, organizations, entrepreneurs and persons representing professions who are interested in participating should contact Randy Heiss at rheiss@seago.org or call at (520) 432-2622 X 202.

Take A Hike!

The Railroad Trail

By Lily Christopher

I stumbled upon the Railroad Trail during a casual afternoon jog with a friend. The trail is a wonderful 2.6 mile loop that you can connect to right from town. After 1/4 mile, you come to a fork in the road. If you keep right, the trail begins as a straightaway that runs parallel to Highway 82. However, you hardly realize that you’re running alongside the highway due to the towering flats of giant sacaton and pristine mesquite bosques guiding your way through the dusty trail.

It then loops back around onto follow Native Seeds/SEARCH land where you can spot sunbathing sheep and grazing cattle. As you continue through the farm, you notice the Patagonia Mountains on one side and the Santa Rita Mountains on the other. Towards the end of your time on the trail, you’ll have the protective company of the Sonoita Creek riparian corridor. Sonoita Creek guides you to the end of the loop, where you pick up a familiar part of the trail to where it all began.

As you run, walk, or stroll on this trail, you’ll pass through many gates so make sure you slow down enough to shut the gates properly. The signage is sparse. Dogs and mountain biking are allowed.

Directions: From the Visitor’s Center, head north on 3rd Ave and east on Highway 82. Go past the post office and over the bridge. The trailhead is on the right hand side directly past the bridge. Park along Highway 82.

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.
Assessor Talks Taxes At Town Meeting

By Kat Crockett

Over 80 residents attended a town hall sponsored by the Sonora Elgin Community Group on Feb. 20 for a presentation by Felipe Fuentes, Jr., the Santa Cruz County Assessor. David Green, who chairs the group and introduced Fuentes stated that, “clearly the property tax issue was the highest priority from public input at recent town hall meetings”.

Becky and Gary Cooper who are “concerned about rising taxes and the disconnect between what people in the area want and what they get from the county,” hosted the Property Tax Seminar. They gathered 43 questions from area residents in advance. The county provided written responses, handed out and reviewed in the meeting. Dozens of additional questions were asked and answered at the end of the presentation.

Fuentes explained that the assessor’s office mission is to identify and appraise at current market value all property subject to taxes and to process exemptions. His office does not set tax rates nor collect taxes. Rates are set in July by the Board of Supervisors based on county budget estimates and input from Fire, School and Special Tax Districts. As an example, last year the county paid 27.5% of total taxes to the County, 19.5% to the Flood District, and 47.5% to the School Districts. These figures vary depending on specific taxing districts and property values and can be calculated from property tax notices.

On March 1, Notice of Value cards will be mailed out from the Assessor’s office, according to Fuentes. He explained that FCV means Full Cash Value, which is determined by comparables and input from Fire, School and Special Tax Districts. These figures vary depending on specific taxing districts and property values and can be calculated from property tax notices.

At the end of the session, Fuentes commented, “Participation was great. Most complaints are because of the tax. If you feel your property is overvalued, it doesn’t cost you anything to appeal. We will check the assessments and let you know exactly how we arrived at them.” New to the community, Phillip Burdine and his wife, commented, “Most of my questions were answered and I think it went very well. The community has good rapport with the assessor and some people have a little different idea of what the assessor does or doesn’t do.”

The Sonora Elgin Community Group will host the second seminar “How to Appeal Your Property Tax” on March 6 at the Fairgrounds at 6:00 p.m. The group is also reaching out to the School and Fire Districts for additional town halls in the near future.

Wild Crop Plants in Southern AZ

By Francesca Claverie

Have you ever thought about where your food comes from? When most people think of food and the plants that produce it, agriculture and row cropping comes to mind. Rows of uniform plants that fruit and are harvested all at the same time. Even if you grow all your own food, and have mulched garden beds full of different types of crops, each variety has been designed to germinate and produce fruit right in time. This didn’t happen from humans finding these perfectly uniform food crops in a forest somewhere. It happened through a long process of human societies finding plants they decided to work with and then selecting seeds from their favorite plants year after year. If a seed was too difficult to clean or store, was too small or bitter, it wouldn’t get planted, and those genetics were selected away from the new crop. This process is what made a native wild plant go from a genetically diverse wild adapted native plant, to a domesticated native plant.

The southwest United States and northwest Mexico has some of the oldest, most diverse and nutritious agriculture in the world. Chile peppers, corn, beans, amaranth, sunflowers, and more make up a diverse pallet of nutritious food.

Their wild crop relatives have adapted to the ecology of a system and their species is set on survival. Wild plants can’t afford to flower or seed all at the same time, and have a weird season frost wipe out their entire species. With cultivated crop varieties, humans have been making up for those stressors. Few farmers plant their entire seed store at one time, in case of frost or pest and you need a tidy “do-over.” Wild plants protect for this by having such amazing genetic diversity that they always have an option for survival, by carrying many useful traits keeping the genetic diversity of their species and population alive.

According to Colin Khoury of the USDA, “almost 4,600 crop wild relative and other wild useful plant taxa (species, subspecies and varieties) have been inventoried in the United States, and of those listed, over 1,000 (22%) occur in Arizona.” Holy moly! This article can’t get even close to doing that list justice, but we will reveal a short list: chilepines, tepary beans, canyon grape, and agave.

Chilepines (Capsicum annuum var. glabriusculum) are the wild crop relative with the most charisma in our region. This plant is spicy, cute, and fairly pricey to purchase, since growing them in an agricultural setting is trickier than harvesting them wild in the mountains of Sonora. The sky island region of Arizona is the most northern range of these amazing plants. They are the wild crop relative and predecessor of chile peppers.

Tepary beans (Phaseolus acutifolius) are found in our mountains and is a wild relative of cultivated beans. It’s the most drought tolerant bean, and has been used in farming for thousands of years in this region.

Canyon grape (Vitis arizonica) is found all over our region, from roadways to taking over trees in riparian areas. These wild grapes are important for adapting wine grape varieties to our region through rootstock. Last but not least we have agave.

Next month’s article will be about wild agaves and how hundreds of acres of cultivated agaves were grown as early as the Hohokam era. Agave palmeri and Agave angustifolia are wild relatives of some of the domesticated varieties discovered by Wendy Hodgson and Andrew Salywon of the Desert Botanical Gardens.

In the words of Gary Nabhan and Colin Khoury from their pamphlet “Conservation and Use of Crop Wild Relatives in Arizona” published last month: “To produce good, affordable food while reducing the environmental impacts of production, more diversity will be needed - both in the variety of plants cultivated or foraged for the market, and in the genetic variation within domesticated crops. Crop wild relatives offer the world both of these gifts.”

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info@courts.arizona.gov
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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.

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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.

On or before March 1, all residents of Santa Cruz County will receive the Notice of Valuation post card for their property. This is the value that will be used to assess property taxes for your bill that will be mailed in October.

If property owners feel the Assessed Value is too high when compared to other like properties in their local area, there is a “Process to Appeal” the valuation with the County Assessor’s office in Nogales.

The second seminar, in the series of four, will focus on educating local residents about this appeal process. “How to Appeal Your Property Tax Valuation” will take place on March 6 at 6 p.m. in Pioneer Hall at the Sonoita Fairgrounds.

Unless certain rules are followed within a 60-day period, property owners will lose the right to appeal their valuation. The entire process to file an appeal will be covered in detail. Be aware that using proper wording in your appeal is necessary.

Special Tax Districts are a large expenditure on property tax bills. The final two meetings will cover these two entities.

Seminar III - “Learn about Your School Budgets” May 15 at 6 p.m., Sonoita Fairgrounds
Seminar IV - “Know Your Fire Department Tax Process” May 23 at 6 p.m., Sonoita Fairgrounds

Photo by Aisha Sander

Participants discuss the Middle East at a recent session of the Great Decisions series at the Patagonia Library.

By Aisha Sander

Deborah Locke and Gary Vines, part-time residents of Patagonia who are currently the caretakers of the Sonoita Creek Preserve, have brought the Great Decisions program to Patagonia. This year the topics include: Refugees and Global Migration; The Middle East: Regional Disorder; Nuclear negotiations: Back to the Future?; The Rise of Populism in Europe; Decoding U.S.-China Trade; Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics; The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested; State of the State Department and Diplomacy.

The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) has been producing a series for PBS called “Great Decisions in Foreign Policy” since 1970. It is the longest running program focused entirely on international affairs topics.

According to the FPA, “Great Decisions” is the largest public foreign policy and issue discussion group in the United States. The FPA, founded in 1918, is an organization whose mission is to “serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.” (FPA Website)

The meetings are every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Patagonia Public Library. Close to 30 participants are attending the program and there are weekly required readings from the Great Decisions briefing book, which can be found on reserve at the Patagonia Public Library.

Photo by Aisha Sander

Participants discuss the Middle East at a recent session of the Great Decisions series at the Patagonia Library.

By Aisha Sander

Participants discuss the Middle East at a recent session of the Great Decisions series at the Patagonia Library.
The Santa Cruz Foundation
For The Performing Arts
Benderly-Kendall Opera House, 344 Naugle Ave.,
Patagonia, AZ

2019 Schedule

March 3: 3 p.m. U of A Musicians on Tour - String
Quartet Lyrique $15 Prepay / $20 At the Door

March 17: 3 p.m. Riviera Duo: Marie Tomizuka,
Piano & Emil Miland, Cello
$25 Prepay / $30 At the Door

March 31: 3 p.m. Django Shredders - Gypsy Jazz
Guitar Duo $20 Prepay / $25 At the Door

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.scfpapresents.org
for more information

March 6: 6 p.m. Documentary: “Landfill Harmonic”
Sponsored by Adrienne Halpert and Global
Arts Gallery / Lillian’s Closet Free

March 10: 2 p.m. The Royal Opera House pres-
ents “The Queen of Spades” Sponsored by Jude
Weierman and David Clark Free

March 14: 6 p.m. LIVE THEATER: The
Patagonia Montessori School performs “The
Mikado” Sponsored by John Kendall Free

March 15: 6 p.m. The Mexican Consulate
presents a film “Eréndira Ikikunari.” This film is based
on the story of a young girl, Eréndira, who became an
icon of bravery during the destruction of her world by the
Spanish conquistadors. Eréndira refused to allow her
nation to be destroyed and stood up against the social
conventions that prohibited women from participating in
warfare. Free

March 23: 4 p.m. Exhibitions on Screen Series:
“Young Picasso” Sponsored by Jude
Weirman and David Clark

March 29: 6 p.m. Film: “Undeterred” with com-
ments from local group, Voices From the Border
undeterredfilm.org Free

March 30: 4 p.m. Live Theater IMPROV

April 13: 2 p.m. Royal Ballet presents
“Don Quixote” Sponsored by Gama Leyva and
Jan Herron Free

*Dates and Times Subject to Change*

PCAA wishes to thank all our generous sponsors of the
2018-2019 season at the Patagonia Movie House. If you would be
interested in sponsoring upcoming events, please contact
Cassina Farley at 520-394-9369.
Visit www.patagoniacreativearts.org or 394-9369
for more information.

Community Resistance on the US/Mexico Border

A FILM: Undeterred

U.S. border policy uses death as a
deterrent to migration. Those who live
on the border, and those who cross it,
remain undeterred.

Screening at the Tin Shed Theater, Patagonia
Friday March 29, 2019 6:00 PM — Free

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Haircuts | Sets | Perms | Blow-outs
Empire Gardening
Wildflowers and Pollinator Plants

By Alyssa Cazares

People associate the Sonoran Desert with very little life and think that it is too hot to have diverse biology. It is quite the contrary. We are home to one of the most amazing thriving deserts on the planet with thousands of native plants. Soon the hillsides will be filled with beautiful bright orange hues and buzzing with bees. Last spring, we drove through the Tohono O’Odham Reservation. It was amazing. Penstemons, poppy, lupines and different colors of globemallow were in full swing and teeming with life. I had never fully appreciated wildflowers and pollinator plants the way I did that day when I witnessed the beautiful relationship the desert had created.

It is these moments that inspire us, they connect us to the land. Whole ecosystems depend on native plants and flowers. They are an important and vital food source to many different types of wildlife.

Part of the glory of being a gardener is that our plants are shared with wildlife. Ideally what we want to do is that our plants are shared with different types of wildlife.

Many different pollinators visit them to receive nectar at night, especially white flowers with a very strong, sweet scent. Examples: honeysuckle, datura, flowering tobacco, yucca.

Bees: flowers that bloom and provide nectar at night, especially white flowers with a very strong, sweet scent. Examples: zinnia, calendula, Mexican sunflower, hollyhock.

Moths: flowers that bloom and provide nectar at night, especially white flowers with a very strong, sweet scent. Examples: zinnia, calendula, Mexican sunflower, hollyhock.

Butterflies: orange, yellow, pink or blue flowers that have either landing pads or are tubular in shape. Examples: zinnia, calendula, Mexican sunflower, hollyhock.

Flies: green flowers with foul smells. Examples: Dutchman’s pipe, stapelia.

Hummingbirds: red or orange tubular flowers. Examples: ocotillo, salvia, red yucca, aloe.

Bats: night-blooming flowers. Examples: saguaro, agave.

Having a water source in pollinator gardens is very important. Some bees are ground nesters and prefer a muddy home. Swales can help conserve water especially in drought. They are easy to make and will bring so much life to your garden and a nectar bat garden.

Pima County Master Gardeners, at a demonstration on native landscapes, recommended planting these native pollinator plants:

- Bees are attracted to fragrant ultra-violet, blue, purple or yellow flowers with petals that create a landing pad. Examples: lupine, palo verde, acacia, cassis, rosemary.

- Butterflies: orange, yellow, pink or blue flowers that have either landing pads or are tubular in shape. Examples: zinnia, calendula, Mexican sunflower, hollyhock.

- Moths: flowers that bloom and provide nectar at night, especially white flowers with a very strong, sweet scent. Examples: zinnia, calendula, Mexican sunflower, hollyhock.

- Pollinator Plants

Using neem oil to protect plants from insects and bees is far safer for you, your soil and our watershed than chemicals. For 1 liter of neem oil spray you will need just three ingredients: 1 tsp neem oil, 1/3 tsp soap and 1 quart of warm water, it is really important to not use chemicals in a pollinator garden. “Remember to walk gently in the spring for our mother earth is pregnant” - Kiowa.

New Nature Walk Series Scheduled For Patagonia

By Grace Fullmer

Have you ever wondered what the name of the towering tree that lies along your favorite walking path is, or why the surrounding landscape appears to be a series of ripples, or what animals wander the oak woodlands at night?

Well, you are not alone, and to help explore these questions, Borderlands Restoration Network, Friends of Sonotia Creek and the Santa Cruz County Native Plant Society are presenting a free interpretive Nature Walk Series, held on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9a.m.-11a.m. (time subject to change).

Each month, we will venture to a near-by location where our local field experts will guide us through a specific topic, such as botany, birding, geology, and more!

You will learn about various species that call Patagonia’s surrounding landscape home, what they need to continue thriving and how you can help protect them.

The Nature Walk Series is geared toward those interested in learning more about these themes but are not already experts. Mini take-home field guides will be provided to help identify what we see. We invite any and all ages to join these walks and look forward to having you join us to learn more about the incredible diversity found in your backyard!

The first walk of the series will be on March 16 at Corral Canyon in the Patagonia Mountains. Led by botanist Allegra Mount, we will focus on native plants (and some birds too) that are commonly found in an oak woodland. We will meet up at Cadly Hall at 12:45, carpool to the canyon at 1:00, and will return around 3:00. Please wear proper walking shoes, a hat, water and a snack.

Each month the walk, theme, meeting location and time will be posted on the Facebook page of Borderlands Restoration Network and Friends of Sonota Creek, in the PRT and on flyers posted around town. For more information, please contact Grace Fullmer at gfullmer@borderlandsrestoration.org

Local Schools to Get Expanded Internet Access

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office Consortium is pleased to announce it has received $424,850 through the Schools and Libraries Program (E-Rate) funding. This funding will expand internet access to schools and libraries within Santa Cruz County, giving students and teachers the infrastructure needed to succeed in today’s changing technology driven world. The fiber optic lines installed in this project will increase broadband services for participating locations, including Patagonia School Districts #20 and #6 and Sonota Elementary School District #25.

The consortium chose the proposal from Century Link to be the internet provider and constructor for the project.

“This is a great thing, not only for our schools and libraries, but for our entire county. I want to thank everyone who participated and especially NUSD #1 for coming on board with this project. With everyone working together and creating a countywide project, we were able to better the educational experience of our children,” said Alfredo Velasquez, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent.

According to the FCC website, high-speed internet access, or broadband, is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement. But there are too many parts of this country where broadband is unavailable. In urban areas, 97% of Americans have access to high-speed fixed service. In rural areas, that number falls to 65%.

E-rate is a program of the FCC that provides schools and libraries discounts of up to 90% for technology related expenses. These expenses include internet access, wide area networks and the equipment that disseminates the internet throughout school and library buildings and districts.

E-rate is providing the needed funds to allow rural students and patrons the same opportunity that their urban cousins enjoy.

Carolyn Shafer
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By Appointment
The Elgin School annual Science and Engineering Fair was held Feb 7-8 with over 40 projects completed by students in kindergarten through 8th grade. From testing whether the angle of a bow drill matters when trying to create an ember to start a fire to gathering evidence on how turkey feathers repel water, the students explored a wide variety of topics.

Engineering ideas included an exoskeleton arm brace to strengthen a person’s ability to lift heavy objects, and a phone sleeve for helping people with Parkinson’s disease be able to hold their cell phone steady.

The 2018-19 Science Fair Winners

**5th Grade 1st:** What Lives In Your Mouth? by Ben Baez

**6th Grade 1st:** Plant Bullying by Mia Oswald and Xanadu DeMeritt

**7th Grade 1st:** Let’s Get Crackin’ by Cason Scouten

**8th Grade 1st (tie):** Operation Global Warming by Nick Dekhytar

The Point of Pointe by Allisyn Lloyd

The Patagonia varsity basketball team ended their season on Feb 15 with a 53 – 45 loss at the 1A Conference Tournament in Prescott. The Lobos, who were ranked 9th in their division lost to No. 8 ranked Mogollon. The Lobos finished the season with a 16–10 record, finishing 9th in their conference.

Coach Kenny Hayes feels that this was the most successful team he has coached. “We beat teams that we’ve never beaten before. We had more wins than ever before since I’ve been here,” he said. “The kids have worked very hard. I’ve never had a team work so hard.” I’ve had individuals work hard, but never a whole team.”

Seniors Victor Barajas and Isaiah Ruiz were co-captains of the team. Barajas finished in the top five in the country in rebounds. He was ranked #1 in rebounds for the state, was #25 in the state for scoring and #5 in division 1A for scoring. He was close to the top ten in the state overall, according to Hayes.

Hayes praised the other members of the team, as well. “Isaiah is the best defensive player in the conference,” Hayes said. “John Hubbell really improved his scoring. He can play any position. Julian Vasquez worked really hard in the post. Lalo Aguilar, he’s very good at driving to the basket. Santini Aguilar played great defense. Damien Castro is a talented player and Ralphie Quiroz worked very hard and improved a whole lot since he was a freshman.”

Hayes coached a squad of 11 players, who played both JV and varsity. “Everybody played JV except for Victor Barajas and John Hubbell,” he said. “Most kids played on both teams. The only way for kids to get better is playing time, game experience,” he said. There was one freshman and two sophomores in the top six players.

**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.
Christian Woodard

My name is Christian Woodard and I am a senior at Patagonia Union High School. Patagonia has been my home for the past 18 years of my life. I have attended Patagonia Union High School since I was three years old and have been a part of the school family ever since. Patagonia Union High School has been a wonderful place for me to learn and grow. As I move forward in life, I plan to attend the University of Arizona to study fine arts electives.

Drama has been my greatest passion in high school. This year I have taken on the difficult task of heading the PUHS Drama Club. My favorite core subject is science. One of my favorite teachers is Rebecca Brune, my freshman and sophomore drama teacher. She was like a mother hen to all of her students and sincerely gave us advice and help when we asked for it. To me she was more than just a teacher. Her class was the one I looked forward to every day.

I have been in three different high schools in the past four years. Each new school brought its own new surprises. I discovered how many different kinds of teachers there are. They all have their own way of teaching and handling students. The hardest lesson that I had to learn was that no matter what bad things happen to you, you will make it out. You’ll be a little different from when you went in, but I believe most of these changes are for the better.

There are two events that have hit me hard. Second quarter of my sophomore year my great-grandfather, whom I adored, passed away. I will never forget going to the funeral and seeing all my friends and family there. It was hard to understand the death of someone who meant so much to me.

The biggest influence in my life has been two amazing women: my mother, and my aunt. My mother taught me, through her less than desirable decisions, what not to do to be successful in life. My aunt has given me every tool and opportunity I could possibly need to succeed in whatever my future may bring. Without her, I have no idea where I would be.

One of my best qualities is that I have the tenacity and strong will to achieve whatever task needs to be done. My friends would describe me as devotedly kind, almost to a fault, and loyal. I am always there for them, even if it is to tell them the hard things they may not want to hear.

However, both these events ultimately pushed me to return to Patagonia, which has been one of the best choices I have made. The best thing that has happened to me has, by far, been getting the chance to go see “Hamilton” live.

My plans after high school are to go to college and start my path to being a computer software engineer. Many college fine arts electives are on this path as well.

This month the PRT continues a series of autobiographical profiles of the PUHS senior class of 2019.

Aspen Miller

Jesus Lopez Barreda

During high school I was the boys basketball manager and I was named Rotary Student of the Month for English during my senior year.

I have noticed that the subject I am the best in is English. I enjoy learning new words and reading about different people. It has been a struggle for me since I came to Patagonia my sophomore year speaking little to no English. I have worked really hard to improve my talking and writing skills in English. I greatly appreciate my English teacher, Mrs. Hayes. She has been helping me all along. She is also my favorite teacher because she is kind and has helped me from the beginning.

During my free time, I enjoy spending time with the animals, taking care of them and feeding them. I also like to spend time helping others.

My plans after high school are to join one of the branches of the military and start my college law credits. While I am in the military, I want to start saving money and save for a house. I also want to bring my little brother with me so he can start high school and learn English.

The biggest surprise I got about high school is the people and the many opportunities to get close to every single teacher. This is a small town and the community helps a lot. It seems to me that they work together for a better future for their little ones. The biggest influence on my life has been my aunt and my friend Jesus Vasquez.

The biggest challenge I’ve found during high school was the language. I came from Mexico with only the basics of English. The first months of my sophomore year, I had problems having conversations with other people and it was a challenge to understand my assignments. But as time passed, my English improved.

My friends would describe me as is a good and kind friend who will be there for you whenever you need him and that I can be very funny sometimes.

Cosette Whitco

I have experienced so many amazing things during my years in high school, and I am excited for what the world has to offer in the future. I am so honored to have grown up in Patagonia. During my time at Patagonia Union High School, I have played basketball, volleyball and chess. I also took drama and participated in FFA and Student Council. After high school, I plan to attend the University of Arizona to study law. I want to study law to help better people’s lives and to contribute to a positive change in the world.

My favorite memory was being able to go on exchange for a year in Denmark. Studying abroad was a year full of adventure and discovery. It completely reshaped my philosophies about education and will forever hold a huge place in my heart. Although it was an amazing experience, my greatest struggle was transitioning back into my senior year after spending junior year in what felt like a fairytale. It was hard to return to old friendships when, in just a year, a person can change so much.

I have received wisdom from all my teachers. Mr. Melanson, my math teacher, has been one of my favorites because of the memories shared, the jokes told, and the knowledge provided. He is truly here because he wants to help people learn. My favorite subject is English, and that is because of Mrs. Hayes. The way she teaches English makes you want to show up every day and learn as much as possible. Mrs. Hayes has shared so much of her experience and wisdom and has been a great role model for me.

One of the hardest lessons that I learned has been that as people get older, change becomes inevitable and we must accept that change in one another to better ourselves. As I move forward in life, I plan to travel more, experience new cultures, and impact the world in a positive way.
**EVENTS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer Work Day at Empire Ranch. All Welcome</td>
<td>Empire Ranch</td>
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<td>Mar 4, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Tergar Meditation. <a href="mailto:bdruchniak@yahoo.com">bdruchniak@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Mar 6, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Fair Planning Meeting Call Jen (520) 455-5553</td>
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<td>Mar 6, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>How to Appeal your Property Tax Seminar. Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 8, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>AZ Humanities &quot;Climate and Moral Responsibility in Arizona&quot;. Patagonia Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 9, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>PARA public meeting. Cady Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 9, 8-10 a.m.</td>
<td>Fire Dept Breakfast in Sonoita</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Music &amp; Coloring. Patagonia Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 12-14,</td>
<td>Banamichi Bus Tour with the Patagonia Museum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 15, 4-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Are We Here Yet? Book Reading Anesa Miller. Patagonia Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 16, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Sonoita Creek Watershed Stewards in Action. 15th Annual Meeting of Friends of Sonoita Creek. Cady Hall. Refreshments.</td>
<td>Cady Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17, 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Beginning Bird Walk by Friends of Sonoita Creek. Senior Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 23, 10 to 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Milestone Celebration at Empire Ranch House.</td>
<td>Empire Ranch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 23, 2-3 p.m.</td>
<td>The Geezer's Ride. Patagonia Public Library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 23, 10 a.m.-</td>
<td>Artisan &amp; Craft Fair in Elgin, 471 Elgin Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.</td>
<td>Artist Reception featuring Eileen Wickstead. Creative Spirit Artists Gallery, Patagonia. <a href="mailto:info@CreativeSpiritAZ.com">info@CreativeSpiritAZ.com</a></td>
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**SPECIAL INTERESTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Film “Undeterred” about US/Mexico Border. Tin Shed Theatre. Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Patagonia Library Open House, celebrating Library Journal’s Best Small Library in America 2018 Honorable Mention Award to Patagonia Library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPROV by Pick Up Schticks, in the Tin Shed Theater. Free or $5 suggested donation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“For Tin Shed Theater and Benderly-Kendall Opera House schedules, see page 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Rafael Community 4-H Club - 2nd Mon, Patagonia Methodist Church, Thuber Hall, 5:30 p.m. Info: Tami, 455-5561.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz Singers - rehearsals Thurs at 5 p.m., Beverly-Kendall Opera House, 348 Naugle Ave., Patagonia. New members welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bingo - 1st &amp; 3rd Mon, St. Theresa Parish Hall in Patagonia, 6 p.m. Info: 455-5681.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crossroads Quilters - 2nd &amp; 4th Mon, Sonoita Fire Dept., 9 a.m. Info: (520)-732-0453.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Tennis - Saturdays, PUHS at 9 a.m. Info: 394-2973.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Meditation - Fridays 5-6 p.m. at the Seniors Center. Call Aisha (520) 400-9253.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tai Chi - Tues &amp; Thurs 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Senior’s Center. Free. All welcome.</td>
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**MEETINGS**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous - Tue. &amp; Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia Community-Church. (520) 404-3490.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.) - Board meeting 3rd Mon. at 5:30 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Town Council - 2nd &amp; 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in Town Council Hall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary Club - 2nd &amp; 4th Thurs., 5:30 p.m. at the Steak Out. Info: Sue (520) 990-4648.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors - 2nd Mon, 3 p.m. at the Senior Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The So Az Republican Club meeting - 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month, Sonoita Fire House Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW meeting of Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) 7 p.m. on Mondays Patagonia Community Church. Contact Robin (<a href="mailto:crobin60@gmail.com">crobin60@gmail.com</a> or 315-516-5998)</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AZ Native Plant Society, 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. March meeting at Tia ‘Nita’s Cantina in Sonoita. Zach Farley presenter.</td>
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**COMPUTER SERVICES**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon - Fri, noon - 1 p.m. At the Patagonia Senior Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service Medical transportation, Mon - Fri for seniors &amp; disabled by appointment only. Info: 394-2494.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Story Time with Ms. Laura - For caregivers and children aged 5 &amp; under. 1st &amp; 3rd Mon, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Patagonia Library. Info: 394-2010.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop - Fri &amp; Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop - Thurs. - Sat, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoita/Patagonia Email Newsletter - usually twice a week. Free. Sign up at <a href="mailto:clarebonelli@sonoitapatagonialocals.com">clarebonelli@sonoitapatagonialocals.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Farmers Market Thursday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nogales Mercado Farmers’ Market - Fri 2-5 p.m. 163 N Morley Ave. Nogales, AZ.</td>
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Visit our website to see the online community calendar. Email prtasted@gmail.com with any community events you would like to add to it.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Service: 10 a.m. Youth Group: Sun. - 5:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church 222 Third Ave., Patagonia 394-2954</td>
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<td>Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canelo Cowboy Church Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000 Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (except third Sunday)Ranch Family Fun Day: 7 a.m. every 3rd Sunday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonora Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 455-5172 Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita 455-5779 Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 2nd &amp; 4th Wed. 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church 12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita 394-2954 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvest Christian Fellowship/ Sonoita Foursquare Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita 455-5505 Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church Sonoita Hills Community Chrch 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 2nd &amp; 4th Saturdays: 10 a.m.</td>
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</table>
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

HOUSING RENTALS

OVER 55+ ROOM AVAILABLE
With common areas in beautiful setting. $450, includes utilities. Call Don at 297-7065

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

TO PLACE CLASSIFIEDS OR ADS CONTACT PRTADS@GMAIL.COM

LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!

FULL MOON
MARCH 20

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Nia is a 2 year old mixed breed that was transferred from Hermosillo Mexico. Nia has been diagnosed with Chronic Superficial Keratitis. She does not have the best eyesight but she can see. She had a rough life in Mexico, but her positive spirit shows in her sweet personality. She is very sweet and loves people, kids, dogs.

Bella is a 2 year old Domestic Short Hair, she is sweet and loves to chase toys! She enjoys head rubs and she enjoys playing with other cats.

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

Your family is our family

- Family medicine
- Daily pharmacy delivery
- All insurances welcome
- Eligibility and enrollment assistance (please call for an appointment)
$499,000

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

$695,000

MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY ESTATE
REUCED! MLS #21830617 36.6 ACRES
6923 sf. 3 homes, 8 car garage spaces, WOW views. Classic luxury w/Library, Butler’s Pantry, Wine cellar, gardens, artist studio, courtyard. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$550,000

PATAGONIA MOUNTAIN RETREAT
MLS # 21730369 29.3 PRISTINE ACRES
Farm house w/workshop, storage bldg., barn & chicken coop. 2532 sf main house w/48+38a, large kitchen, AZ room. Nested by the creek. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$295,000

COUNTRY CABIN IN CANELO
MLS # 21832062 19.3 ACRES
Borders Nat’l Forest. Cute & cozy cabin w/1565 sf, 3Bd/2Bca, wood trimmed thru-out. Private well, propane, electricity, 2 tax parcels. LARRY DEMUN 520 732-9179

$298,000

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

$199,000

RAIL X RANCH ESTATES LAND
MLS # 21614450 41.29 ACRES
GATED COMMUNITY OF COUNTRY ESTATES. Glorious mtn views, abundant wildlife. A Mecca for birders/hikers. Equine enthusiasts. CAROL FORD 520 604-0162

$345,000

J LAKE PATAGONIA GEM
MLS # 21725571 4.14 ACRES
2121sf, 3Bd/2Bca. 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

$429,000

LAKE PATAGONIA
MLS # 21810777 8.59 ACRES
REMODELED KITCHEN AND BATH. 2623 SF, 4Bd/3Bca, Great Room, 2 Fireplaces. Bonus room w/Bath. Horse facilities, strong prv well. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$364,000

LUXURY HOME ON THE MESA
MLS # 21824168 4.3 ACRES
GORGEOUS VIEWS! Gated community walking distance to town. Loaded w/luxury amenities. 2667/38a, garage, beautifully finished inside. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$1,495,000

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

$599,000

CROWN C
MLS #21701568 58.87 ACRES
Private, secluded w/already built 3Bd/2Bca guest house. Ready for future main house & extend horse facilities for endless riding/hiking/birding. CAROL FORD 520 604-0162

$364,000

EAGLES NEST VIEWS IN RED ROCK ACRES
MLS #21827677 4.98 ACRES
COMPLETELY REMODELED! 2110sf, 3 Bd/2Bca, Great Room, large liv rm, 2 patios, workshop, garage. AMAZING 360’ VIEWS! BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$464,900

Download FREE Long Realty App for instant Arizona real estate active listings, pending sales and recently sold properties.