South32 Land Purchases Raising Concerns

By Marion Vendituoli

Many residents of the Patagonia area are concerned by the recent acquisition of properties by Arizona Minerals, Incorporated (AMI). AMI is a corporation registered in the U.S. and owned by South32, an Australian based mining company developing the Hermosa Mine project near the town of Patagonia. South32 is not registered as a U.S. corporation.

AMI has purchased the 164-acre Tree of Life property on the south side of Harshaw Rd just outside Patagonia town limits, for $2,000,000, according to county records. The property might be used by the mining company for storage or for a park and ride site for employees. It is even possible that exploratory drilling could take place along the south property line that abuts unpatented mining claims held by AMI, but Greg Lucero, Vice President for Corporate Affairs for South32 said, “I want to make it clear that is nothing I foresee.” “We’re looking at all the options.”

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce Bracker confirmed that AMI had offered a portion of the property to the county for a park. “It’s just a proposal. There has been no formal discussion,” he said.

Because the Tree of Life property is outside town limits and thus under the governance of the county, South32 is not restricted by any zoning requirements, according to Mary Dahl, interim Community Development Director for Santa Cruz County. “Mine land uses are exempt from local control,” she said recently.

ARS 11-812, which places a restriction on regulation by counties on mining activities, states that the county cannot “prevent, restrict or otherwise regulate the use or occupation of land or improvements” for mining companies. “For decades these industries have enjoyed relief from local zoning control because of their importance to the economy of the state,” Dahl said.

County Manager Jennifer St. John would like the county to have more input in the process, saying “Our governor is very friendly towards mines and local government should have a seat at the table to try to do what’s best for the community.”

Several parcels north of Harshaw Rd. have also been acquired, including 20 acres to the west of Red Rock Ave., 7.58 acres that were part of the Tree of Life property, 80 acres accessed from Cross Creek Rd, which sold for $480,840 and 6.92 acres with frontage on Hwy 82 south of Rail X Ranch property, which sold for $199,000.

Data obtained from Santa Cruz County Assessors Website

See LAND Page 3

Patagonia Celebrates the 4th of July

Arizona Minerals, Inc. has purchased several properties in the Harshaw Rd. and Red Rock Canyon area over the past year.

More Photos p. 21
MISSION STATEMENT
To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz County, including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonora, and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

WHO WE ARE
We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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Robert Gay took this photo north of Patagonia in the Wildlife Corridors area as he was attempting to get a shot of the rainbow over the Santa Rita Mountains at the start of this year’s monsoon season. Rainfall has been spotty in the area so far, with Sonora receiving 3.44 inches, Elgin 8.8 inches, Canelo 2.46 inches and Patagonia 2.01 inches, as of July 29, according to the website www.rainlog.org.

Advertise YOUR JOBS for Free in PRT Classifieds
Email prtads@gmail.com with a description of the available job with a contact. Up to 20 words free.
And please let us know when the position gets filled.

The PRT Wants to be YOUR SOURCE for Local News
Visit www.patagoniaregional-times.org and click on “What’s New?” to access our news blog titled “Late Breaking News.” Every Monday we feature an article from the current issue and we regularly update the blog with news from the community. If you are not on Facebook you can see all our posts on the website by clicking on PRT on Facebook.
Remember the PRT is not just a monthly event, so make it a habit to check the website. Anything you want reported? Let us know because we want to hear from you!

PRT JOINS NONPROFIT NEWS NETWORK
By Marion Vendituoli
As we approach our tenth anniversary in Nov., the PRT is very pleased to announce that we have been accepted as members of the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN). We now join more than 200 other nonprofit news sources, including such media notables as Mother Jones, the Tucson Sentinel, the Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting, High Country News and NPR. I was pretty excited to find the Patagonia Regional Times listed next to the PBS News Hour in the INN member directory.

The lengthy application process to join INN fueled some healthy debate among staff and board about policies, fundraising, transparency and other issues that we had not dealt with explicitly in the past, giving us a push to become a more professional organization.

But aside from refining our policies and practices, what do we hope to gain by becoming a part of INN? INN’s stated mission is “To provide education and business support services to our nonprofit member organizations and promote the value and benefits of public service and investigative journalism.” INN provides technology training, revenue generation, including fundraising and grant training, editorial collaboration, discounts on insurance, legal advice, public relations and marketing help and information resources.

We are already moving forward to launch a matching grant program, called Newsmatch, through INN. In our next issue we will share more information with our readers about this exciting opportunity.

INN has seen a huge growth in membership since its founding in 2009 when 27 nonprofits came together to form the organization that “laid a foundation of collaboration among a new collective of nonprofit newsrooms dedicated to serving the public interest.” This growth mirrors the increasing numbers of nonprofit news sources in the U.S. at a time when for-profit journalism is suffering from cutbacks and reduced revenue.

“Nonprofit journalism is securing its place and helping create a new ecosystem for news while serving a critical role in American civic life,” INN reported in 2018.

Nonprofit journalism is often described as mission driven, and that is certainly the case for the PRT. Our mission to provide objective, nonprofit news sources in the U.S. at a time when for-profit journalism is suffering from cutbacks and reduced revenue.

“Nonprofit journalism is securing its place and helping create a new ecosystem for news while serving a critical role in American civic life,” INN reported in 2018.

At as there are always more stories than we have room for, we are forced to make difficult decisions, but we try our best to provide you with timely news and features that represent all the different interests of our readers.

Please let us know how we are doing and what stories you would like us to cover. And don’t forget to check our website and Facebook for breaking news.

We thank you for your attention and for your support and look forward to our second decade of providing you with relevant and interesting homegrown news.
New Town Manager Hired for Patagonia

By Aisha Sander

Ron Robinson took over the office of Town Manager on July 1.

Ron Robinson was chosen by the Town Council to be the new Town Manager for Patagonia after a selection process that included interviewing five candidates. Robinson is a retired private businessman who moved to Patagonia from North Carolina with his wife Deborah in August 2018. His in-laws moved to Patagonia in the early 1990’s and he has been visiting this town ever since. Robinson said, “seeing how little things have changed in Patagonia over the years attracted us to move here, along with my sister-in-law Tempest Smith who encouraged us to live here.”

When the position for Town Manager was posted his family urged him to apply. Robinson began with studying town council minutes and the Town Plan. After getting a feel of this town he realized “he doesn’t have to do this job, he wants to do this job.” He knows that government is entirely different from private business and he is excited by the challenge.

He took over the position on July 1, 2019. Robinson said that the town employees are kind, educated and invested, which “is priceless.” In his first few weeks he has spent time with each employee, from trash pick up to maintaining the town park, to learn the town codes and to also have an appreciation for what each employee does. He observed that most town residents do not follow town code for trash disposal and that the town employees were picking up the slack.

Robinson said that his greatest challenges for now are to catch up on all the files about town infrastructure and improve his grant writing skills. He said he is committed to responding to town residents and all their concerns, and will “take everything seriously.”

When asked about the recent request by South32 lawyers for all public records related to the Special Use Permit Application in March 2019, Robinson said that the request has been satisfied and sees it as a sign that the company is monitoring the Town. He said he is, “not anti-mine or pro-mine, I am pro-town,” summing up his intention that he wants to focus on the Town plan’s mission, which is to maintain and enhance the town without disturbing the environment. Robinson also wants to emphasize Patagonia becoming sustainable without depending on mining industry, and instead wants to promote the vision in the Town Plan to increase local businesses that align with the Town’s character.

He said that he wants town residents to enjoy what we have here, that “even when we are challenged by differences to enjoy the challenge.”

The Duties of the Town Manager

By Lynn Davison

The town manager is somewhat like the CEO of a private business or the executive director of a nonprofit organization, but operating within numerous county, state, and federal regulations that govern public entities. The town manager directly supervises or oversees the work of all department heads, including the town marshall, and handles all human resource matters.

The town manager reports to the town council, which is like a board of directors for a business. Practically speaking, the town manager reports to the mayor who operates as the chair/president of the council. The council sets policy, adopts and monitors plans, approves and oversees the annual budget, and is ultimately responsible for the operations and finances of the town government.

Patagonia is one of the smallest incorporated jurisdictions in the U.S., with an estimated population in 2017 of 817 people. The annual budget projection for 2019 is $1,728,706, down 26% from 2018.

The Patagonia Town Council conducted the hiring process to select the new town manager. There were nine applicants for the job which was posted on the Town of Patagonia and the Arizona League of Cities and Towns websites. The full council interviewed five candidates on May 24, all of whom are currently living in the State of Arizona. Two of the candidates were local. The interviews were open to the public.

The town manager/council model is the most common form of government for incorporated cities and towns in the State of Arizona. In Santa Cruz County, there are only two incorporated jurisdictions, Nogales and Patagonia. Both use the town manager/council form of government.

There are, of course, many other communities in Santa Cruz County like Sonora, Elgin, Rio Rico, or Tubac. As they are not incorporated, the county is their local government.
**10 Things to Know About the New Priest in Town**

By Linda Jade Fong

Escaping from a herd of elephants stampeding him? That's just one of the distinctions that Father Alex Tigga brings as the newly arrived Catholic priest of the St. Therese de Liseux parish of Patagonia and Sonora.

There's more to discover.

1. **“One-percenter”** Father Alex was born and raised in India, the largest Hindu country in the world, and where Catholics represent only 1.5% of the population. The hilly area around his hometown of Jashpur in central India has been an enclave of Catholicism for centuries.

2. **Twin with a destiny** There are eight siblings in his family. His father chose professions for each of his three sons during their childhood. One was to stay at home to look after the family and farm, Alex's twin was to go out and work, and Alex was to become a priest. His father said that would allow him to see the world.

3. **Serious studies spiced with sports** In India, the system results in over 12 years in Seminary to become a Catholic priest. Father Alex also lays claim to a Bachelor of Arts degree plus a Bachelor's in education and a Master's in history. In college, he played basketball, soccer, volleyball, and ran track. Can a cricket pitch be far behind on this field behind St. Therese?

4. **Pioneer and planter in Africa** He was serious about seeing the world, so while still in Seminary he started applying for positions on other continents. After a year in India, he was sent across the Indian Ocean to the country of Mozambique in Africa. He was put in charge of the mission, that is, all the priests and churches in Mozambique. For 10 years, he planted in two ways; new Catholic centers and new forests of trees, including mangoes and avocados.

5. **Stunt driver to escape stampede of elephants** One time, as he was driving visitors to one of his centers, they came over a hill to see a herd of elephants. The elephants got agitated and moved toward them but stopped. When he re-started his engine, they turned around and started to chase him. He used his best Indiana Jones skills to whip around his Land Rover and escape from the herd. Apparently protecting its young.

6. **Survivor of hammer attack** Mozambique had other hazards. Besides encounters with elephants, there were those with robbers. One night thieves broke into the clergy housing and attacked residents, including Father Alex, with iron bars and a hammer. And yet he persevered in his mission.

7. **Coozer of flowers in the rocks** Father Alex came to the U.S. at the end of 2011. He worked for a year in Tucson, then Kearny and Hayden, where, unlike Patagonia, the soil was rocky and he was challenged to grow beautiful gardens. . . and succeeded, adding what he described as "liveliness" to the community.

8. **Creator of joy through gardens** It is apparent even from the outside of St. Therese's that there's something new. Suddenly the yard around the church has sprouted beautiful roses, flowers and trees. Father Alex has been planting these gardens and can be seen every evening tending to them. He says he knows every plant, from oleander and fig trees to chilies. He likes to see people respond with happiness to come across the unexpected gardens.

9. **Curry Chef** Father Alex says he is happy to be here in Patagonia - happy with the community, the people, the place. His favorite American food is steak, although he cooks curry and dal at home.

10. **Restorer of Mary for the community** On the south side of the church, in a niche, sits forgotten pieces of a vandalized statue of Mary. Father Alex wants to replace this broken Mary and make a peaceful prayer alcove in the garden. It can be a sacred place open to the whole community.

Whether it's been learning a new language to be able to direct an African mission or toiling to bring forth a lushness of plants in rocky desert soil, Father Alex is now bringing his skills and adaptability to help our community here flourish. This he does with quiet humility and an easy smile, which you can readily see if you stop by and chat during watering times in the gardens.

**Photo by Linda Jade Fong**

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**AZ Trail to Be Rerouted At Rosemont Mine**

By Jo Dean

The Arizona Trail is scheduled to be rerouted to avoid the tailings and waste rock area planned for the Rosemont Mine project.

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) is collaborating with the United States Forest Service and HudBay/Rosemont Mine Copper Project to reroute a section of the original Arizona Trail in Las Colinas Passage north of Sonoita, located on public land. The Arizona National Scenic Trail is an 800-mile trail that traverses the length of Arizona from Mexico to Utah. It begins at the Coronado National Memorial near the U.S./Mexico border and moves north through parts of the Huachucan, Santa Rita, and Rincon Mountains.

In a plan developed more than six years ago, approximately ten miles of trail will be rerouted for public safety to avoid the designated area for waste rock and tailings from the proposed mining operation west of highway 83 between mile posts 43 and 47. “A portion of the trail...that we are abandoning and will be closed and naturalized in the future is within their [Rosemont Mine's] perimeter fence, which is used to keep the public away from tailings piles. So yes, a portion of the Arizona National Scenic Trail will be buried under waste rock,” wrote Matthew Nelson, executive director of ATA.

ATA and Rosemont Mine have agreed on a mitigation package. Rosemont has committed $650,000 to fund the relocation of the trail, which will include two trailheads, ramadas, restroom, water, fencing, gates and a kiosk.

As described by the ATA, “The new segment of trail will leave the existing route at AZT mile 87.7 just north of Box Canyon Road. It will be located on the east side of highway 83 for most of its 10.6 miles, crossing back under near Mulberry Canyon and rejoining the existing route near AZT mile 94.2. The two highway 83 crossings will traverse under the highway through existing culverts, the south crossing at Oak Tree Canyon and the north crossing at Hidden Springs. The new trail is on Coronado National Forest land.”

The new trail route, designed by Mark Flint of Southwest Trails Solutions, will be 11 miles long. Flint states, “In terms of aesthetics, it has some really nice features. It does go under and parallel SR 83, so there is considerably more road noise than on the original. We emphasized sustainable design, which is a huge improvement over the original, and will mean a better experience for trail users as well as reduced maintenance needs.”

The American Conservation Experience, a registered non-profit organization that provides a range of voluntary service programs for both American and international participants, is scheduled to start work on the new trail on Sept. 4 and finish Nov. 20, 2019.

If the Rosemont Mine does not go into production, both trails will remain open. The original trail is still open for public use at this point and hikers, runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians are encouraged to experience this section of the trail before it is no longer available. This original part of the trail is between Box Canyon/Forest Road 62 (AZT mile 84) and Barrel Canyon (AZT mile 94).
Patagonia Elementary School students, teachers and staff face a new academic year with the hope that they will improve on the D rating that the AZ Dept. of Education issued the school last fall. This grade reflected the school’s score of 58.36% for the 2017-2018 school year. A D grade is described on the AZ Dept. of Education website as “minimally performing.” The Patagonia Union High School received a C, and the Elgin Elementary School earned a B grade.

The grades are based on several factors. Proficiency counts for 30%, growth for 50%, proficiency and growth of English language learners and ‘acceleration measures for 10% each. Acceleration measures reflect “inclusion of students with disabilities in general education, growth of subgroups and decrease in chronic absenteeism,” according to the website.

The major factor in the determination of a student’s proficiency is the AzMERIT test, according to Rachell Hochheim, superintendent of the Patagonia School District. Patagonia Elementary students scored 14.68 out of a possible 30% in this category. The students scored 29.85 out of a possible 50% in academic growth. The school scored 6 out of 10 on acceleration measures and scored 2 bonus points.

A small school like Patagonia is at a disadvantage in this system. According to Cynthia Matus Morriss, President of the Patagonia Elementary School Board, “about half of the 235 schools that received a D or F rating have a higher than average free and reduced lunch rates, indicating that the letter grades are impacted by the socioeconomic make up of a school.”

Hochheim also pointed out that chronic absenteeism is a factor. Out of approximately 100 students, 17 were chronically absent, which affects all the parameters of the grading system.

Several changes are being implemented to address the issues raised by the state’s findings. “This year we are adding an incentive program for chronic absenteeism,” Hochheim said, adding that this is a parental issue. Families can earn Fry’s gift cards or family movie passes if their kids do not miss school and arrive on time. The school will also be conducting home visits this year to families that are not sending their children to school and is looking at finding extra class time for students who have been absent.

The school has hired a reading interventionist, as well, who will be providing intensive instruction for children who need extra help and enrichment for those who are ready for more challenging work. Multilevel instruction will allow students to work at their proficiency level, rather than at their age level.

There will be no curriculum change, according to Hochheim, but “the approach and instruction has to be refined.” The elementary school has retained all their teachers and one new teacher has been hired for the middle school. “I love our elementary staff,” Hochheim said. “They’re patient and kind and very gentle in their approach with our unique demographics.”

The Dept. of Education website states that the they will partner with schools with a D or F rating, although it is unclear to what extent they will be involved. “They want to know what we are doing now,” Hochheim said. “They want to see a plan of action.” The school, which is designated as a Title 1 school because of the large percentage of low-income students, is already required to submit a plan of action, and has already done so.

Hochheim pointed out that the school scored only three points below a “C” rating and is confident that the school’s grade will go up. “We definitely expect to quickly see that letter grade change,” she said. These grades, which the state uses to fulfill federal reporting requirements, do not necessarily give a complete picture of a school, cautions the Dept. of Education website. They “are just one measure of how each school is doing. To better understand whether or not a school is successful we should also consider the school’s ability to create a safe and inclusive learning environment; hire and retain great teachers and school leaders.”

Morriss agrees. “As the governing board president, I will continue to support our teachers and students and advocate that the state grading system include multiple factors that will provide the public a more comprehensive understanding of how the school is doing.”
Community Ride and a Finding a

Distances in the area. And I like to drive. conversations with new people, as well as

Riehl replied, “I like having conver

motivates them to volunteer. Rhett

program.

live here without this transportation

leave the area, say that they could not

one in Patagonia, who do not want to

meet and talk to people with diverse

opinions. This is especially beneficial

sengers and driver out of their usual,

enjoyable outings, taking both the pas

and the airport. These drives can be

ointments, shopping when possible,

group. It offers rides to medical ap

transportation program is one such

purpose. The Patagonia Senior Center

meet and talk to people with diverse

sider and driver out of their usual,

My wife, Peggy, often goes with me

and is an excellent navigator.”

Annette Dorney answered, “I enjoy

meeting the riders and learning about

their lives and local experiences if they

like to talk. In that way I have learned

about some of the local history, being

fairly new to the area. Also, I think it’s a

great service for area people, some

who really need it at times. If there

comes a time when I need the help, I

hope it will be there.”

Brad Sander explained, “I find this is a
good way of community building,

and since I am not from here, it’s a

deeply satisfying experience to

meet people I might not otherwise meet.”

Philip Brister said, “I am paying it

forward. In ten years, I may need to be

a passenger. And I have some wonder-

ful conversations with my clients.”

Mike Sweedo, who is usually avail-

able at least once a week, said, “My

wife wants me out of the house! Also,

I enjoy driving people.”

Drivers always make their own

schedules, letting the organizers know

when they are available to drive. Sometimes drivers

can take more than one person, if

it can be easily coordinated. Drivers

maintain confidentiality when hearing

passengers’ health concerns.

The Patagonia Senior transportation program,

(for people over 60 and those with disabilities of

any age that live in Patagonia, the Lake, Sonoita

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(for people over 60 and those with disabilities of

any age that live in Patagonia, the Lake, Sonoita

and Elgin areas), has expanded over the years.

There are two vans and

a small bus which seats

nine people.

The greatest challenge seems to be

at the administrative level; what gov-

ernment agencies are requiring from

a nonprofit volunteer organization

in order to keep the transportation

program, including requirements in ac-

counting, documentation and travel to

meetings. These requirements are dif-

ficult to delegate because of the time

needed to learn the frequently chang-

ing procedures for making reports and

responding to deadlines.

The volunteer, nonprofit

Patagonia Senior transportation pro-

gram is unique. For now, people can

appreciate it and enjoy it, but more

help is needed in order to keep the

program going.
With saddened hearts we announce the death of Donald M. Simmons III of Patagonia, Arizona. He is survived by his mother, Doris S. Simmons (Jack Cissel) of Green Valley, his sister Kate Simmons Sayre (Ray) of Tumacacori, his nephews, Colton and Travis Sayre of Tucson and friends.

Don was born in Sewickley, PA and lived there until the early ’80s when he moved to Patagonia to join his family at the Circle Z Ranch. He worked there briefly and then enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a Cavalry officer and mechanic (1982-86) and after discharge moved to Patagonia, Arizona to work at the ranch until 1991 when he moved into town and stayed for the rest of his life.

Don enjoyed music of all kinds and collecting guitars, banjos, zithers, harmonicas, organs, violins, fiddles, etc... He tinkered and repaired and played mainly for his own pleasure, but he did like to go to karaoke nights at the Wagon Wheel! Don also loved to read and watch movies — even over and over again — always enjoying a good laugh or intricate story line.

A plaque honoring Brent Bowdon was placed in the Patagonia Town Park on July 3, 2019. Bowdon, who died in 2018, was a civic leader who is remembered for his many contributions to the community.

The Patagonia Creative Arts Center (PCAC) has recently completed major renovations to the building that houses the Tin Shed Theater, studios and classroom space.

Located at 304 Naugle Ave, PCAC has occupied the building for more than twenty years. The building, which dates back to the early 1940’s, has housed several businesses over the years. “It’s been countless things,” Cassina Farley, director of PCAC, said, including an auto repair shop, lumber yard, realtor’s office, bank and hair salon. In 1998 Molly Phinny purchased the property, running an art gallery and art classes before the founding of the non-profit PCAC.

Recent upgrades include the installation of a second fire exit, the construction of a new ramp, a new dressing room, and a new pottery studio. Farley credits Abel Murrietta for the design of the ramp leading from the theater to the new fire door. He was able to work within the existing space to avoid losing any of the seating in the theater by moving the pottery studio to the other end of the building and building a ramp to eliminate stairs. The floor had to be built up three feet and a ceiling removed to accommodate the ramp which opens to the outside and into the main classroom. “The ramp makes it easier to haul stuff, too,” Farley said.

On the outside of the building, a concrete ramp extends to the sidewalk of Naugle Ave. Before the installation of the new fire door, the building was not code compliant, according to Farley. “It was put in because of public concerns for safety,” she said.

Space for a new dressing room opened up with the redesign of the backstage area, and a new, larger pottery studio was constructed near the entrance to the theater. The kilns have been moved outside to the left of the theater entrance off Mendoza Alley.

Two years ago, the entire electrical system in the aging building was upgraded, funded by John Kendall and with donations from the community. A new HVAC system, funded by grants and a donation from Wells Fargo, was also installed.

Future upgrades that Farley would like to see for the theater include new curtains, new flooring, new LED lights and upgrades to the audio and video equipment. “This is the busiest the theater has ever been,” Farley said. “There’s renewed interest in community theater productions and plays are in the works for the fall and winter season.”
Kudos to SEFD

To the Editor,

On the afternoon of June 9, the Windmill Fire was accidentally started in Tunnel Springs Ranch Association. The Sonota Elgin Fire Department was quickly summoned as the fire spread rapidly to adjoining properties and on to Forest Service lands.

Battalion Commander Mark Bennett coordinated with several responding agencies (Sheriffs, Patagonia Volunteer Fire, Forest Service, Nogales Fire, and AZ State Lands) and wasted no time to request an air tanker support for suppression.

Watching the air tankers circle and survey the fire — today's version of the cavalry — was a welcome air show. SEFD and Forest Service crews remained overnight. There was a wind-driven flare-up 4 days later on June 13th to which SEFD again responded.

With BC Bennett’s quick assessment of the Windmill Fire, the SEFD and supporting agencies kept the homes and outbuildings in that area of Tunnel Springs Ranch safe. With the 2-year anniversary this week of the Los Encino Fire’s fury (damage still visible in Tunnel Springs Ranch and elsewhere), I am again very thankful for the Chief DeWolfe and the professionals in the Sonota-Elgin Fire District.

Sincerely,
Karla Cafarelli
Sonota

The Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance (SAACA) and the Sky Islands Tourism Association (SITA) are proud to partner again to present the 31st Annual Patagonia Fall Festival on October 12 & 13, 2019 at the Patagonia Town Park.

Over 15,000 people are expected to attend with more than 125 local Arizona artists, exhibitors and vendors selling throughout the weekend. Attendees can find a range of unique, hand-crafted pieces from delicately painted wine glasses to intricately carved home décor. New to this year’s festival will be an interactive innovation station, allowing guests to get involved with a variety of arts and crafts with local businesses and other organizations.

Food vendors, as well as a wine and beer garden, will be onsite all weekend, while they enjoy live musical performances at the Gazebo. Musical performances include Jarabe Mexicano, Incidental Bluegrass, Mr. Boogie Woogie, Jam Pak Blues ‘N’ Grass Neighborhood Band and a musical instrument ‘petting’ zoo hosted by Jam Pak. The festival will start late afternoon on Friday October 11 with live music at the Gazebo and great local brands presented by Arizona Craft Distillers Guild.

The partnership between SAACA and SITA seeks to highlight the diversity of local artists and business in the region and to support arts and cultural tourism and economic development in Patagonia.

“The Fall Festival gives visitors a chance to experience our town and want to come back for another visit,” says Patagonia Town Manager Ron Robinson. “I like to think of Patagonia as a place you can be if you’re looking to be immersed in a home-grown community, built around the arts and nature melding into one welcoming town.”

SAACA is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to the preservation, advancement and creation of the arts in communities throughout Arizona. SAACA creates its impacts through advocacy, diverse arts and cultural programming, opportunities for artists, and creative community projects. SAACA has provided services and programming for over 700,000 artists, organizations and individuals throughout Arizona.

Visit us at the Fall Festival to explore shops, galleries, and restaurants that will be open all weekend including the Patagonia Museum, Paton Center for Hummingbirds, Creative Spirits Artist’s Gallery, Gathering Grounds, Ovens of Patagonia and more!

For more information, visit https://www.patagoniafallfestival.org/ or call (520) 797-3959 x 107.

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On July 24, the new President of South32 Hermosa Project, Pat Risner, gave a presentation, along with his colleagues, at the Patagonia Town Council meeting. The presentation included updates from Risner about the current state of the Hermosa Project, Melanie Larson from community relations and Sarah Richman, an environmental and permitting specialist in wildlife management. They also answered questions from the community members.

This presentation was a response to the Town Council’s request for data on water and wildlife from South32’s exploratory and remediation projects.

Risner shared that the Hermosa project is currently on pause as it will spend this next year on a pre-feasibility study and 2020-2021 to conduct a feasibility study. Risner said that they were not satisfied with the studies provided by Arizona Mining Inc. (AMI). In terms of their expectations of what the next year may reveal he said, “If there even is a mine,” as every aspect of the mine has to be reevaluated, including how to get the ore out.

Richman discussed remediation on the old tailings and working with Westland Resources, a Tucson based engineering and environmental consulting firm. Currently they are setting up a protocol for monitoring wildlife, with public participation, for the summer of 2020. South32 also provided the town with a flash drive that included Westland Resources fieldwork, and other water data including their monitoring wells and will cooperate with similar requests in the future.

Several citizens questioned the intent of recent land purchases in the area. Risner told the audience that no option was finalized, and the purchases were “opportunistic,” with several choices for use, including conservation, infrastructure for mining activities, or a road. Risner said they have no intention to buy the town.

Larson, South32 Community Relations Officer, said they plan to have an open house for the community sometime in the fall.

Ronn Pulliam commented that for years they have been unable to study Mexican Spotted Owls because of mining activity and access issues to the site. He requested permission to access the site with Mexican Spotted Owl expert Gary Noon.

Gary Nabhan suggested that South32 cooperate with major biodiversity research and findings by scientific and conservation groups in the area and meet with “the big 7” local organizations. Risner said it could be arranged.

It has been reported that South32 is now cooperating to honor both Nabhan’s and Pulliam’s requests made at the town council meeting.

The Patagonia Regional Times encourages everyone to comment publicly on the events and times in which we live. Letters must be signed by the author and include town of residence. Letters are limited to 200 words. PRT reserves the right to edit all letters for language, length, and content. Please send your letter, in MS Word, to prteditor@gmail.com
NEWS FROM THE FIRE LINE

By Michael McGuire

Patagonia Fire and Rescue (PVFD) recently sponsored its 44th Annual Steak Fry. The event was a huge success and neighbors and friends of the PVFD came out from all over southern Arizona to support the fire department’s efforts.

PVFD needs fundraisers like the Steak Fry because we are a volunteer fire department. Currently we have approximately 30 members. Donations help pay for needed and expensive fire equipment and firefighter training.

Many thanks from PVFD to those of you who contributed.

In 2018, PVFD responded to over 250 calls in the town of Patagonia and outlying communities. Nearly 75% of those emergency responses were medical-related calls. The remaining 25% were a variety of structure fires, car wrecks, flood responses, helicopter landings and wildland fire response.

We handle quite a workload for a team of volunteers and our level of maintained professionalism is recognized all over the state.

So you can imagine how disheartened we were when it came to our attention that there is a faction of Patagonia town folks who think that PVFD is “motivated by political beliefs.” And this faction does not want to support the efforts of the fire department.

For the record I would like to clear up some misconceptions about PVFD. When someone in town has an emergency they dial 911, which dispatches PVFD by radio to the scene of the emergency. If it is a medical call, we bring our medical equipment and EMS. If the San Rafael Valley is on fire, we respond with wildland firefighters and brush trucks. If the flume factory is on fire, structure equipment is employed. Whatever the nature of the emergency dictates we are prepared to bring calm to the chaos.

To us, it does not matter if you are an infant, an adolescent, an adult or the elderly. We do not care if you are a man, a woman, gay, straight, or everything in between. We do not care if you are brown, black, white, yellow or olive colored. Truth be told, most of you are a shade of green, gray, or blue when we arrive. Those sickly skin colors are the only skin tones that are important to us at the time.

We have no input into the rate or spread of our growing community. Nor do we pick and choose who we serve. When the 911 call goes off on our radios, we respond. It does not matter whether you are an artist, a farmer, a border patrol agent, a rancher, a miner, a drunk, an activist, or a slacker. It does not matter whether you are a U.S. Citizen, or not. We are going to handle the situation in the most professional and proficient way possible.

We do not have the luxury of operating with “political motivations” and we are apolitical by choice.

We are here to serve this entire community without stint and without judgement. It is an honor to serve this community. We strive to continue our level of training and professionalism. We bring state of the art equipment in our daily responses. We respond day or night, rain or shine. And we do it all as volunteers.

When you have an emergency we are here for you. In this community “we still make House Calls.” Donations accepted.

Michael McGuire is a lieutenant in the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Dept.

SURVIVING THE TRANSITION

By Carolyn Shafer

These are bizarre times with all systems, political, social, economic, natural, and spiritual in transition. There is some form of ecosystem assault everywhere on this precious planet. Our global challenge is the climate crisis; the science is undeniable that the ecosystem is in rapid decline. Our local challenge is 21st century industrialized mining repeating a “boom and bust” economic pattern with an industry history of walking away from environmental damages for the taxpayers to repair.

As a community activist working to protect the water and ecosystem from industrialized mining, I hear from a lot of people on all sides of the relocate question. Should I stay? Should I leave? Should I move here?

For me, there is no other place nor any other group of people I want to be with than those of us who have gathered in the Patagonia Mountains, because, as bleak as all the mining activity is, I believe there are options and alternatives. Remember that the mining company intended to be operating an open pit mine back in 2014? There is no open pit mine, proving that resistance does work.

Many community members are working to protect the water and the ecosystem and that work happens within a legal regulatory process defined by town, county, state, and federal regulations. Key community concerns include water and traffic.

The Town of Patagonia’s Flood & Flow Committee for the first time ever has brought together many of our local conservation organizations and there have been extensive discussions about the impacts of industrialized mining activity in this watershed. Actions are being taken to identify baseline data for the community. At a June 25, invitation only, community meeting, South32 representatives stated the company’s first choice of exit from its property is Harshaw Road to Hwy 82 and is buying up several parcels of land in that area. This is what corporate imperialism feels like.

Errors and Omissions

In the article in the Jun/Jul issue on Rosemont’s mitigation plan, the gallons of water to be used by the mine per year were incorrectly reported as 182 billion gallons. The correct figure is 1.9 billion gallons, or 5,345,000 gallons per day.

In Vince Pinto’s article, it was incorrectly edited to read “29 bat species have been recorded in Arizona in addition to 46 rodent species, the highest numbers worldwide for these two mammal orders.” Pinto wrote that his “original statement clearly connotes that in the majority of localities on Earth both bats and rodents will have the most species of any mammal orders. This in no way implies that Arizona has the most bats or rodents.”

Our apologies for these errors.

POEM in free verse

By Janice Pulliam

thought President Truman would always be president.
I asked my mom, “Who will be the next Secretary of State John Foster Dulles?”
I thought the name was part of the job title.
Out my classroom window, we watched his funeral limousine drive to the National Cathedral.
Women’s Lib portended well for the future,
and Jill designed her protest outfits—jeans and a T. No more “Villager” clothes.
The March on Washington and Resurrection City filled up the Mall in D.C.
The 1968 Chicago riots—I wasn’t sure why protesters were beaten up, bloodied.
The death of leaders JFK RKF MLK—
Dangerous letter K…K…K…K…K
History flowed by as I grew up.
Don’t you know about the Viet Nam War? It’s not just a country somewhere across the globe.
Remember the Berlin Wall—people died, shot for trying to climb over to freedom.
I saw them on the evening news.
Do you know why it was so important for it to come down?
Do you know why we should never build another wall?
I think y’all are planning our futures,
While I remember my past, the past.
It was important. Don’t forget it.
Remember the Alamo! Shucks, remember democracy!
**LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS**

**SAND YOUR GROUND**

By Martin Levowitz

You’d be a fool, these days, to advocate for physical violence. There’s too damn much of it already, despite the enduring taboo. But, could it be that to renounce all violence, no matter what, is just as dumb as any rigid vow?

The year was 1981. My toddler daughter, Rosie, and her hippy mother, Jan, were living in a whitewashed cottage out in Oracle, while I lived in a small brown tent, next door. Rosie was Janet’s first kid, but not mine.

Child-rearing often calls forth great uncertainty, anent which, Jan honestly said: “When I just don’t know what to do, I ask myself, ‘What would a dog or cat do in this situation?’”

It was spring. Jan suggested a hike down the wash to what some locals called “The Waterfall,” a place not really worthy of the name (although, in fact, when water ran it did seep down the hill between the rocks.) It was a lovely morning: warm and sunny with a breeze. We took our time, meandering, since Rosie had to stop each foot or two to gather Pebbles, twigs, and other treasures till her tiny pockets bulged. Once there, we played a game of hide-and-seek, then shared a can of tuna fish and tootsie pops with iced Hibiscus tea. Oh, man, gourmet!

Her parents thought they’d like to take a nap, but Rosie wasn’t buying it. She was “terrible two” - the age when children learn the joy of testing limits, saying “No!” and wanting things their way. She began getting antsy and wanted to play. A rest? A nap? No way, Jose!

She scooped up a handful of coarse, gritty sand, and threw it in her mother’s eyes. You could tell as she did it she knew it was wrong, but also like a scientist, objective, without moral qualms, she was anxious to see what we’d do.

I scolded Rosie briefly, wondering what her mom would do. Dear Jan was patient to a fault and hated being harsh. She sometimes tolerated crap which I thought should be punished or opposed. Jan wanted to be certain that her child really understood why throwing sand was bad. One of the goofy things “good” parents do is to explain in great detail what their smart kids already know. At such times they are being fools, as their kids clearly know. The lecture was over and Jan, eyes repaired, sat back down. Without pre-amble or ado, the scientist bent down and flung more sand in Mommy’s eyes. Boy, Jan was pissed. She stood up, turned around and strode away without a word. That left Rosie and me. I reprimanded Rosie with a burst of hippy-speak: “Goddammit, man, you know that isn’t cool!” She studied me appraisingly, without repentance or alarm, still looking like the scientist engrossed in her research, then knelt again to fill her hand with sand. As she drew back her fist to throw the sand - this time, at me - the god of cats and dogs came to my aid. With no idea of doing so, I grabbed some sand and flung it in her face. It was, instinctively, the perfect way to end the game.

Without a word, the basic point was made, although some decent part of me was shocked at what I’d done.

Rosie emitted a howl of both outrage and pain. She had learned: Hot sand burned! She showed no further need to be perverse, and grew into an adult both compassionate and wise, who hardly ever, these days, throws hot sand in others’ eyes.

See? It worked!

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**PROP MAN**

By Cassina Farley

I came to know the late Don Simmons in my early 20’s. He loved to frequent the Big Steer bar and was a fixture there almost every night. There were times where Don’s three string, out of tune guitar was more than we could take, and the night would end in shouting.

If you knew Don, you knew he was a “prop man”. He never went anywhere without something - a cane, guitar, whistle ball bat, action figures, clocks and on occasion, an accordion. Thus began the Accordion War of 2005. I’d open the coffee shop and he’d stroll in with the accordion. I’d tolerate about 15 minutes of the infernal racket and then kick him out. This didn’t faze him. He’d return day after day with the stupid accordion only for me to kick him out, until his attention moved to another prop.

During this same time Don befriended a local artist named Robert England. Robert was fascinated by Don’s antics and met him almost every day for breakfast. The two became fast friends and Don became the subject of many drawings and comics. With Robert’s help, Don’s first run for Mayor of Patagonia wasn’t exactly victorious but it did yield great posters and t-shirts.

We spent many birthdays with Don, toured his house and once, when he was complaining about money, I suggested he nail a few chairs to the ceiling and put out a sign that says, “Vortex $.50.” If you’d ever been in his house this needs no explaining.

Years later when I worked at Red Mountain Foods, Don would walk over and frequently buy corn flakes. I mentioned to him that he needed to eat more than cereal and he replied “They’re not for me they’re for my g’dammed rooster.” Sure enough, I followed him over and watched as he fed a $5 box of organic corn flakes to a ratty old rooster.

Don liked “stuff” but not just any stuff. Don was a sentimental guy. Everything he owned - on the walls, on the table, stacked up in the corner had a story and a memory. He archived great music and great times in his life with weird old ashtrays and broken instruments. A person could point to any pile or poster pinned on the wall and he could tell you where he was and when he got it. Once you got past the initial lecture, you’d also know how it made him feel.

Don did something for me that I will never forget. One day as I worked at the coffee shop Don walked in with an old brick and clunked it down on the counter. “Happy Birthday! This is for you.” At first, I was “...Gee thanks” and then it dawned on me what it was. You see, someone had recently bought the Big Steer Bar, which had been owned by my family for many years. In conversations with Don, I had expressed my sadness in seeing it remodeled and how so many memories were in those walls. Don went over and dug out a perfect brick from the pile of junk. Don knew how much that place meant to me and I’ll love him forever for that. I have lugged that brick around for 15 years and will continue to do so for the rest of my life.

Don was the best part of Patagonia - weird, awkward and sentimental. He was the keeper of our memories and of our good times. He danced when no one else would.

Many of you picked Don up hitch-hiking on the way to or from Sonora. Usually he wore his best “going to town clothes” and most likely he complained about something along the way. You picked him up because he was one of us. He belonged to Patagonia and many will feel his absence.

The man known affectionately as Lonesome Don had a standing room only crowd at his memorial held at the Gathering Grounds on July 20, a testament to how many lives he had touched and the life he had made here in Patagonia.

Old characters never die. Stories of them are passed on for many generations. Don may be gone from that old, broken down house on Sonora Ave. but he lives because we remember him.

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The Blue Jay... on AirBNB!
A GOOD OPINION
By Aisha Sander

I left for work that day like I did any other day, tired and inattentive as I went through my morning salat (prayer) before leaving home and starting my car.

I was in surprisingly light traffic as my car climbed a small overpass that connected me to what passes for a highway in Karachi. My speed could not have been more than 25-35 miles per hour. When I saw a man walking in the street ahead of me, I assumed that he would notice my car. It was not a pedestrian crossing and I was going too fast to slow down in time to avoid him.

But the man did not speed up his walk nor did he stop or back up. Instead he continued unaware and it became clear in that slow moving split second that I was going to hit him. I had attempted to slow down but it was too late and a body rolled onto my hood and shattered my windshield with some pieces of glass coming into the passenger seat.

You must remember I am in Karachi, a city of absolute chaos and a corrupt and bankrupt police system. The ambulances are all operated by non governmental agencies. There is no 911 to call. I had no choice but to put the now unconscious man into the backseat of my car and drive myself to my brothers’ house about 10 minutes away. All along the ride I prayed out loud, “Yah Allah, please have mercy on me, please have mercy on this man, please do not let him die, please keep him safe.” My hands shook, my body was trembling and tears were clouding my view. I was scared and yet my faith secured me a means, no matter how tenuous, to safely make it through the busy traffic.

My brothers swooped in and took care of this man and me. We arrived at a hospital and he received an MRI, but it looked dire. My friend took me to her house and I called my Shaykh (spiritual guide). I told him what happened, and he said words that have over and over again come to my rescue: “Have a good opinion of Allah.” Confused and terrified, waiting to hear from the hospital with news, I thought in that moment. What good is in this? What good could Allah have intended for this man and for me?

For a novice on the spiritual path this was an immensely challenging task. To be in the center of the storm and not surrender in despair or ‘why me’ but surrender instead into trust. Trust which is not based on getting the outcome I want but believing in a higher power that is always, no matter what the outward conditions, working in my favor. Holding a paradox in my heart, on one hand asking and praying for the life of this man to be restored and at the same time walking the darkness in faith if he did not.

A few hours later, my story did have a happy ending. The man woke up and walked away with just scratches and bruises and I was spared the weight of taking a life. In hindsight I was given a lifelong lesson to deeply acknowledge and appreciate when my mundane plans for the day go as expected, having experienced my powerlessness and lack of control over something as simple as going to work.

Most of us are lost in the fog of thoughts and unconscious beliefs that veil us from seeing things as they are. It took the jolt of that accident to allow me to appreciate the offerings of every single day, not knowing how much is given and how much is generously withheld. Having a ‘good opinion’ when events are judged as bad turns things around and builds a trust and awe without needing anything to be different.

David Green is Chairperson of the Sonota-Elgin Community Group.

TIME FOR CHANGE
By David Green

The SCC Board of Supervisors have proposed yet another property tax increase from $3.88 to $3.98 for every $100 of assessed value. Add to that county and local fire, school, and flood district tax rates and watch the balloon inflate! SCC property taxes have increased seven of the last eight years, Pima has decreased taxes four years in a row, and Cochise has remained relatively flat for six years and has the lowest primary rate at 2.67.

Increasing our population and economic base to better share the tax burden is desirable; however, the continuous increase of property taxes discourages people and businesses from moving into the County.

The County is effectively taxing some low, and fixed income residents (including veterans) right out of their homes. It’s time for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to get out of the downward spiral and generate additional funds elsewhere.

One solid solution is to identify and build on existing assets that offer the best opportunities for growth and then develop strategies to support them. This should be a major planning goal for the County Board of Supervisors and Manager. The east side of the county, nestled between two scenic highways, is a natural asset to support the state’s number one industry — tourism. The natural beauty, outdoor recreation, historic downtowns, arts and cultural institutions, annual rodeos and fairs, boutique wineries, vineyards, and distilleries attract tourists from within and outside SCC. Additional lodging, shopping and eating establishments would be a significant improvement. According to “The Arizona Wine Tourism Industry” survey by NAU in 2017 approximately 200,000 visitors travel to the NE SCC area to sample wines and enjoy the area. Wine tourism should be encouraged.

It’s time for change! The County must engage with the Patagonia, Sonota, and Elgin residents, business owners and developers and create incentives to make it easier for interested business and developers to invest in projects that support long term priorities. Develop and invest in the potential of Eastern SCC!

Let’s not embrace the same tired approach to the problems we face. Let’s choose to not raise property taxes, but instead elect creative, forward thinking, skilled managers and leaders. Make your voice heard at the polls! The County Board of Supervisors’ open meeting to discuss and decide on the proposed tax increase will be held on August 7th at 10:30 in the Santa Cruz County Complex. This is your opportunity to let your opinion be heard.

David Green is Chairperson of the Sonota-Elgin Community Group.

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.
Residents Share Stories at Lochiel School

By Bob Brandt

During two days in mid-June, the past met the future in the tiny border settlement of Lochiel in the San Rafael Valley south of Patagonia.

In cooperation with the Patagonia Museum, about a dozen participants in the Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) Program spent two days and one night at the Lochiel School planting trees, installing rock structures to control erosion and sharing an evening meal and conversation with present and past Lochiel residents who described life in this remote little settlement that once was a thriving border town.

Current Lochiel area residents Maureen de la Ossa, Frank (Pancho) de la Ossa, Ramon de la Ossa and Bud Bercich were joined by former Lochiel resident Glen (Gooch) Goodwin, the BECY youth and several volunteers for an evening meal of Sonoran dogs, beans and fixings enjoyed outdoors in the shadow of the stately old cottonwood and mesquite trees that grace this restored one-room schoolhouse that, back in the day, served as the hub of community life.

With fondness and nostalgia, the Lochiel elders each told of their life as children and adults as they watched members of their close-knit community move away, leaving the few who remain because they prefer their lifestyle of stark beauty and solitude.

As for the youth who toiled there on that hot June 17 - 18, they listened intently and seemed to grasp that they were contributing to the preservation not only of the physical landscape and the schoolhouse itself, but to the precious memories that they perhaps will one day pass on to those coming along behind them.

Under an agreement with the Patagonia Union School District, since 2010 the museum has been restoring and repairing the Lochiel School as part of its mission to preserve local history. After cleaning up the long-neglected structure and grounds, museum volunteers patched the exterior stucco, installed exterior doors, rain gutters and a cistern, patched the roof and installed 96 windowpanes.

Additional improvements include interior and exterior painting, patching interior walls, installing toilets and lavatories in the restrooms and installing vertical grain Douglas fir flooring. Old bullet-riddled chalkboards were replaced by undamaged slate chalkboards. The wooden teacherage has largely been demolished and is slated to be converted to a visitor center.

Although the building is closed except by appointment or for special occasions, visitors to the site are now greeted by a new sign decorated with hand-made tiles created by youth from the Patagonia Creative Arts Center.

Roadmap For Water Quality

Come join the discussion about water quality in the Sonoita Creek watershed, and in our drinking, recreational, and wildlife water supply. Water quality is mostly invisible but can show up in short and long-term health effects from Sonoita Creek's surface and groundwater.

Come and hear about the status of the Water Quality Roadmap Project, sponsored by the Town of Patagonia, where we’ll look at what is clear from the published data, what gaps need to be plugged with new monitoring or research, and where to go from here! Bring your water quality questions!

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Dancing in Dark Matter

By Patra Kelly

She wondered why she was feeling no delight seeing stars at night, disturbed by distance to places and friends, dismayed by Space in large rooms, between deserts and forests, planets in galaxies,

Until the revelation that Space far and near, is never empty but seething with Energy disguised in shapes and forms wearing outlandish costumes, some whirling one way, others opposite in reply—

Dancing in dark matter here and there, in and out of spacetime, entangled and enthralled in states of inconceivable excitement, while choirs of fields are singing new worlds into Being.

Buffalo Gals of Sonoita

Cool Shopping for Hot Summer Deals
Local Nature Sanctuary Offers Unique Experience

By Marion Vendituoli

Vince Pinto and his wife, Claudia Campos-Pinto, have devoted the last eleven years to creating a unique wilderness experience for visitors to their 42-acre nature preserve near Lake Patagonia. Their mission at Raven’s Nest Nature Sanctuary to educate their guests about creating a sustainable model of living, honoring the land and leaving a legacy for wildlife has led them to establish Ravens-Way Wild Journeys, a business that has been “successful beyond our wildest expectations,” Claudia said recently.

The couple met in Tucson in 2004. Claudia, who is from Columbia, was pursuing a career in international finance and living in China when she happened to take a vacation in Arizona. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard and MIT, she had previously lived and worked in New York, Tokyo and Europe, but left that world behind after falling in love with the beauty of Arizona. Vince, who studied wildlife biology at the University of Montana and has a master’s degree in ethnobotany from Prescott College, has been teaching wilderness skills, ethnobotany, astronomy and sustainable living skills since the late ‘80s.

After looking at several locations around the state, the couple settled on property south of Patagonia to establish their nature school. They chose this spot because of its proximity to 9000 acres of wilderness, the rich biodiversity of the region, and because of proximity to the Tucson area. They also maintain a second campus, Raven’s Mountain Nature Sanctuary in the Chiricahua Mountains.

At their Lake Patagonia site, they have ripped out non-native plants, established plantings of native shrubs, trees and vines, contoured the land to capture rainfall, built five miles of trails and viewing ramadas, a campsite, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, put in solar showers, a rainwater harvesting system and two luxury tents for ‘glamping,’ an idea Claudia came up with after a trip to Botswana.

They also turned a horse barn on the property into a museum and learning center and created an organic orchard and garden. They did all this with no heavy machinery or gas-powered equipment. “We try to do it old school,” Vince said.

Guests come from all over the world. Each visit is custom designed to fit the guests’ interests and level of experience. Birding tours, wildlife tracking, stone age skills, astronomy, habitat restoration, sustainable living, team building, survival skills and biodiversity excursions are all available options. Vince runs programs for Tucson Audubon and the Southwest Birding Festival, as well as other groups, and has consulted for, and has been on-camera in, several films.

The main camping area is often used by university groups. Harvard organizes a NOLS program for medical students called “Medicine in the Wild.” They bring their own instructors, but Vince works with the students each night and for one day during the course.

Two luxury safari tents are built on large platforms and have electricity, large beds, screen doors, decks, private baths, incinerator toilets, fans and heaters. All sinks and showers at Raven’s Nest operate on a grey water system which waters the trees and plants.

Claudia supervises the meals which feature organic and local grown food and native edible plants. The Raven’s Nest operate on a grey water system which waters the trees and plants.

Claudia also handles the bookings and the schedule for the business. “I give Claudia all the credit. She is the mastermind,” Vince said. “I’ve never met a more determined person.”

Claudia in turn credits Vince for the success of the business. “The secret is his knowledge. People see that authenticity. The key is the unique education programs and experience that is possible because of Vince’s knowledge of the Sky Islands,” she said.

“They keep coming back. That to us is our biggest testimonial.” One German couple has visited six times, for example. “We have put together something so compelling. We bring people back to the basics,” she said. “They connect with themselves.”

For more information about Raven’s Nest Nature Sanctuary, visit www.ravensnatureschool.com

Vince Pinto leads an ethnobotany workshop at Ravens Nest Nature Sanctuary.

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Monsoonal Matings

This year’s local monsoon moisture has been fickle in its arrival - the sixth-driest start ever in our locale. The wetter the winter, the more drought prone is the summer, it seems. As I pen these words in mid-July, only a few fortunate areas have received substantial summer rains.

Once the rains arrive in force, then the sexual clock will be ticking for the legions of plant, animal, and fungal species that mainly or exclusively mate/reproduce after the onset of monsoon season. For these monsoon lovers, lust without the dust is certainly a must!

Mating during our wet summer makes biological sense. Monsoon season is warm-to-hot, thus allowing more species to reproduce. Cold and its attendant lack of food is more a deterrent to reproduction than heat for many species that mainly or exclusively reproduce sexually - comes into full play.

Take ants for example. Reproductive king and queen ants are essentially “stored” underground or perhaps in a tree hollow until the proper moisture arrives. Following a significant storm, they form mating swarms. There, king meets queen and insemination ensues. She - now perhaps impregnated by multiple males - drops to the ground, sheds her wings, and digs into the conveniently soft earth to found a new colony.

In my personal scale of monsoon precipitation, I have several labels with which to judge the amount of rain received in any one storm. It goes something like this: jokers = very light rain (i.e. a bad joke), soakers = gentle rains that palpably moisten the soil, but cause little runoff, woke-her = wakes up the wife from a sound sleep and causes some runoff, and finally croakers = prolonged rains that lead to runoff and ephemeral streams and ponds.

Following croakers, toads and frogs of many species rely upon temporary pools for mating. So attuned to the monsoon, for instance, are various spadefoot toad species that they literally may emerge above ground from their subterranean nooks when they hear the thunder violently clap! This distinct sound added to increased soil moisture lures them to the surface.

Males find pools within which to call the females towards them, or a mating embrace, follows and the females are soon laying eggs. Given the brief life of their mating pools, the tadpoles then develop with equal speed, emerging in as little as 10 days.

Summer’s warmth provides favorable conditions for the reproduction of many local reptiles. Given that most are oviparous or egg-laying, soil temperatures must exceed a critical limit in order to provide suitable incubation chambers. Skinks, alligator lizards, whiptails, spiny, and other lizards generally find monsoon season optimal for reproduction. So too with most of our snakes and for the same reasons - available prey and suitable egg chambers.

Not only are soil moisture and temperatures conducive to reproduction, but, significantly, the young of these reptiles will enter a world rife with insect and other invertebrate prey. Profound storms deliver life-giving moisture, teasing forth armies of grasshoppers, flights of butterflies, swarms of bees, a myriad of beetles, and more. None of these will spawn even more reproduction.

While many birds have already mated prior to monsoon season, some reproduce mainly during this wetter season. Botteri’s sparrows begin singing while clouds amass, and thunder begins to roar. Soon they will be stuffing the beaks of their young with the surfeit of invertebrates. Even granivorous, or seed-eating, birds often adapt their summer diet to a protein rich, invertebrate-laden one to the benefit of their young. Evolution in conjunction with climate has led these birds to become monsoon maters.

Perhaps you too will be inspired by the clouds, coolness, lightning, rushing water, and verdancy!

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org

STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

The things we’re closest to we often seem to take for granted. Or ignore. It took me more than 30 years to drive one hour from my New Jersey home to visit Ellis Island, the small spot of land where my father had taken his first steps in America. I just didn’t make the time to see it because it was just down the road. It’s the same in Arizona and everywhere else. The wonders in our own backyard just don’t seem as special as the wonders found elsewhere.

And so it is with astronomy. I go outside and search for some far away object that appears as a smudge, a nothing. And yet, on almost any given night, close enough to marvel at with just the naked eye, close enough to see more detail than any of the planets can ever reveal, is the moon. I’ve promised myself too often to make it a focal point of my sky watching. Maybe I’m finally old enough to stop taking this beauty for granted.

Formed quite possibly from a massive collision between an ancient Earth and another massive object, the moon has been our companion for approximately 4.5 billion years. Roughly every 28 days it circles our home, going through totally predictable phases. Its orbit is synchronous with its spin, an incredible phenomenon that prohibits us from ever seeing its “dark side,” unless in photos, or if we’ve been fortunate enough to have been an astronaut on a lunar mission.

An easy experiment proves this. Take two balls to simulate the earth and moon. Conduct two lunar “orbits.” On the first, keep the moon from spinning on its axis and observe how its entire surface will become visible to Earth during its 28-day voyage. On the second “orbit,” very slowly spin the moon so that it completes one full turn between the beginning and end of the 28-day cycle. As you can see, only one side will face the earth.

Now, take your experiment a bit further. With two helpers, head to a dark room and use a strong flashlight as a makeshift “Sun.” This demonstration will show how and why we see the famous lunar phases. Keep in mind that the sun, earth and moon are never in a straight line except during lunar or solar eclipses. One of your helpers will handle the flashlight. While you serve as the earth, your second helper will walk the moon in an orbit around you. Keep the sun in a fixed position while moving the moon around the earth. As the earth turns just enough to see the way the light bounces off the moon as it completes its orbit. Your flashlight can be kept at a considerable distance. The sun is, after all, 93 million miles away, while the earth and moon are separated by approximately 250,000 miles.

As the moon orbits you’ll notice that when it is alongside the earth it is in its “quarter” phase. When it moves furthest from the sun it is in “full” phase and when it is closest to the sun it is in its “new” phase, with only the side facing the sun getting any of the sun’s light. Another way to look at it is to say that the three and nine o’clock positions are quarter phases, the 12 o’clock position is when we see a full moon, and the 6 o’clock position is when none of the moon will be visible because the surface facing us is not receiving any light from the sun.

A third experiment simulates eclipses. First, place the moon directly between the sun and the earth. Part of the Earth will be in shadow. This is a solar eclipse. For a lunar eclipse, allow the earth to block the light of the sun, leaving the moon almost hidden, picking up just enough ambient light to be found.

It’s been 50 years since a couple of men first walked on the moon. On July 20, 1969, my father and I watched the event in real time. I remember asking him if he had ever thought this could happen in his lifetime. He replied quickly, “No.” The word “impossible” fell out of style that night.

So, for me, 50 years later, I hope I’ve finally learned to keep my sights a little closer to home. I’m determined to learn more about the earth’s celestial neighbor, to try to recognize some of its features and to stop taking for granted what is closest and most familiar.

Maybe all of this will serve as a reminder to me to do the same with the people and places that impact me so profoundly on a daily basis.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

The Glimpses article about George Beebe in the June PRT issue, reported on “a meeting of friends of the cause of equal rights...[to] extend the right of suffrage to the women of the new commonwealth.” [The Oasis, 6/29/1912]. The suffrage movement in Arizona began in the late 1800s. Activists successfully introduced bills “to Extend the Right of Suffrage to Women” in 1881, 1883, and 1885 but the Territorial Legislature defeated them each time. In 1903 a Suffrage Bill was passed by both houses of the Arizona Legislature, but was vetoed by the Governor. In 1910 an effort to add women’s suffrage into the state constitution was again defeated by the Governor “because he thought it would jeopardize the bid for statehood...and the Territorial Legislature defeated them each time. In 1910 a Suffrage Bill was passed by both houses of the Arizona Legislature, but was vetoed by the Governor. In 1910 an effort to add women’s suffrage into the state constitution was again defeated by the Governor “because he thought it would jeopardize the bid for statehood with President William Taft.” When Arizona was granted statehood on February 14, 1912 the activists tried again. [Digital Library of Arizona, https://azlibrary.gov/daz/learners/re-search-topics/womens-suffrage]. The five women elected to leadership positions for the local Equal Suffrage League at the June 1912 meeting included Mrs. James Cunningham, President; Mrs. F. R. Putnam, First Vice President; Miss Ethel Harrison, Second Vice President and Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. T. J. Iles, Treasurer; and Miss Cornelia Dillon, Secretary. “The officers elected are distributed well around the surrounding region.” They lived in Vaughn (SW of Elgin), Canille (Canelo), Sonoita, and at the Pima County line north of Sonoita. [The Oasis, 6/29/1912]. The work of this group and others throughout the state was relatively short-lived. An initiative to give women the right to vote “qualified for the ballot on July 5, 1912. By November of that same year, voters (all men) overwhelmingly approved women’s suffrage.” [Digital Library of Arizona].

Who were the intrepid five who worked to persuade the male voters in their neighborhood to allow women the right to vote? Mary Cunningham was the only one mentioned in the local press for her suffrage work: “Mrs. James Cunningham is working the cause of equal rights among her friends who are legion.” [The Oasis, 11/2/1912]. Her husband was a prospector and miner; they homesteaded 320 acres in Elgin. Carrie Anna Putnam lived with her husband, Fred, several miles west of present-day Curly Horse Road north of Sonoita. They homesteaded 160 acres and raised poultry. No information was located about Mrs. T. J. Iles or her husband.

Cornelia Dillon and Ethel Harrison were both teachers. Dillon, born in Ohio, was the first teacher at the Rain Valley school which was “completed in a few days, everyone turned out to help.” [The Oasis, 9/21/1912]. An Ohio newspaper reported that she was taking up a land claim in Elgin, though no homestead records were found. [Portsmouth Daily Times 3/15/1912]. She returned to Ohio by 1913 and taught school for many years in Columbus and Cleveland. She returned to Arizona in the 1940s and taught school in Amado, Tucson, and Phoenix. She was tragically murdered in her Phoenix apartment in 1962.

Born in Alabama, Harrison was teaching in Patagonia in 1905. By 1910, she was living in Nogales and teaching in their public schools. In 1912 she moved to Elgin to her 60-acre homestead and “was engaged to teach the Elgin school.” [The Oasis, 6/12/1912]. She married Samuel E. Hunter in 1916 and they had one son, Samuel Jr. Her husband had a 160-acre homestead in the Huachuca Mountains and the family was living there in 1920. By 1935 Ethel was widowed and was back living and teaching in Nogales. By 1955 she was retired and living in Arkansas.

Musicians of Note

Zach Farley - Patagonia’s Home Grown Musician

By Bob Brandt

Having spent virtually all his 46 years in Patagonia, Zach Farley, personifies the term “home grown.”

The term also perfectly describes the musical instruments he creates from organic materials, as though the man and his creations were inseparable, which, in large measure, they are.

The story of Farley’s claim to fame (if not fortune) as the maker of unique “Home Grown Instruments” begins during his tenure as a tuner at High Spirits Flutes, a job involving “very delicate work” and one at which he rates himself one of the best in the world. While attending a Native American music festival in Phoenix, he became fascinated by a flute made from a gourd and decided to try his hand at making one himself. Pleased with the product and the fun he had making it, he began to produce gourd flutes in quantity. This required a steady supply of gourds, so he took to growing his own crop, an enterprise so successful that his gourd patch became a local attraction of sorts.

While the gourd flute was his initial instrument, Farley’s experimented with ever more challenging projects. The flutes have since been joined by an impressive array of other instruments - guitars, ukuleles, dulcimers, drums, shakers, even a sax - made from bamboo, agave, sunflower, yucca, even PVC pipe and cigar boxes. (How’s that for thinking outside the box?)

A visit to his studio or his Facebook page gives you the feeling that Farley could make a legitimate musical instrument from just about anything you hand him. His gift for turning an ordinary commodity into a thing of extraordinary beauty and melodic utility was recognized by KUAZ TV when it featured him in a 2017 episode of “Arizona Illustrated” which readers can still view on Farley’s Facebook page.

Music has been hugely important in Farley’s life since he picked up the guitar in his early teens, in part to help him cope with the loss of his father who died in a motorcycle accident. But music would be an inadquate way to describe this complex, creative and compassionate man. Yes, he plays wonderful music and produces instruments that enable others to do likewise, but there is so much more to Farley.

As well as musician, he considers himself an artist, inventor, farmer and teacher, the latter role one of his favorites as he gives music lessons in the public schools and other venues including the Creative Arts Center where his best friend and wife of 22 years, Cassina, directs arts programs for adults and children.

Farley has two CDs to his credit. The first, Southern Migration, is an original project inspired by the majesty and grace of the annual sandhill crane migration. The title of his new release, Repurposed, is a nod to the home grown instruments used in its production. Both are available, as are his instruments, at Creative Spirit Artists Gallery in Patagonia.

Throughout his life, Farley has sought to merge music with everyday life “because it offers so many ways to express yourself.” He finds his music’s most meaningful expression in working with individuals and groups at the extremes of the human life cycle. He loves working with kids because of their energy and enthusiasm but he feels especially honored and appreciated when invited to play at funerals, when music can be so comforting to grieving loved ones.

Success is measured in many ways. In Farley’s case, he considers making money from his business to be secondary to the joy of making the instruments and the music and sharing that joy with others. “When it stops being fun,” he says, “I’ll quit doing it.”

That strikes a responsive chord with me.

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

Advertisement courtesy the Washington Post

Votes for Women a Success: The Map Proves It, “citra 1914

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The popular on-demand film streaming service Kanopy is now available for free at Patagonia Library! Library card holders can access Kanopy and sign up to instantly stream up to 10 free films a month by visiting https://patagoniapl.kanopy.com. Films can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform to films of unique social and cultural value; films that are often difficult or impossible to access elsewhere, and hundreds of works by independent filmmakers.

With the motto of "thoughtful entertainment," Kanopy provides Patagonia Library patrons with access to films of unique social and cultural value; films that are often difficult or impossible to access elsewhere, and programming that features diversity, with a wide array of foreign language films and films on race, and current affairs.

For more information or if you need help signing up, contact the library at 520-394-2010.

**Check It Out At The Library**

By Laura Wenzel

Children in Ms. Laura’s Summer Reading Program get the chance to feed her snacks instead of the other way around. With the help of many community partners, donors, and volunteers, the library served an estimated 1,450 lunches to kids 18 and under this summer.

**SITA Announces New Board**

The Sky Islands Tourism Association (SITA) has a new board of directors and is looking forward to an exciting time for tourism in the Sonoita, Elgin and Patagonia region. Please welcome our new board members: Bonnie Maclean (returning) - President, Denise Bowdon - Vice President, Brandon Doles - Treasurer, Greg Lucero - Secretary, Martha Kelly, Linda Shore and JoAnn Wales.

The mission of SITA is to grow regional tourism, thereby enhancing business and employment opportunities within the Sky Island communities of Elgin, Sonoita, and Patagonia.

Our major objective is to make the Sky Island region a well-known and popular tourist destination, for short and long-term visitors. We will promote the region widely throughout Arizona and to targeted interests. Our excellent Visitor Center and highly capable volunteer staff, our established website and our affiliation with the Arizona Office of Tourism are solid foundations for these efforts.

As we move forward, we will explore other relationships and activities that will strengthen the Sky Islands reputation as a great place to visit.

We have an exciting year ahead and are planning our first quarterly meeting for Monday, Sept. 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Tin Shed Theater. Our guest speaker is Ron Robinson, the new Patagonia Town Manager. We invite all business and non-profit leaders to join us.

Please send your event information to events@visitskyislands.com, questions to info@patagoniaaz.com, and check out our website at www.visitskyislands.com.

**HERSTORY**

**Changing Lives**

By Janet Winans

Describe an experience or event that changed everything in your life - maybe not immediately, but over time, little by little.

It came in the form of a jury summons from the Federal Court in Sacramento, the state capitol. I had no problem getting excused for the day from my job in the bookstore in Stockton, fifty miles from the capitol. I set off on a Monday morning just as it was getting light, not certain of the volume of northbound traffic on the freeway, not wanting to be late for the 9 a.m. summons. Mostly I was driving among trucks haulng produce north in the valley, tomatoes and sugar beets. I was glad to be selected for the jury. The judge said the trial might last several weeks, something about a bank robbery. I was intrigued; it sounded as though this might be a welcome change from the routine of the bookstore.

Soon I learned to maneuver in the multi-level parking garage and locate the courtroom which would become more than familiar. The drive home to Stockton each evening at dusk became an hour when I could enjoy the solitude, hoping that dinner might be waiting for me. The trial itself was interesting. Others on the jury began to feel like friends, the judge, attorneys and bailiffs part of a movie set. I tried not to make eye contact with the defendant, having seen enough television trials to want to play my part correctly.

We did spend a good deal of time in the lounge adjacent to the court, excluded from court activities, but it was all an adventure and a good time for reading. Also there was a two-hour lunch break every day when we explored downtown Sacramento. The trial did last a month, from late November until shortly before Christmas. Ultimately the defendant was released with insufficient evidence to convict, although in my mind, I was almost certain he was guilty. There was something about him, but not enough. By the time the jury was excused for the final time, we had bonded and become almost a family. We hugged, promised to stay in touch, and departed.

But that is not the end of the story. In the San Joaquin Valley in wintertime, there is almost always tule fog in the early mornings and evenings. The low-lying fog envelops everything, making headlights a necessity. I felt as though I was driving alone in a sort of time capsule, separated from my daily routine and life’s circumstances. Not an unpleasant sensation, but noteworthy.

Also the hours spent in the courtroom must have been playing on my mind. By the end of that month, I made some life-altering decisions. The fog lifted. Within days I contacted a divorce attorney, arranged to end a faltering marriage, and proceeded to turn a corner into an entirely new life.

**Come To**

The **Santa Cruz County Fair**

- **Adults**: $5 Children ages 6 - 12: $3 Children under 6: Free
- **SCHOOL DAY, Friday, September 20 - 22**: Free Entry until Noon
- **MILITARY DAY, Sunday, September 22**: Free Entry for Family of 4 W/Military ID
- **Sept. 20-22 2019**

**A Family Affair**

Sonoita, AZ
New Executive Director Named For Deep Dirt Institute

By Aisha Sander

Anita Budhraja has recently started work as the Executive Director of Deep Dirt Institute (DDI). DDI is an accredited 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission, Budhraja says, is to use "hands-on demonstration and inspirational education to empower individuals and their communities to restore the land, restore themselves, and re-imagine the future." The focus at DDI is on education and spreading awareness about organic farming, especially in arid landscapes.

Many locals know of Kate Tirion and Deep Dirt Farm, just off Hwy 82, a few miles outside of Patagonia. Tirion and her partner Richard Connolly bought the property in Stevens Canyon in 2005 and founded Deep Dirt Farm, an incorporated LLC. Tirion "has overseen the design and implementation of an ambitious, and ever-evolving, permaculture for the property and transformed the site into a teaching center," according to her website www.deepdirtinstitute.org.

Budhraja recently moved to Patagonia from Washington D.C. where she worked for a not-for-profit organization called Bread for the City as the manager of the farm growing the food for the food pantry.

Her interests led her to study Organizational Development, expertise she will utilize in developing programs and strategic planning at DDI.

Budhraja reports to five board members who have ties to Patagonia and Deep Dirt Farm as well as to education. Budhraja says she believes in the cause of "arid land restoration."

She spent time in India working in a similar environment and remarked, "how easy it is to move rocks and dirt around to catch rain water, build up the water table and affect the ecosystem for hundreds of years into the future." To witness a simple act have such a great impact motivates Budhraja, she said, adding that restoring arid land is "efficient."

As Executive Director, Budhraja will be spending less time in the field and more time working from her home on her computer. For now, her typical day is moving through a to-do list that ranges from strategic planning goals, internal communications, networking, marketing, and fundraising.

She is delighted to have a working board to whom she can delegate tasks. She is focusing on integrating the Institute with donor management software, budgeting, accounting and business planning. She is also the face of DDI, building relationships with new people, and, most critically, making the DDI a resource for the local community.

One of her key initiatives is a weekly "Farm to Fork program with the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center where the kids come to the farm, learn to grow food and herbs and cook what they grow at the Youth Center’s kitchen, connecting healthy bodies to healthy ecosystems,” she said.

For DDI, “local community is first, in which Patagonia is the central zone,” she said, “then the county, state, country and arid landscapes around the world.”

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION
BIDDING CLOSES
Thursday, August 29, 2019
at 7:00 pm

The Opportunity
For sale at auction is a 4.13-acre premier residential building lot that is ideally situated within the private, gated and paved subdivision known as "THE MESA," located at the base of the beautiful and dramatic "RED MOUNTAIN." This 4+ acre lot sits high on gently rolling wooded terrain covered with oaks, junipers, manzanita, mesquites, and grass overlooking the scenic town of Patagonia. Enjoy the gorgeous views, quiet starry nights, and rich wildlife corridor in the quaint and artsy community of Patagonia. A domestic water well (with shared well agreement) is already in place shared with Lots 23, 24 & 25. Septic System is also in place. Just bring your building plans to improve this very special property in Stevens Canyon in the quaint and artsy community of Patagonia. A domestic water well (with shared well agreement) is already in place shared with Lots 23, 24 & 25. Septic System is also in place. Just bring your building plans to improve this very special

Santa Cruz County Parcel Number: 106-44-023

Property Details
• 4.13± Acre Scenic Building Tract
• $1,736.16 Annual Property Taxes
• THE MESA subdivision, Lot 23
• HOA Dues $383.50 Yearly

Property Preview and Inspection:
Preview and inspection of the property are by drive-by only. Please contact listing broker, John Payne, (480-422-6800) for the gate code to access the property.

Directions: Cross streets in Patagonia, AZ are the AZ State Route 82 (Naugle Ave) and 3rd Ave. Once in Patagonia, AZ, take 3rd Ave south which turns into Red Mountain Ct and follow up to the gate at THE MESA. Property is on the right past Copper Cl. GATED COMMUNITY - CALL LISTING AGENT PRIOR TO ENTERING

573-429-7069 | BirdsongAuction.com Register to bid at PatagoniaLotAuction.com
Visitors to the National Day of the Cowboy event set out to explore the Empire Ranch.

On Saturday, July 27, the Empire Ranch Foundation experienced record attendance at their annual Day of the Cowboy. Over 400 attendees explored the recently updated buildings of the historic Empire Ranch and were greeted, instructed and entertained by musicians, vendors, story tellers, an historic presentation, a horse trainer, ranchers, a blacksmith, a roping practice area, leather craftsmen, a baker, a horse rescue foundation, a saddle fitter, the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles and a chuck wagon, whose cooks offered an authentic, cowboy lunch.

Added new this year were horses for rent for those who wanted to see a bit of the ranch the ‘authentic way’, from the back of a horse.

The Empire Ranch is a working ranch, owned by the BLM and managed by a nonprofit foundation. It is located in Sonoita off of Hwy 83.

Having recently undergone an extensive renovation funded by donations, it is open for the public to explore and tour the historic buildings.

The ranch has been the film location for numerous Hollywood movies from the 1950’s until the present. There are several events held at the ranch throughout the year. The Foundation welcomes memberships. Please visit their website at www.empireranchfoundation.org/
The Wall
By Jacqui Treinen

Beneath the walls built of fragments of solid mountains wedged together lies a river of vulnerability, the water of life held back by fear. Fear fueled by the illusion of Other, blocking out the light of possibilities, hiding unlimited vistas, keeping us confined in Smallness.

Peeling away age-hardened layers the wall crumbles, opening the way to connecting with the Truth, from knowing that the sun rises on us all, that the rubble and fragments can be used to build bridges.

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ENTRY CHECK-IN DAY will be September 17, 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Entry forms can also be picked up at the fairgrounds office, or online at www.sonoitafairgrounds.com and will be available on entry check-in day in Pioneer Hall. Please, if possible, print and fill out your entry form prior to arriving at the fairgrounds on entry check-in day.

School Day is Friday, Sept 20, 15 and under are free until noon. Military Day is Sunday, September 22: Free Entry for a Family of 4 with a Military ID.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.PATAGONIAFALLFESTIVAL.ORG
Samantha Shore, an experienced fitness and movement trainer with extensive experience, has opened SolFit, a fitness and holistic health studio located on Harshaw Road, opposite the Patagonia post office. When Shore first saw the house she said “I loved it all and was excited to have the bonus of a built in yoga studio.”

SolFit is a minimum equipment fitness program to support daily life, offers a nutrition program and barefoot group classes. Shore hopes that SolFit will evolve into a place for specialty classes, retreats and workshops, and partner with local businesses like wineries to be a place where the local community can get involved. She said she wants SolFit to be a place to add to the quality of people’s lives so that they are “living in this amazing place and are enjoying it because you feel good and you’re moving well.”

Shore, originally from Michigan, moved to Phoenix in the early 2000’s to attend Arizona State University. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise and wellness and fell in love with the outdoorsy lifestyle in Arizona. Shore has also completed a Masters in natural health from the University of Arizona which focused on nutrition, herbal medicine and spirituality. She started her career in fitness by working at gyms in various roles form the front desk to personal and group fitness classes. Shore said, “I love working with a general population and hope to impart good foundational movement, like how to stand, how to squat before going into a lunge,” which she feels helps clients move forward on their fitness journey.

John Hubbell of Patagonia Union High School is one of three Santa Cruz County high school graduating seniors who were recently recognized by South32 for showing a strong academic performance and for their stated plans to study science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). The South32 Hermosa STEM Scholarship is a one-time $2,500 scholarship awarded to local college-bound seniors with a 3.0 or higher GPA and an expressed desire to major in a STEM-related field. “STEM education is critical to a competitive workforce and serves as the backbone of the mining industry and sustainability-focused mining companies like South32,” says Greg Lucero, VP of Corporate Affairs for South32’s Hermosa project “We think it’s important to invest in students of these disciplines, honor them for their hard work, and help support them in pursuing their dreams.”
Patagonia 4th of July Parade

The Santa Cruz Cowbelles take part in the Patagonia 4th of July parade. Photo by Aisha Sander

Participants from Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center wave to the crowd from their float in the parade. Photo by Sally Reichardt

Local, Organic & Natural Grocery
Open 7 days a week - 9 am to 6 pm

- Local grass-fed ground beef
- Local coffee, honey & crafts
- Ice cream, produce, cheese
- Bulk beans, grains & flour
- Vegan & gluten free foods
- Case price discounts!

347 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia, AZ 520-394-2786

Voices From the Border Needs Donations

Voices From The Border of Patagonia in coordination with Panchito Y Su Cristina, Nogales, Sonora, are volunteer-run, non-profit humanitarian aid organizations providing services to families requesting asylum in Nogales, Sonora. We currently need over the counter (OTC) medications. This request for OTC medicines allows us to utilize our thinly stretched budget to purchase more expensive prescription medications and necessary medical tests. Our goal is that the children and parents arriving in the US will be as healthy as possible.

One donor shared that she buys an extra item(s) when shopping for herself - one to keep, one to donate - a brilliant idea! Please consider this shopping technique the next time you go to the drugstore.

To donate: Mail a check or medical items to PO Box 7, Patagonia AZ 85624. Checks can be made to Voices From The Border. Send an online donation through our webpage: www.border-voicesaz.org/voicesfromtheborder.

To DROP items there is a donation box behind the Pilates Studio on McKeown Avenue in Patagonia which is checked daily.

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688 Harshaw Rd Patagonia, AZ 85624 (520) 394-2490

List of OTC Medications:
- Benadryl, Claritin, Zyrtec; Benadryl syrup for children; Tylenol/acetaminophen-pills, children/syrup; Baby aspirin of 80 mg; Anti-itch cream like hydrocortisone and anti-fungal; Nasal sprays for allergies; colds; Eye drops for allergies, dry eyes; Smallest bottles of DayQuil, NightQuil, Robitussin (both the decongestant and the expectorant), Mucinex; Throat lozenges and sore throat spray; Adult diapers, preferably with attachments for over 125 lbs; Vitamins (for children and pregnant women) like folic acid, B12, B6, and multi-vitamins.

For wounds: small bottles of Hydrogen Peroxide; Antiseptic wound cleaner; Antibiotic salve like Neosporin; Anti inflammatory pain relief in gels, creams and patches; Band-aides of different sizes including Steri Strips. Equipment such as nebulizer machines, small humidifiers and portable oxygen bottles.

For wounds:
- Small bottles of Hydrogen Peroxide
- Antiseptic wound cleaner
- Antibiotic salve like Neosporin
- Anti-inflammatory pain relief in gels, creams and patches
- Band-aides of different sizes including Steri Strips
- Equipment such as nebulizer machines, small humidifiers and portable oxygen bottles.

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

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

CASA of Santa Cruz County
2160 N. Congress Dr., Nogales, AZ

520-377-0659
479 W Mariposa Rd
Nogales, AZ 85621
www.prepandprimenailbar.com
## EVENTS

### AUGUST

- **Aug 1**, 6 p.m. AZ Native Plant Society Meeting at Sonoita Fire House. santacruz.aznps@gmail.com

### SEPTEMBER

- **Aug 8**, 5:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tucson Audubon’s Birding Festival at Paton Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia with Christopher Collins $65/person
- **Aug 9**, 6 p.m. Family movie and teen games - Shrek the Third* - FREE community event in Sonoita - movies inside for families with kids (bring pillow and blanket) - teens meet out back for games - Harvest Christian Church - childcare Not provided
- **Aug 13**, 3 p.m. Fair Planning meeting at the Fairgrounds. If you’d like to be involved, call Jenn at the fairgrounds at 455-5553
- **Aug 14**, 10:00 a.m. Water Quality Roadmap Project - At the Tin Shed Theatre. Discussion on the status of the Water Quality Roadmap Project, sponsored by the Town of Patagonia. The speaker will be Bill O’Brien, principal engineer at NexGen Engineering. The speaker will be Bill O’Brien, principal engineer at NexGen Engineering out of Tucson.
- **Aug 17-19** SAILA Livestock Show & Sale at the Fairgrounds.
- **Aug 17**, 5:30-11:30 a.m. Tucson Audubon’s Birding Festival at Paton Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia with Christopher Collins $65/person
- **Aug 17**, 7-10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair at the Fairgrounds. Patagonia Farmer’s Market
- **Aug 17**, 7-10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the Fairgrounds at Pioneer Hall.
- **Aug 31-Sept 2** - Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo at the Fairgrounds.
- **Sept 6-8**, Sonoita Ranch Rodeo at the Fairgrounds.
- **Sept 7**, 4:30 p.m. Pie Auction dinner and Fundraiser for the Patagonia Community Garden. Dinner is $15, kids meal half price. Cash bar.

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

## MEETINGS

- **AA - Patagonia Community Methodist Church**
  - Fridays at 7:30 pm, Sonoita Bible Church Tuesdays 7:30 pm. For more AA meetings and info call 520-624-4183.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** - Tue. & Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. (520) 404-3490.
- **CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.)** - Board meeting 3rd. Mon. at 5:30 p.m. in the Patagonia Town Council Room Chambers.
- **Patagonia Town Council** - 2nd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m. in Town Council Hall.
- **Rotary Club** - 2nd & 4th Thurs., 5:30 p.m. at the Steak Out. Info: Sue 455-5561.
- **Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors** - 2nd Mon, 3 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- **The So Az Republican Club** meeting, 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month, Sonoita Fire House Board room.
- **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.
- **Community Youth Bible Hang Out**
  - (ages 12-18) at the Sonoita Bible Church - 2nd and 4th Wed. May Anderson, andeap@msn.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey 520-559-0155

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

- **Patagonia Farmers Market**
  - Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods
- **Nogales Mercado Farmers’ Market**
  - Fri 2-5 p.m. 163 N Morley Ave. Nogales, AZ.
- **Flea Market at Heart of Gold Antiques**
  - First Saturday of every month. Free to set up. Call 520-394-0199 for any additional information. Market runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **East SCC Community Food Bank**
  - 2nd Wednesday of the month 9-10a.m.pick up across from the Patagonia Fire Station.

## CHURCH SERVICES

- **Patagonia Community United Methodist Church**
  - 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274
  - Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
  - Youth Group: Sun. - 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church**
  - 222 Third Ave., Patagonia 394-2954
  - Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
- **Canelo Cowboy Church**
  - Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000
  - Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (except third Sundays) Ranch Family Fun Day: 7 a.m. every 3rd Sunday.
- **Sonoita Hills Community Church**
  - 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 455-5172
  - Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
- **Sonoita Bible Church**
  - 3174 N. High way 83, Sonoita 455-5779
  - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
  - Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Wed. 6-8 p.m.
- **Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church**
  - 12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita 394-2954
  - Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
- **Harvest Christian Fellowship/Sonoita Foursquare Church**
  - 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita 455-5505
  - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
- **St. Andrews Episcopal Church**
  - Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 2nd & 4th Saturdays: 10 a.m.
- **Quaker Worship Group**
  - Sundays at 10 a.m. Call or email for more information and location. David Krest, david_krest@yahoo.com, (843) 830-7184 or Janice Pulliam (706) 614-6959

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

**PAGE 22          PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES          AUGUST/SEPT 2019**
HELP WANTED

ARE YOU A COMPASSIONATE AND QUALIFIED CAREGIVER AND LOOKING FOR WORK?
Please contact Patagonia Assisted Care Agency 520-604-8179
or fill out an application online at www.carepatagonia.com

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

LIVE-ONSITE HORSE CARETAKERS WANTED
Experienced only, No smoking/drugs/alcohol.
520-455-9246

JOBS IN PATAGONIA
The Town of Patagonia has available jobs. Please visit their website for more information.

HOUSING RENTALS

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

NEWER TINY HOUSE FOR RENT
Full kitchen, washer/dryer, partially furnished, private lot, RV or boat parking, privacy fencing, separate home office space and huge front porch. Call for showing @ 602-690-0007

TRAILER FOR RENT IN PATAGONIA
$200 / Month 394-2007

CLASSES

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

TO PLACE CLASSIFIEDS OR ADS
CONTACT PRTADS@GMAIL.COM

MARIPOSA Your Community Health Center
Your family is our family

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

Molly Anderson - M.D.
Timothy R. Penniston - F.N.P - C

Appointments: 281-1550 • 101 Taylor Street • mariposachc.net

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Tommy is a 3 1/2 month old Lab mix pup. He was found in Hermosillo, Mexico in a school. He now has a shiny coat and he’s ready for a home!

Callie is a sweet Dilute Calico, she is 2 1/2 years old and enjoys quiet time. She likes head rubs and likes to hide when she is scared, but is an amazing mice hunter. She is now ready for a forever home!

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

LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!

FULL MOONS - AUG 29, SEPT 28
PATAGONIA: 325-A Mckeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
SONOITA: Corner of Hwys 82 & 83, next to Post Office  520-455-5235
www.buysonoita.com or www.sonoita-realestate.com

Download FREE Long Realty App for instant Arizona real estate active listings, pending sales and recently sold properties. Aug 2019