Fire Chiefs Unhappy With 911 System

By Marion Vendituoli

Discontent with the current 911 system in Santa Cruz County (SCC) by local fire districts has led to demands for change in the way that emergency medical calls are handled by the Sheriff’s office.

“In the world of emergency response, seconds matter,” Cheryl Horvath, Tubac Fire Chief, said.

Horvath, who took over as chief in 2018, has been spearheading the campaign to reform the SCC 911 system. All six of the county’s fire districts have been involved in this effort. “We are all on the same page,” she said.

911 calls are currently handled by the County Sheriff's office. Law enforcement calls and emergency/medical calls are handled in the same way, according to Lt. Gerardo Castillo, who oversees the 911 center. A dispatcher transmits the information over the radio to the appropriate responders.

The fire chiefs are frustrated with the way in which data from these calls is transmitted to the fire districts. Approximately nine years ago the fire districts purchased, with a grant, a system that would transmit information to responders via an upgrade to the law enforcement computer aided device (CAD) at the 911 center. “There were constant challenges with the sheriffs’ dept. It never got implemented. Nine years later it is now outdated. It could be upgraded. The fire chiefs have been asking for years and years for it,” Horvath said.

But Castillo disagreed with Horvath, saying “that is the fire district’s system. We allowed them to tie into law enforcement system...They were using it. They didn’t continue paying the yearly fee so it’s not working.” Horvath responded to this by saying “There was never a full implementation of the system” by the 911 center and we couldn’t fully utilize the system.

SEFD Fire Chief Joseph DeWolf says that problems with the 911 system have been ongoing for the past 25 years.

New Drilling Proposal Under Review

By Aisha Sander

Approximately 50 people attended the Coronado National Forest Service (CNF) “Public Scoping Open House” at Patagonia Union High School on Sept. 4. This open house marked the beginning of the Public Scoping phase of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Sunnyside Exploratory Drilling (SED) Project proposed by Arizona Standard. The project site is in the Patagonia Mountains in the vicinity of Flux Canyon.

The public scoping period will last for 45 days (Oct. 21, 2019), and is the first opportunity for the public to comment on the project. The EA process will provide two more opportunities for the public to comment after the FS releases its Draft EA and again after the Draft Decision Notice.

The EA is a review by the FS which either leads to a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or if significant environmental impact is likely then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is a comparatively more thorough analysis, especially looking at the “cumulative effects” of the proposal.

The SED project proposal includes creating up to 30 constructed drill sites within three drilling areas on CNF land resulting in a disturbance of 11.55 acres of land. No more than two drill pads at a time will be active.

Drilling would occur 24/7 requiring approximately 36 people per day for up to seven years.

The SED project would need to make improvements to approximately 7.8 miles of Forest Service roads, and 0.81 miles of new temporary non-system access roads. There would be a sign warning visitors of heavy equipment use posted at both ends of the drill site as well as a safety fence to separate the site from where roads are not closed. For safety, public access to drill sites would be limited through one or more locked gates.

The SED project would use up to 12,500 gallons of water per day per drill rig when drilling and an additional 2000 gallons on dust control for access roads. The SED project would transport water from Nogales, Santa Cruz County, and Sonoita to five reserve tanks at each of the two laydown yards.

Greg Oleson, a hydrologist with the CNF, said that the water underground is already contaminated from the natural mineral presence and historic mining. The FS has required that the SED bring in clean drinking water to use for its project.

Rick Trotman, the President of Arizona Standard said, “The basic premise of our program is that the water that returns to the surface will be stored in plastic-lined sumps and...”
PRT Launches New Matching Fund Drive

In our last issue, we shared the news that the Patagonia Regional Times had been accepted for membership by the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN). This month we are equally excited to tell you about our participation in NewsMatch, a national fundraising program that will match donations we receive between Nov 1 and Dec. 31, up to $1000 per donation, doubling the impact of your donations.

"NewsMatch started at the Knight Foundation in 2016 as a "call to action for everyone who believes in quality, trustworthy, in-depth journalism and the role nonprofit news organizations play in building strong communities," according to a report from the Nieman Journalism Lab. In the last four years, NewsMatch has helped nonprofit news organizations raise more than $15.8 million. In 2018, they helped 154 newsrooms raise more than $7.6 million. There are 196 newsrooms, including the PRT, participating in this year’s campaign.

NewsMatch will match donations received by the PRT from individuals, family foundations and small businesses. This means that for every dollar you donate to the PRT during November and December, the PRT will receive two dollars.

New donors pledging monthly support will be matched for twelve months of donations. In addition, if we can secure 100 new donors, we will be eligible for a goal-based bonus. Last year’s bonus was an additional $5000.

So why is this campaign so critical for the PRT? As a nonprofit newspaper, the PRT depends heavily on its supporters, its advertisers, its volunteers and its subscribers for its operating expenses. With additional funding we would be able to hire needed support staff and interns. In the current digital landscape of news media, funding will be used towards upgrading and expanding our online presence for which the PRT needs to invest in more sophisticated software and computers.

And why should you participate in this fundraising campaign? The PRT is your only source of local news that focuses exclusively on the exciting and diverse communities of eastern Santa Cruz County and the issues that affect us, including the border, water issues, mining, the environment and our schools. The PRT has committed staff and volunteer writers who produce quality articles, and strives to be the voice of our community. As a nonprofit newspaper the PRT’s only focus is on providing quality journalism, but the PRT can’t do this without your support.

If you have contributed to the PRT before, please consider making this year’s gift during the NewsMatch campaign between Nov.1 and Dec. 31. If you haven’t given before, please consider a donation this year. Supporting local news is in everybody’s best interest.

To access our news blog titled “Late Breaking News,” please visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org and sign up for our Newsletter.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Patagonia Regional Times and to inspire our students to communicate about things that they love and to which they feel connected, the PRT is sponsoring, in collaboration with the Patagonia Creative Arts Center and Borderlands Restoration, two contests, an essay contest and a photo contest. The contests are open to all students in the communities of Elgin, Canelo, Patagonia and Sonora in grades 6 - 12.

There will be two divisions, Middle School (grades 6 - 8) and High School (grades 9 - 12). Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the first place, second place and honorable mention winners at an opening reception to be held at the Patagonia Creative Arts Center on Saturday, Nov 30. Entries will then be on display at the Patagonia Public library until December 14.

The deadline for entries is November 1.

For more information about these contests, visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org, email prteditor@gmail.com or call 520-604-7534.

Receive Breaking Local News Sent Straight to Your Inbox

The PRT is expanding its e-communications with an e-newsletter covering Top Stories, PRT News, Events and Announcements.

Visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org and sign up for our Newsletter.

Join the PRT Staff

The PRT has an exciting part-time opening (8-10 hours/month) for an Advertisement Manager who can lead us to increased print advertising sales and revenue. Flexible hours. If you love sales, meeting people, newspapers and media, this is a great opportunity. You’ll also be making a difference in the Eastern Santa Cruz community by helping the PRT maintain its role as the unique source for local news in our area.

You should be a self-starter with strong communications skills who is also well organized, computer savvy, and detail oriented. Now offering a base salary plus commissions.

Go to: https://patagoniaregionaltimes.org/job-opening-prt-advertising-manager/ to read the full job description. Send your resume and cover letter to prtads@gmail.com to apply.
MINING
Continued from Page 1
will be re-used until the drilling is complete on that particular drill-site. Once activity at a drill-site is complete, the water will be left to evaporate, at which time we’ll remove the sediment and rock chips that are left within the plastic liner and dispose of them at the appropriate off-site facility.”

John Kraft, a biological resources officer with CNF, said that there are four known endangered species in this area of the National Forest, the Mexican spotted owl, the jaguar, the ocelot and the western yellow-billed cuckoo, though they may not be the only species affected by the proposed action in the area. When asked about mining actions on private lands neighboring the SED proposal, Kraft said this would be reviewed under “cumulative effects analysis.”

Nina Rogers, an archeologist with the CNF, said that the chances for discovering any prehistoric artifacts on this land are low. The chances for historical findings are higher. However, as there is a history of mining on this area the condition of those historical cultural resources may be poor.

CNF officials claimed that, besides recreational driving, sightseeing and hunting, there are no other significant recreational activities in the area.

Jean Miller, who lives in Flux Canyon, said she was struck by the amount of people at the open house and the importance of the issue. Her biggest concerns are the impacts on water, noise and traffic from the proposed activity. Miller said it is difficult to know which roads they will be using because most of the roads around her house are not signed.

Leslie Schupp, another Flux Canyon resident who attended the open house said her main concerns are traffic, noise, pollution and impact on wildlife. She regularly sees wildlife in her neighborhood and is fearful that they will be impacted by the drilling activity. She also mentioned that the Forest Service did not answer her questions about the road use adequately and her biggest takeaway was that they “don’t really know what they are doing.”

911 Continued from Page 1
the software, so the fire departments chose not to spend the money on it.”

When asked why he felt the fire chiefs were unhappy, Castillo responded, “Because they’re not getting their way…I don’t see them stepping up either. They use their money for everything else but this.” “If anything could be done, I would have done it,” he said.

Horvath expressed her dissatisfaction with the Sheriff’s office. “The Sheriff does not participate in meetings,” she said. “We’re not getting any action.” SEFD Fire Chief Joseph DeWolf said, “The minimum they [SCC 911] are required to do by state law is tone out and that’s what they do,” expressing his dissatisfaction. “This has been an ongoing thing for the past 25 years and it has not been addressed.”

DeWolf pointed out that most fire departments outside of Santa Cruz County pay for dispatch. Horvath estimates that it would cost up to “tens of thousands of dollars” for the upgrades at this point. The fire districts are looking at how sophisticated a system they would require and what the smaller districts might be able to afford.

Another area of concern is the lack of trained emergency/medical dispatchers (EMDs) at the 911 center. There is a shortage of dispatchers, Castillo said. There should be 11 dispatchers, but currently there are only five. None of SCC dispatchers are trained EMDs, nor are there any plans for the sheriff’s office to train any of their dispatchers as EMDs. An EMD is required to stay on the phone during an emergency and provide “pre-arrival instructions,” to help the caller deal with the situation until responders arrive. At present, the SCC 911 dispatchers will keep the line open if they perceive that the emergency is life threatening, but do not offer any instruction on dealing with the situation. “We’re not allowed to provide pre-arrival instructions,” Castillo said.

The lack of EMDs at the 911 center is due to the added expense of the required training and the staffing shortage. “An EMD can’t take law enforcement calls,” Javier De La Ossa, supervisor of the 911 center explained. EMDs must stay on the line with the emergency until it is resolved, and the dispatcher cannot leave that call to take another call. The sheriff’s office is unwilling to take on the added expense of having trained EMDs, according to Castillo. “I approached the fire chiefs – What are you willing to do? I asked them for funding. They need to put up some dollars.”

“I think it is important to have an EMD,” Patagonia Fire Chief Ike Isakson said. The Patagonia Fire Department averages between 15 to 20 emergency calls per month, according to Isakson. Although he feels that the system in general works well, “It could be improved.” He has concerns, however, about the cost of improving the system.

DeWolf expressed frustration with other aspects of the 911 system. In addition to the poor quality of transmissions and the inability to understand some of the dispatchers, he also felt that problems arise because “they do not know this area. They don’t understand that we cover Pima County,” he said. “We’ve got to come up with something to get better dispatch for our communities.” “It’s a really bad situation,” SEFD Board of Directors member Chris Johnson said. “Somebody’s going to die and somebody’s going to sue,” he added.

The fire chiefs are looking at several options, including switching to the 911 system run by the city of Nogales, which does utilize an upgraded CAD system. SCC Supervisor Bruce Bracker suggested that the two 911 centers in the county should merge to provide better efficiency. “I would like to see a single dispatch system,” he said, citing the possibilities for “enhanced service and reduced costs” and “a more robust office and infrastructure.” He pointed out, however, that “the Board of Supervisors doesn’t have the authority to remove the 911 center from the Sheriff’s control.”

The fire chiefs are also looking at using Cochise County’s 911 center, or even searching further afield. “At this time, we are looking at any and all options to make this system better,” Horvath said.
New South32 Exec Calls Project a ‘Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity.’

By Aisha Sander

Pat Risner, the new President of the Hermosa Project for South32, met with the PRT in August 2019. Interview questions were submitted in advance per the company’s request.

Personal Life

Pat Risner, the President of the Hermosa Project, grew up in a small town, south of Tulsa, OK. He studied engineering at the University of Missouri, Raleigh. “I was really good at science and math,” he said. He became interested in mining while participating in a summer internship in a southern Illinois underground mine. “I loved it, a little family underground, it suited me,” he said.

Upon graduation, Risner began working for BHP, the largest mining company in the world based out of Australia. He spent 27 years with BHP, of which 18-19 years were in New Mexico with the Navajo Nation and close to nine years in two different assignments in Australia.

During his career he performed a variety of roles from operations, frontline supervisor, planning and, more recently, as asset president of a coal mining operation on the Navajo Nation. As asset president, Risner was working to sell off BHP’s coal assets. His primary concern was to prevent a big loss of employment. It was the “greatest experience of my career,” he said. “Saved a couple of thousand jobs, sustained a business for longer than expected.”

Hermosa Project

Risner said that it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to work on the Hermosa Project at this very early stage. For now, Risner said, the source they are focused on is the Taylor deposit, which has high-grade underground lead, zinc, and silver sulfite. They have begun their pre-feasibility study, which will re-evaluate all the options for how to get the ore out, process the ore and move the product into the market. They plan to conduct a feasibility study in 2020.

Arizona Mining Inc. conducted studies and began exploration on the private patented land, which South32 purchased in August, 2018. In 2019 South32 decided to redo the studies. Risner said that this is a common practice of companies and does not imply that they were misled by the studies provided by AMI. The pre-feasibility study will help define and understand the “project to our standards and commitment to shareholders,” said Risner. Though there is another deposit, the Clark deposit, in the package that they purchased from AMI, as of now they are not studying it.

Risner said that they are “continuing to do exploration drilling both on Taylor and other parts of patented sites to further define Taylor”, and “to see what else is in this area.”

The pre-feasibility phase is reviewing the declines that were built by AMI to access the underground ore. South32 stopped the work on the declines 500 feet down in December 2019, but Risner clarified that they are not welded shut. The tunnels are inspected weekly per safety protocols. The reviewing process is “looking at how to access the ore body, what we may encounter when we go around all of the different conditions and satisfy ourselves before we will restart the declines,” said Risner. This “will be an underground mine”, said Risner, “it will not be an open pit.”

“In this phase we are looking at emissions and how to innovate safety, minimize environmental impact, community impact, and carbon footprint,” said Risner, but “until we are out of study work we don’t know the exact ways.” South32 climate goals, according to the company, are to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050, a goal that Hermosa Project will work towards by reviewing its carbon footprint every five years starting in 2021.

Recent Land Purchases

“Most of the land we have bought has potential for various uses,” said Risner, including infrastructure, roads, conservation and collaboration, and mitigation. As of now there is no intention to drill at the south end of the old Tree of Life property but, “we cannot rule out drilling,” said Risner. In the meantime they envision making the Tree of Life into an open space for public use, and believe that other land purchases can also be opportunities to collaborate with the community.

South32 is not in discussion to purchase any of the neighboring properties currently owned by Barksdale International, said Risner. At the moment they are watching closely the proposal submitted to the Forest Service for drilling on the National Forest Land neighboring the Hermosa project.

Impact on Community

During the pre-feasibility study they do not know how many people will work at the mine at the peak of its activities but “community impact is a consideration in all the decisions we make,” said Risner.

Risner said that he sees the “importance of relationships here if we are going to be here a long time, and listen to the stakeholders.” In his tenure with the Navajo Nation it was at the tail end of a 50-year business, whereas at Hermosa it is right at the beginning, which makes Risner hopeful that they can “get it right from the start and can be a model for other projects.” South32 is looking to change peoples lives positively for generations and to work with “high standards by doing what is right and going above beyond the status quo and the industry standards,” he added.

Risner is meeting with various groups in the community, invested in listening, learning and building relationships early on. He said, that there are a “lot of very educated, unbelievably intelligent people with experiences from lots of different places,” who are providing important input to this process.

Risner said, “we want to keep Patagonia special and coexist with the current character of town.” As the Patagonia town plan envisions an economy based on tourism and restoration, Risner wants to learn more on how to support that vision and “understand the aspirations of the community.”

Cose Buone

Gene Griego
Chef/Owner
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Remediation Work Continues in Mansfield Canyon

By Robert Gay

A mine remediation project in Mansfield Canyon, accessed by Temporal Canyon Rd, is being conducted by the Nogales District of the Coronado National Forest (CNF). There are four phases in the project: tunnel and shaft protection, road maintenance and realignment, tailings relocation and biological restoration.

The tunnel and shaft protection is for both human safety and preservation of bat habitat, according to CNF spokesperson Heidi Schewel. In the two mines located within the project area, seven adits (horizontal passages) leading into a mine for access or drainage) and three shafts received closures. In designing the closures, Schewel explained in an email, “the Forest Service worked with Bat Conservation International, who performed a survey of the mine features within the project area in 2017 to assess bat presence.”

Road maintenance and realignment of approximately one mile on segments of FS Roads 72, 72A, and 4091 were necessary for the movement of earthmoving equipment and tailings materials, and included regrading, erosion prevention and culverts. The road from Temporal Road to these mines (FS 72A) remains closed until January 31, 2020. FS Road 72, the road in Temporal Canyon, is open and a temporary four-mile detour of the Arizona Trail, unpopular with hikers, is no longer necessary.

The third and largest part of this project was the relocation and encapsulation of toxic tailings.

The primary impetus for the project had been the presence of lead, arsenic and antimony in the historical tailings of two 19th and 20th century mines in the Canyon, the Dixie Mine (closed 1936) and the Hossy Mine (closed 1953). In addition to lead, these mines had been worked for silver, copper, gold, zinc, and barium.

The first phase was to encapsulate the tailings away from washes in a way that drainage can’t flow from them into Temporal Gulch, which drains into Sonota Creek. Approximately 54,000 cubic yards of mine-generated material has been relocated by an outside engineering contractor into two shallow depressions with a tough liner and capped in place with about six feet of native material. The site is on a ridge about 5 miles from the area of the two mines and is fenced with 4-strand barbed wire. To date there is no signage. Smaller plants, including amaranth, are beginning to reclaim the areas, albeit sparsely. Summer rains don’t have appeared to produce any significant erosion or gullies, and small plants are beginning to grow in the soil cap.

The encapsulation of tailings will be followed next summer by the biological phase of the project, when a team from Borderlands Restoration Network will place both locally harvested seeds and plants salvaged from the project’s construction areas. Team member Allegra Mount explained that their seeds and plants will begin to restore the basic plant communities of the disturbed area, and the plant restoration will in turn create habitat and food sources for creatures of all scales to return, in a self-diversifying response by nature. Over many years, the returnees might include mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and soil micro-communities.

The Borderlands team sees the re-creation of wildlife habitat by projects like this as a form of ecological healing and point out that the restoration of wildlife habitat is essential to preserve the biodiversity critical to global ecosystem function. While Borderlands does not work directly in mine reclamation, they welcome the opportunity to work with Federal land managers to contribute their seeds, plants, and biological expertise to the restoration of these “legacy mines.”

The Mansfield Canyon project was not financed with Superfund dollars. The project costs were covered by money administered by an Environmental Trust Fund created by a 2014 Federal settlement against Tronox Inc, a consequence of an Asarco-originated bankruptcy which also involved Kerr-McGee, a former Patagonia Mountain claim holder who tried to unload mining holdings that had excessive cleanup costs. The settlement total of $5.15 billion was at that time the largest U.S. environmental damage claim ever awarded and was disbursed among Tronox-related projects in 22 states. About $1.2 billion of it went to the cleanup of 50 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. The Mansfield Canyon project represents a tiny fraction of the total settlement.

Elsewhere in the Santa Rita Mountains, the CNF is scheduling 58 mine-closure projects, largely in the south and east parts of the range. They are not toxic material responses, but rather involve a variety of safety closures, fencing and signage after habitat assessment of each site.

Many of the closures will be grilles intended to let air and bats into the old and generally dangerous mines, but not humans or other large mammals. Completion of this project is expected within about a year and is part of the Forest Service’s Abandoned Mine Lands program. The State of Arizona has a similar program, with two field inspectors inventorying and closing unsafe mines, while preserving bat habitat when possible.

In the Patagonia Mountains, east of Red Mountain, the current Forest Service attempt to stop the recurring acid drainage from the Lead Queen Mine is a hydraulic plug filling the mouth of the adit, a site PRT has previously reported on (March 2015 and May 2018).

Also in the Patagonia Mountains, south of the Lead Queen, South32’s Hermosa Project is approximately 80% finished with the tailings remediation of the former Trench Mine, another encapsulation project, with approximately 1.25 million tons being relocated. These are being placed on an impermeable liner, to a height of about 60 feet. At the bottom of the tailings pile, a piping system will drain affected water from the lined basin into a small holding pond for processing by an active water-treatment plant designed to de-mineralize the water to meet AZ State Aquifer Protection Permit standards.

Legislation now in the US Congress would help provide funding for remediation of both old and new mining projects, especially important in this region where the mine cleanup task is daunting.

Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center PYEC KIDS CAN COOK PRESENTS

THE CENTER CHEFS
DATE: October 19, 2019
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
LOCATION: 115 S. 3rd Ave, Patagonia, AZ

Ticket Price: $15.00 a plate (kids under 5 eat free)

The Patagonia youth want to thank our community for supporting the Kids Can Cook (KCC) program and the PYEC at this fundraising event by showing off the cooking skills that our youth have learned through the KCC program over the 2019 summer.

For any questions regarding this event please contact Anna Coleman at (520) 343-2356 or info@pyec.org
Elgin, Arizona has, according to local census data, a population of 161. Those unfamiliar with the area might miss downtown Elgin, which is marked by an abandoned, dilapidated gas station, and a few buildings, but along with its cattle, wine and pronghorn antelope, this tiny settlement has the distinction of producing some of the premier spirits in the world, thanks to the expertise of Gary Ellam, ‘Maestro Ronero,’ (Master of Rum) who operates the Elgin Winery and Distillery down the hill from the historic Elgin Community Club building.

Ellam is the first American to receive this coveted title. His Distilleria Regalo De Vida is the first licensed craft distillery in Arizona and is the highest awarded distillery in the west. Ellam’s ‘Extra-Aged Rum’ received the gold medal and the best in show award at the 2019 International Wine and Spirits (IWSC) competition in London, England and also received gold medals for his El Gin and his Arizona Straight Bourbon Whiskey.

Ellam’s spirits have also received the top award at the World Spirits Competition (WSC) held in San Francisco, CA. The entries are tasted by judges with the finest palates in the world in a double-blind test to determine the winner.

Having been in the area since 1982, Ellam has developed his recipe for spirits using locally sourced ingredients. The sugar cane comes from nearby Sonora, Mx, the agave and other botanicals from Patagonia and the grapes from Elgin/Sonoita.

He attributes one of the main reasons for his success to the local water, which makes up 30 – 60% of his spirits, and has trademarked the name of his Elgin water source as “Magic Water.” Ellam claims that Elgin has the best water in the world.

The aging process of the spirits, done in bourbon barrels, is accelerated by the climate, with daily temperatures varying 30-60 degrees, and the drier air, which speeds up the water loss. This helps to produce a finished product more rapidly than in the Caribbean, where rum is more traditionally produced. The product can be ready for bottling in as little as five years in Elgin, whereas it takes up to 15 years in the Caribbean.

Along with his premium rum, Regalo De Vida, Ellam also has a more economical line of spirits called, “The Four Monkeys.” He stated that he “would rather have limited production of a higher quality than a mass produced, lower quality line” so limits his production to assure that each bottle is some of the best created.

Although few in his local community know of his international success and fame in the spirits industry, Ellam has been featured in USA Today along with other state and national publications. This makes his notoriety a pleasant surprise as visitors, both local and non-local, observe the many awards on the walls of his little distillery and tasting room, tucked away across from the Elgin Bridge in downtown Elgin,AZ.

By Pat McNamara
Aurora P. Barela, 87, of Patagonia, Arizona passed away on Wed., July 31, 2019 at her residence. Aurora was preceded in death by her husband, Adolfo Barela and a daughter, Virginia.

Funeral mass was held August 6 at St. Theresa’s Church in Patagonia. Prayer Vigil and Rosary service was held Wednesday, August 7 at Baca’s Funeral Chapels in Silver City. A graveside service was held Thurs., August 8 at the Fort Bayard National Cemetery where she was laid to rest with her husband Adolfo.

Aurora (Dora) was born on February 13, 1932 in Hurley, NM to Refugio Parra and Josefa Madrid Parra. She is survived by her son, Jean N. Wright, 87, earned her wings on August 13, 2019 in Sierra Vista, AZ. Jean was a resident of Patagonia since 1972. She is survived by her son: Roy F. Lee; daughters: Marcia Lee, Kate Alterman and Annice Landers; Sisters: Dolly Forbush and Waydean Neeley O’bryan; 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Edwin Lee and her husband Duke Wright; daughter Clara Hamilton. She will be missed but never forgotten.

Dora and her family moved to Patagonia from New Mexico in 1954 when her husband, Adolfo received his first teaching job at Patagonia Union High School. Dora quickly adapted to her new home town and became active in many organizations. She became a 4-H leader, was a lifetime VFW auxiliary member (Sierra Vista Chapter), was president of the Patagonia Women’s Club (in the 1980’s) and a member for over 50 yrs. Dora was trained & received her CDL (commercial driver’s license) in order to drive the high school bus and van whenever the students from FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America taught by Adolfo) had conferences in Tucson and Phoenix. In addition Dora was a Catechist at St Theresa’s Church for multiple years.

A graveside service was held Thurs., August 8 at the Fort Bayard National Cemetery where she was laid to rest with her husband Adolfo.

New Pastor Joins Sonoita Church

Sonora Hills Community Church is very pleased to introduce our new senior pastor, Rick Rinde and his wife, Candee. The Rinde’s will be relocating to Sonoita from Snowflake in early October but are already very engaged in our Fellowship and leading our Sunday services.

Rick and Candee have three children presently in New Mexico, two of whom are attending universities there. We extend a warm invitation to all our Sonora/Elgin/ Patagonia neighbors to join us for Sunday services at 10 a.m. and meet Pastor Rick and Candee.

“...I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
2 Timothy 4:7

Donald McReynolds

Donald McReynolds left this life to be with his Lord on August 19, 2019 in Austin TX, where he was living with his daughter Lynn and her husband Tom.

Don started a very successful real estate appraisal company and employed over a dozen relatives to the business. He eventually segued into appraising race cars and specialty cars which he raced on a regular basis all over the country.

He enjoyed restoring vintage race cars and owned quite a few classics, which which took him all around the country.

He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara.

Always a good story teller, he would tell you a story as long as you would listen. He never met a stranger and people were automatically drawn to him. He will be deeply missed. Don lived a very full life, with so many adventures with his beloved wife Barbara.

Don is survived by his wife of 65+ years, Barbara, their three children, Dave (Aralynn) McReynolds, Lynn (Tom) Shirk and Steve (Theresa) McReynolds, four grandchildren, Jennifer (Michael) Cmelik, Jeremy (Heather) McReynolds, Amy (Jeremy) Brown and Jonathan Shirk, and several great grandchildren.

Don is also survived by his two brothers, Randy and Tom, and one sister, Barbara Wisner, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday September 21 at Sonoita Hills Community Church.

Jean N. Wright

Jean N. Wright, 87, earned her wings on August 13, 2019 in Sierra Vista, AZ. Jean was a resident of Patagonia since 1972. She is survived by her son: Roy F. Lee; daughters: Marcia Lee, Kate Alterman and Annice Landers; Sisters: Dolly Forbush and Waydean Neeley O’bryan; 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Edwin Lee and her husband Duke Wright; daughter Clara Hamilton. She will be missed but never forgotten.
Legislative Committee Formed to Study County Boundary Changes  

By Kat Crockett

After the defeat last year of House Bill 2486, Representative Gail Griffin and Sonoita resident Darcy Mentone carried the torch to establish a new committee under the powers of the legislature to form study groups. Senate President Karen Fann and Speaker of the House Russell Bow- ers have established a Joint Ad Hoc Committee on County Boundaries to research and report on the fiscal and related impacts of a change in the county boundary line between Cochise County and Santa Cruz County and other areas.

The committee will submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2020 and provide a copy of the report to the Secretary of State. Representative Griffin originally introduced HB2486 in response to Sonoita-Elnigo community concerns following several town hall discussions that pinpointed issues impacting the community, including higher taxes and lack of county services.

Appointees to the 13-member committee are Senator Sylvia Allen, Committee Co-Chair (R); Senator Andrea Dalessandro (D); Senator David Gowin (R); Representative Gail Griffin, Committee Co-Chair (R); Representative Rosanna Gabaldon (D); Representative Becky Nutt (Majority Whip) (R); Todd Bostock, Co-Owner of Dos Cabezas WineWorks, Cocishe and Santa Cruz County; Kent Callaghan, Co-Owner of Callaghan Vineyards, Sar- ta Cruz County; Richard Searle, former Cochise County Supervisor; Jennifer Stetlow, Vice President of Arizona Tax Research Association; David Green, Chair, Sononita-Elnigo Community Group; Matt Parrilli, Member, Sononita-Elnigo Community Group; and Craig Sullivan, Executive Director, County Supervisors Association of Arizona.

David Green founded the Sonotnita-Elnigo Community Group following the closure of the Sonotnita courthouse, and will be serving on the committee along with group member Matt Parrilli. “Problems with our County government persist to include the Board of Supervisors’ recent vote to raise property taxes for the sixth year in a row along with the proposed new health code changes which include significant fees and fines which has the potential to negatively impact our local businesses including wineries and future development,” Green said.

“The Sonoita-Elnigo Community group will host another town hall in the near future to hear about community concerns and what they may want the study group on county boundaries to consider,” he added.

If you would like to express your opinion on the issues, you may contact the Sonoita-Elnigo Community Group by email at sonotnaeilgincommunitygroup@gmail.com. Stay in touch by email at sonotnaeilgincommunitygrouptalks@gmail.com.

Patagonia School art students painted two news boxes for the Patagonia Regional Times. These boxes were designed by 10th grader Sydney McKay. This brings the total number of PRT news boxes to seven. These two newest colorful boxes will be placed in Sonoita. Many thanks to Cassina Farley for organizing the project and to all our area artists who have done such a great job on these boxes.

Court Blocks Rosemont Mine  

By Aisha Sander

On Aug. 1, 2019, Judge James Soto, in what was seen as a victory for environmental groups, blocked the Rosemont Mine from construction and by overturning the decisions made by the Forest Service. “In his 37-page deci- sion, Soto hammered almost exclu- sively at the Forest Service’s approval of Hudbay’s plan to dump mine waste rock and tailings from its 955-acre pit onto 2,447 acres of nearby public land on the Santa Ritas’ eastern slopes,” reported the Arizona Daily Star.

Residents from Eastern Santa Cruz have been involved in the long campaign resisting the Rosemont Mine through the work of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR). If allowed, the Rosemont mine proposal would deeply impact the residents of Eastern Santa Cruz, said Morris Farr, in terms of “aesthetics, tourism, truck traffic, and declining property values.” Farr, a resident of Sonoita and a board mem- ber for SSSR for the last 18 years said that the group was disappointed when Rosemont received a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers in March 2019, clearing the way for construction of the open-pit mine.

However, they were quick to act with various other groups and were one of the plaintiffs for the legal case against the mine. Their attorney argued that the Hudbay proposal was using National Forest land to dump its tailings rather than mining and there- fore the 1872 mining law did not apply. The courtroom was “packed” for the entire week and both sides had many attorneys working on the case, said Farr. If Judge Soto’s verdict remains un- challenged it will set a national prece- dent for mining on National Forest land. The verdict will be challenged in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals by Hudbay Minerals and may go all the way to the Supreme Court.

As of now the court date for the appeal has not been set and it may take up to two years for it to be heard. In this time, Farr said, there is hope that the company may decide not to pursue this project any further as they consid- er the losses incurred by their share- holders. Farr said they are watching and waiting and “cautiously optimistic” about the 9th Circuit court case.

Organizers Have High Hopes for Fall Festival  

By Aisha Sander

The Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance (SAACA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation, preservation and advancement of the arts, will be presenting the Patagonia Fall Festival for the second year in a row in partnership with the Sky Islands Tourism Association (SITA).

The Event Coordinator, Shelby Scheer wrote that SAACA has “created over 200,000 arts-driven experiences around the state; from massive art fes- tivals and culinary events to art therapy programs that support veterans and the elderly to large-scale community shows.”

“The most difficult aspect of our work is that the demand for arts pro- gramming is always greater than the resources SAACA has on hand,” wrote Scheer. Further, Arizona has no perma- nent source of funding for the arts and until it does, the arts, nonprofits and artists struggle to compete for resourc- es.

For Scheer the most fulfilling aspect of her work is that SAACA is filling that gap in funding and bring- ing arts into communities around the state every day. Last year the Fall Festival experienced unusually heavy rainfall, wrote Scheer, “so we really learned how to present the festival under the most difficult conditions our first year, which was challenging at the time but is a blessing in hindsight.”

The SAACA team has developed a much improved contingency plan for rain. Scheer wrote, “experiencing the Patagonia Park in the rain, wind, and muddy grass has helped us improve the logistics for this year, especially how to improve public safety and en- joyment in the park itself.”

Scheer believes that Fall Festival fits into a broader strategy to support the Town of Patagonia and the Sky Island region. The festival brings 15,000 to 20,000 people to Patagonia once a year but how can SAACA convert that captive audience into frequent visitors to Patagonia? How can SAACA support bring those attendees back? SAACA hopes to grow the promi- nence of the Fall Festival, Patagonia and the Sky Island region so that it is considered one of the best regional festivals in the entire country.

Cera Lynn LAc, LMT Aesthetician  

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wwwSimpleName.net

Acupuncture Medical Massage Facial Aesthetics
Women’s Health General Wellness
Lymphobiology Pain Syndromes
Produce on Wheels Coming to Sonoita

By Gardenia Moffett

Gardenia and Tom Moffett, pastors at the Harvest Christian Church in Sonoita, are bringing Produce on Wheels Out Waste to Sonoita. This program is run by Borderlands Produce Rescue (BPR), a non-profit organization that rescues produce to distribute to communities with the help of more than 300 non-profit agencies in 24 states. More than 30 million pounds of fresh produce are rescued each year.

How it Works: Produce on Wheels is for everyone. There are no income or residential requirements, and no one is turned away. When you arrive at the market site, register on your first visit, contribute your $12 cash and get in line to shop for up to 70 lbs. of produce. You can bring your own boxes and bags, but there will also be plenty for your use. Carryout help to your vehicle will be available.

We Need Your Help! Being a host site for Produce on Wheels is a labor of love. All contributions will be back to BPR for operational expenses. In order to make Sonoita Produce on Wheels a success, we need a Community Volunteer Team. Being part of this team is a once/month commitment for approximately three hours at our Saturday markets. Training will be provided by Produce on Wheels prior to the first market in December.

If you’d like to be part of bringing Produce on Wheels to Sonoita and volunteer for the Community Volunteer Team, please message the Moffetts on Facebook or call/text Gardenia: 602.292.1616.

For more information please follow @SonoitaAZCommunityMarkets on Facebook. Here you will find volunteer info, market times/dates, the varieties of produce offered for the upcoming Saturday market and recipes to help you use all that produce.

Where and When: Sonoita Produce on Wheels will be hosted at Harvest Christian Fellowship, 3107 State Highway 83 Sonoita, AZ 85637, across from Sonoita Propane. The first market will be Saturday, December 21 (see full 2019-2020 schedule below). The hours of operation will be Dec. - March 8-11 a.m., April - May 7-10 a.m. & June 6-9 a.m..

Help reduce millions of pounds of fresh produce annually from the landfill and distribute fresh nutritious fruits and vegetables to our local communities.

Sonoita Produce on Wheels 2019-2020 Calendar:
December 21, January 18, February 15, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20

COMMUNITY MARKET ON THESE SAME DATES
A Sonoita Community Market is scheduled in the parking lot at the same time as Produce on Wheels.
Do you have homemade chocolate or Christmas décor that you’d like to sell in time for the holidays? To reserve a table/booth for the Sonoita Community Market please email or call Gardenia at 602.292.1616.
I spoke recently with someone who is famously unimpressed by our species’ progress toward wisdom and compassion. "Do you see any concrete evidence of progress?" I inquired. "Yes," she said. "Dolls, band-aids, and emojis now come in different colors."

Some folks are blessed with lovely skin. Some not. We live in mixed-up times today, when things are often made more complex than they need to be. Skin color, for instance, if mentioned at all, is often encumbered with socio-historical squeamishness.

Maybe in societies where pretty much everyone is the same color, there’s less nervousness about skin color. But, even in the lower latitudes these days, because of prolonged colonialism, light complexion is considered good fortune. Less pigment means increased prestige. That’s pretty sad, if you ask me - reminiscent of The Stockholm Syndrome, where the oppressed begin to identify with, then revere and even mimic their oppressors. A pattern in world history: Energetic pale-skinned from much farther north, feeling superior, descend upon and then enslave more languid peoples, farther south. How rude!

When people fear or just mistrust all humans of another hue, it’s not the color of their skin, per se, that sets them off. (Still, color is so evident that it’s the most convenient way to "know who’s who.") The word discrimination means a lot of different things, some good, some not. In matters of perception it is just a fact of life. We notice differences. Where simple eyesight is concerned, what we call color blindness is a flaw. But, socially, what we call color blindness is a plus.

The size and shape of lip or nose, the slant or openness of eye, all vary between group and group. And, yet, more troublesome (because less based on fact), are shared conventional beliefs about the ethics, libido and innate I.Q. of various races.

Let’s leave aside such prejudice and simply talk about our skins. There is a wide variety of hues. If given choice before you’re born, which one would you be apt to choose?

You walk into a bakery; the wares you choose depend to some extent on how they look, is that not so? And, when you shop for a new ride, you’re gonna buy a car whose hue you like. The color of a vehicle is not mixed up with tawdry myths about its inner worth. The shocking pink convertible will very much resemble both the blue and burgundy in terms of pep, roadnoise, comfort and m.p.g. You simply like the one you like.

While we’re discussing skin, let me say this: there are colors of skin I adore and others which have no appeal to me. Is that a sin? My favorite skins are brown, "cafe au lait," I think they say. I am also impressed by the elemental dignity of truly black, African skin. Our so-called "white" Caucasian skins are hardly ever really white at all. They range in hue, inclining toward the sallow, pink, or brown. I am fascinated by, but not much attracted to, the alabaster skin of the Victorian ideal, so pallid that the pale blue veins show through. The owners of such skin quite often shield it from the sun to keep it pale; partly because it’s quick to burn and prone to cancers caused by sun, but also to preserve the odd, surreal translucency which makes it so appealing to most necrophiliacs.

I used to date a girl with so-called alabaster skin, who loved to spend her time in hollow logs. Her name was Laura, but everyone called her Larva.

The County fair is over and once again my heart is full. As I type this, I can still smell the glue and see the faces of the young people. I have no regrets, not one. The County fair is over and once again my heart is full. As I type this, I can still smell the glue and see the faces of these little kids “My Chicken Kids” – a term with big hearts and happy faces. Once again, my cup runneth over.

LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

DE COLORES

By Martin Levowitz

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CHICKEN KIDS

By Cassina Farley

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Campaign Kick Off Party

Friday, October 4th at 5:00 pm

Charisma Eatery
460 N Arroyo Blvd
Nogales

PLEASEx
Join us for
Tacos and Tapas
as Keith kicks
off his campaign!

KeithBarthforSheriff.Com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Keith Barth

RSVPs are appreciated but not required
Please text or call
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OPINION & COMMENT • OPINION & COMMENT • OPINION & COMMENT

MILESTONES

NO ESCAPE
By Aisha Sander

When the Buddha received enlightenment under the Bodhi tree he understood that life is full of suffering and that we suffer more because of our attachments. If we spend a few minutes alone in silence it becomes apparent how attached we are to the outcome of our efforts, how attached we are to our identities and the stories we tell, and how attached we are to wanting things to be different either in the past or the present.

Why is being present so difficult? Why is it so challenging to accept ourselves and be gentle with our pain? What pushes us to continually distract, avoid, or try to escape our pain?

The simple answer is that this conditioning didn’t start with us. It’s generational and environmental. Just as we have been shaped by it, those under our care will be too.

We are taught early not to feel. Most parents, well intentioned, try to distract or punish negative emotions in their children. Most adults become overwhelmed when dealing with the big emotions of toddlers and often project the problem on to the child’s behavior. Expressing negative emotions is viewed as a character flaw rather than as a necessary core of human experience.

When my nervous system cannot tolerate my negative emotions, then how can I hold space for another person or a child who is in the midst of a stormy emotion? Ironically, when we are shut down to our own negative emotions we are also shut down to the opposite ones and spend our lives avoiding being touched by either the depth of grief or the height of joy that is a part and parcel of every human life.

Before I began practicing yoga this was my conditioning. Every negative and difficult experience had to be changed (from the outside) or avoided all together. So I would never go somewhere if I didn’t feel like I fit in. I would only befriend people like me who agreed with my worldview. I would only survive in relationships that were superficial.

Practicing yoga revealed to me that unresolved pain was in fact lodged inside of me. I did not have tools or resources until I found body, mind and spiritual practices for dealing with my difficult emotions. Now I practice noticing the discomfort that arises when I want something to be different. I try to pause rather than attempting to escape, or fix, that which is causing me discomfort.

My inner dialogue is constantly projecting out stories trying to make sense of life. Despite the futility of this exercise, my mind invests an extraordinary amount of time and energy into these narratives. When I avoid feeling an emotion it leads to a familiar pattern: suppression to feeling overwhelmed to explosion. These extremes lock me into a place void of connection and feeling.

Yoga, on the other hand, brings me long stretches of awareness when I access subtle feelings in a safe place. Instead of needing to feel the big feeling to understand where I am, I can feel the subtle feeling and stop there. I work to be gentle and kind at the first sign of discomfort and integrate the wisdom of a gentle body practice into my daily life. When the stormy emotion hits, my practice arrives as a resource and I can experience emotion as waves of sensation in my body.

Even the strongest emotions will come and go. Learning this has helped me to have the courage to acknowledge my feelings. An emotion is an (e)nergy in (motion). When we try to block it we ensure that it will come out somewhere else. If we can pause and witness, then an emotion loses its power to scare us and instead can become a source of personal empowerment and authenticity. Feelings stretch our hearts to the often sharp and beautiful experience of being alive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reform Mining Law

Patagonia Arizona is my chosen home because it offers a healthy diversity of people, plants and animals, clean air and water, dark night skies and a natural and beautiful environment that supports quality of life. It is home and habitat for a wide variety of birds, butterflies, bees and wild animals...all necessary to establish and maintain a balanced and healthy environment. For lack of protection this treasured place is in danger from significant negative effects of mineral development.

The patchwork of federal and state laws and regulations that attempt to fill the holes of the Mining Law of 1872 is inadequate for safeguarding the existing natural resources that sustain life. Toxic mine wastes and leaks threaten the air we breathe and the water we drink.

It is imperative that we reform America’s 140-year old mining law to promote responsible mining practices, hold mining companies accountable and ensure that our communities and water supplies are protected. Passing Bill H.R. 2579, introduced by Congressman Raul Grijalva, would be a step closer to protecting specific land and water designations.

Let’s work together to protect and improve quality of life for all who call the Patagonia Mountain region our home.

Jacqui Treinen
Patagonia

Knights of Patagonia

I am, I guess, what you might call a "Sunbird." I spend four months every summer in Duquesne, visiting my sister, hiking with friends, riding horses and avoiding the wet and windy New Zealand winter. You may have noticed me driving around in my trusty, dusty Trooper. Trusty that is until he spat the dummy, seized the idler pulley & snapped the serpentine belt as I was leaving Tiny Bubbles. Somewhat of a disaster late in the afternoon of the October 2019
Field Station Director Landed ‘Dream Job’

By Pat McNamara

Bugs. Lots of bugs. Who knew such a lowly and frequently squashed creature could lead Christina Francois to her dream career as a field station director?

Francois doesn’t remember particularly ‘loving’ bugs but her mother told her that even as a tot growing up in Southern California, she seemed to be watching, collecting and studying them. This led her to enroll at California State University, Fullerton as a biology major eventually earning a master’s degree in biological science. Along with her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fullerton, she ‘acquired’ and married her husband, John, also a biologist.

Francois became familiar with southern Arizona in 2005 while working on her master’s studying moth diversity on Mount Lemon outside of Tucson. After graduation, in 2009, Francois moved to Kingman, Arizona where she worked at the cooperative extension for the BLM where she was introduced to the challenging position of range management, working as a liaison between the ranchers and the government. It was a difficult position because the ranchers and the BLM were frequently at odds as to how to properly maintain the areas. This did, however hone Francois’ skills as an educator and sometimes a referee. Through this experience, she discovered a love of teaching that she still enjoys today.

Southern Arizona and the bugs kept ‘calling’ so after frequent visits to the area, and a decision to further her studies in entomology, Francois started her journey in 2012 towards her PhD at the U of A. During that time.

In 2017 Francois began to volunteer at the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch of the National Audubon Society in Elgin, which celebrated its fiftieth year in 2018 as a research facility for natural scientists seeking to further their studies in a more natural setting. It is there that she was able to carry out her passion for field station research. She sees the 4000-acre ranch as a magical place because of the remoteness and the unlimited flora and fauna to study and enjoy.

While working on her dissertation for her PhD, Francois won the position of Field Director, vacated due to the retirement of Linda Kennedy, who had served there for twenty years.

Now in her dream career, sharing the wild beauty of this remote area that has been relatively untouched by farmers, miners and ranchers since 1968, Francois shares her passion with the many students from all over the country who come to temporarily live and study the plants, mammals, reptiles, fish and insects.

Upon the arrival of each new student, she stated that seeing the reaction of the people discovering that magic allows her to rediscover that same wonder. Driving the six, sometimes-sqeechy dirt road miles to the paved Elgin Canelo Road and then into town for supplies becomes effortless when she is doing what she truly loves, and Francois has achieved that. Now to just finish that dissertation!
COUNCIL NOTES

By PRT Staff Reporters
Sept 11, 2019
In memory of the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Marshall Patterson reported that Animal Control Officer Karina Hilliard had become a certified EMT and would continue to work with the Fire Department as needed.

Planning and Development referred to an ongoing committee issue of attempted meeting dominance by people “with an agenda,” that would be brought to the future attention of Council.

Shelby Scheer, of SAACA (Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance), gave a progress report on the Patagonia Fall Festival, covering parking, publicity, participation, event size and road closures. She repeated her group’s commitment to using art for economic development.

Also in connection with Fall Festival, there was discussion of responses to active shooters and related kinds of violence. The Marshall stated the law officers had had training, and that in such an event, Fire Dept. Chief Isakson would be Incident Commander.

A Senior Citizens’ Center question about facility improvement by replacing cooling system equipment was referred to Town Manager Robinson. Approval was given for the Town to ask South 32 to come to a meeting on mine-site and truck routes and traffic as they affect residents.

The town will hold a study session on the wording of truck ordinances and review process for the temporary truck routes recently implemented through town. (The Session was held at 6 p.m. Wednesday Sept. 18 and was open to the public.)

Town Manager Robinson discussed ideas for reducing the Town’s debt by some payments that would reduce interest and thus shorten the Town’s financial obligations. He stated that there was potential to save the town $50,000 by 2041 and that the payments would strengthen the Town’s position for future major expenses, most notably a replacement sewage treatment system costing about $1.8 million. Financial backing for that project would come from WIFA, the Water Infrastructure Funding Association.

AZ Craft Beverages was granted a liquor license for Fall Festival.

Bobbie Yu was approved as the Town’s new Attorney/Prosecutor.

The ongoing feral cat issue was briefly discussed.

Sept 25, 2019

The Town’s new Attorney and Prosecutor, Bobbie Yu, was sworn in by Judge Bracamonte.

Marshall Patterson reported that his department “has been busy and has ongoing investigations.”

Town Manager Robinson was authorized to submit an Expenditure Limitation Report to the Auditor General’s office.

Dave Ellis discussed a grant application to drill nine monitoring wells in the Sonoita Creek area, with the intention of gathering data about the water table. The grant would be for $200,000, half from the US Bureau of Reclamation and half matched in donations and or in-kind labor by the town. The Council is favorable to the idea, but before lending its support, the Town requires a guarantee that it would receive no financial or legal liability from this project. The Town Manager recommended that the Council table the item until the Flood & Flow Committee made a recommendation after its meeting October 10, and the Council agreed.

Roadmap to Water Quality

Friends of Sonoita Creek sponsored a presentation to the community on August 14 to share the results of research conducted by NextGen Engineering, a Tucson based firm, on Patagonia’s water quality. The report showed that there are significant gaps in data and need for more stakeholder engagement.

Stories We Are Following

Recycling in Santa Cruz

As of August 2019 Santa Cruz County has stopped its recycling program. The county is seeking bids for the recycling materials collected as part of the County’s recycling efforts. The deadline for bids is Oct 15, 2019.

Brent Bowden Family Sues

In July 2019, one year after Brent Bowden’s death, his family has sued the city of Lake Havasu and the three police officers who killed Bowden.

The suit alleges a civil rights violation under the fourth amendment against the three police officers, and of wrongful death by the use of unnecessary force.

The family is seeking a jury trial.

The Town of Patagonia Garbage Code

Let’s do our part RIGHT!

1. Cover your Bins
2. All your Bins should be accessible by placing them outside of your fence at 6 a.m.
3. Garbage bags must be sealed and less than 50 lbs and placed into the bins.
4. Containers must be in good condition.
5. Any Garbage that is disturbed or fallen will not be picked up.
6. Remove your containers from the sidewalk as soon as practically possible after pick-up.

Thank you to the Town Employees for keeping Patagonia clean.

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Thank you to the Town Employees for keeping Patagonia clean.

Members of the Sang family gather after the unveiling of the plaque honoring Fred Sang at the new Fred Sang Memorial Rotary Park in Sonoita.

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
Though autumn is normally a time that witnesses increasingly drier weather, a sort of rain lottery exists for southern Arizona. With the monsoon losing steam as temperatures and humidity levels fall, the chances of an errant Pacific hurricane remnant increase dramatically. Late September into about mid-October presents our best window of opportunity to cash in on this liquid gold.

Despite the destruction wrought by various hurricanes in Baja California and Sonora, most that reach us are much diminished. When it’s predicted that a hurricane will come our way, we are most likely to get a Category 1 or 2, which would mean winds from about 74 m.p.h. to 110 m.p.h. - likely to cause moderate to extensive local damage. Fortunately, most hurricanes are downgraded to tropical storm systems by the time they make their acquaintance, thus delivering varying amounts of rain without the wholesale ruination normally associated with a full-scale hurricane. On September 7 and 8, 2016, I recorded 3.8" of rain from remnants of Hurricane Newton as it climatically spent itself in our area.

After hurricanes have delivered the brunt of their force south of the border, the Sea of Cortez sometimes funnels them our way with variable results. Duds are certainly possible with little or no rain. We’ve all seen the projected tracts of hurricanes towards their tail end with a variety of scenarios possible. So too with our weakened versions. Will they veer towards Yuma or New Mexico for example? Will they cause flooding or high winds? These and other questions often go unanswered until the eleventh hour.

When we do get a glut of rain from a hurricane or its remnants, then the local flora and fauna can be swift to respond. Plants soak up the moisture in their roots and may flower more profusely or for the first time. Entire species may be excited from the soil to complete their life cycle in autumn. Last November I even gawked at Mexican Poppies - normally a spring plant - in Organ Pipe, which were teased out of the soil by a soaking October rain.

Many members of the Aster family flower in fall but will do so in greater profusion when gifted a deluge from the south. When we experience such a sopping autumn look to our grasslands, woodlands, and deserts for a third, and often unexpected, blooming period.

Normally trampled by our spring and summer blooms, autumn blossoms are much rarer and sometimes dependent upon Pacific storm systems as much or more than they are the monsoons. I have been fortunate to witness autumnal fields of asters, fleabanes, sunflowers and others in the San Rafael grasslands for example. These fragrant and winsome fields boosted butterfly populations by providing a late season source of nectar.

Invertebrate populations in general can benefit from the surplus rain, as grasshoppers and other species extend their life into or hatch out during autumn. They in turn - along with the surplus of seeds and other plant parts - furnish food for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Lastly, a tropical system in autumn may accrue positives in our parched state with limited water supplies, as well as tree and wildlife populations ravaged by drought. Critically important for our collective well-being, our waning aquifers and waterways will certainly benefit. The level of Patagonia Lake may rise or even fill, given the swelling of its feeder stream, Sonora Creek. Increased flow in the creek and other local water conduits is essential to support and preserve our acclaimed biodiversity.

Thus, while the forecast of a hurricane or tropical storm may well send a shiver of nervousness down my spine, I have also realized the not inconsiderable benefits of tropical storm remnants over the years in our Sky Islands region.

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVEN’S-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region.

Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org

I'll Take a Rain Check!

Amateur astronomers enjoy the intellectual intrigue, deep science, and technology that allows them to see more than the star gazing giants of past generations could ever imagine. For me, though, it’s about escapism, about disappearing from everything for a few minutes or maybe an hour or so. A doctor once told me that it’s impossible to feel anxious when taking a brisk walk. The same applies to walking among the stars. And, now that the monsoon is gone, the night sky once again offers its magic for those of us inducted with, and trying to push against, the seemingly daily assault of political, climatological, and financial crises. The stars, if only for a few moments, send a little peace my way.

By Harold Meckler

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Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

The William B. Lewis family moved from New Mexico to Arizona in 1912 to homestead in the Parker Canyon area. B Lewis was accompanied by his wife Nora, two sons, Blain, age 7, and William Grant (known as Greet), age 4, and daughter Vernon, age 2. Their trip in a covered wagon took 30 days. Young Blain rode horseback and minded the horses. [Arizona Daily Star, 5/15/1980]. The account below provides a brief summary of Blain’s notable life as a rancher, quarter horse trainer, livestock inspector, constable & marshal, and county supervisor. Additional information and wonderful photos can be found in Betty Berr’s “More Hidden Treasures of Santa Cruz County,” Brocking! Books, 2008.

Blain spent his teenage years working on the family ranch and breaking horses for local ranchers for $10 a head. [Arizona Daily Star, 12/22/1983]. In 1926 he married Laura Dunham, whose family homesteaded in the San Rafael Valley, and the couple moved to a ranch of their own in Sunnyside. Their first son Jesse was born in 1927.

Unfortunately, they lost the ranch during the Great Depression when the bank that carried their mortgage failed. It wasn’t until 1938 that they were able to purchase property in Red Rock Canyon near Patagonia to start over. [Arizona Republic, 7/16/1994]. Three more children completed their family: Donnie Lee, born 1941; James tree, born 1942, and Wanda Neel, born 1948.

Shortly after moving to Patagonia Blain was elected constable, a position he held from 1938 to about 1946. In 1943 he arrested Manuel Montoya and his son Manuel Jr. for the murder of E. Neill Carr, the owner of the Hacienda de los Encinos guest ranch in Sonoita. [Tucson Daily Citizen, 8/5/1943]. In 1945 he located the body of Patagonia miner Herman C. Bender (see Oliver Rothrock article in the May 2019 PRT issue). [Arizona Republic, 7/16/1994]. He served three terms as a Santa Cruz County Supervisor and served as the Patagonia Town Marshal. He was an Arizona State livestock inspector for 36 years until his retirement from that position in 1975. Laura delivered mail in the San Rafael Valley for 41 years;

Blain spent his teenage years working on the family ranch and breaking horses for local ranchers for $10 a head. [Arizona Daily Star, 12/22/1983]. In 1926 he married Laura Dunham, whose family homesteaded in the San Rafael Valley, and the couple moved to a ranch of their own in Sunnyside. Their first son Jesse was born in 1927.

By Bob Brandt

Although his successful Native American flute-making business, High Spirits Flutes, has earned Odell Borg a place of distinction among local musicians and far beyond, his road to success, has been anything but smooth. Born in Germany, the son of an American GI and a German woman whose romance, like many wartime affairs, failed to stand the test of time, 13-year-old Borg and his mother emigrated to California in 1959. After graduating from Hollywood High, a stint in the Marine Corps turned an undisciplined kid into an adult. “The Marines saved my life,” he claims, perhaps with good reason, but it was the gift of a flute in midlife that truly saved Borg’s life and propelled him to the lofty heights he enjoys today.

Ironically, it may have been a series of successes that led Borg into a dark period that left him not merely penniless but utterly without passion for anything in life. He started several successful small businesses and had become an accomplished leather worker, yet none of these pursuits provided the life of meaning and purpose for which he yearned. Over time, things fell apart until he’d lost everything. Holding his thumb and forefinger barely an inch apart, he revealed, “I was this close to pushing a shopping cart.”

With the help of friends, and perhaps that “something beyond us,” he hung on until his long winter of discontent ended in 1988. That’s when his partner gave him the gift of a wood flute, and with it a new lease on life. With virtually no musical background and certainly no understanding of music’s life-changing potential, Borg quickly mastered it, leading him to think he was naturally gifted, a belief that eventually gave way to the reality that, as he now says, “anyone can play the flute.”

Despite this disappointing reality, the flute became Borg’s “buddy” and soon, with the guidance of a cabinet maker friend, he tried making the instruments himself. Pleased with the results and armed with a $2000 loan from another friend, he set up a production shop in a funky old barn near San Diego where he launched what has since become perhaps the foremost Native American flute production site today.

In the early years, he sold his flutes principally at art shows and festivals. One such show in Tubac afforded Borg the opportunity to discover the allure of Patagonia. Following the show, he drove out Harshaw Road, was awed by having found this place of incredible beauty and moved to this “amazingly supportive community” in 1996.

Unlike the other “musicians of note” whose stories have been told in this series, Borg rarely performs in public. “I don’t have the personality for performing,” he notes. He plays mostly for his own enjoyment at home, content to let others do the entertaining yet gaining satisfaction from knowing he has provided the means for them to do so.

Borg oversees an operation that contributes significantly to the local economy by employing several people who bring his designs to life. Producing a flute that is both beautiful and capable of exquisite sound requires a marriage of creativity, which Borg himself supplies, and adherence to exacting production standards. The business part of the operation is now largely in the hands of Borg’s daughter, Tara, who works from Tucson where a new High Spirits retail shop can now be found at Campbell and Skyline.

The flute has been a financial success, of course, but it has brought Borg riches of another kind as well. It has allowed him to connect with and channel his inner creative spirit in the passionate pursuit of something both meaningful and priceless.

Musicians of Note recognizes individuals and groups who have crafted the rich and vibrant musical tapestry of Eastern Santa Cruz County.
Ranch Rodeo, A Family Event
By Pat McNamara

Back in 2000, thanks to the efforts of Deb and Fred Fellows and Diane Collins, the Sonoita Ranch Rodeo was born. It started small with just a few local teams. At the 19th Sonoita Ranch Rodeo, held Sept. 7, 16 teams competed, coming from as far away as New Mexico and northern Arizona.

In the ensuing years, Terri Murrieta, her family and Beth and Mike Hughes have become instrumental in continuing the tradition. With the help of the Ann Stradling Foundation’s endowment, the rodeo is able to provide financial awards to the various winners of events. Thanks also to the generous donation of a bronze from Deb Fellows to the top ranch horse, along with other coveted awards donated by generous sponsors, the participants have a real incentive to compete.

There are activities for all ages. Rachel Lyman is the organizer of the junior rodeo. Each junior participant is guaranteed an award, making the kids eager to compete.

Eight years ago, the chuck wagon cook-off was added. Authentically prepared ‘vittles’ are offered to those who make a donation and the lines attest to the popularity of the menu.

The winner of the cook-off this year was the EZ Cattle Company, owned by Rex and Vonda Dalton, of Elgin. They won the Best Over All Menu Award over the three other contenders. Vendors offering tack, custom boots and other items of interest to those attending are also a popular part of the event.

Adrenaline stimulating bronc busting, bull riding and barrel racing events are missing from ranch rodeos. Instead, the Ranch Rodeos focus on teamwork and actual working cowboys. The expertise of the horses and the cowboys working together to most efficiently, quickly and quietly obtain the desired results, causing less stress on the cattle, is the goal of these events. The events are timed so even with a large number of entries, the rodeo keeps moving along at a good pace.

A true family oriented event, the participants and the public enjoy a real glimpse into the ranching traditions, starting with the toddlers learning to handle a rope and sharing the saddle with an older sibling or parent up to a competing grandparent, working a cow from the back of his or her well trained cow horse.

The organizers wanted to stress that it all couldn’t happen without the generous support of the surrounding community and the hours put in by the many volunteers.

New Events Planned For Cowboy Festival
By Alison Bunting

The 19th annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival (formerly Round-up and Open House) will be held on Saturday, November 2 from 10a.m. to 6p.m. It’s a family event featuring Western music, dance, history & culture demonstrations; ranch life exhibits; kid’s activities and much more. This year exciting new attractions include an opportunity to meet members of Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers and the Tucson Presidio Trust Garrison to learn about their contributions to AZ history. Author Alan Day will talk about “Life on the Lazy B Ranch as Lived by an American Cowboy.” The Spanish Barb Horse Association will bring descendents of these historic horses originally transported to America in the 16th & 17th centuries. Safely view the sun through the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association’s telescopes, or dress in period clothing and purchase a photo taken by Tumbleweed Tillie.

Plan to join us for a fun packed exciting day. A $10 parking donation is requested. Detailed program information will be posted on the Foundation’s website: https://www.empireranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/cowboy-festival/
Winning one of the hotly contested championship awards at the Santa Cruz County Fair 4-H/FFA livestock competition is quite an achievement. It’s rare for a youth to win more than one championship buckle and even rarer for members of the same family to win buckles in the same year, but this year three families had more than one sibling take top honors.

Marin and Addison Tomlinson, of Sonoita, have proved unbeatable in the market steer class. Marin, a senior at Salpointe, finished as grand champion and Addison, a seventh grader at St. Cyril School, placed as reserve champion, making this the third year that the pair has claimed the top two spots. Marin was also named reserve champion in senior beef showmanship. Addison also won grand champion junior showmanship steer, grand champion non-market round robin and high point junior horse champion.

The Young family of Patagonia had three siblings competing in market lamb. Tyler Young, an eighth grader at Elgin, was awarded grand championship buckles for junior showmanship and for the junior market round robin. Brianna Young, a junior at PUHS, was named grand champion for the senior market round robin, senior non-market round robin, senior lamb showmanship, senior horse showmanship and senior horse all around. Hannah Young, a junior at PUHS, won reserve champion market lamb, reserve senior champion showmanship and a reserve championship for her cooking project.

McKenzie Beyer, an eighth grader at the Elgin School took grand champion in junior swine showmanship, while her sister Sienna, a fifth grader at Elgin School, was reserve champion.
Students Study Water Quality

Students test water samples at Lake Patagonia as part of the Healthy Water Education program authored by Kathleen Pasierb.

By Kathleen Pasierb

Sixth graders at Patagonia Elementary School worked hard all year long on their studies, according to their teachers David Clovesko-Wharton and Deb Goff, and “We wanted to treat them to fun activities outside the classroom.” Clovesko-Wharton remembered taking his fourth graders to Patagonia Lake State Park to study the water quality of the lake. “My former students had a lot of fun learning how to measure water quality and at the same time felt like they were on a fun field trip to the State Park.”

Clovesko-Wharton contacted Kathleen Pasierb, science teacher and author of the program, to ask if the Healthy Water Education Program was still available for students. He blocked out several classroom hours over three days for pre-training led by Pasierb. Students learned how to use science lab equipment properly and how to determine the quality of tap water by measuring pH, turbidity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. They also practiced using microscopes by looking at a drop of water collected earlier that morning from the lake. Students discovered four different species of microscopic invertebrates ranging from miniscule, one half-millimeter sized animals like daphnia and ostracods to larger species such as dragonfly larvae.

The investigations included a ride on a pontoon boat out to the middle of the lake accompanied by state park volunteer and boat captain John Hughes and two Patagonia High School seniors, Karina Norton and Victor Barajas, both of whom have life guard credentials.

Pasierb guided the students by encouraging the students to work as a team, to use their prior training and knowledge to collaborate on the investigation and to discuss what the data had shown them about water quality. The data will be saved and compared to subsequent years of measurements from future 6th grade students. The Healthy Water Education Program is available to Santa Cruz County students grades 4-12. Contact Pasierb at kpasierb1@gmail.com for more information.
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South32 owns the Hermosa Project, a zinc, lead, and silver development option in the Patagonia Mountains.

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Our purpose is to make a difference by developing natural resources, improving people’s lives now and for generations to come. Learn more at: south32.net/sustainability

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We work hard to understand and manage the ways our project affects local and surrounding communities. We also strive to lift charitable work in the region. We’re listening at: hermosacommunity@south32.net

JOBS
Our people are fundamental to our success, and we are happy to invest in their growth. Creating an inclusive workplace and drawing from the local workforce matter to us. Find jobs at: careers.south32.net

South32 awarded $60,000 in grants to nonprofits in Santa Cruz County during the first selection cycle of the Hermosa Community Fund. Over 40 applications were received, from which the following grantees were selected: Family Health Care Amigos, KPUP-LP Radio, Nogales Community Development Corporation, Rebuilding Together Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Council on Aging, Senior Citizens of Patagonia, Inc. and the Patagonia Museum.

The fund is held by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA) and was established by South32 in May of this year. It supports nonprofit groups working to improve education, environment, health and welfare, recreation, civic enhancement, and arts, culture and history in the county, in accordance with the community’s needs and priorities.

Two more grant cycles are scheduled to occur prior to June 2020. To learn more about the South32 Hermosa Community Fund, including dates of grant cycles, visit the CFSA website or bit.ly/South32Fund.

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The Glorious Chafer was found at the Patagonia School. This bug can be found in Sonoita and Patagonia, usually in the morning under porch night lights. The Glorious Chafer, a scarab, Chrysina gloriosa, emerges from the soil in the summer months during the monsoon rains. Adults feed on juniper foliage and larvae can be found eating decaying sycamore logs. Here in Arizona, the Glorious Chafer has two equally beautiful relatives: Beyer’s and Le Conte’s Chafer.

By Cami Schlappy
This Glorious Chafer was found at the Patagonia School. This bug can be found in Sonoita and Patagonia, usually in the morning under porch night lights. The Glorious Chafer, a scarab, Chrysina gloriosa, emerges from the soil in the summer months during the monsoon rains. Adults feed on juniper foliage and larvae can be found eating decaying sycamore logs. Here in Arizona, the Glorious Chafer has two equally beautiful relatives: Beyer’s and Le Conte’s Chafer.

By Cami Schlappy
These children, aged 5 to 8 years, are members of the Clover Buds, who their leader Julie Gutierrez refers to as ‘Pre 4-H’. The Clover Buds are learning about prehistoric Arizona with visits to the Bisbee mine, dinosaur study and the creation of artwork that was displayed at the Santa Cruz County Fair. At the meeting held Sept. 7 the children played dinosaur games, with each member dressed in their dinosaur feet.

Clover Buds ‘Dinosaurs’ invade the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.
By Pat McNamara

Clover Buds ‘Dinosaurs’ invade the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.
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Bug of the Month
Photo by Cami Schlappy
Clover Buds
Photo by Pat McNamara
South32 Awards Grants to Local Nonprofits

By Cami Schlappy

Photo by Cami Schlappy

Bug of the Month
Photo by Pat McNamara

Clover Buds
Photo by Pat McNamara

South32 Awards Grants to Local Nonprofits
Senior Center News  By Valerie Hing

The Patagonia Senior Center will be able to purchase an electric generator and ice maker thanks to a $10,000 grant from the Legacy Foundation of Sierra Vista. The generator will minimize food loss and provide heat for shelter during long power outages, said spokesman Charles Kelly. The center has purchased a three-door commercial refrigerator and freezer from other grants.

Kudos to chef Carlo Haro whose Mexico Independence Day luncheon raised $415. Haro will be moving in November and the senior center board will be seeking applications for her replacement.

The Southeastern Arizona Government Organization, which helps fund the meal program, recently completed a financial audit of the meal program. The program served 683 meals in August.

Patagonian John Urias was elected to the center’s board of directors, replacing Ramon Quiroga, who resigned recently due to health reasons, said Kelly. Other board members are Irene Smith, president; Helen Chester, Vice President; Chuck Kelly, Secretary/treasurer; Philip Brister and Ray Klein.

The transportation program drove 2,556 miles with 126 volunteer driver hours. Both the Sonoita and Patagonia van passed inspections by the Department of Transportation.

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KPUP Broadcast Schedule
Summer / Fall 2019

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

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

Wednesday:
10:00am - 11am: Ordinary People Radio
1:00pm: Patagonia Montessori School With Lars Marshall
7:00pm to 10pm: Sean Alexander show

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

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

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

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

Movies at the Tin Shed Theater
October 2019 Schedule

October 5: 6 p.m. Women Make Movies Series: “Amazon Sisters” “A film which beautifully expresses the strength, humor and ability of the women of the Amazon Region. It sharply reminds us, however, that simply feeling romantic about rainforests isn’t enough. The need for serious support for both the environment and the health and safety of the people there is made abundantly clear.” —Margaret Prosser, National Women’s Secretary Transport and General Workers Union.

$5 Suggested Donation

October 25, 26: 7 p.m., October 27: 2p.m.
Live Theater: A Halloween Horror: Heidi’s Monkeys
Not recommended for kids. $5

Proceeds From the “Women Make Movies” Series Fund the Tin Shed Theater and The Lending Shed of Patagonia.

*Dates and Times Subject to Change*

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

Visit www.patagoniacreativearts.org or 394-9369 for more information.

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John Payne
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Travis Birdsong
573-429-7069

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Errors and Omissions

In the August issue of the PRT, we reported that the new refrigerator and freezer at the Patagonia Senior Center were purchased with funds from the Arizona Community Foundation, Wells Fargo and United Way. The new appliances were funded by the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation, Santa Cruz Community Foundation and United Way. Wells Fargo was not involved in the funding.

Our apologies for these errors.

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Photo by Sally Reichardt
A rodeo clown distracts a bucking bull so that the rider can make his exit safely at the Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo.

Photo by Robert Gay
The annual pie auction fundraiser for the Patagonia Community Garden held on Sept. 7 raised nearly $5500.

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Errors and Omissions

In the August issue of the PRT, we reported that the new refrigerator and freezer at the Patagonia Senior Center were purchased with funds from the Arizona Community Foundation, Wells Fargo and United Way. The new appliances were funded by the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation, Santa Cruz Community Foundation and United Way. Wells Fargo was not involved in the funding.

Our apologies for these errors.
**EVENTS**

Oct 1, 6 p.m. AZ Native Plant Society Meeting. Margarethe Brummerman at Fire Station in Sonoita.

Oct 3, 5:30-7 p.m. South32 Open House for the Hermosa Project at the Patagonia High School Cafeteria.

Oct 3, 17, & 31, Short Attention Span reading and discussion group. Pick up copies of the readings at Patagonia library.

Oct 4, 5:30 p.m & Oct 5, 6 a.m. “Sanctuary of the Wild” Interfaith Celebration of the Sacredness of Creation at Wildlife Corridors, Patagonia. Gary Nhaban 928-229-0253

Oct 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 5th Annual Adolescent Youth Conference at the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center. Free for Middle School and High School. Food provided.

Oct 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Music & Coloring at Patagonia Public Library

Oct 10, Harvest Church Community Book Discussion Group. Women: 9:30a.m. & 6p.m. Men: 6:30a.m. & 6p.m. Open to the public. Nine week sessions. Text/Call for more book information: 602.292.1616

Oct 10-13, Quarter Horse Show at the Sonoita Fairgrounds

Oct 12 & 13 Fall Festival All Day event www.patagoniafallfestival.com

Oct 16, 5-8 p.m. Arizona Standard Open House about Sunnyside Exploratory Drilling Project. Patagonia High School Multipurpose Room.

Oct 19, 4 p.m. The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center Annual Fundraiser Dinner, 115 S. 3rd Ave, Patagonia. $15 per person. www.pyec.org or call (520) 342-2356.

Oct 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Music & Coloring at Patagonia Public Library

Oct 24, 10 to 5 p.m. Free Medicare counseling with Ramona MacMurtrie from SEAGO. Call library to schedule, (520) 394-2010.

Oct 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m., “Six Legs Walking:” Book Reading and Signing with former Patagonia resident and biologist Elizabeth Bernays.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS**


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.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Lunch for Seniors - Fresh-cooked meals, Mon - Fri, noon-1 p.m. At the Patagonia Senior Center.

Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service Medical transportation, Mon - Fri for seniors & disabled by appointment only. Info: 394-2494.

Patagonia Methodist Church Thrift Shop - Fri & Sat 10 - 2 p.m.

Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop Thurs - Sat, 10 - 2 p.m. Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita.

Sonoita/Patagonia Email Newsletter - Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonoitatagonialocal.com.

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 9-10 a.m. pick up across from the Patagonia Fire Station.

**EVENTS**

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 7 p.m. Tucked in Tuesdays with Ms. Laura on Facebook or Youtube.

Oct 2, 16, 30, 4 to 5 p.m. (Wed.) Oct 7, 21, 9 to 10 a.m. (Mon.) Storytime with Ms. Laura at Patagonia Public Library

Wednesdays, 8 - 9 a.m. Story Time for 3-4 year olds and parent at Elgin School Library. ckueneman@elgin12.com.

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**MEETINGS**

AA - Patagonia Community Methodist Church Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Sonoita Bible Church Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. 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 (520) 990-4648.

Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors - 2nd Mon, 3 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The So Az Republican Club meeting, 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month, Sonoita Fire House Board room.

The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month 9:30 a.m., at the Bowman Senior Locations 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.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Patagonia Community United Methodist Church 387 McKeeon 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: 7a.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

**CHURCH SERVICES**

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

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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

HOUSING RENTALS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

TO PLACE CLASSIFIEDS OR ADS CONTACT PRTADS@GMAIL.COM

Mesquite Grove Gallery has a new face at 375 McKeown Ave. A Working Artists Studio now with Hand Weaving, Painting, Jewelry & Soft Sculpture by Artist Owner Regina Medley. Also featuring Area Artists for over 30 Years. Open Thanksgiving Weekend Friday-Sunday 11-4. Sale Items, Refreshments. www.reginamedley.com

Advertise YOUR JOBS for Free in The PRT ADVERTISE YOUR JOBS IN CLASSIFIEDS FOR FREE Email prtads@gmail.com with a description of the available job with contact information. (Up to 20 words free) *Please let us know when the position gets filled.

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)

Captain is a 6 year old mixed breed dog being treated for heartworm. His adoption fee has been paid, but is still looking for his forever home. He gets along fine with dogs and likes being outdoors. He is gentle, loving and gets attached to the person that shows him love and care.

Sally is a 10 month old domestic medium hair orange tabby. She is mellow and loves for her head to be rubbed. She enjoys quiet time, and gets along fine with other cats.

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

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

Molly Anderson - M.D.
Timothy R. Penniston F.N.P.-C
CROWN EQUESTRIAN ESTATE
MLS # 21905005  62.93 ACRES
COMpletely REMODELED! Rammed earth construction. Updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, new A/C. Barn w/14 stalls. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$850,000

AUTHENTIC NAVAJO HOGAN
MLS # 21920191  716 REDROCK AVENUE
Built in 2002 under Navajo supervision. Cozy w/ wood stove, full kitchen. Separate bathhouse, 2 storage sheds. Fully fenced. Owner financing. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$159,000

PATAGONIA MOUNTAIN RETREAT
MLS # 21730369  29.3 PRISTINE ACRES
Farm house w/workshop, storage bldg., barn & chicken coop. 2314 sf main house w/4BD/3BA, large kitchen, AZ rm. Nestled by the creek. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$550,000

VILL TOP CLASSIC ADORAS IN SONOITA
MLS # 21905981  16 ACRES w/POND
Price reduced. 4842/2.38a, 1894 sf. Remodeled baths, open kitchen floor plan, fantastic patios to enjoy the great views, & private well. LARRY DEMUN 520 732-9179

$469,000

LAKE PATAGONIA GEM
MLS # 21725571  4.14 ACRES
2112sf, 384/28a. Great views, island kitchen, sunken liv rm w/fireplace, lg master bedroom, 3 car garage. Great private well. Great for horses. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$399,000

CUSTOM SANTA FE HOME IN SONOITA
MLS # 21916615  22+ ACRES
Lovely mountain views. 3018 sf, 48/3.58a, large modern kitchen, beautiful wood beams & cabinetry, 3 car garage, walled front & back yard. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

$599,000

LAZY RR CUSTOM HOME
MLS # 21917028  20 ACRES
Artistic home w/loads of modern green features. AAC/Adobe, radiant floor heating, mini-splits. 2862/28a w/lg studio. Room for guest house. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$525,000

COZY MFR HOME ON LARGE LOT
MLS #21921120  404 SONOITA AVE.
Comfy double-wide Mfr home on almost 2 lots. Lots of trees for shady & privacy. 2 Bd/2 Ba, storage building, fully fenced. Great location. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$135,000

EAGLES’ NEST VIEWS — RED ROCK ACRES
MLS #21827677  4.98 ACRES
COMPLETELY REMODELED! 2110sf, 384/28a, Great View, large liv rm, 2 patios, workshop, garage. AMAZING 360' VIEWS! BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$354,000

CANELO CABIN IN THE WOODS
MLS # 21832062  349 CANELO ROAD
Beautiful location bordering Nat. Forest. Almost 20 ac on 2 lots. 388/28a. 1565 sf. Easy living w/private well, phone, electric & phone. LARRY DEMUN 520 732-9179

$295,000

LAZY RR CUSTOM HOME
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$259,000

$298,000

$339,000

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