Homecoming, Halloween Festivities Spice Up the Weekend

By Marion Vendituoli

The Homecoming Parade featured floats decorated by high school and middle school students.

Patagonia Public Schools Homecoming kicked off with a parade on Oct. 25. Four high school floats, one middle school float and one carrying the Patagonia School Board circled the park. That evening the Homecoming King and Queen, as well as the Court Royalty were introduced. Isaiah Ruiz and Reyna Ochoa-Tovar were chosen King and Queen. Runners-up were Nicholas Botz and Ariana Ochoa-Tovar. Junior royalty were Dylan Jacob and Brianna Young, sophomores were Jesus Gonzalez and Dahana Hernandez and freshman court royalty were Isaias Gonzalez and Sophia Routledge. Middle School royalty were Carlos Chap and Heaven Day. The homecoming soccer game against Desert Christian High School resulted in a 3 -1 loss for the Lobos. See Homecoming Page 19

Fawn Hardt, Sienna Beyer and Mavy Flores dressed as three old women for the Sonoita Fairgrounds Halloween party.

The Sonoita Fairgrounds was filled with costumes and candy for the community Halloween party Oct 26. Organizer Anita Kay put together an array of activities, including a haunted house, games, a cake walk, hot dogs, root beer floats, a jumping castle, a photo booth, face painting, a costume contest and a ‘trick or treat alley,’ where kids could knock on doors to get candy from costumed greeters. Sponsors of the event included the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Assn., Cowgirl Flair, Ralph Gonzalez, Elgin/Sonoita Cowbelles, Elvia’s Salon, Harvest Christian Church, the Hayes Family, Jamie Smith Accounting, Monument Steel, Schouten and Sullivan Accountants, Sonoita Elgin Fire District, Sonoita Propane, Sonoita Realty, 3Bar3 Feed Store, Tia Nita’s Cantina, Vera Earl Ranch and Walt’s Plumbing. See Halloween Page 7

Stabbing

Local man charged with premeditated attempted murder, 1st degree, other charges, after attack on female Patagonia resident.

Rotary Park

Mt. Empire Rotary Club dedicates new park at Sonoita Fairgrounds to Fred Sang.

Fall Festival

Thousands came to enjoy this year’s fall festival and to experience Patagonia’s special beauty and hospitality.
WITHOUT YOU, THESE STORIES WILL BE UNTOLD

By Marion Vendituoli

Last month we shared with you the exciting news that the PRT is participating in NewsMatch, a national matching funds campaign for nonprofit newsrooms. NewsMatch will match every dollar that we raise from individuals, small businesses and family trusts between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, up to a cap of $20,000.

In 2018 NewsMatch raised more than $7.6 million dollars, the largest-ever grassroots fundraising campaign for nonprofit news. This program is run by the Miami Foundation and funded at a national level by Democracy Fund, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, the Dirk and Natasha Ziff Family Foundation, and the Present Progressive Fund at Schwab Charitable, along with supporting partners across the U.S.

But why should you support the PRT? What role does it play in our communities? And ask yourself, if we don’t bring you these local stories, who will?

Healthy local communities require healthy local journalism. Across the country newspapers are closing down, as the old model of for-profit journalism, which relies on advertisers to turn a profit, is failing. In many places only “ghost papers remain, mere shadows of their former selves,” Penelope Abernathy, of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at UNC writes. This loss of local coverage has resulted in what is termed ‘news deserts,’ areas with little or no access to local news.

“For a decade or so, researchers have found that when the public lacks access to information about local issues, democracy itself suffers,” Emily Benson wrote in the December issue of “High Country News.” “As local newspapers shrink and close, people interested in the news are left more reliant on national outlets. As a result, they become more disconnected from their own communities and elected officials, less interested in voting.”

In areas with no local news coverage, voters tend to vote more on straight party lines rather than considering the strengths of individual candidates. People are less likely to vote, and politics become more polarized.

Meanwhile the field of nonprofit journalism is expanding rapidly and filling some of this void. The Institute for Nonprofit News (INN) has grown to have 230 members. We are proud to belong to this organization which provides technical, developmental and business support to its members.

As the PRT marks its tenth anniversary, we continue to provide local stories that resonate with our audience, written by our talented writers who all live in the area. Our online presence is growing, and you can now sign up for breaking news alerts and our twice monthly newsletter. You can visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

2020 is an election year and we plan on informing our readers about local issues and candidates. We are looking forward to a new collaboration with the U of A School of Journalism this spring and to expanding our online presence. The unique news from our local communities and the PRT’s method of reporting is receiving increased interest regionally and nationally.

We have an estimated readership of 4000 people at present. Last year we increased the number of donors and hope to build on that success during this NewsMatch campaign.

I think our founder, Walter Andrew, would be proud of the paper he started in 2009. I know we are, and we hope you are. Please help us continue to bring you the news.

Join Us To Honor the Winners of Our Student Essay & Photo Contests And to Celebrate

The Patagonia Regional Times 10th Anniversary

To Be Held 2:00p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30
At the Patagonia Creative Arts Center
304 Naugle Ave., Patagonia

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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.

To Access our News Blog titled “Late Breaking News,” visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org and click on “What’s New?” If you are not on Facebook you can see all our posts on our website by clicking on ‘PRT on Facebook.’

Remember the PRT is not just a monthly event, so make it a habit to check our website and be sure to follow us on twitter @TimesofPatagonia.
Patagonia Man Charged with Attempted Murder

Charles Van Nest, Jr., of Patagonia, has been charged with premeditated attempted murder, 1st degree, aggravated assault with serious physical injury, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and domestic violence/criminal damage and criminal damage for an alleged attack on a female victim that occurred on Oct. 4 at the victim’s house in Patagonia.

According to evidence presented at Van Nest’s arraignment by prosecutor Greg Redente on Oct. 11, “The defendant went to this home where he was no longer living and when the victim saw he was there, she ran and tried to lock herself in the bathroom. The defendant kicked the door open... He proceeded to stab her in the neck.”

There were three children present during the attack, the victim’s two daughters, ages 11 and 8 and another child, age 9, who was visiting.

Van Nest, who is the son of a former Patagonia Marshal and the Deputy Town Clerk, remained at large until Wed, Oct 9, when he was taken into custody by Marshall Joe Patterson.

The lead investigating officer, Patagonia Deputy Dan Atkinson, filed the complaint against Van Nest on Oct 10.

On Oct. 11, Judge Emilio Velandquez raised the Van Nest’s cash bond from $250,000 to $1 million after the prosecutor requested that the judge re-address the conditions of release.

He argued that the defendant posed a danger to the community. “The victim is in fear for her life,” he stated, describing her injuries suffered from “being stabbed in the back of her neck multiple times.”

Redente also argued that Van Nest “poses a flight risk, citing the fact that he “was on the run” for several days before he was taken into custody by the Patagonia Marshal’s Office. He stated that the prosecution is considering filing additional charges. Van Nest’s next court appearance will Nov 20.

A gofundme campaign for the victim and her family has raised over $12,000 to date. The victim’s sister posted on Oct. 22 that the victim is home with her parents and recuperating. “She is improving every day, the facial nerve damage is still very frustrating and apparent. She is unable to see very well out of one eye and cannot blink. She will see a facial nerve specialist on the 30th to get more information on long term outcome. She is walking with assistance but not able to go very far and is relying on the wheelchair mostly.”

Patagonia Regional Times

Why Should You Support the PRT?

Healthy Local Communities require Healthy Local Journalism. Since 2009 the Patagonia Regional Times has focused exclusively on the exciting and diverse communities of eastern Santa Cruz County.

What is NewsMatch?

NewsMatch is a national matching campaign that drives donations to non-profit newsrooms across the country. NewsMatch combines small-dollar donations with national foundations and major donors to help build more sustainable models for non-profit journalism in the United States.

In 2018, NewsMatch became the largest-ever grassroots fundraising campaign for nonprofit news, raising more than $7.6 million.

As trusted information providers, nonprofit newsrooms, such as the PRT, play an essential role in providing news that local communities depend upon to stay informed, make decisions and participate in civic life.

To read more about NewsMatch go to www.newsmatch.org.

What donations count?

Donations received from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 are eligible for the match. Unfulfilled pledges and donations dated after Dec. 31 are not eligible.

How much will be matched?

NewsMatch will match up to $1,000 per donor up to a cap of $20,000. Every $1 you give = $2 for the PRT!

What is the eligible donation period for the match?

Donations received from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 are eligible for the match.

Do donations made by individuals through a business, foundation or donor advised fund count?

Yes, if they can reasonably be seen as coming from individuals supporting our work.

Fire Chiefs Unhappy With 911 System

Local students volunteer their time to paint recycled newsboxes for the Patagonia Regional Times

Donors Step Up to Save Pool

Because, if we don’t tell these local stories who will?
Rotary Park Opens in Sonoita

By Marion Vendituoli

The opening ceremony for the Fred Sang Memorial Park, held Sept 29 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, was the culmination of eight years of hard work, planning, fundraising, searching for a site and construction by the Mountain Empire Rotary Club.

According to Susan Scott, who first conceived the idea of building a park, the Rotary Club opened a separate bank account in 2010 earmarked specifically for a recreation area. The Club started holding car washes and hosting fundraisers.

The Rotary Club has held six regional chili cooking competitions at Kief Joshua Vineyards in Elgin, raising over $15,000. The Club also held two casino night fundraisers. “It had a wide range of community support,” Leslie Kramer said. “The community at large embraced the project and came out to the fundraisers.”

In 2012 they received a grant for the park of $14,000 from Cenpatico and in 2013 the Club received $25,000 from the Sonoita Elgin Chamber of Commerce, money that the Chamber had gotten from the Pascua Yaqui tribe. The Chamber gave the grant money to the Rotary Club after a failed attempt to erect an electronic sign in Sonoita due to significant community opposition to the project.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club was looking at possible locations for the park. “I had a vision of a five-acre park with a baseball field, walking paths and exercise stations” Scott said, “a multi-generational place.” The cost of insurance, however, which would have run at least $10,000 per year, caused the Club to modify their plans.

They looked at sites throughout the area before negotiating with the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Assn. (SCCFRA) to build the park within the Sonoita Fairgrounds.

A joint committee of Jim Rowley, Jamie Smith and Amanda Zamudio, from the SCCFRA board, and Scott, Kramer and Sue Archibald, from Rotary, started meeting in early 2016.

The Fairgrounds provided the land, covers the liability insurance and provides inmates for maintenance of the park. The Rotary club is responsible for all the improvements.

Groundbreaking for the new park, which covers a little more than an acre of land behind the racetrack, took place in November 2016. Rotary member Fred Sang did all the grading and built the 250’ wall and rose bed along the east side of the track, donating all his time. Sang, who died in February 2018, was an active member of the Rotary Club, as well as president of the Patagonia School Board. The naming of the park after Sang “is so appropriate,” Scott said, “because he put so much into it.”

“Following Fred’s death, Jim [Rowley] was really the guy who got us to completion. He was the linchpin with the fairgrounds. He was willing to step in and pick things up. All kudos to Jim,” Kramer said.

The landscape design was done by Frank Wicks, of Sonoita. Wicks was also instrumental in establishing the park location and the site layout.

Improvements include two ramadas, horseshoe pits, corn hole games, two grills and picnic tables. There are tentative plans to plant more trees. “What I’d love is to plant nut and fruit trees,” Scott said. Other ideas include a half-court basketball area and children’s play structures. “We need to add these things to encourage the community to use the park,” she said.

In the original plan for the park, the Rotary had envisioned a decorative wrought iron fence along Hwy 83 to replace the existing chain link fence. This plan was derailed by ADOT, who could find no documentation of the property ownership and of the property line. The Fairgrounds contends that the fence was there prior to the highway designation, but ADOT claims the fence is in their right of way. The existing fence is grandfathered in, but no new fencing, even if it were to be in the exact location, is allowed. Scott is exploring the possibility of planting ocotillos inside the fence as a way to showcase the park.

Sixty roses, chosen by Kramer and Ken Karrels, of Diamond JK Nursery, who provided the roses at cost, were planted in the new bed along the track, with hopes that they would be in bloom for the upcoming Sonoita Horse Races in May 2018. Unfortunately, the local herd of deer discovered them, but in 2019 the roses, under the care of Rotarian Roger Gogan, flourished, even winning a blue ribbon at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

Sang’s wife Irma and family were present for the unveiling of a plaque honoring Sang, designed by Sonoita artist Deborah Fellows. “We’re very thankful to the Mountain Empire Rotary Club for dedicating the park to my father,” Sang’s daughter Brenda Somoza said. “I think as an avid member of our community, he would have been proud to have the park named after him, and the family is equally proud of the man he was and how he lived his life.”

Local Resident Arrested in Patagonia

Patagonia resident Gregory Whitcoe was arrested October 21 by the Patagonia Marshal’s Office and was booked into the Santa Cruz County Detention Center. The previous day, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Department, acting on information provided to them by an individual, informed Marshal Joe Patterson that Whitcoe was “wanted for alleged crimes in the State of Delaware,” according to a press release issued by the Marshal’s office.

Whitcoe was convicted of possession of child pornography in Delaware in 2008 and was required to register as a sex offender. A warrant was issued in December 2012 after he failed to re-register and failed to verify his address. He was held at the Santa Cruz County Detention Center with a $25,000 cash bond but has since been released on his own recognizance.

Whitcoe has been living in Patagonia, running a web design company, G Whitcoe Designs, founded in 2008.

At the Oct. 23 Patagonia Town Council meeting Marshal Patterson said the offender is non-violent and is classified at the tier 1 level of the three tiers of the sex-offender registration system. The offense was committed in Delaware over ten years ago. Whitcoe is deemed to be at low risk of re-offending and extradition is unlikely.

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A Thanksgiving Success Story

By Jo Dean

For many of us, Thanksgiving is a time to connect with family and community, reflect on the significance of those who came before us, and to acknowledge and celebrate our heritage. In addition to the tradition of eating turkey on this holiday, in southern Arizona we have an opportunity to observe an ancestor from which our favorite meal evolved, our local wild turkey, the Gould’s turkey.

The Gould’s turkey is one of five subspecies of wild turkeys. It was named by J. Gould while traveling in Mexico in 1856. These turkeys can be found in northern Mexico, southern New Mexico, and southern Arizona. If you are on Fort Huachuca you have a good chance of seeing Gould’s turkeys gathered in small flocks near the parade grounds.

Today the Gould’s is the only subspecies found in this area, according to recent DNA studies. Gould’s are the biggest of the wild turkeys, and have long legs, large feet, and large center tail feathers with a white band. The males can weigh up to 26 pounds, averaging 18 pounds and the hens weigh 12 pounds. Their favorite habitat is at elevations from 4,500 to 6,000 feet and they prefer areas with steep and rocky canyons. The males, gobblers, strut by fanning their extensive tail fans and gobble to attract hens.

The hens brood in secretive sites near a water source. Their nests are scratched out depressions in the soil with up to 12 eggs that take about 2 weeks to lay and almost a month to incubate. The hens, ever vigilant, turn the eggs about once an hour during the month-long incubation.

The young are out of the nest on day two, scratching for insects and in a few weeks their diet transitions to oak acorns, grass seeds, leaves, and other plant matter. Meanwhile, the gobblers carry on their strutting social life away from the nest area.

The Gould’s turkey has become very common in the Huachuca Mountains due to an intensive translocation of the birds from Mexico. The translocation was carried out by Arizona Fish and Game Department, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), the Huachuca Gould’s chapter of the NWTF, and the Mexican government.

The first translocation of the Gould’s was in 1983. Originally only nine were released. A few years later 12 more were released. In 1989 standardized survey routes were established for counting turkeys and recording the subsequent data. By the 1990s the populations began increasing, and the populations today are estimated to be at least 500 birds in the Huachucas. As a result of translocating 600 to 700 birds from the Huachuca population to the Chiricahua Mountains and other Sky Island ranges, the population is now estimated to be 1500 to 2,000 turkeys in southern Arizona.

The natural populations of the Gould’s turkey were decimated by market hunters and lack of hunting regulations from the mid-nineteenth century until the 1930’s. Prior to this, they were so common that the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona were named for the bird. ‘Chirica’hu’ is an Opata word meaning wild turkey, or range of wild turkeys, according to a Jesuit, Juan Nentvig, who wrote between 1750 and 1767. According to Brittany Oleson, Game Warden and Wildlife Biologist for the hunting areas 35A and 35B, hunting the Gould’s turkey is monitored by science guided management. The tag limits are based on a multilayered approach using controlled population counts and algorithms. A hunter applying for a tag averages a 22 year wait before being drawn. The hunts are spring shotguns or archery hunts. A tag allows for one tom or “bearded bird.” Another method of acquiring a tag is through two tags available for auction, which typically go for between $3,000 to $7,000 per tag.

This year in area 35A, located in the Huachucas and eastern side of the Canelos, 30 tags are available in two separate hunts of 15 tags per hunt. In 35B, on the west side of the Canelos, 12 tags are available in two different hunts of 6 tags per hunt.

All wild bird populations in North America have decreased by 30% in the past 50 years amounting to an estimated three billion birds. The NWTF and devoted chapter members such as the Gould’s Chapter are compassionate about conserving these turkeys. Members who protect and promote the Gould’s are also promoting conservation of numerous other species that need habitat safe from unregulated hunting, pesticides, and destructive land use practices. In the early 1900’s all wild turkey populations in the US had been reduced to numbers threatening extinction. Conservation of the Gould’s and other wild turkeys is a great success story that promotes hunting, outdoor recreation, conservation, and a healthy environment.

The Huachuca Gould’s chapter is one of eight NWTF chapters in Arizona and is the only chapter dedicated to the Gould’s turkey. This passionate and energetic group held their 21st banquet this year which benefits 12 to 16 conservation events every year.

Since 1999 they have contributed over $400,000 towards their many outreach programs, including funding 34 water projects, three habitat fencing projects, wildlife ramps, youth programs, and ethics and sportsmanship events. This local chapter contributes to many family events, women in the outdoors programs, Safari Club International, Southern Arizona Quail Forever, Boy Scouts of America, and an essay contest with scholarship awards from $500 locally to $10,000 nationally.

The NWTF goals for the coming year are to conserve and enhance 4 million more acres of habitat, provide access to 500,000 more acres for outdoor recreation and recruit 1.5 million more hunters this year. If interested in helping with this valuable project, more information can be found on their website at http://www.nwtfhuachougolds.com.

This Thanksgiving holiday let us give thanks for the efforts of all those who have made the recovery of Gould’s Turkey and all wild turkeys possible and hope that this species will be with us for many holidays to come.
Town residents were not surprised to learn that the estimated attendance for the 31st annual Fall Festival was 25,000 - 30,000 people, with Saturday being its all-time busiest day in 31 years at 20 thousand people.

Perfect weather, new vendors, a great line up of musicians and extensive marketing by The Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance (SAACA) attracted scores of new people to experience Patagonia's special beauty and hospitality during the weekend. There were over 125 vendors participating in the event. SAACA is still gathering data from the vendors about total sales from the weekend, but early reports indicate that they had record-breaking sales with some vendors selling out of stock.

SAACA’s Director of Operations, Shelby Scheer, said "The beautiful fall weather, outstanding musical acts, support of the Town of Patagonia and local businesses contributed to the all-time record-breaking attendance that solidifies the Patagonia Fall Festival as the preeminent arts and music festival in Southeastern Arizona."

The Town of Patagonia received $10 per temporary business license and other benefits as the in-kind host venue. The Town also receives 3% of the state sales tax from all sales over the weekend.

Local businesses reported their highest sales ever during a Fall Festival. Some had their all-time best day ever. Bonnie MacLean, the owner of Ovens of Patagonia, reported that her business did better than it ever has for a weekend of sales. MacLean, who is also President of Sky Island Tourist Association (SITA), said “SAACA did a bang-up job and a good percentage of the people who came this year had never come to Patagonia before. Introducing new people to the area is a top priority for SITA."

MacLean said she would like to see greater coordination between the town, local businesses and SAACA for next year because of the large crowds coming to the event.
Patagonia’s 18th Annual Holiday Art Walk
November 29 and 30

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Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Photo by Jennifer Myers

In addition to the festivities in Sonoita, the United Methodist Community Church in Patagonia sponsored a ‘trunk or treat’ with the help of community members who shared in the festivities. There was a costume contest for all ages and a variety of fun games.
From Little Acorns Grow

By Francesca Claverie and John Hughes

Few people associate Arizona with "oak-land" yet the very name of our state is derived from the Basque term haritz ona or "the good oak," named for an immigrant settlement of folk in the 1700s that was full of oaks. It's not surprising then that Arizona has an impressive diversity of oaks.

An important and common species here in southern Arizona is the Emory oak, Quercus emoryi. This tree reaches a height of 30 to 60 feet and is the predominant oak species you see as you travel around Santa Cruz County. This oak gets its name from William H. Emory who first described it in Texas, during the boundary survey following the Mexican-American war.

Emory oaks are typically found in oak woodlands, foothills, mountains and canyons at elevations between 4,000 to 7,000 feet. Their distribution is confined to parts of Texas, southern New Mexico, southern Arizona and south to central Mexico. Emory oaks have rounded crowns giving them a very distinctive shape on the landscape.

One of the most important aspects of these oaks, is their unique acorns, or bellotas. These bellotas are very special and have been highly sought after by humans for millennia. What makes them so special is that they can be eaten right out of the shell because they lack the high concentration of bitter tannins found in most acorns.

The taste has been characterized as sweet and slightly bitter. They are usually stored in the tarp and gathering the nuts over a rainy season to prevent infestation of squirrels. The acorns are usually harvested by placing a plastic granaries to store acorns.

While this iconic tree is not endangered or listed as threatened, as the climate becomes warmer and drier these grand trees suffer. This is apparent throughout the history of the landscape through both oral histories as well as photos.

Many different conservation/restoration groups including Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) are working on improving conditions for oaks by keeping water on the landscape to recharge groundwater levels.

Deliverables for a currently-funded project that BRN just started in 2019 include planting of at least 1,000 acorns of Emory oak across 250 acres of total restored habitat and completion of shadehouse construction for future oak propagation with at least 250 trees started during project period. Project success will be evaluated through the survival rate of the seedlings.

Emory oaks play a significant ecological role in our local environment, and we should do all we can to ensure they remain on the landscape. It is easy to see why early English poets coined the phrase "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow." The Emory oak reminds us that from all our planting efforts, regardless the scale, the growth is exponential in both our awareness and our wild home.

Many Native Americans, and later immigrant families, would gather at harvest time to collect the bellotas. The nuts, about the size of a pinion nut, can be eaten raw, roasted, dried or ground into flour for use as a thickener in stews and soups. Bellotas can be substituted for pinion nuts or other nuts in most recipes.

Turkeys, quail, squirrels, javelinas and bears also eat bellotas. The Emory oak is also a host species for the oculea silkmoth. Cavity nesting animals use hollows in oaks for homes, and the acorn woodpecker uses these oaks as granaries to store acorns.

Emory oaks do not always produce acorns. Production is determined by the amount of winter rainfall and whether there is a late spring frost. Sometimes Emory oaks produce mast crops (a seven year cycle in which a large quantity of acorns are produced).

I used to work in the forests of northern California when I was in college. To this day, I still crave the smell of pines every summer. I love the old Patagonia Grade School because the big pine tree greets you with that cool smell. Now I hear that big tree is a hazard and may have to be cut down. I feel the loss of my friend. I’ve been hugging him every time I go past.

When I was in the California forests, I saw an old picture of early loggers. A giant tree was lying on its side and ten men stood side by side on the stump. They were proud of themselves, but all I could think was, "They should have been worshiping that tree.

I still have tree friends and worship them. One of the earliest studies of comparative religions, from 1922 by Sir James Frazier, is titled "The Golden Bough." Trees are central to many old religions. Druids and sacred oaks. Buddha reaching enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree in India, or Eve plucking the apple from the Tree of Knowledge.

When I visited Oaxaca we saw ancient ruins, bacanora fermentations, and local arts and weavings. One of our stops was in a little town called Santa Maria del Tule, with the fattest tree in the world, a Montezuma cypress said to have been planted 1400 years ago by a priest of the Aztec storm god. You could see El Arbol de Tule from far away and it inspires all who see it. No one has cut it down yet, but it is in danger as the water table in the town is sinking lower each year from human use.

I have my favorite trees. The first one was an old wind-blasted juniper in the high desert of New Mexico. I was a kid, playing under the tree while my family had a picnic nearby. This was the place where I received my enlightenment, because I felt the tree’s essence or being. I realized that it was alive and aware as I was. It had a soul. Since then I talk to trees, and yes, I hug them.

Have you ever visited the oldest trees in the world, the bristlecone pines in the White Mountains of California? They are remnants from the last Ice Age. Their mountaintops are barren and their trunks are half-dead emanating an ancient, timeless vibe.

My first home in Patagonia was under a huge oak tree out Harshaw Road, just past where the Spirit Tree Ranch is now. I was living in my car and it was the spring of 1984. I parked there every night and slept comforted by the Mother Oak. Once it rained and the flood waters came up over the bottom of my car doors. I was envisioning having to float away with my two Australian shepherd puppies but the water receded and I was safe. They cut down that Mother Oak about 15 years ago.

Now I live in Flux Canyon where I have several tree friends. There’s the Branding Iron Tree below my house, a huge oak by Alum Creek with a branding iron stuck long ago into a hole in its trunk. We had two teenagers visiting us who tried one day for an hour to pull it out, but the tree held fast.

There’s also the Acorn Tree that is visited by a Native American family every year to pick acorns. The Scary Spider Tree guards the first crossing, with most of its limbs dead but still hanging on. There’s another Teenage Tree in the Flux drainage that has spiky hair.

My favorite is the Serengeti Tree. It stands alone in the Alum Creek floodplain and looks like African giraffes have trimmed its lower branches. There is a troop of blue jays that I see often when I’m near Serengeti. It’s one of my favorite places in the world.

We’ve lost a lot of the big cottonwoods in Patagonia since I moved here 35 years ago. One by the park, one by the library. There are no new ones planting themselves since the river no longer meanders and a bathtub cottonwood must have its “feet wet” while growing.

Our trees, our water, our place in this world - it matters.
Local Vineyard
Branching Out

By Pat McNamara

A little four-acre plot of land at Lightning Ridge Cellars in Elgin sat quietly growing weeds as the rest of the acreage was busily producing grapes for the fine Italian wines the vineyard is known for. Owner Ann Roncone decided that ‘unemployment’ was unacceptable for her otherwise hard-working acreage, so put this weed filled four acres to work growing olive trees.

Having just celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the successful vineyard, Roncone was looking for a little something different and less labor intensive than grapes to plant on this empty piece of land.

Keeping with the Italian theme, olive trees were the crop of choice. In 2016, she ordered 162 seedlings for an olive grove at Lightning Ridge Cellars in Elgin.

Olives ripen on the tree in the newly planted olive grove at Lightning Ridge Cellars in Elgin.

Roncone decided that ‘unemployment’ was unacceptable for her otherwise hard-working acreage, so put this weed filled four acres to work growing olive trees.

Before buying the trees, Roncone researched the equipment needed to turn olives into olive oil and found a little factory in Italy that manufactured ‘olive mills’ especially for small business production. The mill makes the operation fairly simple. Once the olives have been properly cleaned and washed, they are poured into the receiving hopper where a screw feeds them to the crusher that reduces the olives into a paste. The paste falls into a lower mixer, where a helicoidally shaped stirrer prepares it for extraction. A pump then sends the paste to a decanter where separation takes place. Extra virgin olive oil pours from a spout on the front of the machine and the paste exits the back.

The mill just arrived this month and as soon as the grape processing for this year’s wine is complete, the olive mill will be put to use. Roncone hoped to have the oil ready for sale at the end of October.

Unlike wine, olive oil is best when it is fresh, so the olives will be harvested just before processing and bottling.

Roncone will start with an ‘estate Extra Virgin’ oil and as the business grows, hopes to add more varieties, by using herbs and spices for flavoring. Lightning Ridge Cellars is located at 2268 Hwy 83 in Elgin. The tasting room is open 11a.m – 4p.m., Friday through Sunday.

Growing a Business in Sonoita

By Jo Dean

Tom Hanson sells his hydroponic vegetables at the farmers market in Sierra Vista and at his greenhouses in Sonoita.

By Jo Dean

Tom Hanson, owner of Hilltop Hydroponics in Sonoita, AZ, is a local farmer who provides his buyers with delicious vegetables using hydroponics, or growing plants without soil. This technique of agriculture is defined as “waterworking.” Hanson describes his hydroponic produce by enthusiastically raising his arms and proclaiming, “It is living!”

Vegetables grown with hydroponic techniques provide healthy, clean, and nutritious food without the use of herbicides or pesticides. Growing crops with hydroponics uses one-tenth the amount of the water that traditional soil growing uses. Fertilization is accomplished by dissolving mineral nutrients in water that is fed directly to the roots. The water remains clean and is recirculated through a system of pipes, aerators, and pumps.

Hanson’s hilltop greenhouses and successful operation are the result of hard work, persistence, experimentation, and continued education in the field of agriculture and hydroponics. Hanson has abundant energy and enthusiasm for growing his many varieties of vegetables. His effervescence is palpable when explaining the techniques of hydroponics and his creative variations that make his facility more efficient and diverse for a variety of plants.

There are four major stages for growing these vegetables: the seedling, germinating, early growth, and transference to the greenhouse where plants are grown to market size. His main crop is lettuce; beautiful, big, healthy lettuce in all colors and hues of green and burgundy/red. They are sold with a perfectly white and intact root system. After purchase, they can simply be placed with the roots in a glass of water on the counter, no need to refrigerate. The lettuce is a beautiful living plant that can be used as needed for up to several weeks.

A visitor entering Hanson’s greenhouse would be astonished at the beauty of these plants. Some varieties are Red Sail, Oak Leaf, Butterhead, and Salad Bowl. There are also Toscana kale, bok choy, arugula, watercress, spinach, big dana tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, and some peppers. Inside a smaller building the microgreens, including Chinese parsley, radish, endive, and wheat grass, are grown. Hanson is happy to hand out samples which turns a tour of the green houses into a salad grazing experience.

Hanson and his wife Linda moved from Phoenix to their hilltop home overlooking the Sonoita grasslands in 2007. By 2013 Hanson had self-educated himself in hydroponics and started growing red sails lettuce. His endeavors have evolved into a successful business. He states that he plants 100 heads of lettuce per week with a very high yield. He sells 100% of his produce with a demand beyond his capacity, or desire, to produce more.

Hanson sells produce at the Sierra Vista Farmer’s Market, which takes place on Thursdays from 10a.m. until 2p.m. His produce is so popular that he sells out the first hour.

Buyers who miss the Farmer’s Market can visit his Hilltop Hydroponics Farm in Sonoita on Wednesday afternoons. Hilltop Hydroponics is located at 35 Palomino Dr., Sonoita. For more information, call 602-317-4607.
WHAT’S AT RISK FOR PATAGONIA

By Gary Paul Nabhan

We live in an “enchanted place,” according to a Pulitzer Prize-winning book. Its author, naturalist Edwin Way Teale, described Patagonia’s site along Sonota Creek as one filled with wildlife, woods, surprising people and delightful mountain trails. Because of such unique natural and cultural assets at our doorstep, the 2009 Patagonia General Plan outlined planning principles that should guide our future; ensuring land use compatibility, closely studying and rejecting resource extraction proposals which pose a threat to the environmental, economic or cultural resources of the Patagonia area, seeking diverse, locally-based economic resources of the Patagonia area, and promoting the use of sustainable energy and the protection of groundwater resources.

One may wonder how the South32 Hermosa mine project has proceeded this far without adequately addressing any of these fundamental principles laid out in the Town’s General Plan in their discussions with our community. At the core of this issue is whether the Hermosa Mining Project is undermining both Patagonia’s unique environmental character as well as its core economy.

The National Park Service has declared that habitats in our watershed are among the 11 National Natural Landmarks in Arizona and among 599 identified nationwide. The Sonota Creek Watershed is now part of the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, as well.

Patagonia is a recognized as a globally important birding hotspot. Patagonia has six Important Bird Areas (IBAs) within 15 miles of town. No other place in Arizona has so many IBAs in such a small area. Patagonia is ranked among the top three must-see spots for both bird and butterfly watchers in the state.

This year, at least 30,000 birding visitors will spend money in Patagonia. As a conservative estimate, another 5000 to 10,000 naturalists annually visit Patagonia Lake and the San Rafael Valley. But how much revenue do all these visitors bring to our community?

Five years ago, former Town Manager David Teel stated that the “direct and indirect economic benefit” for Santa Cruz County “averages 21.2 million dollars, including 6.7 million dollars in salaries and wages. Although Patagonia has only a small share of the county population, it has a large share of its eco-tourism.”

Within three miles of where the South32 Hermosa Project has recently purchased land, we have the highest concentration of land-based conservation, wildlife restoration and regenerative food production projects of any place of equivalent size in Arizona: Borderlands Restoration L3C, Wildlife Corridors, Hummingbird Monitoring Network, Borderlands Restoration Network, Tucson Audubon society, AZ Game and Fish, U.S. Wildlife Safe Harbor for endangered fish through the Partners in Wildlife Program, Native Sees/SEARCH, Deep Dirt Farm, Friends of Sonota Creek and Patagonia Area Resource Alliance. These organizations support dozens of additional jobs in our community, and for the last five years have provided dozens of Patagonia High School students with paid internships.

If South32 had randomly thrown a dart at a map, it could not have hit a spot with more conservation, restoration and regenerative economic sites within three miles of its recent land purchases. Their proposed routes to skirt or side-step Patagonia proper will diminish the conservation value, long-term restoration and monitoring efforts and economic base of Patagonia and its surrounding lands.

Despite cordial dialogue between South32 and nonprofit organizations in town, the mining project has not stopped buying up land next to conservation properties nor retired its proposal to build new access roads that would endanger the high concentration of archeological and natural resources in or near our community. It’s time for South32 to do what is mandated by its Mission Statement and Sustainability Plan: do least harm.

As a kid growing up during Dolly’s reign, I had a different viewpoint of Dolly. She was everything I thought a woman shouldn’t be. She was also the butt of a lot of jokes. (Islands in the Stream?) Too much make-up, gigantic hair, and the infamous bust. Why would you bring so much attention to yourself?

Then something changed in me. I saw her for the shining beacon of power, grace and, for me, comfort. A woman to look up to. Now back to the movie. I can’t say why “Coat of Many Colors” had such an impact on me. I doubt the Hallmark channel knows either. I can say that it helped me through one of the most difficult times in my life and taught me a few lessons. The movie centered around her very poor family and the power of love in difficult times. I think we can all relate. It touched on pride and determination. The movie deals with the major life lesson dealing with love and loss. Something at the time I knew all too well. Dolly helped me let my daddy go.

So, in hindsight I don’t worry about how much I watched this silly movie. Or how weird I got cyber-stalking Dolly. I just needed to know everything I could about the woman I admired. Recently there have been some Dolly themed movies that you bet I’ve seen (a few times) and the most wonderful podcast called “Dolly Parton’s America” that makes my heart skip a beat. On yesterday’s episode Dolly was speaking about someone that had done her wrong early on in her career. The interviewer asked, “And you forgave him?” Saint Dolly replied, “Well of course, all there is, is forgiveness.”

DOLLY

By Cassina Farley

I named my dog Dolly after the queen of country music, Dolly Parton. This was after the realization that Dolly was my patron saint and on many levels my spirit guide. Let me explain. A few years ago, I got addicted to a made-for-TV movie: “Dolly Parton’s Coat of Many Colors.” I watched it every Friday, sometimes on repeat, after spending the day caring for my dad. For some strange reason it comforted me and gave me permission to cry. It drove my husband Zach crazy.

During this time, I began to seek out all things Dolly. Interviews, old episodes of “Hee Haw” and YouTube videos of her performances. I liked her gentle nature and her unapologetic approach to things. I don’t know about you all, but as for me and my dog, we will continue to worship in the House of Dolly forever. Amen. It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in MS Word, to prteditor@gmail.com. The PRT reserves the right to edit all submittals for language, length, and content.
Growing up in a home with a caregiver or caregivers who abuse alcohol is setting up the child for lifelong challenges and is classified as one of the ten Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) that can predict adult health problems. Often unresolved generational trauma and psychological challenges are hidden behind the seemingly casual or overtly abusive use of alcohol by an adult. One of the most difficult things about being a child of an alcoholic is the unpredictability of your parent’s behavior, which inevitably leads to a deep rupture in the child’s ability to feel securely attached to his or her parent. I grew up believing, like many of us in dysfunctional homes, that my upbringing was normal. My normal was an unpredictable and erratic mother in the grip of alcohol abuse, surrogate care from an aunt and a nanny, and a father who overdosed my whisks but was an attentive and unconditionally loving caregetter. Like many parents, mine believe that they gave me everything I needed and did the best that they could. Only now do I have the space in my heart to accept that both versions of the story are true. Miraculously, I survived not just my childhood but many chaotic years of addictions myself. Somehow, I had the reserves to stay alive and keep on a mask of responsibility and achievement. I spent five years mostly waiting to get stoned and drunk while still doing reasonably well in university. I needed to both sedate my emotional pain and control my angst and turmoil with alcohol, marijuana, and insecure relationships with the opposite sex. As I teetered on the fine line of “good” and “bad” girl I did not know that the unresolved trauma of my childhood was driving my behavior. In the summer of 2000, I moved in with a childhood friend in Chicago. While she went to an internship, I attended a summer course at the University of Chicago called Cross Cultural Development. Included in the curriculum was a book by Dr. Robert Karen titled “Becoming Attached: First Relationships and How They Shape Our Capacity to Love.” The central question he asks is, “How much do our childhoods, and especially the quality of our first loving bonds, determine whether we can get love right as adults?” Even in the haze of my addictions I devoured the information on developmental psychology and the importance of a secure attachment for the healthy development of a child. The founder of attachment theory, John Bowlby, believed that the earliest bonds formed by children with their caregivers have a tremendous impact that continues throughout life and an available and responsive caregiver gives the infant a secure base from which to explore the world. Attachment research shows the resilience humans could demonstrate in adversity if they had at least one caregiver who were securely attached to even if, surprisingly, they were not a parent. Research in this book also categorized the impacts of insecure attachment on adult life and I felt as if I was reading about myself. Even though I continued for years with self-destructive behavior “Becoming Attached” planted a seed of understanding of why I struggled when other friends did not. Wisely, I kept that book. When my first child was 6 months old, like a ghost moving in the dark corridors of my parents’ home, unsure how my marriage was going to survive another day, let alone another child that I was already carrying, I was graced with the memory of the attachment theory. I picked up “Becoming Attached” and read it again 15 years later. I was struck with epiphanies in every chapter. Why I couldn’t trust my husband. Why I couldn’t relax when receiving love. Why I had no ability to keep my rage and anger in check when something overwhelmed me. Why years of yoga and spiritual practice hadn’t dulled the emotional pain of my attachment wound. There are no shortcuts in healing the core wound of being insecurely attached to a primary caregiver. Along with that, many other wounds compound and complicate one’s path to resolving trauma. In these past years my path to resolving my attachment wound has been circuitous because its traces are found everywhere in my adult life. I understood how central healing my attachment wound is to my health and the health of my children. One of the greatest gifts the researchers who study attachment have given me is a language to understand the darkness that I carry and the hope that with self-awareness and self-compassion the next generation does not have to carry the same load that I am.
THE FUTURE OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

By Kat Crockett

The largest private sector employer in Santa Cruz County is the produce industry. For over 100 years, the Nogales port of entry was the major entry point for fresh produce from Mexico to the US, but recently lost that long time success to Hidalgo, Texas. Arizona’s share of fresh produce imports declined from 44.7% to 24.0%. Transportation equipment exported to Mexico via Arizona ports decreased by 11.9% while all other border states gained. Personal vehicle crossings at Nogales were down 5.3%. Mexican shoppers crossing the border daily previously generated over 60% of the Nogales sales tax and 47% of the county’s, but the decline in crossings is also diminishing County revenue, causing high unemployment and higher taxes.

Industry and elected officials see their share of imports rapidly declining because Texas ports of entry are better equipped, provide more efficient and time-saving inspection and reduce the cost of border crossing. County elected officials are major stakeholders in the international trade industry, along with the city of Nogales, the state, Port Authority, Customs and Border Patrol, Customs House Brokers, the Fresh Produce Association and the Mexican Consulate. Were they all asleep at the wheel while the imports shifted to Texas? Where was the plan for, and investment in, port infrastructure, modernization, lowering wait times and promoting the Nogales Port of Entry? The county and state recently earmarked monies for improvement, but this is too little too late to recap the lost business and revenue. What if Santa Cruz County had built cold inspections facilities several years ago instead of investing $46M in a county detention center that failed to generate expected revenue from an increase in Federal detainees?

Santa Cruz County assumes a high risk by continuing to depend on a single economic sector. These declines must be offset by growth and sustainment. I expect our Supervisors and the County Manager to be proactive and less reactive. I expect them to manage this county by keeping focused on our top industries and growing a resilient economic base. I also expect them to make smart, informed decisions. Our County Supervisors and Manager must develop a strategic plan that will align spending with short and long term goals, develop partnerships with industry, government and community, and guide policy and regulation updates to support strategic goals. The Board of Supervisors and County Manager may “do” lots of things, but if they fail to produce accomplishments, then it’s time they change what they “do”. Failure to properly manage this county may be the end of SCC.

Kat Crockett is Deputy Chair, Sonoita-Elgin Community Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improve Town Internet

On October 23 the Patagonia Town Council voted unanimously for Patagonia to apply to the AZ Commerce Authority (ACA) for an Arizona Broadband Planning Grant. “Broadband” is a technical term for modern, highly capable internet service.

With ACA approval Patagonia may receive up to $50,000 to pay for 12 months of planning for state-of-the-art broadband service in and around the Township proper. Then, if the resulting plan meets a second set of ACA requirements, Patagonia can apply for a much larger grant to subsidize in part the cost of creating the new network using existing assets and newer technologies.

My motivation? Earlier this year, my wife, the journalist and longtime Patagonian Charlotte Lowe, and I decided to return to Patagonia. Nowhere could we find the broadband service I needed for my work as a technology-policy consultant frequently working online, sometimes in three or more dimensions, with persons around the world.

Encouraging people with well-paying jobs to move to Patagonia, creating a thriving economy, ensuring Patagonia’s young people have a quality education, helping our graduates to remain and prosper in Patagonia, opening new realms for artists and writers to explore, and ensuring that retired persons receive top-notch healthcare: these are some of the important reasons for the Town’s effort to bring broadband here. Rapid-respond emergency services will benefit greatly. And Patagonians’ power to determine their town’s destiny will grow.

Patagonia has the chance via a broadband network to amplify its many wonderful voices, and strengthen its community locally, regionally, and around the world. And showing the world how it can be done, well.

Bob Jacobson
Tucson

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Those Who Died

By David J. Shrewsbury

Trudging forward for country
Having training for the fight
Over the hill guns blazing
Sacrificing with blood
Ending coming fast

Who was this man of valor?
How did he get chosen to die?
Over the hill they ran into fire

Death permeated the air
Innocent young men remembered
Every head bowed, respecting the sacrifice
Duty called, we honor, God has them now

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

Honor Veterans

The veterans of our small town and remote area gave so much for our country. I feel a need to honor them every year on Veterans Day November 12th. This honor was historically done by local service groups, particularly our local VFW. Over many years this group of veterans and their supporters aged until the local VFW had so few members that the group dissolved in 2015. I had been volunteering to put out flags with the VFW for the past 20 years and have personally been placing flags since then with help from a few friends.

On Sunday November 10 at 9:00 I invite all people to help with this honor. We meet at the center of the cemetery, team up and have fun looking at each and every headstone to determine any clues as to their military service. The flags look beautiful and it is surprising how many there are.

Maybe I will see you at the cemetery Sunday November 10 at 9:00a.m. Take care, Murphy Musick Patagonia

Sonoita By Starlight

Dear Community,

After more than 20 years of celebrating Christmas with all of you, Buffalo Gals is bowing out of “Sonoita by Starlight” for reasons of my health. I am really off balance, which is par for the course in my case.

When I started this event I conceived it as Sonoita by Moonlight as there was a full moon that first evening. It then occurred to me that perhaps I might want to do it more than once! Over time every local owner-operator of Sonoita shops joined in. Our Fire Department was fantastic as was the school, Border Patrol, Santa, some supportive husbands, but most of all, you.

We really enjoyed seeing each of you. Please continue to shop at our local shops, we really all appreciate it.

Susan McDonald Sonoita

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OPINION & COMMENT • OPINION & COMMENT • OPINION & COMMENT
**Board Members Needed**

It's not easy sitting in meetings, listening to ideas about fundraising, especially if you are not familiar with one or all of the following: Rodeos, Horse Racing, Horse Shows, or County Fairs. But if you are interested in serving our community we have an opportunity for you. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Fair & Rodeo Assn., your role is critical to the health and vitality of our organization and the community as a whole.

Our organization is non-profit and the fairgrounds are not government owned. Therefore, our members are the heartbeat of our fairgrounds, with fundraising being an important part of our well-being.

Do you possess:

- Appreciation of the rich heritage of Santa Cruz county and role that fairgrounds plays in the life of the county?
- The ability to question?
- The commitment to attend meetings?
- The time to actively participate?
- The ability to see the value in ALL of the events at the fairgrounds?
- An appreciation for the commitment of our volunteers?
- Without excellent oversight, our mission will stagnate or flounder, but with your wise counsel and guidance it will flourish and the lives of those in our community, both merchants and citizens, will be improved.
- If you are interested in joining us and running for a board position, please submit a bio and your reasons for wanting to join us. The election will be held during our Membership meeting on Dec. 7. Send all correspondence to info@sofairegrounds.com. Call 455-5553 for more information.
- Thank you for your consideration for joining such an integral part of this great community resource!

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**News From The Fireline**

By Michael McGuire, Lieutenant (PVFD)

You can feel it in the air. Fall is finally here, and winter is right around the corner. In order to keep this season happy and safe for all and one, fire experts recommend that you take the time to service your home's fireplace and furnace before adding the heat.

Make sure your fireplace chimney is clean before you build a fire. Be sure to sweep the chimney of all unburned materials known as creosote. Once the chimney is swept, use a shop-vacuum or broom to sweep out the remaining dust from the fireplace. Ensure that the flue is moving air throughout the system for proper ventilation. Remember that a fireplace requires continual upkeep.

Likewise, pull out the furnace manual and read up on proper service before lighting the pilot. New air filters may be needed. A furnace serviceman visit may be required. Be sure your furnace is maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications before you add the gas.

While you're at it, take the time to check your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide batteries as well. Test the system to guarantee that the emergency alert system in your home is working properly. Smoke alarm beeps save lives.

Fall and winter always bring tourists to our region. Be advised that there are out-of-town folks in the wilderness areas both hunting and camping. There are visitors wheeling around on the dirt roads, hiking, biking and motoring their quads. There are tourists on the highways with boats, campers and ATVs in tow. We advise that you add a few minutes to your travel time and allow for delays. In other words, please slow down out there.

One of the most dangerous things firefighters do is respond to highway mishaps. Firefighters are killed daily by vehicles refusing to yield, or worse, passing us at high rates of speed on the highway. The Fire Chief reminds us that you are required by law to yield the right of way to an approaching emergency vehicle flashing its red and blue lights. The law states that you are to stop traffic, even if you are traveling as close as is safely possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway. Stop and remain in the stopped position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed you.

When you see flashing lights, or hear the siren of an approaching emergency vehicle, please do what the law requires, yield the right of way. Safely pull your vehicle over to the side of the road and stop your vehicle until the emergency vehicle has passed. Then proceed forward with caution.

From all of us at Patagonia Fire and Rescue, we hope you have a safe fall and winter season. Happy Holidays!

Nov. 21: American Legion (next to Titan museum) Green Valley. Dr. Keil: Desert first aid for your dog; Kirby Brown: How to save your car as close as is safely possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway. Stop and remain in the stopped position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed you.

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**QuailFest**

Southern Arizona Quail Forever and Arizona Game and Fish Department will co-host QuailFest on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 11a.m. to 2p.m. at Pioneer Hall at the Sonorita Fairgrounds.

The Southern Arizona German Shorthair Club will serve grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and beverages. The event is held in the afternoon to give hunters a chance to hunt in the morning, as this is opening weekend for Montezuma or Mearns quail season. Visitors will have the chance to see a wide selection of great hunting dog breeds, as well-behaved dogs are permitted inside the hall.

QuailFest is an outdoor education forum. It also demonstrates to the local community the significant economic impact that quail hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts bring into the local economy. Santa Cruz County, the heart of Mearns country in Arizona, draws hunters from nearly every western state and several Canadian provinces. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to the public.

Chapter Meetings: Here are the planned speakers for 2019-2020. Meetings will start at 7p.m. with a social period starting at 6:15. Everyone is welcome, feel free to bring guests!

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By PRT Staff Reporters

Patagonia Town Council Meetings

October 9, 2019

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

Mayor Wood reported that she has been busy and has ongoing investigations,” and was thanked for arranging the installation of a new 15 MPH speed limit sign at the corner of 3rd & McKeown.

The Patagonia Senior Center has arranged three grants for improvements to the building; for a gas-powered backup electric generator, for funds for which have been approved; for the replacement of the Center’s evaporative cooler; and an addition to the rainwater harvesting system. There would be no cost to the town for any of these improvements. All three were approved by the Mayor & Council.

Town Manager Robinson was authorized to apply for a USDA grant for an engineering report for refurbishment and/or replacement of the Town’s wastewater treatment plant. For the Spirit 100 gravel-road race on November 9, event organizer Zander Ault requested Town approval for camping in Doc Mock park for the 4-day period of the event, the 7th through 10th. Ault explained that there would be a maximum of 130 visitors, and that they currently had 60 registrants for the racing.

October 23, 2019

Adrienne Halpert and Odell Borg spoke in support of a grant proposal to study the feasibility of bringing broadband hi-speed internet service to Patagonia, citing several levels of advantage to residents, organizations and the Town itself. Manager Robinson was authorized to apply for the grant.

Mayor Wood reported that she and Councilman Stabile had had a cordial and preliminary informational meeting with South 32 on possible industrial truck routes the company is considering as the re-evaluate their plans.

Marshall Patterson reported that his department was working on a car theft in Patagonia, and that they’d been alerted to three house break-ins elsewhere in Santa Cruz County. Mention was made of a local resident charged for failing to register as a sex offender. Patterson explained that the offender is non-violent, is classified as the tier 1 level of the three tiers of the sex-offender registration system, and that the offense was committed in Delaware over ten years ago, so he is deemed to be at low risk of re-offending, and extradition to Delaware is unlikely.

Councilwoman Murietta reported that the Planning & Development Committee had processed some changes for the Town’s General Plan and are planning to bring proposed changes to the Council for discussion and possible implementation.

Bordersland Restoration Network was granted liquor licenses for two fundraising events during the Spirit 100 gravel-road race weekend, one at Gathering Grounds the evening before the race, November 8, and the second in Patagonia Town Park the evening of the race, November 9. Since the 2nd November meeting falls on Thanksgiving evening, it was proposed that the meeting be changed to the evening before Tuesday, November 26.

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**COUNCIL NOTES**

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Imperiled Islands

Real islands are framed by an imposing barrier of water, hemming in various species in a natural menagerie. Sky islands of the world - isolated mountains with forests separated from each other by bordering, non-wooded habitats - are virtual islands. Both real and sky islands share much in common, including their vulnerability to ecological damage.

Such, unfortunately, is the case with our own Madrean Archipelago. Here approximately 43 mountain islands dot the landscape of southeast Arizona, the bootheel of New Mexico, and northern Sonora.

Islands are evocative, exotic, even mystical. They conjure images of distant and strange lands where mere mortals might temporarily banish themselves in blissful, verdant obscurity. Islands, it turns out, are also surprisingly fragile.

Scientists - long fascinated with the world's isolated lands, eventually turned out, are also surprisingly fragile. In blissful, verdant obscurity. Islands, it turns out, are also surprisingly fragile.

In the northwest comes up with the science of island biogeography. What do real islands teach us about isolated habitats, such as those perch on our own Sky Islands?

The Hawaiian Archipelago, the Caribbean Islands, New Zealand and many other islands large and small have suffered more known species extinctions at the hands of humans than all other land masses on earth combined! The Hawaiian Islands rank first in bird extinctions versus the rest of the planet over the last thousand years. Why? They are small and highly isolated from other land masses.

Big lessons lurk here, as our Sky Islands are also tiny and sequestered from the next-nearest like habitats.

Think of an Englemann spruce population atop the highest portions of the Chiricahua Mountains. The next nearest stand of the species grows in the Pinaleno Mountains, just to the north. Now torch the Chiricahuas with the 2011 Rattlesnake Fire and the much larger 2011 Horseshoe II Fire. Smokey the Bear Forest Service policies and climate change make a deadly combination, where undue levels of wild fuels and a warming, drying planet meet.

The spruce population in the Chiricahus is now severely depleted, perhaps on the ropes. That of the Pinalenos is faring much better. Now, let's imagine that the last spruces are ultimately extinguished from the Chiricahus within the next 50 years.

More fires, stress from insects, and other factors spell their demise. What, then, could be the chances that a bird might fortuitously carry a spruce seed from the Pinalenos to the Chiricahus over the expanse of 40-plus miles of intervening and foreboding desert and grassland? Pyrrhic survival or near extinction after extinction on islands is often tenuous-to-impossible.

Small populations are susceptible to extinctions as are isolated ones. Add the two factors together and you get small, isolated populations that are hypersensitive to local or - if they are endemic - total extinction. Habitat destruction, non-native species, climate change, and a host of other factors are all now impinging upon the wide array of species that collectively make our Sky Islands one of the most biologically diverse temperate areas on Earth.

Thick-billed parrots, Mexican grizzly bears, Mexican wolves, and likely other species have already locally vanished from all or part of the Madrean Sky Islands within the last 100 years. Who will follow? The immediate candidates include jaguars, ocelots, and species already at the margins of their ecological tolerance, including spruces. Once such species are lost, a sort of ecological decay ensues. Species that depend on wolf kills or seed dispersal by parrots, for example, also wane or fade completely. Soon, local environments look much less like they did mere decades ago.

I recall, with no small degree of horror, seeing non-native tumbleweeds thrashing amidst the hoodoos of Chiricahua National Monument after the 2011 fire. Each such natural and human-incited catastrophe will push our Sky Islands species more and more towards the ecological precipice.

Fragile species with narrow habitat needs go first, as do top predators. Following them will be a slew of other species as assault after assault collectively overwhelms them. Mining here, water-table draw-down there, more roads, more houses. Finally, only the most adaptable species will persist here and elsewhere, hearkening to writer David Quammen's essay, "Planet of Weeds." Yes, there will be feral cats, tree of heaven, coyotes, and other "bomb-proof" weedy species. Alas, however, our Sky Islands would have suffered the same fate as oceanic ones that undergo mass extinctions. Skeptical? Go ask the maos of New Zealand or the dodos of Mauritius – see what they have to say.

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

STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

How often do you read a book for the second or third time and realize that you missed so many important parts on a previous reading? Sky watching is similar. Sometimes, we’re so focused on one object, that something nearby is neglected. Such is the case with the huge constellation Pegasus, the winged horse. It is bracketed by the constellations Andromeda and Cassiopeia, and by the trio of stars—Vega, Deneb and Altair—that comprise the Summer Triangle. In addition, one of the glorious arms of the Milky Way stretches majestically nearby. So, despite its beauty, Pegasus has to contend with some heavy hitters for observation time.

So, let’s give it its due. The brightest star in the Great Square of Pegasus is Alpheratz. Though it actually belongs to Andromeda and is the gateway star to that constellation, it unmistakably marks out one corner of the square. Scheat, Markab and Algenib are the other corners. On the western edge of Pegasus is Helvetia, a star similar to our sun. Located about 50 light years from Earth, Helvetia - officially referred to as 51 Pegasi - is the first sun-like star to have a confirmed exoplanet. Since that discovery, some four thousand additional exoplanets have been found.

But, alas, Pegasus holds our attention but for so long. Alpheratz commands us to look elsewhere. It marks the start of two diverging lines of stars, sort of a cornucopia. Rather symmetrically, one can see three sets of stars, each a bit wider apart as they move away from Great Square.

The second set is where we want to focus. To either side of those two stars, and at nearly equal distances, are Messier 31 and Messier 33, the Andromeda Galaxy and the Triangulum Galaxy. Along with the Milky Way and the two dwarf galaxies found near Andromeda, they make up the Local Group of galaxies.

While Andromeda Galaxy, due to its size, can be seen on a dark night with the naked eye, it is much more difficult to find the Triangulum without magnification. It holds, perhaps, 40 billion stars, while Andromeda may have as many as 1 trillion stars, about twice as many as within our own Milky Way. With dark skies and a telescope, one may be able to observe the two dwarf galaxies, M32 and M110, in the same field of view with Andromeda.

As we continue to move further from the Great Square, the cornucopia of the Andromeda constellation opens to another incredible sight, the two star clusters in Perseus. Both are located about 7600 light years from Earth. Filled with relatively new, bright hot stars, the clusters can be seen with the naked eye and are best observed with binoculars or a telescope with a wide field of view. Open clusters such as these are like bundles of jewels floating in space.

From there, take a few moments to ponder the Milky Way galaxy. Follow it early in the evening to the western horizon, to Sagittarius. To the east, it courses through Auriga with its bright alpha star, Capella, touches the feet of the Gemini twins, and glances off Orion’s red supergiant Betelgeuse.

From end to end, the Milky Way is 100,000 light years across. All the stars, whether they form constellations, asteroid belts, open or globular clusters, as well as all the nebulae one sees at night are in our galaxy. I look at these wonders and try to imagine the beauty that most surely unfolds in the other 100 billion galaxies.

On October 19, a handful of enthusiasts made our way deep into the Wildlife Corridor off Route 82 to a dark site nearly free of light pollution. Sponsored by Borders Education Network, the event gave us the chance to observe Saturn and Jupiter, the incomparable globular cluster in Hercules, and the stunning Albireo double in the neck of Cygnus the Swan.

We found the Ring Nebula in Lyra and traced Draco the Dragon’s twisting body. Corona Borealis, the semicircular ring of stars near Hercules, along with the Little Dipper were clearly visible with the naked eye. We even counted four meteors streaking across the heavens. For 90 minutes everything else fell away. For star lovers, it just doesn’t get much better than a dark sky on a cool, crisp night.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

Edward "Ned" Hilliard was born in Texas, the son of freed slaves, Edmund and Silvy Hilliard. The 1870 U.S. Census lists him, at age 4, living with his parents near San Augustine, Texas. This record suggests that he was born in 1866, but in later census records Ned lists his birth year as 1872. Some of those who knew him believed he was older than he claimed: "Ned by his own is 69 years old... Old time cowmen differ with Ned and say he is...80 years of age." [Arizona Daily Star, 7/17/1941].

Ned married Carmen Robles in California. He was a skilled hunter, collecting a $20 bounty on a lion from Pima County. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/16/1899]. He handled wild cattle and horses expertly and without concern but was greatly afraid of lightning. Once while working along near the Whetstone Mountains he was struck by lightning on the top of his head and his horse was killed. Ned survived but carried a scar ever after.

He was a skilled hunter, collecting a $20 bounty on a lion from Pima County. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/16/1899]. At some point the Vail family asked Ned to work on their ranch on Santa Rosa Island in California. Ned did that for a short time but grew homesick for Arizona and returned. [Arizona Daily Star 11/19/1951].

No known photos of Ned Hilliard exist. It's possible that the third cowboy from the right (bending over) is Ned, who was 6'2" in height. Photo taken circa 1900.

Empire Land & Cattle Company ledgers confirm that Ned worked for the Vail family—the first entries are dated 1895. His starting salary was $50 per month, which he mostly spent outfitting himself with chaps, boots, a revolver & cartridges, and a reata [braid rope].

Ned was known for "his great ability with a rope in rough country as well as his all around ability as a cowhand." [Arizona Daily Star, 11/20/1945]. He handled wild cattle and horses expertly and without concern but was greatly afraid of lightning. Once while working along near the Whetstone Mountains he was struck by lightning on the top of his head and his horse was killed. Ned survived but carried a scar ever after.

Edward “Ned” Hilliard was born in Texas, the son of freed slaves, Edmund and Silvy Hilliard. The 1870 U.S. Census lists him, at age 4, living with his parents near San Augustine, Texas. This record suggests that he was born in 1866, but in later census records Ned lists his birth year as 1872. Some of those who knew him believed he was older than he claimed: "Ned by his own is 69 years old... Old time cowmen differ with Ned and say he is...80 years of age." [Arizona Daily Star, 7/17/1941].

Ned married Carmen Robles in 1896. The 1900 census lists Ned and Carmen as living in rural Pima County with two children, Glora born in 1897 and Frank born in 1900. No further records have been found of Glora and Frank so they may have died young.

The 1910 census lists only Ned, living near Benson. By 1920 Ned is still living near Benson with two children, Francesca, born in 1901, and Julian, born in 1902. In 1917 the General Land Office granted Ned a patent on 160 acres of land in Cochise County, northeast of Benson. In 1938 he was granted ownership of 480 acres adjacent to his earlier holdings. Ned continued to ranch in the Benson area well into his 70s.

By 1940 he had moved to Tucson, where he died in 1945. He was either 90 (if you go by the 1855 date of birth on his tombstone), 79 (if you go by the first census birthdate of 1866) or 73 (if you go by the 1872 birthdate he used for a time).

How I Mined Mars

By Logan Phillips

Last fall I remembered to watch the night sky while walking through my desert garden. I learned north for the first time and I felt small and irresponsible for not seeing sooner.

Mars spun up there for months, we passed so close that he would follow me inside & right into my poems. I was lost, then fierce cleaning zinc out from under my fingernails, shaking out the keyboard, a soft rain of silver.

The weather turned, I paid less attention did my job, lost in lead gravity of the calendar. Orion set.

Sometime in spring hundreds of silver satellites were thrown up into low orbit, astronomers said sky would never dark the same but worldwide internet coverage would be blazing.

I complained of dim internet & drank. I wrote poems shot through with planets & police states, self doubts & mine shafts.

This town had been fighting over the mine so long the bumper stickers faded almost illegible by the time the mine bought & sold again, opened finally titling the earth and shaking it out, a haze.

In the cowboy bar after midnight with only Saturn watching I danced lonely with the jukebox shaking & northless star-eyed red illegible body beaded with droplets of silver dripping puddles of zinc guilty as lead.

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Down in Patagonia I stumbled dry river walked orderly streets between mining trucks & tiny libraries.

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Check It Out At The Library

People shop for books during the annual Friends of Patagonia Library Fall Festival Book Sale.

By Laura Wenzel

While I’d like to say that November is officially when the library starts getting busy, it really begins in October. We had many great events last month, including our Friends of Patagonia Library Fall Festival Book Sale, which generated over $2300 for the library.

The library is proud to announce the return of the Arizona Humanities Road Scholar speaker series, “AZ Speaks.” Five presentations will be offered from November through March, each dealing with a variety of Arizona humanities topics such as humanities in contemporary issues, Native American studies, and Arizona history.

The series kicks off on Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 pm with a presentation sponsored by the Arizona Native Plant Society-Santa Cruz County Chapter, “Mescal Agave Use in the Life History of Mescal,” while the Chapter, “Mescal Agave Use in the Life History of Mescal,” will be presented by the Arizona Native Plant Society-Santa Cruz County Chapter.

Herstory

This Life I Have Lived
By Rosanna Case Kazanjian

It has been a long complex journey. This life I have lived. 85 years and counting. A good long life stitched together like one of my Grandmother Kirk’s crazy quilts fashioned with odd, seemingly unrelated patches of fabric from dozens of named and unnamed garments, stitched together with that old-fashioned feather stitch, so popular in the age of crazy quilts. A stitch that held together the random pieces until out of the old something wholly new emerged. When finished they lay on family beds where they made perfect sense.

I am the child of Abolitionists, Quakers, Methodist ministers, educators, fighters for civil rights, Kansas farmers, immigrants who came to this country from Germany and Scotland to escape poverty and find hope. I have had the privilege of this wondrous crazy quilt inheritance and have added my own patches that have spanned the years of the great depression, unending wars, rights gained, rights lost, technological advancement beyond imagination. I have watched the disregard for the planet bring us dangerously close to the edge of extinction and I have been enchanted with the discoveries that have opened the universe to the total mystery of life.

I have changed and been changed, again and again. I am not the child that grew up in the beauty of the Colorado mountains but I carry her in my being. Her innocence and wonder rest deep within me and form the bedrock of who I am today. I have been changed by all the people, places and events of this time between 1934 and 2019.

In the past I have lived the life of a housewife, birthing and raising children. I married a wise and loving man who saw and supported my hunger to grow and learn as well as nurture, who encouraged me to explore and expand. Never quite sure where my longings were leading me, barely noticing the risks, I charged ahead into uncharted territories.

The stitches are the people, in and out of my life, the thread that gives my life meaning. They make it all make sense. I was nurtured by wise women who helped me see alternative ways to be a woman in a changing world.

People were always at the center of what motivated me. I entered the world of psychology in order to find more understanding of myself and those around me. This led me into adolescent counseling and 10 years as psychological counselor in a private girls’ school.

My church, the Episcopal Church, sent me off, as a lay woman, to learn about systems and how people could learn to live better in community. I was drawn more and more to the ministry and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1986. I have served in various capacities and communities as a Priest, from Dallas, Texas, to Massachusetts, to Maine, to Arizona. A true crazy quilt of wonder and challenge.

With my “life quilt” coming to completion, (at least at the far end of the project), I look back and see this crazy quilt map of my life and it makes me laugh to see how both planned and unplanned it has been, and how much energy I expended thinking I was responsible for making it all turn out right. It has flowed with its own rhythm and made its own way and had I trusted that flow a bit more, I surely would have laughed more and worried less. When I reflect on the mix, the constants as well as the disjointed fragments that seemed to go nowhere - the losses and disappointments that threatened to overtake, the joys that appeared unbidden, the kindnesses that always seemed to appear when most needed - when I think of all this, my life seems to be a crazy quilt of blessing, not exactly planned but received.

Now is the time I have been given to rest and reflect, to live in a state of gratitude. If not now, when? It is a whole new challenge to live into the quieter life - and again, it is the people who give it meaning, the threads that hold it and me together. My children, grandchildren, friends new and old continue to call me into this mystery called life.

My rock is my beloved spouse Dorothy, the surprise gift in these latter years. It is the listening and being listened to, in love, that completes a well lived life. My life had sorrows, disappointments, challenges, losses and joys, so many joys, but it has never, never, been boring. Who could have predicted such a crazy quilt life? For every stitch, for every added piece of fabric I am grateful.

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Photo by Laura Wenzel

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Study Group Wants Input

Governor Ducey has approved a Study Group to investigate the pros and cons of moving the Cochise County line to include the Sonoita/Elgin area. At this stage, it is a Study Group only whose efforts will produce a report to the Senate and House leadership as well as the Governor on or before December 31, 2020. The study group has prepared a survey to capture the opinions of the community. This will give the Study Group an idea of how the community feels about moving the county line and any concerns or issues they have. The online survey is short, but very important. Let your voice be heard! One survey per person please. Survey is for Sonoita/Elgin/Canelo residents only.

Link to survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sonoitasurvey-round2

Volunteers Needed For Sonoita Produce on Wheels

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. 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 will take place the third Saturday Morning of the Month, beginning Dec. 21. It is hosted by Harvest Christian Fellowship, 3107 State Highway 83 Sonoita, AZ. Call/text Gardenia Moffett: 602-292-1616. Facebook: @SonoitaAZCommunity-Markets

Christmas in Elgin Showcases Local Crafts

Elgin’s historic Community Club located at 475 Elgin Rd. will kick off the Holiday season on Dec. 7 with ‘Christmas in Elgin.’ This festive occasion will feature holiday music, raffles, homemade chili and cornbread, photos with Santa and vendors offering their many handmade items for sale. It is a good place to get one of a kind items for those on one’s Christmas list.

Hoping to entice the public to get their holiday shopping started, the Elgin Community Club invites everyone to stop by and enjoy the food, fun and craftsmanship from the local vendors. Admission is free. The festivities run from 10a.m. – 4p.m.

Cose Buone Opening Soon December 2019

Gene Griego Chef/Owner 436 Naugle Ave. Patagonia, AZ 85624 520.394.0010
November 2: 6 p.m. Women Make Movies Series: “Step By Step” This inspiring film follows the lives of eight Midwestern women, six of whom became founders of NOW. Set against a backdrop of decades of war, prosperity and reform, their stories beautifully illustrate the continuity and diversity of 20th-century feminism...Using well-chosen archival footage, stills, music, and primary-source narration, producer Joyce Follet of the University of Wisconsin and consulting producer Terry Rockefeller (EYES ON THE PRIZE and AMERICA’S WAR ON POVERTY) offer a first-rate, panoramic-yet-personal view of the women on feminism’s front lines.” K.Glaser, Video Librarian

$5 Suggested Donation

November 14: 6 p.m. “A Six Dollar Cup of Coffee” A Film Presented by the Mexican Consulate: Through the eyes of a Tseltal family, the story connects a coffee co-op in Chiapas, Mexico that struggles to sell their coffee to shops and their baristas in Seattle, USA. Understanding coffee as a way to protect their identity, their land and their right to live under better conditions, the characters struggle to sell their product abroad, questioning the Specialty Coffee paradigms of quality. The film explores and confronts a fragile community of coffee producers with the overwhelming reality of coffee consumption. Written by Andres Ibañez Diaz Infante

Free

November 16: 2 p.m. Royal Opera House Presents “Don Giovanni” $10 suggested Donation

November 29 - 30: ART WALK at PCAA

November 30: 2 p.m. Awards Ceremony and Open House to honor student winners of the PRT essay and Photo Contests.

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 for more information.
A PUHS player goes after the ball in the homecoming game against Desert Christian High School. The Lobos lost the game 3 - 1.

In the powderpuff football game at homecoming, the seniors and freshmen were victorious over the junior/sophomore team. In the coed volleyball game, the junior/sophomore team prevailed. The soccer game was followed by a tailgate party and dance.
This fall Thurber Hall at the United Methodist Community Church will celebrate 60 years.

The Hall was an ambitious endeavor of a church member, Harold Thurber. Thurber believed that Patagonia was going to grow from its 100 families in 1950 and there was a need for a building large enough that could be used by the youth, for large events, meetings, pot lucks, etc. He started fundraising in 1953 for such a building but it would take six more years before the building would be constructed.

The primary challenge was that the church didn’t own enough land to build the size building he envisioned. Roland Richardson, the credited founder of Patagonia, deeded two lots to the church but the location of the second lot wasn’t conducive to the proposed location of the building. There was discussion regarding reducing the size of the building but Thurber would not concede. Luckily in 1956 the church was able to switch lots with a private resident to move forward with their plans.

In the meantime they already had plans drawn up by an architect in Tucson, who volunteered time and some expenses to help out the church. The committee had gotten several bids from contractors but the delay in raising money resulted in two of the contractors going out of business, so Lamma and Haverty, local builders were selected.

Construction began in 1959 as contributions trickled in from individuals, companies, fundraisers and a grant of $8,000 from the Church Mission. By March of that year a large cement pad was laid and preliminary plumbing was complete. There was no ceiling and no kitchen and the building was not connected to the Church. Fundraising helped create additions and improvements through the 1960’s to make the building what it is today.

At first the building was known as a Community Hall or a Youth Community Hall. It was renamed Thurber Hall in 1963.

Thurber Hall is a unique community space with its high ceilings, lighting fixtures and its stage, which was Thurber’s vision for the space.

He was involved with the Pima County Fair and was friends with Phil Arden who provided the entertainment at that fair. Thurber wanted those acts to be able to perform in the Hall. He felt that it was difficult for people in Patagonia to get to the Fair because of transportation and costs. After the Hall was constructed, Fair performers came to Patagonia with their aerial acts as well as others that required a stage. The Fair events also became opportunities to raise money for the Hall.

In October of 1959 the grand opening of the Youth/Community Hall was held with a large celebration which close to 250 people attended.

By Bonnie Quirin

SITA Reduces Member Fees

Sky Island Tourist Association (SITA) has reduced its member fees from $150 to $75 a year for all businesses. Members get their own page on the SITA website. There will be a special directory of pages for service businesses, such as housecleaning. Non-profit organizations can get a free listing with their contact information on the website. More info available at https://www.visitskyslains.com/become-a-member/

By Cami Schlappy

Bug of the Month

The Vinegaroon, sometimes called a whip scorpion or uropygid, is part of the arachnid family and is related to spiders and scorpions. They lack venom, but can spray acetic and caprylic acids when bothered (the mix smells like vinegar, hence the name). They are nocturnal hunters preying and keeping populations of scorpions, cockroaches, crickets, millipedes, and slugs in check.

By Cami Schlappy

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Rotary Club Hands Out Books

Patagonia Montessori School students received dictionaries from Rotary Club members Reba Webber and Anne Gibson. The Mountain Empire Rotary Club presented 43 dictionaries to the third grade students at Elgin School, Patagonia Elementary, Patagonia Montessori and home schoolers.

Elgin School students, pictured here with Rotary Club President Anne Gibson and teacher Mr. Martinez, hold up their new dictionaries.

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Elgin School students pictured here with Rotary Club President Anne Gibson and teacher Mr. Martinez, hold up their new dictionaries. (From left) Coach Daniteza Valenzuela, Jayme Dodson, Anjelina Bonell, Janelle Valenzuela, Heaven Shadrick, Alexis DeLaOssa, Brianna Majalca, (Front row) Emma Lewton, Amaya Somoza, Natalie Cooper.

The Patagonia Middle School volleyball team defeated the Elgin School team in the championship game for the Santa Cruz River Valley League on Oct. 9. “I had a great group of girls this year,” Coach Daniteza Valenzuela said. “They all had one goal on their minds and that was to win the championship! I couldn’t be more proud that they did!”

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**EVENTS**

**Nov 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 19th Annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival at Empire Ranch Headquarters off Highway 83, Sonora, AZ. A FREE family event featuring Western music; history & culture demonstrations; ranch life exhibits; kids activities; skilled artisans & speakers. A $10 parking donation per vehicle is requested. [https://www.empireanchranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/cowboy-festival/](https://www.empireanchranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/cowboy-festival/) Questions? Call 888-364-2829**

**Nov 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Circle of Life! Muertos Altar, Student Art Sale & Feast, Global Arts Gallery, 315 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia**

**Nov 4 & 18, 9 to 10 a.m., Storytime with Ms. Laura. Patagonia Library**

**Nov 7, 6 to 7 p.m. Mescal Agave Use in Arizona: Food, Fiber, and Vessel, Presenter Ethnobotanist: Carrie Cannon. Patagonia Public Library**

**Nov 8, 9 a.m., Veterans Day Elgin**

**Nov 8, 10:15 a.m., Veterans Day Patagonia**

**Nov 9 - 11, Mata Ortiz Bus Tour. Price per museum member is $550 for double occupancy. [german@thepatagoniamuseum.org](mailto:german@thepatagoniamuseum.org)**

**Nov 13 & 27, 4-5 p.m. Storytime with Ms. Laura, Patagonia Library**

**Nov 16, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Mesquite Flour Milling Workshop, Gary Nabhan and Laura Monti. $10 per participant. Register by Nov 11 by calling (520) 216-4148**

**Nov 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Free Medicare Counseling with SHIP Counselor, 30 min. appointments, schedule beforehand with Patagonia Public Library**

**Nov 22, 4 to 6 p.m. Artist Reception featuring Dan Rehurek and his beautiful and useful wood & metal creations. Creative Spirit Artists Gallery 317 McKeown Patagonia. info@CreativeSpiritAZ.com**

**Nov 23, 4:30 to 7 p.m. An Evening with Todd Miller. Presented by Friends of the Patagonia Library. $50 per person Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Beer, wine, and hors d’oeuvres included in ticket price.**

**Nov 29 - 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Art Walk, Patagonia**

**Nov 30, 2 p.m., PRT Anniversary Party & Student Essay/Photo Competition Reception, Tin Shed, Patagonia**

**Patagonia Museum - Oct: open Thurs-Sat 2-4 p.m. Info: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org**

**San Rafael Community 4-H Club - 2nd Mon, Patagonia Methodist Church, Thurber Hall, 5:30 p.m. Info: Tami, 455-5561.**

**Santa Cruz Singers - rehearsals Thurs at 5 p.m., Beverly-Kendall Opera House, 348 Naugle Ave., Patagonia. New members welcome!**

**Bingo - 1st & 3rd Mon., St. Theresa Parish Hall in Patagonia, 6 p.m. Info: 455-5561.**

**Crossroads Quilters - 2nd & 4th Mon, Sonora Fire Dept., 9 a.m. Info: (520)-732-0453.**

**Open Tennis - Saturdays, PUHS at 9 a.m. Info: 394-2973.**

**Border Community Alliance - Monthly cross-border tours. Info: [www.bordercommunityalliance.org](http://www.bordercommunityalliance.org).**

**Gratitude Drum Circle - Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. at the Gazebo in Patagonia Park. Open to everyone. Bring water, chair, & drum. Extra instruments available.**

**Tai Chi - Tues & Thurs 10-11:30 a.m. at Senior’s Center. Free. All welcome.**

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**Patagonia Community United Methodist Church**
- 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2274
- Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
- Youth Group: Sun. - 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
- 387 McKeown Ave., Patagonia 394-2954
- Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Canelo Cowboy Church
- Hwy 83, MP 14, Elgin 455-5000
- Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church
- 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin 455-5172
- Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
- Sonoita Hills Community Church
- 52 Elgin Rd., 455-5505
- Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
- Sunday 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

**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@sonoitatapatagonialocals.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.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS**

**Patagonia Museum - Oct: open Thurs-Sat 2-4 p.m. Info: www.thepatagoniamuseum.org**

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

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PROJECT LEADER FOR BALANCEPOINT INSTITUTE
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PATAGONIA SENIOR CENTER CHEF OPPORTUNITY
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AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Tanner is a 4 month old Chihuahua/Dachshund with a very fun attitude. He is always ready for adventure, to play and to run. He likes everyone he meets.

Gary is a male domestic short hair kitten born on August 2, 2019. He is a very playful kitten. He is spontaneous, curious and when he done playing he likes to cuddle.

Santa Cruz Humane Society
232 E. Patagonia Hwy (Rt. 82)
Nogales, AZ 85621 (520) 287-5654
PATAGONIA: 325-A Mckeeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
SONOITA: Corner of Hwys 82 & 83, next to Post Office  520-455-5235
www.buysonoita.com

Jean Miller
Co-Owner, General Manager
Direct 520-508-3335
jeannmiller@longrealty.com

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