PRT Hosts Candidate Forum

The PRT hosted a candidates forum for the District 3 County Supervisors candidates: incumbent Bruce Bracker (D), Donna Federici (I), and Justin Luna (I). The forum was moderated by Tom Beal, retired journalist from the Tucson Star and PRT Board member. When asked about South32’s Cross Creek connector road proposal (read more on pages 1 & 4 of this issue) Bracker said that they are working with the mining company to consider another route and pushing use of electric vehicles. Federici said, while the county is limited in its legal capacity to stop the road, it has a “right to demand air quality...disrupting rural neighborhoods is appalling.” Luna admitted that he did not know much about this particular route, adding “I would deter the route, let’s find a more feasible route.”

The candidates were asked what three things they would do if the pandemic worsened in 2021. Bracker touted his leadership role in pressuring Gov. Ducey to implement local mask ordinances and testing for the county. Luna suggested that more should be done to help those suffering financially by providing assistance from the funds the county received. Both Luna and Federici pointed out that there was no public health board at the county level. Federici said that one of the main flaws in the pandemic response was not controlling what was happening at the US-Mexico border. Hilary Felix, a Facebook commenter, wrote that, in fact, Sonora closed the border before the U.S. did.

The candidates were asked how they would reassure voters of the integrity of the election. Bracker responded, “there will be five locations for early voting, or you can take your early ballot and turn it in at one of the centers. Ballot drop boxes are coming from Sect. of State to be placed throughout the county. The vote will be very secure, I’m very confident in that.” Federici said, “I wish I had as much confidence. The entire mail in vote situation is very shaky. I don’t want to direct anything to our county. If anyone can do it, it would be us, a rural county. But to have absolute confidence in mail-in voting is...you can’t.” Luna said, “Register for early voting and drop it off yourself...our county manager...she’s doing a great job in my opinion.”


Proposed Mine Route Raises Concerns

By Marion Vendituoli

Representatives from South32 gave a powerpoint presentation to residents of the Red Rock area on August 4 showing a proposed route that they are calling the Cross Creek Connector. This road would link Harshaw Road, just outside the Patagonia Town limits, to Route 82 at Cross Creek Road north of town despite South32 avoiding a route through the town limits of Patagonia there is opposition to this project from many residents in the eastern part of the county.

South32 has purchased 15 parcels of contiguous land on which to build the new road, for a total of 366 acres, according to a map constructed by Robert Gay. The company proposes to build three bridges along the connector, across Sonoita Creek, Harshaw Creek and at Red Rock Canyon. Ground clearing would not begin until mid-2021, according to South32.

Ore trucks would proceed north on Hwy 82 to Sonoita, then north on Hwy 83 to the Port of Tucson. South32 expects that the ore would then be sent by rail to the port of Guymas in Mexico or to the ports on the West coast or Gulf coast for shipping.

“The Cross Creek Connector option honors the community’s preference to keep the route outside the town of Patagonia limits, avoids school traffic and pedestrian risks in Patagonia,” wrote Melanie Lawson, communities manager for South32. We have undertaken extensive studies on the different options available and impacts to communities and neighbors along all of the potential routes was a key consideration.”

There is considerable opposition to this route, however. Ron Pulliam, of Borderlands Restoration and Wildlife Corridors, expressed “very substantial concerns.” “This proposal will put a major industrial road in the center of an area with high biological diversity, including up to 12 threatened and endangered species,” he said. An important wildlife corridor stretches from the Patagonia Mountains to the Santa Ritas. Pulliam, who founded Wildlife Corridors, LLC, which has preserved 1300 acres as open space on the west.
By Jac Heiss, President of PRT Board

From the time I was old enough to vote, which was a few months before I was sent to Vietnam, I have wondered why almost half of all Americans choose not to exercise one of their most precious rights as citizens of this country. In some parts of our nation, voter suppression is cited as a primary reason, but from my observations, making it more difficult for folks to register or to find a mail box or voting booth appears to actually motivate them to participate, at least for a few election cycles. Time constraints have historically been problematic for many people, but we are no longer restricted in most parts of the country to casting our ballots at a single voting site, on a single day.

Perhaps the most common reason I hear from people is their sense that their vote doesn’t matter. “They’re all corrupt, so why bother?”

The political ads we see on TV reinforce this notion. Rarely do they tell us much about a candidate’s political views, but more often are focused attempts to create doubt about the integrity of their opponents. And then we have social media which afford us the opportunity to spew venom and denigrate one another rather than serve to identify problems and share ideas as to how to address them. Even the semantics that politicians use can discourage civility. We’ve all heard statements like, “If you elect me to office, I’ll fight for...”

Fight? Seriously? Maybe debate monitors should introduce the candidates with something like, “In this corner weighing 245 lbs...” No wonder cynicism abounds.

When discussing this with a friend of mine, he really caught my attention with this simplistic yet abundantly true statement. “Democracy is hard work.”

It’s not just about registering to vote, then casting a ballot. It involves a litany of tasks like fact checking, researching information from multiple sources, monitoring the actions of those we have elected and holding them accountable, regardless of party affiliation. Indeed it is all hard work, inconvenient and time consuming, but contrast that with storming a beach at Normandy, raising a flag at Iwo Jima, or boarding enemy ships in the middle of the night in the Straits of Hormuz to search for weapons and contraband as my own son recently had to do.

Election outcomes at every level involve transferring power. What would happen if we think of it as transferring RESPONSIBILITY? I think we would all prefer to vote for someone in pursuit of responsibility than for someone fighting for power.

It’s time for us to get to work.

Important Early Voting Information

Timeline for Voters

Oct. 5: Last day to register to vote. Register online at https://servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration/ or register by phone. Call 520-375-7924.

Oct. 7: Early Ballots are mailed to the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) & absentee voters.

Oct. 7 through Oct 30: Early in-person voting begins at the County Recorder’s Office. Mon to Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For early voting in person on Saturdays during October read information under “Early Voting Sites”

Oct. 23: Last day to request an early ballot. Complete online form to request ballot: https://my.arizona.vote/EarlyApplicationLogin.aspx

Locations of Early Ballot Drop Off Boxes*

Santa Cruz County Complex: 2150 N. Congress Dr., Nogales
Santa Cruz County Recorder’s Office 2150 N. Congress Dr., Suite #1, Nogales
Patagonia Town Hall: 310 McKeown Ave., Patagonia
Patagonia Public Library: County Complex Building, 3147 SR 83, Patagonia
Sonoita Public Library: 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac
Rio Rico Public Library: 275 Rio Rico Dr., Rio Rico

*The estimated date for early ballot drop off boxes to be in place is Oct. 12.

Follow PRT Elections Coverage

The PRT is committed to being YOUR source of news for elections in 2020.

Starting with the primaries the PRT hosted a LIVE candidates forum for the Democrat primary race for the Sheriff and more recently hosted a Candidates forum for County Supervisor candidates. We conducted zoom interviews with primary and general election candidates for County Recorder. We have published both in print and on our website questionnaires answered by state House and Senate candidates.

All our election coverage can easily be accessed on patagoniaregionaltimes.org/elections-2020 OR sign up for our E-News Service TODAY to get notified of election results patagoniaregionaltimes.org/connect-with-the-prt
Borderlands Wins Big for Bats and Bacanora

By Lynn Davison

Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) has been named the winner of the first-ever Connectivity Challenge offered by the Salazar Center at Colorado State University. As the winner, BRN will receive $100,000 to implement its Bacanora for Bats: Binational Conservation and Sustainable Agave Spirits Initiative.

BRN was one of five finalists from across the nation competing for the sole prize. In creating the Connectivity Challenge, the Salazar Center’s said, “our planet faces existential threats driven by human-induced climate change, species extinction, and rapid population growth, all contributing to increasing pressure on and fragmentation of rural and urban landscapes.”

This challenge aims to generate innovative ideas that catalyze change, ultimately leading to landscapes that connect habitats, build resilience, and improve the health of our natural systems. While one team will win the prize, the process is designed to build a community of interest and give exposure and feedback to all.

Nectar-feeding bats rely on wild agave plants for sustenance as they migrate through the binational Arizona/Sonora borderlands, and in turn serve as their primary pollinators. Agaves in the region are disappearing due to development and increased production of the regional agave distillate, bacanora.

Alongside BRN’s existing efforts during 2020 and 2021 with Bat Conservation International to grow out and plant 1,750 Agave palmeris from seeds, BRN will now address threats to agaves due to bacanora production through creation and implementation of a sustainability certification. It’s a win, win for agaves, bats, and bacanora producers.

BRN’s partners for the project are the nonprofit Colectivo Sonora Silvestre, located in Hermosillo, which will manage on the ground work in Sonora, and the Consejo Sonorense Regulador del Bacanora (Sonoran Bacanora Regulatory Agency) who has asked the Borderlands team to develop and implement the certification program. The BRN team will collaborate with ranchers producing bacanora, small-scale producers, consumers, regulators, and scientists, to implement a sustainability certification, changing how bacanora is produced, and address impacts on bats and local communities, while providing a model for sustainability regulation which can be adjusted and implemented in other regions of agave spirit production.

The $100,000 will be spent over two years beginning this fall. Roughly half will be spent in Mexico and half in the U.S. on staffing for facilitating stakeholder meetings, surveying and mapping agaves, and developing and rolling out the certification standards.

Winning the Connectivity Challenge is truly a big deal on many levels. The competition was impressive, including larger national and international environmental organizations. 50 proposals were submitted, according to Claverie. The recognition and new relationships that come from the award will help BRN advance its mission to grow a restorative economy by rebuilding healthy ecosystems, restoring habitat for plants and wildlife, and reconnecting our border communities to the land through shared learning.

The prize money will help convert a great idea into a great solution for agaves, bats, bacanora producers, and consumers. The timing is perfect to have a major impact as the bacanora industry is so young. The project will also strengthen BRN ties and partnerships in Mexico.

These days border issues are too often viewed through the lens of walls, division, strife, and violence. The Bacanora for Bats project offers an alternative, restorative lens that celebrates the cultural and ecological heritage of our region. As the lead for the project Francesca Claverie said, “we are beyond thrilled and so proud of our whole organization.”

But in the end, is it really a surprise that a few Patagonians with a few Sonoran friends cooked up a way to support sustainable bacanora production?

New Electric Line Proposed

By Alisha Sander

UNSE Electric Inc. (UNSE) a subsidiary of Unisource Energy Services, has announced its plans to install a new electric transmission line, named “Rico Rico-Harshaw Line”, funded by South32 because of the mining company’s anticipated needs of future exploration in the Patagonia mountains. The current electricity provided to South32’s Hermosa project according to the UNSE “is not adequate to support the Hermosa Project’s anticipated energy needs.”

UNSE’s September e-newsletter outlined their plan to construct “approximately 20-30 mile, single-circuit 138 kV transmission line mounted on steel monopole structures.” The new switchyard “will be located east of the Interstate 19 frontage road, about one mile north of Ruby Road and a new line 20-30 miles long will be constructed between the Rico Rico 138 kV Switchyard and the Harshaw Substation,” located on the privately-owned Hermosa Project site, about nine miles southeast of Patagonia, AZ. UNSE employee projected the cost of $1 million per mile of new line installed.

UNSE plans to “build the line with self-weathering steel monopoles 75 to 110 feet tall. Taller structures may be required at major road or line crossings.” The new transmission line “will require approximately 100-foot wide rights-of-way to cross private and government-owned land in Santa Cruz County.”

The Rico Rico-Harshaw Line will need a special use authorization from the U.S. Forest Service and a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility from the Arizona Corporation Commission before constructing the transmission line. The Rico Rico-Harshaw Line’s construction timeline will depend on the permitting process. UNSE expects the line to be in service in 2024 if the Forest Service gives their proposal a Finding of no Significant Impact (FONSI).

UNSE hosted a virtual public meeting in Sept. 2020. The presentation and recording are available online www.uesaz.com/rico-rico-to-harshaw/
Revenue Outlook Differs for Town, SCC
By Marion Vendituoli

An adage that has sprung up during the pandemic is that we may all be caught in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat. A good example of this is the differing financial health of Santa Cruz County as a whole and the town of Patagonia. Though the county, which was bracing for a 25% drop in sales tax revenue due to the pandemic, has instead seen an increase in revenue. County manager Jennifer St. John credits this to three factors. “In April and May people got their stimulus checks,” she said. Though they weren’t going anywhere so they spent it locally. People did a lot of home improvement projects. We really saw those go up.”

She credits the June uptick in sales tax revenue to the SR 189 construction project. This project, to improve Mariposa Rd from the International Border with Mexico to Grand Avenue in Nogales, has been a boon to the county, as state law requires that sales tax for any material used in the project is paid to the community in which the construction is taking place, rather than where the material is purchased.

The third factor in the increase in tax revenue for the county is the growing popularity of internet sales. We expect this trend to continue and impact us, according to St. John. Following a Supreme Court ruling in 2018, and adoption of the ‘Wayfair Act,’ named for a popular internet state, the site, beginning last fall, requires internet retailers to collect sales tax based on the location of the buyer.

According to St. John, sales tax revenue is ahead of where it was last year at this time. “We were pleasantly surprised, but we don’t know how long it will last,” she said. “We need to understand that we don’t know what normal will look like because the pandemic has had a devastating effect on our hospitality industry, restaurants, bars, gyms, and tourism to some extent.”

In Patagonia, the picture is quite different. “Our town tax revenue has been reduced by at least 50%,” Town Manager Ron Robinson said. In 2019, the town collected $373,000. “This year we are on track to be half of that,” he said. Sales tax is important to Patagonia because the town gets no revenue from property tax. There seems to be no help coming from the federal government, either. The fact that the second coronavirus aid bill has been held up for months in Congress leaves little hope that local governments will receive aid anytime soon.

He has seen a recent increase in sales tax revenue, which he credits to people doing more online shopping. “I’m trying to make an awareness campaign,” he said, to encourage people to shop online. “We don’t get any tax if you are shopping in Sierra Vista.”

Scoping Period Begins for New Mining Project
By Aisha Sander

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has initiated its public scoping for the San Antonio project, an exploratory drilling proposal in the Patagonia Mountains 15 miles east of Nogales by IC Explorations (subsidiary of Barksdale Resources). This public commenting phase is part of the USFS NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process to determine the course of action for this proposal. USFS 30-day comment period will end on Oct. 19. The full scoping report can be found at www.fs.fed.us/nea/nea/nea_project_exp.php?Project=58629.

Arizona Standard CEO, Rick Trotman, said, “Arizona Standard is committed to earning and maintaining trust within the communities in which we work by adhering to the highest environmental standards and maintaining full and transparent engagement with our neighbors.” Trotman added, “This is the first step in the process of better understanding the geology in the area. Our work will be done with respect for safety, protection of the natural environment, and concern for area residents.”

To submit your comments, visit: cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=58629.

Revenue Outlook Differs for Town, SCC

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Side note: “I can’t even imagine what it will be like going up Hwy 83,” Shore said. She, along with those who live on Hwy 83 in Patagonia, are concerned about the potential impacts of this proposed road.

Many Sonora and Elgin residents are alarmed at the increased traffic between Sonora and Tucson, fearing that it will have a substantial negative impact on the area’s tourist businesses, already staggering from the pandemic, as well as concerns about safety and difficulty of travel for residents sharing the road with ore trucks. “We cannot allow one industry, like the mining industry, to negatively impact our existing tourism industry, the wineries, cycling, birding, riding, hiking, and all the support industries like the restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and shops,” said Elgin vineyard owner Kat Crockett. “I can’t really imagine what it will be like going up Hwy 83,” Shore said. She, along with others, feel that ADOT will have to install a traffic light at the intersection of Hwys 82 and 83 in Sonoita. “How could they not?” she asked.

South32, in response to questions posed by the PRT, responded that they cannot predict how much construction and operational traffic will be travelling through Sonoita, nor how many ore trucks will be travelling between the mine and the railhead in Tucson. “Future study work beyond the pre-feasibility study will inform the potential size of the construction and operation workforce,” according to Jenny Fiore, communications director for the Hermosa Project. “South32 is developing a traffic management plan and is committed to including controls to substantially minimize if not completely eliminate traffic safety risks like potential vehicle/pedestrian interactions,” she wrote. The company projects that “truck traffic will be less than 10 percent of the current traffic volumes seen on SR-82 as reported in a 2018 Arizona Department of Transportation traffic study,” which, according to Fiore, is between 1,800 and 2,800 vehicles per day. A conservative estimate of truck traffic, then, would be 200 trucks per day between the town and Tucson. If 200 trucks ran 24 hours/day, that would come to one truck every 7.5 minutes. South32 spokesperson Fiore stated that the trucks would not be running 24 hours/day. “The company is mindful of commuter hours and will look to avoid peak hours,” she wrote. In that scenario, the number of trucks per hour would be higher during certain times.

According to Santa Cruz County Public Works Director Jesus Valdez, the county does not have the authority to approve or disapprove the new road. “I can’t really stop them,” he said. “My job is to see that the road construction meets standards.” SCC Community Development director Frank Dillon declined to comment on the county’s role in approving the project. “Community Development does not have enough information regarding the proposed road to provide comment on the potential impacts of the proposed “Cross Creek Connector” at this time,” he wrote.

PARA, the local group that opposes mining in the Patagonia Mountains, has spoken out against the proposed route. “PARA is opposed to this route because this is a radical transformation of rural residential property and we should all be concerned about the ability of a corporation to use/misuse existing laws,” said PARA Board member Carolyn Shafer. “PARA is actively pursuing all legal actions and political options and will be working to educate the public about this developing story.”

Road (Cont.)
At the end of September, the schools in Eastern Santa Cruz County represent a mixed bag of reopenings phases. Patagonia Schools moved from distance to hybrid learning on September 28, with the middle, high, and preschool grades on campus several days a week and elementary students on campus full-time. Elgin School has been holding classes with students on campus since August 31. Patagonia Montessori School began in-person instruction on September 8. All the local schools continue to provide the option of distance learning for families who prefer it.

Deciding which model is safe and appropriate has been an ongoing discussion between school and public health leaders and Mariposa Community Clinic staff that included state benchmarks for reopening, adaptations to facilities, and class sizes.

Elgin Principal Mary Faley reports that most of the school community was comfortable coming back in person, based on their low class sizes, and keeping each grade level isolated from others throughout the day. Art teacher Anna Coleman has adapted by holding classes outside and providing each student with a laptop and toolkit. There have been no cases of COVID19 attributed to their reopening. Elgin School has tentatively scheduled COVID testing on October 24 date for the school community and the public.

Currently, about 15 percent of Elgin students have opted to continue distance learning. Callie Mattus, second grade teacher, says these students participate with the class via Zoom and can connect with their teachers virtually during office hours.

Patagonia Schools Superintendent Kenny Hayes has kept the community up-to-date with a virtual open house and a Q&A session before bringing students back on campus. Mariposa Community Clinic provided free COVID testing at the school in August.

At PUHS, coed soccer and girls’ volleyball have begun in person. Athletic Director and History teacher Nate Porter says student athletes and their parents are thrilled and grateful to be back. “Team sports are so important for kids’ physical and mental health, especially now when some of their healthy outlets have been limited. It was worth all the safety measures we had to take to get here.”

Staff conducted research and consulted with school sports organizations to decide how to move forward. Athletes were COVID19-tested before starting, and temperatures are checked each day. The teams began their closed practice sessions with very strict rules, including masks whenever not exerting and coaches masked at all times. Their first inter-scholastic games were scheduled for September 28 and 29. The games were played without fans in attendance.

As for his PUHS History classes, Mr. Porter is pleased. “I can’t believe how well distance learning has gone - considering. I’ve been impressed with students’ attendance and engagement across the computer screen. But, we’re really excited to be face-to-face.”

My guarantee is to offer all I can for District 3 and the County alike. So much so, that I am even willing to donate a percentage of my salary for the greater good of the community.

What do you think the County’s biggest environmental challenges are, and how do you think the County should address them? A non-existent recycling program, no plan to conserve our water, no plan to reuse wastewater (at least for irrigation purposes), littering, and old mining areas needing to be thoroughly reevaluated to protect our precious water from toxic chemicals.

What would you do to improve the County’s internet infrastructure?

My goal is to create a survey and get the thoughts from our community while working alongside key personnel in this matter. Do SCC residents want an improved internet infrastructure? At what cost? With more telework these days, information available at our fingertips, shopping via the internet, and online classes going on there is no doubt the internet infrastructure has to improve.

In the past two years there have been calls from residents in the Eastern part of the county to secede and join Cochise county. What would you do as Supervisor to address concerns in the Eastern part of the district? I don’t blame them, not one bit. I can only imagine how they must feel with the lack of representation for many years. I will assure them that I will do as much as I can for them so that they feel proud to be part of Santa Cruz County. Repurposing JP2 is a top priority on my agenda. I will do everything in my power to correct the long lasting relationship damage done to Eastern part residents and the District 3 community as a whole. An open door policy is a must in rebuilding the relationship from D3 Supervisor to citizen. If elected, I work and serve you! You are my employer! A true, genuine, caring new leader, with backbone, is what District 3 deserves.

Why are you running for this seat on the Board of Supervisors?

This is home. Our home has not been well taken care of in many years. My altruistic personality is what has driven me to run. I have what it takes to be an effective and efficient leader. I know I can do a better job than the incumbent D3 Supervisor. This is why I am running for this seat on the Board of Supervisors.

What unique qualities would you bring to the Board of Supervisors?

A public service background, war veteran, courses in public policy, public admin, urban/rural development, I.O. psych, among others I took, as well as my attention to detail and communication skills. As a dishwasher/busser and golf cart attendant in my early teens, I know the meaning of a hard earned dollar. From my leadership experience as a sergeant in the military, volunteering for Operation Enduring Freedom, to living out of my vehicle when I first began at the University of South Florida. These are just a few examples of me doing whatever it takes to get things done.

What are the two biggest challenges the County faces and how do you plan to address them?

Lack of leadership and lack of growth. We are a County divided and misguided. I plan to address the lack of leadership by utilizing my Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. All three Supervisors voted to donate $150k and loan $100k for cold storage facilities. Very odd, since the current D3 Supervisor was chair (2012-2015) and new treasurer of the GNSCCPA. More people would be informed on all details pertaining to voting. As for growth, our county is behind compared to Green Valley, Sahuarita, Sierra Vista, and Nogales Sonora. Many SCC residents spend their money outside the County. My plan is to bring festivities, businesses, and public areas for all to enjoy. We need growth while preserving our impeccable land.

Name: Justin A. Luna
Residence: How Long? Rio Rico, 23 years
Education/licenses/certifications/military: BA Psychology, minor Public Service & Leadership (University of South Florida), AA Liberal Arts w/concentration in Psychology & AA General Studies (Pima Community College) / seven years active U.S. Army National Guard, Military Police. Certified (Secret Clearance), Engineer cross-trained (Heavy Equipment Operator)
Recent Employment: Tampa Elite Sports Academy Community organizations/activities: Member of the VFW
Public Office/Service: None
Patagonia Elementary School District

Nancy McCoy
Nancy McCoy has been a member of the Patagonia Elementary School Board since January 2018 and is currently the PES board president. She spent 20 years as an elementary classroom and gifted education teacher in Illinois before moving to Patagonia in 2002. McCoy then owned a local bed and breakfast in town and served on the board of the Patagonia Area Business Association as president and treasurer. She also serves on the steering committee of the Patagonia Regional Community Fund. McCoy believes even though PES is a small district it has much to offer students with an outstanding teaching and administrative staff in a community of talented and caring people. Working together she hopes the school can make a difference in the lives of students and help them fulfill their dreams.

Kathy Pasierb
Kathleen Pasierb, a resident of Patagonia for 30 years, is returning to the Patagonia Elementary School District Governing Board. She has been involved in public school education for 35 years. She was known as the “field trip” science teacher, introducing two generations of students to the natural history of the greater Colorado watershed’s natural history. Currently she holds a Santa Cruz County Board of Directors’ position with Arizona School Board Association (ASBA). She advocates for equity for all students in academics, visual and performing arts. She supports highly qualified, certified, creative teachers as well as community members willing to share their interests and skills.

Marilyn Miller
Marilyn Miller’s training includes a BA in English with elementary teaching certificate, MA in teaching English to speakers of other languages, and a PhD in educational policy studies and evaluation. She taught English to speakers of multiple languages, including refugees, children, college students, and businessmen. Then, she moved to faculty development, working with international and American teaching assistants and university faculty on their language and teaching skills. In her final career at USDA, she taught leadership courses, coached supervisors and managers on their leadership skills, and developed and ran a leadership program. She has been a resident of Patagonia since 2013.

Patagonia Union High School District

Ron Pitt, President of the PUHS Board, was raised on a ranch in central Montana and, following high school, Ron earned a Bachelor’s degree in accounting, in 1966, from the University of Montana. From 1966 to 1969 he served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Chile, South America and then the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971. He attended graduate school at Oklahoma State University earning a M.S. in Accounting and a Ph.D. in Business Administration. He taught at Arizona State University from 1975 to 1981 and was a professor and administrator at Northern Arizona University from 1981 until his retirement in 2010. He currently lives in Elgin, Arizona.

Cynthia Matus Morriss
Cynthia Matus Morriss was born in Nogales, Arizona and is a life-long resident of Santa Cruz County. Cindy has served on the Patagonia Elementary Governing Board for 32 years and is currently serving on the Patagonia Union High School Governing Board. She has had the opportunity to serve at the county, state and national arenas of school board governance as well. Thanks to family and community support Cindy has been able to serve and govern in public education.

Bo Simpson
Bo Simpson grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico where he also graduated from New Mexico State University with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. Bo has lived in Patagonia for the last 6 years, and works as a ranch manager at the T4 Ranch. Bo enjoys hanging out with friends and family, playing golf, going to the lake and exploring the beautiful places that Patagonia has to offer.

Audrey Doles
Audrey Doles was born and raised in Patagonia. Doles and her husband own Gathering Grounds, a well-known and successful establishment in the community where she wears many hats. Doles has three young children, one who attends Patagonia Elementary School. Now returning to school once again, this time as a parent, she looks forward to the seeing the amazing opportunities Patagonia schools provide to its students and is grateful to be a part of it, both as a parent and as a board member.

Paula Schaper
Paula Schaper is an entrepreneur and branding consultant who helps communities use their character for communication, decision-making and action. She is CEO/President of West WordVision, a marketing and media company and Vice President of Mat Bevel Company, an arts and education nonprofit. After receiving a Bachelor of Music in Harp Performance from University of Michigan, she booked and promoted concerts with jazz musicians at Eclipse Jazz. She also built fan communities for Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Aerosmith, Paula Abdul, and she and her business partner built the largest paid fan club in history for New Kids on the Block.
Nancy Webster

Nancy Webster is running for the Sonoita Elementary School Board because she believes that public schools are one of the essential cornerstones of our democracy. Serving as a volunteer on the School Board has allowed her to bring her professional expertise and life experience to one of her greatest passions: education.

After receiving a Masters in Curriculum Development with an emphasis on Early Childhood Education from George Washington University, Webster went on to 18 years of teaching in both the public and private sector. She specialized in preschool through third grade, becoming the inclusion teacher for at-risk children. In addition, she served on numerous curriculum committees and was the President of the InterSchool Council in Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania.

Webster has been a resident of Sonoita for 14 years and four of her grandchildren have progressed through Elgin School. “Although I’ve volunteered in many capacities in our community, from the Elgin Club to the Fairgrounds, my passion is truly for children and education,” she said. “It is with great pleasure that I serve our school and community.”

Suzanne “Suzie” Sainz

Name: Suzanne “Suzie” Sainz
Residence: Nogales
Education/licenses/certifications/military: Attended Pima and Mesa Community College; Studied Business Management at University of Phoenix. Certified Real and Personal Property Appraiser. Certified Election Officer.
Recent employment: Santa Cruz County Recorder for 26 years. Community organizations/activities: Nogales Woman’s Club (NWC) Bd Member, past 1st Vice President, NWC Scholarship Fundraiser Committee, NWC Committees for Scholarship Recipients and Woman of Distinction. Pimeria Alta Historical Society (PAHS) Board Member and past President, PAHS Fundraiser Committee, PAHS Time Capsule Committee, former Board Member of The Friends of the 1904 Courthouse. Member of the AZ Assn. of County Recorders, past President. Board Member and County Coordinator of the AZ Assn. of Counties. Member, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, volunteer at Sacred Heart of Jesus Bookstore. Co-coordinator for the 1899-1999 Santa Cruz County Centennial Celebration and participant of the Fiesta de los Ninos Celebration. Past Board Member of the Santa Cruz Training Center and the United Way. Soccer Team Mother, Booster Club Treasurer. Assistant Brownie Leader.
Watch PRT Interview with Sainz on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXCH70A4F-dk&t=351s

Sonoita School District

SONOITA HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Wednesdays at 5pm

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县y Recorder Candidates

The PRT recorded interviews with the two candidates for Santa Cruz County Recorder, David Alvarez and incumbent Susie Sainz. Links to the interviews are listed below as well as some background information on each of the candidates.

Name: David Alvarez
Residence: Rio Rico Az. 20+ years
Education/licenses/certifications/military: 2yr. DeVry Institute/Electronics Diploma, Multiple MFD service certifications.
Community organizations/activities: Knight of Columbus Past Grand Knight, current Deputy Grand Knight, State Knight of the Year. RRHS Band Booster President. Residence of Rio Rico Board Member. Scout Master BSA. SCVUSD 35 PAC Member. Past RR Little League President. Learn more at fb-alvarez4sccounty@gmail.com
Watch PRT Interview with Alvarez on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LW6seyJgQYc

Name: Suzanne “Suzie” Sainz
Residence: Nogales
Education/licenses/certifications/military: Attended Pima and Mesa Community College; Studied Business Management at University of Phoenix. Certified Real and Personal Property Appraiser. Certified Election Officer.
Recent employment: Santa Cruz County Recorder for 26 years. Community organizations/activities: Nogales Woman’s Club (NWC) Bd Member, past 1st Vice President, NWC Scholarship Fundraiser Committee, NWC Committees for Scholarship Recipients and Woman of Distinction. Pimeria Alta Historical Society (PAHS) Board Member and past President, PAHS Fundraiser Committee, PAHS Time Capsule Committee, former Board Member of The Friends of the 1904 Courthouse. Member of the AZ Assn. of County Recorders, past President. Board Member and County Coordinator of the AZ Assn. of Counties. Member, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, volunteer at Sacred Heart of Jesus Bookstore. Co-coordinator for the 1899-1999 Santa Cruz County Centennial Celebration and participant of the Fiesta de los Ninos Celebration. Past Board Member of the Santa Cruz Training Center and the United Way. Soccer Team Mother, Booster Club Treasurer. Assistant Brownie Leader. 
Watch PRT Interview with Sainz on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXCH70A4F-dk&t=351s
Two candidates, Rosanna Gabaldon (D) and Mark Workman (R) are running for AZ State senate for LD2. Andrea Dalessandro (D), Daniel Hernandez (D) and Deborah McEwen (R) are running in the general election for two seats in the Arizona House of Representatives District 2, which includes Sonoita, Elgin and Patagonia. The PRT profiled Dalessandro and Hernandez previously. The candidates were provided questions or topics by email. Some answers have been edited for space.

**Rosanna Gabaldon**

Why are you running for LD2 State Senate?
My work is not yet done. I am most honored when my efforts help provide services to our most vulnerable and our youth. I have been successful in bringing ideas from southern Arizona to the Capitol because that is what we need, a little common sense and straight from the heart.

What do you think are the top two challenges facing the district in the next five years?
Support for Public Education - We owe it to our children to provide a safe school environment and the opportunity for a well-rounded and balanced quality public education. Adequate funding is the key to achieving our goal.

Investment in economic development in southern Arizona - I will continue to address the funding needs for our roads and infrastructure. Together we will encourage the legislature to take advantage of the opportunity of investments in the infrastructure of the State Route 189 Mariposa Rd. We must find revenue for much-needed road infrastructure, especially in our rural communities.

What do you think are the top three issues facing the constituents in Eastern Santa Cruz County (Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin & Canelo), and what will you do to respond to them?
We won’t get anywhere if we don’t listen to each other. The three top issues for Eastern Santa Cruz County concern: the lack of support for public education, the need for protection of our unique environment, and finding meaningful employment for our youth. During my eight years at the House, I have brought attention to various environmental issues and advocating for funding for the area.

**Mark Workman**

Why are you running for LD2 State Senate?
I am tired of the partisan fighting and lack of progress from our elected officials. I believe a person can either complain about a problem or try to fix it which is why I am running for office.

What are your top goals, if elected to the State Senate?
Clearing paths through partisan gridlock and over-regulation plaguing businesses and suffocating our hard working communities. Re-focus legislation on our children who are our future and the teachers who guide them on the path to success. Protecting the constitutional rights of all Arizona citizens and providing the resources necessary for the safety of the citizens of our great state.

What do you think are the top two challenges facing the district in the next five years?
Over taxation with a low return on investment of those tax dollars. Providing the necessary legislation to stimulate business success and additional employment of the district’s citizens.

What is the biggest challenge that you see to economic growth in Santa Cruz County? Most businesses in small communities are family owned and operated providing for their friends and family in that community. We must work with these businesses to help them expand beyond the town or community they reside in through various state sponsored marketing programs to help boost tourism and visibility.

What do you think are the top three issues facing the constituents in Eastern Santa Cruz County (Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin & Canelo) and what will you do to respond to them?
I will work to provide equal access to better health care. I will also work to provide better access to broadband communications through necessary infrastructure projects. As a graduate of Tombstone High School I understand the impact of tourism on a community, I believe the state needs to do more to market the amazing tourist destinations throughout our state including the wine district in eastern Santa Cruz County.

**Deborah McEwen**

Why are you running for LD2 State House of Rep?
Our county and district regions are listed as last in economy and scholastic scores for the past ten years it is time to look for new representation that can have a positive impact. Stagnant business development against an ever growing population of county workers reflects an imbalance of citizen-to-government economy. LD2 needs better technical opportunities in a district where 3 billion dollars of produce industry flows through each year. We all should welcome less government and more economic and scholastic opportunities in our lives.

What do you think are the top two challenges facing the district in the next five years?
Addressing our new educational opportunities and technology challenges for our children and teachers. It’s time to look out of-the-box solutions to prepare our children for higher paying jobs and opportunities. Not everyone needs to go into debt with a college education when they can obtain high paying jobs through tech and journeyman educational programs right in Santa Cruz and Pima County.

What is the biggest challenge that you see to economic growth in Santa Cruz County?
Today the challenge is just opening back up to full speed without excessive government regulation or tax burdens. Liability protection from frivolous law suits to small business needs to be supported. Finally, expanding technology, broadband and support services to our produce industry not only helps that industry but also creates higher paying jobs.

What do you think are the top three issues facing the constituents in Eastern Santa Cruz County and what will you do to respond to them?
A lack of support services and updated infrastructure currently hinders economic security and growth. Neighboring cities prosper from your tourism venues. That equates to lost income and lost tax revenue for building your infrastructure and amenities. Inequitably formulated property taxes are burdensome and need to be adjusted to fit the real estate and demographics. Promotion and expansion of tourism will be a priority and I will work with fair and equitable tax policies for our district.

**Name:** Rosanna Gabaldon  
**Residence:** Green Valley, since 2004  
**Education/licenses/certifications/military:** Central High School, Phoenix, AZ  
**Recent employment:** AZ State Representative Community organizations/activities: Civilian Advisor Board of the International Boundary and Water Commission, Guadalupe School Board, Friends of the Green Valley Library, SE AZ Advisory Board for Chicanos Por La Causa, Salvation Army Advisory Council Green Valley, Pima County First Things First, Tucson Pima Arts Council, Green Valley Sahuarita Community Food Bank, Community Foundation of Greater Green Valley, Local fraternal organizations, Town of Sahuarita Parks and Recreation Commission, Town of Sahuarita Economic Development Commission.  
**Previous public office/service:** 2009 - 2012 Sahuarita Town Council  
**Learn more at:** http://www.voteGabaldon.com

**Name:** Mark Workman  
**Residence:** Sahuarita, Three years  
**Education/licenses/certifications/military:** 23 Years Active Duty US Air Force, 3 Degrees including MBA, FAA Airframe and Powerplant license  
**Recent employment:** Retired Community organizations/activities: 10 years as a victims advocate for the base Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, 10 Years Volunteering with the Special Olympics, 6 Years volunteering with the Muscular Dystrophy Association Children’s Camps  
**Previous public office/service:** None  
**Learn more at:** www.workman4you.com

**Name:** Deborah McEwen  
**Residence:** Rio Rico, Three years  
**Education/licenses/certifications/military:** BA Sociology, Retired Certified Forensic Examiner and Laboratory Assessor  
**Recent employment:** Federal and State Criminal Justice Forensic Science and Quality Assurance Manager Community organizations/activities: Arizona Grassroots Coordinator Convention of States  
**Previous public office/service:** None  
**Learn more at:** mcewen4az.com
By Martin Levowitz

This article is about winning and losing; loyalty and lying. In nature, among living things, to win is to survive. You lose, you die. Farther up the curve, among "civilized" beings, if we call ourselves that, the taste for winning does not fade, even though there's no longer much literal danger of death.

Go to a pro football or soccer stadium where 40,000 fans have assembled, and ask them why they're there. You'll find less than a hundred who don't really care who wins. Who cares if the home team beats the visiting team or vice versa? The fans are there to see the game, and a pro football or soccer game is all about game action.

The reaction was immediate. Both teams are likely to be gone from the stadium within an hour or so, but the fans remain, watching the game. They are there for the package of entertainment that is pro football or soccer. Win, lose, or draw, it doesn't matter. The fans are there to see the game.

The fans may be there to see the game, but they may also be there to see the leaders win. There is a saying in nature that, the taste for winning does not fade, even though there's no longer much literal danger of death. You win, you live. You lose, you die. Farther up the curve, among "civilized" beings, if we call ourselves that, the taste for winning does not fade, even though there's no longer much literal danger of death.

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WE WERE MADE FOR THESE TIMES

By Anna Sofia

As we sprint toward the November 2020 election, there are many things on our collective mind: who will take office in January 2021, if social and racial injustices will ever end, and when we'll be able to safely hug our loved ones again. Yet, as usual, life continues to throw never-ending hurdles our way, forcing us to find the strength to overcome incredible odds during a time when the stakes are high and personal action is paramount.

Clarissa Pinkola Estés once said, "Do not lose heart: we were made for these times." This has never been more true. We are here on this planet, right now, to help correct the injustices happening to our fellow person, our environment, our local communities, and our mountains.

Over the last few months, South32 has announced plans for the Hermosa Project’s exit route, water usage, and power source. These plans, which will likely affect the community and the incredible biodiversity of our Sky Island region, have sparked several concerns in town. Here are my concerns:

In July, South32 announced their massive de-watering plans, which will draw down an estimated 1.6 billion gallons of water per year for four years in order to help them reach their target minerals. Most of the water they use will be released into Harshaw Creek, with a forecasted rise of 20 feet in some areas and depletion in others. But we are in a sustained 20 year drought. Since our residents, private well users, ranchers, farmers, and wildlife all rely on the watershed for survival, how will this de-watering plan impact our region - now and in the future?

In August, South32 announced plans to construct a 32-foot-wide industrial arterial road for heavy trucks that will connect Harshaw Road to State Road 82. This exit route, the Cross Creek Connector, will run through a residential area. While common sense says this proposed road should require rezoning and other permitting processes, I have been informed by county staff that the mine can put in this road without going through a rezoning process - a decision that makes no logical sense based on common sense says this proposed road should require rezoning and other permitting processes, I have been informed by county staff that the mine can put in this road without going through a rezoning process - a decision that makes no logical sense based on how many locals it will impact.

In September, UniSource Energy Services announced the Rio Rico-Harshaw power line that will serve the Hermosa Project. Their plans do not include who will pay for this project, how much it will cost, or if Flux Canyon Road will be upgraded. We need to ask for more details before we can know how this over-ground power line will impact our community.

We have come to the crossroads of two futures: one where the mountains are forever changed by industrialized mining and one where we protect the earth’s limited gifts and resources from corporate profit. Help me defend the Patagonia Mountains this election season. Take action and stand up for our home. Remember, we only have one.

Editor’s note: Anna Sofia is Communications and Outreach Coordinator for PARA

The paleontologist that the news show interviewed couldn’t be sure that this wasn’t a joke and to tell you the truth neither could I. What it was, was a sign of the times. If there are groups for, then you can bet there is one against it. You can also bet that there are people who don’t want to take a side. These people who do not want to have any bad vibes interrupting their perfect bubble. I guess the rest of us should try to respect them and their need for uninterrupted (yet pretend) bliss.

We all want to be heard and we want others to believe in what we believe in. My big lesson in 2020 is that I don’t need to publicly express my views and beliefs. I don’t need to tell people via a sign that they should care about others or who to vote for. I just need to take my vote to the ballot box. It will say everything I need.

“Conflict is inevitable combat is optional” - Max Lucado

WELL, IT’S OCTOBER

By Cassina Farley

Well its October. I had huge plans. In my quarantined fantasy, life would have returned to normal by now and we would all have skipped off into the sunset. Instead we are all circling the political toilet. Things have gotten bad. Family dinners and birthday parties have become minefields that I must survive, and I can’t leave a party without my grandma slipping me a Sean Hannity book about his version of America. Don’t worry, I didn’t read it. I make no apologies for my liberal heart to my family and for the most part they accept it, although every now and then my grandma tries to convert me. I accept their political views as well. Doesn’t mean I don’t talk about how crazy they are on the car ride home. I may even throw out a cheap shot every now and then, but we manage to still coexist.

As political signs come out and candidate commercials dominate our airwaves it becomes harder and harder to maintain that civility. We all believe what we believe. It is deeply personal. I’m not one to let a door knocking bible salesman tell me I’m worshiping the wrong way. Why should I let a yelling man in a red hat do the same thing?

I am guilty of this. I put up signs. I drew a line and it created hate. It was not my intention, but I jumped on the bandwagon. So, I moved my sign and withdrew from this public fight if for no other reason than to stop the further escalation of hate and no longer contribute to this great divide.

One evening as I was riding my ‘high horse’ I watched a news story about a group that was trying to take down the dinosaur at a McDonald’s in Tucson. This group does not believe in the existence of dinosaurs and therefore feels offended by the life-sized statue. (HUGE collective eyeroll) In their official Zoom interview two men stated their case and defended their beliefs. This group gathers, writes letters, petitions and harasses all in the name of their beliefs. The belief that dinosaurs didn’t exist.

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The paleontologist that the news show interviewed couldn’t be sure that this wasn’t a joke and to tell you the truth neither could I. What it was, was a sign of the times. If there are groups for, then you can bet there is one against it. You can also bet that there are people who don’t want to take a side. These people who do not want to have any bad vibes interrupting their perfect bubble. I guess the rest of us should try to respect them and their need for uninterrupted (yet pretend) bliss.

We all want to be heard and we want others to believe in what we believe in. My big lesson in 2020 is that I don’t need to publicly express my views and beliefs. I don’t need to tell people via a sign that they should care about others or who to vote for. I just need to take my vote to the ballot box. It will say everything I need.

“Conflict is inevitable combat is optional” - Max Lucado

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 submissions for language, length and content.
Sifting Compost
By Susan Corl

Gone is grasp of tendril’s grip
The taste of nectar from blossom sip
Cut of worm and scrap of scale
Hornet’s sting and marks from hail
Melon’s swell and print of paw
Tumbled weed and rodent’s gnaw
Spider’s thread and lizard’s leap
Now compose this piled heap
Sunflower’s track, grasshopper’s spree
Seed cases left when the shoot broke free

Power of water’s soak, when days were long?
WATER

The height of corn and mantis prayer
Frozen dreams when garden’s done
Recognizable form cannot be found
Shrunken, shriveled earth amassed
Reduced in size by time turned dig
Could tell the tale of thrush’s song
Worms that wiggle, grubs be still
Rock and leaf and loam and twig
Golden wheat waves in the field
Eye of storm and songbird’s ode
Petaled pleasures flowers flown
Crustacean critters sow, and pill
Butterfly’s fan rests in the layer

ROADS

Grave becomes cradle, another replay.
Lost is wilt and stress from sun
Who were you in bright of day
Rooted, leafed, now in decay?
Silenced now the insect drone
Memories of scent and sound
Gone is glint of beetle’s shield
Pod of pea and crack of clay
Hint of rain and hop of toad

IT

Now compose this piled heap
Of water’s soak, when days were long?
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Meeting the Needs of our Youth

By Anna Coleman

Teaching young people about the difference between “needs” and “wants” can pose a challenge. Needs are basic things for living: water, clothing, shelter, and food. A want is something desired, like the latest cell phone or basketball shoe.

When the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center (PYEC) opened its doors in 2014, there was a different kind of need. The youth expressed it best, a need “to feel included, safe, and to have a purpose”.

Since its opening, PYEC has cultivated opportunities for the youth to fill those needs. Gabi Bueras (PUHS 2016), a recent ASU graduate and a Domestic Violence Coordinator, was one of the original teens when PYEC opened its doors. In her experience, being involved with “youth centers like Patagonia’s show a decrease in youth depression, runaways, and suicides.”

She goes on to say that PYEC provides a much-needed inclusive environment in Patagonia for youth.

With the COVID19 pandemic, PYEC had to temporarily close its doors to the youth. The staff immediately saw a different need in the community and began making weekly dinners for the youth, their families, and other community members. They served over 4000 meals in the spring.

Once the school year ended, PYEC switched gears and focused back primarily on the youth, providing camp-like project kits to do at home during the “stay-at-home orders.” To continue the cooking project that the youth had participated in before the pandemic, the PYEC staff also organized weekly dinner kits, including the ingredients, recipes, and containers, for the youth chefs to continue working on their cooking skills by preparing full dinners and desserts for their families at home. These skills enable the community’s youth to gain valuable life skills for their journey into adulthood.

The staff has also continued their 24/7 emotional support for the youth and provided resources to those who needed guidance through the uncertainties. They also assisted some recent graduates with scholarships, setting up bank accounts, and college class registrations.

Going forward, the Youth Center will continue to monitor the health and safety protocols of the county and provide support and assistance to the youth as needed.

The current plans for activities include several events with proper safety measures in place. PYEC’s program coordinator has been working with a few organizations to create potential food sustainability opportunities for the youth. These projects will enhance the Youth Center’s cooking program as well as keep the youth together safely outdoors. The Youth Center is also planning a modified fundraiser in early November, featuring the PYEC youth chefs again. The dinner will be a bit different from last year, due to COVID19.

In the past, emphasis was on controlling negative behavior of the youth. With the presence of PYEC and other supportive organizations like the Patagonia Library, Creative Art Center, and Borderlands (BECY), the youths’ needs are being met and they feel purposeful and included. With this evolving mindset, our youth have become contributing members of the community.


decking Still on Hold in Town

By Bob Brandt

The Recycling Task Force still isn’t able to report the resumption of a viable local recycling program for Patagonia. There is reason to believe, however, that recycling may soon be a reality here, at least on a trial basis.

The task force has been in touch with Republic Services, Inc. (RS), one of the country’s largest providers of recycling-related services. RS receives and processes the recyclables that Tucson residents place in the neighborhood recycling centers. Division Sales Manager Adrian Cervantes hosted members of the task force, including Town Manager Ron Robinson, on a virtual meeting during which he explained the range of services the company is able to deliver and answered questions.

Cervantes subsequently submitted pricing information for several options, including having the company place a recycling container in town, then hauling the filled container to their materials recovery facility (MRF) for processing and disposition. The contents of the container must be relatively free of trash and other contaminants, a requirement the task force and the town have discussed at length. The task force members believe they can supply, on a volunteer basis, supervision and monitoring of the recycling station if the facility is securely fenced and limited to certain days and hours for recycling.

Since the county sent representatives to meet with town officials and members of the task force last March, apparently in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the county has been mostly silent on the matter of resuming any countywide recycling program, which has led the town to consider going it alone. Both Mayor Andy Wood and Robinson are strongly in favor of getting some recycling program up and running again as soon as possible. Whether the RS proposal, or any other option, will work for the town will depend largely on how it can be paid for.

Until a recycling program is again available in Patagonia, the task force strongly urges local residents to take their recycling items to Tucson where they can use the city’s neighborhood recycling centers safely and without having to sort the items into different containers. (See below for locations).

In an effort to increase interest in recycling and reduce the amount of plastics that wind up in our landfills and oceans, the task force is hosting a viewing of the documentary, “The Story of Plastic,” produced by The Story of Stuff Project. During a two-week period ending on October 24, through a link to be provided by the task force, the film will be available for free streaming to those who sign up to participate. The viewing period will end with an open discussion using the Zoom platform and moderated by members of the Recycling Task Force. All who view the film will be invited to join in the Zoom discussion and asked to complete a brief survey designed to get feedback from participants on their reactions to the film and plans for taking action to address the plastics problem.

Information on how to participate in the screening of The Story of Plastic will be posted on the PRT website, https://patagoniaregionaltimes.org/.

A preview of the film is available on YouTube.
Rodeo a 'Positive Experience' for Fairgrounds

By Marion Vendituoli

“The vibe is great,” Lacy Beyer, Sonoita Fairgrounds manager said, looking out at the crowd at the 105th Sonoita Labor Day Junior Rodeo, held Sept 5, 6 and 7. The County Board of Supervisors had approved holding the rodeo only a few weeks before the event, with restrictions that included limiting the size of the audience and adequate social distancing. Rodeo chairman and Board member Randy Scouten said that it was a challenge to put together the event, but that the committee “had done lots of preplanning in the hopes of being able to hold the rodeo.” Despite the additional handicap of not being able to utilize inmates for maintenance and preparation due to the pandemic, he praised the many community volunteers who helped get everything ready for the rodeo. “We had so many awesome volunteers and our board has been so good,” he said.

The long lines typically seen at the rodeo gates were eliminated by having most people prepay for admission online. A new system at the back gates to have competitors and campers prepay also streamlined getting people onto the grounds.

The event was a financial success for the Fairgrounds which has lost significant income this year due to the cancelling of the races, the fair and private events. Although the net profit from the rodeo was down approximately 25% compared to last year’s rodeo, Beyer estimates that the event brought in approximately $25,000.

She feels the event was a morale booster for the community. “Everybody was so positive about it,” she said. “Everyone you talked to was just happy to be here and it’s given people a sense of normalcy.”

A young rider gets some help running the barrels from her dad at the Sonoita Labor Day Junior Rodeo

Photo by Nick Robb

Modified Junior Livestock Show, Sale a Success

Santa Cruz County 4-H and FFA youth who have been working on animal projects participated in a very different livestock show and auction this year. Traditionally, the show and sale is held during the Santa Cruz County Fair, but because of the pandemic, the cancellation of the Fair by the County Board of Supervisors, the decision by the AZ Cooperative Extension Service not to allow 4-H to sanction a livestock show, and constraints on the number of people permitted to gather together, the Santa Cruz Junior Livestock (SCJL) Committee organized a two-day show at the Sonoita Fairgrounds followed by a virtual auction to allow the youth to sell their animal projects. SCJL is part of the Champions For Youth Foundation, a 501(c)3 foundation serving youth in Southeastern Arizona.

A total of 47 competitors showed their animals at the two-day show. Photos of each animal were taken, which were posted along with a brief biography of each competitor on the auction website. The money that the youth earn at the auction helps them recoup their expenses, fund the purchase of next year’s animal project, and save for higher education.

This year’s virtual auction raised $111,129, falling short of last year’s live auction which raised $207,200. The high selling steer, which sold for $8355, belonged to Sarah Lyman, of Elgin. The steer was purchased by Rummel Construction, the high buyer at the sale, which successfully bid on a total of 14 animals. Auza Contracting, Inc., and the Vera Earl Ranch were among the top three bidders, as well.

Several donors supported the event this year by donating directly to the Santa Cruz Junior Livestock Scholarship Fund, including South32, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Santa Cruz County Fair Rodeo Association Foundation, David and Diane Balanoff, Los Charros Foundation, Jim and Ginny Cosbey, Taylor Burleson, and Black Oak Builders.

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Dixie Meier (foreground) shows her Grand Champion swine at the Champions For Youth Livestock Show at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, which would normally have been held during the Santa Cruz County Fair.

By Marion Vendituoli

‘Champions for Youth’ Livestock Show Winners

Market Steer
Addison Tomlinson
Reserve Grand Champion
Cash Allen
Champion Jr. Showmanship
Ellissa Byrd
Reserve Champion Jr. Showmanship
Addison Tomlinson
Champion Sr. Showmanship
Gabryella Dickey
Res. Champion Sr. Showmanship
Sarah Lyman

Market Goats
Grand Champion
Ian corona
Reserve Grand Champion
Stephanie Praz
Champion Jr. Showmanship
Rori Prentice
Reserve Champion Jr. Showmanship
Jair corona
Champion Sr. Showmanship
Jessica Paz
Reserve Champion Sr. Showmanship
Amy Burleson
Sheep
Grand Champion
Ember Hubbell
Reserve Grand Champion
Brianna Young
Champion Jr. Showmanship
Jose Quiroz
Champion Sr. Showmanship
Brianna Young
Reserve Champion Sr. Showmanship
Ember Hubbell
Swine
Grand Champion
Dixie Meier
Reserve Grand Champion
Sophia Routledge
Champion Jr. Showmanship
Jayla Umfleet
Reserve Champion Jr. Showmanship
Bree Beyer
Champion Sr. Showmanship
Sophia Routledge
Reserve Champion Sr. Showmanship
Madison Vines
August 12, 2020

The Town reported a 39% participation rate in the US Census to date, hoping for a stronger showing among townspople by the time the Census is completed.

Planning & Development Chairman Budd reported that they were working with the Paton Center on a major renewal project for their physical plant. He added that the committee was working with a draft of revisions to the Town’s General Plan, and that it would appear on a future Agenda, or lead to a special work-study session.

South 32 was given approval to proceed with local road improvements. The work area includes 3rd and Taylor Ave between Naugle and McKeown, helipad, and Harshaw Road to the Town limits at the first Harshaw Creek bridge.

Vice-mayor Stabile raised concerns about South32’s “dewatering” plan to discharge approximately 1.7 billion gallons of treated mine-site water yearly into the Harshaw Creek watershed.

Flood and Flow Chair Carolyn Shafer requested and received the Town’s approval for sending letters to the Forest Service requesting a groundwater study, and to South32 for their full water data and reports in the Hermosa project area and vicinity, covering both surface and underground water movements and known aquifers.

The Town approved sale of an unused portion of Red Rock Ave., a block north of Harshaw Ave.

August 26, 2020

The Mountain Empire Rotary Club presented the town’s Animal Control program with two traps and carriers that will help with the town’s capture of feral cats.

Planning & Development Committee announced a Sept. 1 meeting to review a use permit for a construction project at Paton Center. There will be public hearings November 9 for the project.

For the Town’s Flood and Flow Committee, Chair Carolyn Shafer presented a request for the Town to approve the Committee’s quest to fund a full study of mitigation ideas to protect the community from future major flooding, as part of comprehensive watershed planning. This study, costing in the range of $50-100,000, would be arranged at no cost to the Town, and the Committee’s request was approved.

Manager Robinson explained the financing for pre-design of a rehabilitation plan for the wastewater treatment plant. His proposed sequence and sourcing were approved, at no cost to the Town at this point.

September 9, 2020

Vice Mayor Stabile reported that South32 will be continuing discussion with the Town on the specific water-related information the Town wants from the Company...

Pace Engineering has sent an approved contract for the rehab project for the Town’s Water Treatment Plant.

The Planning & Development Committee introduced a hearing on Audubon’s plan to replace the buildings at the Paton Center. The Mayor and Council approved the Use Permit for the project.

September 23, 2020

Mayor Wood stated the Town’s choice to keep the public restrooms in the Town Park closed.

It was announced that the Town will work with the contractor for the South32-supported road resurfacing in town on timing and phasing of the upcoming project, and would be notifying affected residents.

Marshal Patterson reported, in light of the nationwide uprising about police brutality, that his department’s “use of force” policies continue to be under review, and that appropriate trainings and certifications were continuing.

Hermosa President Pat Risner gave a slide presentation covering groundwater, well locations and lab results. He also responded to the town’s desired list of data and studies.

Risner announced a public open house on the Hermosa Project, to be held at the PUHS football field, from 3-6 pm on Tuesday October 20. The two main topics would be current concerns about water and access routes.

Flood and Flow Committee Chair Carolyn Shafer was granted approval for a letter of support from the Committee to the AZ Dept. of Fire and Forestry Management for a grant for landscape restoration to be implemented by Borderlands’ Restoration Network.

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Ecological Decay

My scientific observations in Arizona date back to 1987 when I was a wildlife researcher for New Mexico State University. Based in the Peloncillo Mountains of New Mexico and Arizona, I was introduced firsthand to the biodiversity of the Sky Islands. The broad spectrum of flora and fauna that populated those remote mountains truly belied any hallucinations that I had of the southwest being a Lawrence of Arabia-like wasteland.

In the intervening years I have noticed many detrimental changes to our local ecology. Perhaps the best term to describe this process of diminishment of biodiversity is ecological decay. What are the components that have recently contributed to the reduction of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, plants, and fungi? Why have populations of differential grasshoppers, marine blue butterflies, Sonoran toads, various quail species, deer herds, and countless other species been reduced to mere shadows of their former abundance?

If our local natural environments, including their flora and fauna, are experiencing an ongoing “death by a thousand cuts,” then perhaps the deepest slice belongs to climate change. This summer’s monsoon season has been one of our hottest and driest in recent decades. Throughout Arizona and the western U.S., the mercury has been rising, as have pall of smoke from seemingly countless wildfires. Quite simply, a warming climate in an already arid region - with tenuous rain at best - is a very quick recipe for disaster. Since many local species of wildlife and native plants flourish only or mostly when there is ample rain, we are at great risk of creating a depauperate, human-made desert out of what has evolved into an ecologically rich region.

Even without climate change Southwestern Arizona’s wild species have been on a collision course with its resident primates for over a hundred, if not over 10,000 years. The latter figure ties into Dr. Paul Martin’s famed blitzkrieg hypothesis, which provides compelling evidence that hungry Paleolithic Indians in the late Pleistocene (ca. 10,120,000 years ago) caused the demise of many giant mammals via their spears. The more recent figure refers to the final surrender of Geronimo and his defiant band of Apache in 1886. It was only then that widespread immigration of Anglo populations occurred in our area. With us came a litany of impacts on our native species.

Rampant overstocking of the range with cattle in the late 1800’s led to loss of topsoil and the conversion of highly productive grasslands to less diverse desert scrub. This trend often continues today with the number of cattle in one area exceeding the ability of the land to recover. Agriculture changed from local farms and gardens to an increasingly industrial scale, effectively sucking many of our waterways dry or nearly so. In essence we are mining our groundwater at an unsustainable level with increasingly less rain to help resupply this vital resource. Polluted water is a problem as well in many areas - go put your nose to the Santa Cruz River if you would like to prove this!

Nor are chemicals confined to waterways. A few years ago, I was exposed to a throat-tainting dose of herbicide as I drove along I-19 - possibly Roundup, which is a known carcinogen. When I queried a U of A herpetologist as to why some horned lizard populations have crashed, he postulated - “chemicals?” Roads are often more directly deadly to wildlife, as evidenced by the carcasses that regularly pile up from highway impacts.

Add in rampant urbanization and its attendant habitat destruction, nonnative plants and animals taking over the landscape, cell phone tower and wind turbine bird kills, over hunting, and you begin to see the grim reality that our local species face - ecological decay.

What can we do to mitigate, if not reverse, this alarming trend? Use less water on a daily basis, leaving more in the ground, which often equates to more in our streams. Better yet, establish a rainwater harvesting system. Don’t use manmade chemicals on your landscape or in your home - they always wind up in the environment.

Create a diverse, low-water-use landscape of native plants that benefit a wide variety of wildlife that flocks to them. Drive slower on our roadways, sparing wildlife a gruesome demise, particularly at dusk and dawn.

Most importantly, given our dwindling natural resources, let’s create a world where we artfully and appropriately interact with the rest of nature. Then, instead of hoarding most of the resources for ourselves we can leave enough for other species - perhaps ultimately proving that we can, after all, share the planet with all of the rest of life. There is only so much pie to go around. This is a call for action, so let’s put our proverbial bench and do our collective best to help preserve our fragile Sky Islands biodiversity legacy for generations to come.

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS LLC, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting and promoting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region. RWWI offers a wide variety of private, custom-made courses, birding & biodiversity tours. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org

STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I, like so many others, watched events unfold that I knew would forever change us.

That evening I found some level of comfort, of distance, in the views generated through the telescope housed at the Flandrau Planetarium on the University of Arizona campus. My effort to postpone this long-sought appointment was shot down by the telescope operator. The way he saw it, he said, looking through the scope wasn’t going to alter our country’s response to the death and destruction we’d witnessed earlier. Further, he pointed out, each one of us had to find a way to be resilient, to prepare ourselves for what was ahead.

Using the big 16-inch reflector, he showed me several treasures of the night sky that helped to ease my anger, anxiety, and immense sadness.

I thought a lot about that day over the past several months. The pandemic and our country’s social upheaval have brought back many of the emotions I felt nearly 20 years ago. Like then, I still have so very little ability to impact anything. Much of what is available to me is simply about listening and learning and sometimes, just trying to put one day in front of another.

It has brought me back to that night at Flandrau and, most specifically, to the one sight that continues to bring me some solace in the midst of misery: the Albireo Double, a pairing of stars that provides, in a single glance, all that I need to broaden my understanding of, well, everything.

Throughout October, this wonder will be easily visible, riding high in the sky and gradually to the west. It helps form the long, graceful neck of Cygnus, the Swan. Within that constellation is the equally well-known asterism, the Northern Cross. Albireo is its base. The very bright star, Deneb, helps to guide the observer to the Cross’s apex, as well as to the Swan’s tail.

Albireo’s magic requires a telescope, for with magnification one can separate the bright yellow star from its dimmer, blue companion.

The two stars are simultaneously complementary and contrasting. It’s a strange dichotomy, is a double star singular or plural? Is it even fair for us to be able to see both stars when for most of mankind’s history, only one could be discerned? I don’t know the answers. And, more importantly, I don’t care. We routinely take the random locations of stars and the brightness and colors that are inferred upon them by the complex laws of physics and create myths and meanings that push the boundaries of imagination. That’s the literary and philosophical side of astronomy that is so joyous and welcoming.

In our daily lives we form clichés for things one step removed (or require magnification, a closer look). We tell our own version of the story, disinformation and misinformation have been said, with all of the constant disinformation and misinformation and all of the numbing, horrific statistics, I still want to believe that there is something special just beyond our present reach that brings illumination. I want to believe that we’re better not just when we expand our view of the heavens, but also when we push past the ugliness and divisiveness and distrust on our own planet.

For some 20 years, the Albireo Double has shown me that all of this is possible, that sometimes with great effort and a desire to grow and be more than we were the day before, the reward is actually within our grasp.

Billy was known across his community for providing many laughs and always striking up conversations with anyone he came across. He had a career in masonry and learned his craft from his friend and former boss, Fred Sang. He was opinionated, loved baseball, especially when his kids were playing, and he adored his dog, Halo. Billy will be missed by family and friends, both new and old, regardless of how near or far apart.

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

By Laura Wenzel

The library is now open for curbside pick-up and appointment only services Mon-Fri 10-2pm (we take our last appointments at 1:30pm), curbside only Sat 10-2pm. Make an appointment to browse and checkout items from our collection, use a computer, or take advantage of our copy, fax, and scan services. Curbside pick-up will still be available upon request. Appointments are made for a maximum of 30 minutes, with a limit of 10 people in the building at a time.

There is a new book displayed in the StoryWalk® in the Patagonia park. “Desert Night Shift: A Pack Rat Story” by Conrad Storad tells the story of Penny Pack Rat, who lives in the Sonoran Desert and loves to collect things for her burrow under cover of darkness. She goes on an adventure one night to collect a silver spoon for her Nana, but will she get caught by coyotes? Learn fun facts about Sonoran Desert animals and words to learn at the end of the book. Many thanks to Kate Musick for assisting in putting up the new book.

Need some activities to do with your preschooler? Sign up for our Fall Early Learning Packet. Each packet includes dozens of activity worksheets, a wipeable page protector, a dry erase marker, crayons, play dough, and more. The packets are intended to be used by children aged 3-5 together with an adult. No need to bring anything back, everything in the packets are for you to keep.

We’re currently hard at work figuring out virtual and take-home programs for folks of all ages. If you’ve got any program ideas, would like to participate in a program or sponsor one, send us an email. We’re open to all sorts of ideas for keeping our community healthy, connected, and supported.

Call us at 520-394-2010 or email at info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org to make your appointment or to pick up an Early Learning Packet today.

Check It Out At The Library

Contributed Photo

Anderson Porter can hardly contain his excitement upon completing the Patagonia Library’s Imagine Your Story Summer Reading program and collecting his prizes.

John William Montañez
AUGUST 31, 1973 – AUGUST 9, 2020

Billy lived life as he wanted. He lived for today with the thought of tomorrow. Crossing his path was a life experience. For a brief moment, he expanded your vocabulary and exercised the use of your hands.

You walked away with a memorable moment whether you were aware of it or not. Billy valued friendship and set forth his best effort to be so. We will miss your larger than life presence. Chango, with our heavy hearts. Go in peace with your Dad and Grandma. UA!

No public services are determined at this time.

Billy lived life as he wanted. He lived for today with the thought of tomorrow. Crossing his path was a life experience. For a brief moment, he expanded your vocabulary and exercised the use of your hands. You walked away with a memorable moment whether you were aware of it or not. Billy valued friendship and set forth his best effort to be so. We will miss your larger than life presence. Chango, with our heavy hearts. Go in peace with your Dad and Grandma. UA!

No public services are determined at this time.

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Wildlife Preserve Working to Canelo Ctr.

By Pat McNamara

Nestled among the Canelo Hills in Elgin in the shadow of the Huachuca Mountains is the Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center (MAWC). It is located in a wildlife corridor, a migratory route for several species that runs across southeast Arizona. This expanse is one of the most biodiverse regions in North America.

In 2000, Kate Scott and her husband Tony Heath purchased land in Brushy Canyon. Heath, a jazz musician from New York City, who is also a graphic artist and photographer, came up with the name ‘Birdland Ranch’ for their newly acquired 160 acres.

Scott, who had been a mechanical engineer, became a veterinary technician. She gained experience in various aspects of animal health working at veterinary clinics as well as at the Tucson Wildlife Center.

The couple set to work, seeding and restoring their property, a former cattle ranch, to return it to its original state as a home for wildlife. A partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the establishment in 2016 of a non-profit organization enabled Birdland Ranch to develop into the Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center. This also opened up the opportunity to obtain grants for funding further enhancements to the property and for materials needed to build a facility to rehabilitate injured birds and animals.

“Our mission is to build pathways of compassionate coexistence between people and wildlife in the Madrean Archipelago ecoregion through actions of wildlife advocacy, education, conservation and rehabilitation.” Scott said. One of the goals of the MAWC is to keep the corridor between the US and Mexican border free of any physical barriers, like the border wall, that would stop the movement of migrating species.

The Center will be hosting a virtual Southern Border Concert, Saturday, October 17. More information about this organization is on their website: https://www.mawcenter.org.

CHOP Launches Housing Study

By Bob Brandt

In an effort to provide it with current data on which to base future planning decisions, Community Homes of Patagonia (CHOP) has engaged Wendy Carter Development Consulting LLC to conduct a formal survey of the need and demand for affordable housing in the Patagonia area.

Several key interviews have already been conducted by Wendy Carter, the consulting firm’s principal, in the first phase of the project. She will be talking one-on-one with employers and community stakeholders.

While the interview phase of the study is underway, city planning specialist Eric Halvorsen, under contract with Carter, will conduct an extensive collection and analysis of relevant data from which they will develop strategy recommendations to be presented to the CHOP Board of Directors.

Carter submitted the winning proposal in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) that CHOP issued in early June. Drafted with the assistance of Chuck Klingenstein, the RFP generated five proposals from across the country, two of which were selected as finalists to undergo detailed analysis by a three-member Strategic Planning Committee, immediate Past President Tod Bowden, Treasurer Ken Morrow and Vice President Bob Brandt.

The committee compared the finalists’ relevant experience, the strength of their written proposals and responses to questions posed in a Zoom interview. Although somewhat more costly than the second-place proposal, the Carter submission was unanimously deemed the stronger proposal and the one that would yield the best product.

The study is expected to take several months to complete and will culminate in a comprehensive planning document that Carter will submit by January 31, 2021. CHOP will use the document to decide how it can best apply its resources to address the affordable housing needs documented by Carter and her team.

Anyone who would like to have an opportunity to provide input into the collection and analysis of data or the formulation of recommendations may contact Tod Bowden at info@chopatagonia.org.
Ranch Rodeo Focuses on Western Traditions

By Marion Vendituoli

The 20th annual Tribute To Ranching, held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds Sept. 12, carried on the tradition of ranching families getting together and cowboys engaging in friendly competition to see who has the best working horse. There were 16 horses entered in the ranch horse competition, four chuckwagon teams, 61 youth in the Junior "Goat Git 'R Done" junior rodeo and teams in the ranch rodeo competition.

Shad Bebe won the Ranch horse competition. He received a bronze horse statue, created by artist Deborah Fellows of Sonoita, which will be cast with his brand. He will also have his name displayed on a plaque on the wall beneath the bronze horse at the entrance to the Sonoita Fair.

The ‘Superpunchers’ team of Callum Cole, Les Peterson and Taos Resor won the Junior Rodeo competition at the Sonoita Ranch Rodeo.

By Barb Kennedy and Shelby England, a mother and daughter team from Desert Hills, who have been competing in chuckwagon competitions for the past 22 years. The junior rodeo, organized by Rachel Lyman, saw three local kids finish in the top three teams. Callum Cole, of Sonoita, was on the winning team. Hurley Hennington was on the 2nd place team and Owen Thomas, of Sonoita, was on the third place team. The ranch rodeo, a timed event that tests working horses and riders in the skills necessary to perform day-to-day ranch work was won by the Hatchet Ranch team.

The committee had to scramble to get the event pulled together. "We didn’t get approval [to hold the event] until the Tuesday after Labor Day," organizer Beth Hughes said. Sponsor request letters were mailed just two weeks before the event. Even so, 25 businesses, organizations and individuals stepped up to support the event. "It’s just amazing the support we received from the community and from supporting businesses," Hughes said.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

When Santa Cruz County was established in 1899 Arizona Governor Oakes Murphy appointed the county’s first public officials. A well-known mine operator and rancher, William H. Barnett of Crittenden, was appointed Sheriff in March 1899. Barnett served only a few months in office, resigning because the Board of Supervisors refused to pay adequate salaries to Sheriff Department staff. [The Oasis, 4/28/1900].

His appointed successor was Thomas F. Brodrick who served from 1899 to 1900. Brodrick had been a “Street Supervisor” and Nogales Town Marshal, and was a Nogales delegate to the Arizona Democratic convention. In January 1901, the first elected sheriff, Tom Turner, assumed office. Turner served two terms as sheriff until 1904.

Tom Turner was born in Moscow, TX in 1861. He moved to Arizona in his 20s to ranch on the San Pedro River near Florence, and a few years later was foreman of the Empire Ranch. He played an instrumental role in the famed 1890 Vail cattle drive from the Empire Ranch to Warner Springs, CA. He managed the Empire Ranch until about 1895 when he began to operate his own ranch in Elgin. When elected sheriff he announced he would “put his business affairs in order and move to Nogales with family to assume office.” [Border Vidette 11/10/1900]. He and his wife Mary had four children: Earl, Jewel, Stella and Verna.

Turner quickly developed a reputation as a “law and order” sheriff. At the start of his first term he became known for his enforcement of Nogales gun laws at local saloons. “When the crowds were the largest, in walked Sheriff Tom Turner and two or three deputies. Tom assigned his men to guard the doors and then ordered all within each place to ‘line up’...as each ‘line up’ was ordered he searched every man for concealed weapons. He found a number who carried a gun and these were summoned to square themselves at the expense of $50.” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/14/1901]. He was praised: “Mr. Turner was elected sheriff last November by a handsome majority and is making a splendid administration of his office.” [Arizona Daily Star, 6/4/1901]

In 1902, when Turner ran for a second term, a dispute with Allen T. Bird, editor of The Oasis, a Nogales paper, became public. Allen was a Republican and Turner a Democrat. “There was a serious altercation Saturday... between Sheriff Turner and Col. Allen T. Bird... Bird had charged in his paper that prisoners housed in jail had been registered for voting purposes and the sheriff took severe exceptions to it. Sheriff Turner resented some of the criticisms and when the two men met Saturday evening the sheriff assaulted the editor severely.” [Bisbee Daily Review 10/15/1902].

Bird regularly used The Oasis to criticize Turner and other democrats: “Why Tom Turner told Bird to ‘leave him alone in his paper,’ was the excuse put forward by one of his strikers in a recent discussion of the brutal outrage of last Saturday night. Since when has Tom Turner been greater than the Constitution of the United States. That instrument guarantees Bird and all other newspaper men the right to discuss Tom Turner or any other office-holder or office-seeker. They can object only when the criticisms leveled at them are false.” [The Oasis, 10/18/1902]. Turner was re-elected by a large margin.

Tom ran for a third term in 1904 but lost the election to the Republican candidate by five votes. [The Oasis, 11/12/1904].

Just prior to the 1906 election Bird published several critical accounts of Turner, even though he was not a candidate. “Under Tom Turner, the second democratic sheriff, the personal property tax collections diminished from about $3,000 per annum to less than $1,200 between the first year of his first term and the last year of his second term. His stub books for receipts of personal property were missing and there was no way for determining whether he failed to return the money himself, whether the deputies in the office got it, or whether the taxes were not collected.”

[The Oasis, 10/20/1906]. These articles also included effusive support for the republican candidate, who lost the election.

Turner returned to ranching, first working for the Greene Cattle Co. (1905-1908), as superintendent of the Empire Ranch (1909-1911), and partnering with L.E. Carrillo of Nogales to raise cattle on Carrillo’s ranch in Elgin (1912-1915). By 1918 he and his family relocated to San Bernardino County, CA. Tom died in 1937 in Los Angeles, age 75.

Rotary Serves Community

The Mountain Empire Rotary Club (MER) recently inducted new members Steve Bacon, Mike Veta and Chris Johnson.

MER has worked to keep our students engaged, learning and reading throughout the pandemic. Recently we were awarded a matching Rotary Grant to purchase eight Chromebooks for Patagonia Elementary School, where 87% of the students are classified as low-income, so they could participate in Distance Learning.

MER gave out 150 new books to students to continue reading over the summer. MER not only provided reading at home for the elementary students, but will also provide tutoring. Each year we distribute approximately 40 Dictionary/Resource books to every 3rd grader in our communities.

MER hosted a breakfast reception for Patagonia School staff on Aug 11, in appreciation of their dedication and work in providing the best education in these challenging times of educating our students. We’ll do the same for the staff at Elgin Elementary as soon as

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I believe Santa Cruz county government has an obligation to its residents to improve our roads and our parks, support public safety, and promote job creation. I have worked on these issues tirelessly since I took office.

--

AS YOUR COUNTY SUPERVISOR, I WILL CONTINUE TO:

- Be a Strong Supporter of our Quality of Life
  We must continue to strategically grow our parks, walkways and playing fields and support the Rodeo & Fair Grounds.

- Play to Our Strengths
  Our human capital is one of our great resources; our location is another. Ranching, Wine Making, Tourism and International Trade thrive here.

- Create Jobs in Santa Cruz County
  We must continue to work with local business groups to support their efforts in job creation. Recognizing their investment and commitment to our community.

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Karla Cafarelli, of Sonoita, was named “2020 CattleWoman of the Year” by the Arizona State Cowbelles (ASC) at their virtual convention, held on August 7. She was presented with a plaque “in appreciation and recognition of her dedication and continued support to the cattle industry.” Cafarelli joined the Elgin Sonoita Cowbelles in 2003 and soon was serving as secretary for the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles. She became secretary of the Arizona State Cowbelles in 2007. a position she held for 12 of the past 14 years, working under nine different presidents of that organization. “I was humbled and honored to receive this award knowing so many of the extraordinary women who were previous recipients,” she said. Cafarelli co-chaired the Cowbelle booth at the Tucson Festival of Books for three years, travelled to Ft. Bliss in Texas twice to work with the All American Beef Battalion to produce ‘Steaks for Troops’ events there and twice co-chaired Steaks for Troops events at Ft. Huachuca. In 2009, she co-chaired the County Cowbelle Ranch Tour. Cafarelli has participated with multiple Ag Day events, ranch tours, Pioneer Luncheons at the Arizona National Livestock Show, and various other ASC events. She graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1977 and worked for Hughes Aircraft as a systems engineer from 1977 – 1992. She then went to work for the Center for Concept Development in Princeton NJ. She and her husband Gene moved to Sonoita in 2001, from New Jersey. They became interested in having cattle and began to breed longhorn cattle. In addition to Cowbelles, Cafarelli has been active in politics and serves as a precinct committee person for the local Republican party. She is also chairman of Sonoita Hills Community Church. The Arizona State Cowbelles are an affiliate of the American National CattleWomen. The mission of the organization is to support the Arizona beef industry, consumer education, promote the heritage of ranching and support youth interested in agriculture.

While talking with the chief of the Sonoita Elgin Fire Department, Pastor Rick Rinde of Sonoita Hills Community Church (SHCC) learned that the department needed frozen meals for feeding fire personnel. This is especially challenging during fire season because of the number of volunteers who help provide assistance during a fire. In the past, individuals have provided freezable foods which the firefighters could easily heat up when they return to the fire station after an emergency response.

However, since the onset of Covid-19, their freezers have sat empty. Pastor Rinde recognized that this could be an opportunity for the community to help our first responders. SHCC prepared meals and raised funds to contribute more meals to the fire department’s freezer. Additionally, the Costco located at Tucson Marketplace generously donated $150 toward filling the department’s freezer. Their freezer is now nearly full and ready for them if there’s another fire. Sonoita Hills Community Church looks forward to continuing to support our first responders throughout the year. If you would like to help in the future, please contact Pastor Rick at 520-455-5172.
On March 13, 2020 Andrea read How to Catch a Leprechaun to 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders in Patagonia. Those wishing to become part of Cochise County credit Andrea with stopping that endeavor. Andrea fought to keep Santa Cruz County intact which avoided a property tax INCREASE for all.

**ANDREA NEEDS ONE OF YOUR TWO VOTES IN THE NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 2 HOUSE.**

“State Sen. Andrea Dalessandro was named 2018 Legislator of the Year by the Arizona Alliance of Community Health Centers after being nominated by Mariposa Community Health Center in recognition of her support of the health centers in her district.”

~Nogales Internaitonal, February 13, 2018

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Andrea Dalessandro 📬@Dalessandro4AZ
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MISCELLANEOUS

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$725,000  CROWN C ESTATE  MLS # 21930138  44+ ACRES
Privacy with WOW views. 5475 with 2 living units. Sunroom, bonus room, courtyard, garage, loads of storage. 3Bd/3Ba. Private well. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

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5670 sf, luxuriously remodeled. Land is dividable & has grazing lease. No HOA. Direct access to National Forest. Great for horses or vineyard. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

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COMpletely REMODELED! Rammed earth construction. Updated kitchen & baths, hardwood floors, new AC. Barn w/14 stalls. Wine cave. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$527,500  UNITQUE ELGIN WINE COUNTRY HOME  MLS # 22099062  15 FENCED ACRES
VIEWS in every direction. 3571 sf home w/3Bd/3Ba plus 2400 sf shop w/full bath. Pipe fencing, horse facilities, private well, indoor pool. LAARY DeMUN 520 732-9179

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$299,900  NEW CUSTOM HOME IN PATAGONIA  MLS # 22019085  149 ROADRUNNER LANE
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