Board Looking into Allegations

Fire Chief Joseph DeWolf is on paid administrative leave while an investigation into claims of a hostile work environment at the station is being conducted.

By Kat Crockett and Marion Vendituoli

Sonoita Elgin Fire District (SEFD) Fire Chief Joseph DeWolf was placed on paid administrative leave at the October 9 Fire District Board meeting, pending an investigation of allegations of a hostile work environment within the fire department. On October 20, a second member of the SEFD administration, EMS Director Laura Sink, was also placed on paid administrative leave.

Chris Johnson, Chairman of the SEFD Board, stated that “the board received a number of letters over the past several months from the community and current and former employees that led the board to appoint an investigator.” According to Johnson, Mark Bennett, who had been employed as Operations Chief, resigned in July 2020, and that many people felt that he was forced out by the Chief.

In early August, Chief DeWolf had been placed on medical leave at his request. He appointed Jon Buonaccorsi, a former captain at the station, as the acting chief at SEFD, with his salary set at $2,000 per pay period. At the October 9 board meeting, DeWolf was directed to have no contact with the district except for responding to the investigator and dealing with the Acting Chief. He was also directed not to work with Palominas or use any district vehicle. (The SEFD Chief also serves as Chief of the Palominas Fire Department under an intergovernmental agreement between the two Fire Districts.)

“I am really trying to make the fire department a nice place to work”, said Johnson. He stated that it is the board’s responsibility to the people to do due diligence and investigate these allegations and the work environment. “I would rate the morale on scale from 1 to 10 (with 10 being excellent) at about a 4 or 5 since the beginning of the year. Contributing factors are supervision, not being listened to, and not getting answers. We are looking into allegations of retaliation, verbal abuse, physical abuse, and possibly sexual misconduct, and involving multiple members of the administration.” The investigation is also looking at qualifications and certifications of Fire Station employees.

“I have no comment on that, because I am not aware of anything like that,” Chief DeWolf said in a recent phone interview. He has been with SEFD for 24 years, and Chief for 18 years. “I came out of my medical leave. I emailed a letter [to the board] from my doctor saying I could go back to work. I went into a meeting and they put me on administrative leave. It was a total shock.”

There has been some sentiment expressed that both Bennett and current employee Kathe Prentice have been ousted from their jobs in retaliation for their perceived support of a complaint of sexual misconduct on the part of Chief DeWolf, although Bennett denies having had any involvement in that complaint. Chrystal Belt, formerly of Elgin, filed a complaint in January 2019 alleging that DeWolf, on Nov. 9, 2018, became inebriated at a local bar, where she was working. Later that evening he accosted her at her home and tried to kiss her. According to the report she sent to the SEFD Board, “He lunged toward me, grabbed my left arm and put his right hand around my neck and pulled me towards him trying to kiss me.” DeWolf declined to comment on this allegation.

According to Johnson, the board-initiated investigation into the 2018 incident revealed that DeWolf was not on duty, he did not use any firefighter
We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to newsstands the first Friday of the month. We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to newsstands the first Friday of the month. PRT is the Mountain Empire community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz County, including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita, and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

**WHO WE ARE**

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

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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**Double your Donations With Newsmatch**

By the PRT Fundraising Committee

Heading into the end of the year, many of us are reflecting on how unprecedented and unpredictable 2020 has been. From the pandemic to civil unrest, extreme storms and wildfires, not to mention a high stakes election cycle, 2020’s impacts have been far greater than anyone could have anticipated. These impacts have, of course, been felt locally and globally, at an individual level and organizationally for us here at the PRT. And yet, one thing is certain: the hunger for news is stronger than ever before.

That’s why we’re excited to share an opportunity to double your donation this year. We have once again been selected to participate in NewsMatch, a national matching-gift campaign that drives donations to nonprofit newsrooms (like ours) around the U.S. Since 2016, NewsMatch has raised over $100 million for nonprofit journalism. That’s a lot of impact.

In the last year, the PRT has added a mid-month e-news service, co-sponsored a photography and essay contest with our schools, collaborated with the University of Arizona School of Journalism to publish a special edition of the paper, initiated a recycling task force whose members are working to return recycling services to Santa Cruz County, and held two public forums live on Facebook for candidates running in critical races in Santa Cruz County (with thousands of views).

Since the pandemic, the PRT has seen an astounding increase in its web presence, with our website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channel. We hope to add Instagram in 2021 to our list of social media handles. You’ll see PRT banners at both Patagonia Public and Elgin Schools. And, we published and distributed 10 regular issues of the paper!

When Arizona, and particularly Santa Cruz County, became a hot spot for COVID this spring and summer, the PRT increased its coverage of COVID-19 with daily on-line updates. When public health and safety required our local businesses to close their doors, the PRT recognized the economic hardship and reduced advertising rates for our merchants, even giving our local advertisers free ads. Increased expense and decreased revenue has obviously affected our bottom line.

Last year the PRT was able to raise $28,000 during our first-ever NewsMatch campaign. It was crucial for our operational expenses, for creating a small reserve fund and for the expanded coverage and community services we have been providing since March 2020. But this year, donations are absolutely critical for our continued existence. Nonprofit news gives power to people, but power doesn’t come for free.

The PRT is a lean machine, the paid time of our four staff members combined is less than one full time salary, our columnists and reporters are volunteers, and we have no office space to house our storage and equipment. Your investment in the PRT goes a long way.

**Here’s how NewsMatch works:**

We can earn up to $11,500 in matching funds from NewsMatch. For donations received between Nov.1 and Dec 31, NewsMatch will match your new monthly donation x12 or double your one-time gift, all up to $5,000.

The PRT must raise at least $20,000 from our donor base in order to continue producing the high-quality, independent, and local journalism you’ve come to depend on - especially this year.

The time is now. Trusted journalism like ours has never mattered more.

**Give today and NewsMatch will double the impact of your donation.** Send us a check to:

P.O. Box 1073 Patagonia, AZ 85624

Or donate online at www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/

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**Receive Breaking Local News Sent Straight to Your Inbox**

Sign up for the PRT E-News Service! As a e-subscriber you will receive an email with top stories and a link to the new issue before it is available in the stands, a mid-month update with local news, breaking news and reminders for important community events.

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**2nd Annual PRT School Essay Contest**

The PRT, in collaboration with the Patagonia Creative Arts Center and Borderlands Restoration Network, is sponsoring the 2nd annual Patagonia Regional Times essay contest. The contest is open to all students in Elgin, Canelo, Patagonia and Sonoita in grades 6 - 12. There will be two divisions, Middle School (grades 6 - 8) and High School (grades 9 - 12).

Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the first place, second place and honorable mention winners.

**Essay Topics:**

**Grades 6 – 8:**

1. If it were up to you to choose one item from your community to place in a time capsule for future generations, what would you choose? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice, explaining both the item’s significance and the reasons why it embodies the culture of your community.

2. Some people are actively involved in promoting and supporting a cause, such as fighting for racial equity or protecting the environment from climate change. Is there a cause you actively support? Write an essay convincing readers to support that cause.

**Grades 9 – 12:**

1. Some people are actively involved in promoting and supporting a cause, such as fighting for racial equity or protecting the environment from climate change. Is there a cause you actively support? Write an essay convincing readers to support that cause.

The deadline for entries is December 15, 2020.

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

This issue of the PRT marks the last paper that Aisha Sander will have worked on as assistant editor, as she and her family are moving to Pakistan in December. Aisha has been an important part of the PRT for the past two years. Her energy, insights, intellectual curiosity, and willingness to take on a variety of roles have all helped to mold the paper you are reading today into something we can all be so proud of. It is a gross understatement to say that she will be missed.

So, it was with some skepticism that I read over the applications that came in from the five candidates that applied for the assistant editor job. How we could possibly find a candidate that could begin to fill Aisha’s shoes, overseeing our web presence, writing articles, helping with layout, managing our fundraising software, to name a few of Aisha’s responsibilities, not to mention maintaining a sense of humor when I call frantically wondering where I lost something on the computer? But, to my happy surprise, all five candidates were impressive, and I hope that we can find a way to involve them all in the paper.

One candidate, though, checked all our boxes. She will be missed.

By Marion Vendituoli

SCC 2020 Election Results

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* These are unofficial results from the SCC Elections Office as of 11/4/2020. The PRT will post official results on our website as they become available - www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org

Stroll to the Polls Patagonia Style

 Approximately 35 local women “strolled to the polls” in Patagonia on Oct. 30 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage and encourage all area residents to get out and vote. Organized by India Aubrey and Robin Kulibert, the event was patterned after, and sanctioned by, the Divine Nine Stroll to the Polls Movement in Atlanta, GA, started by the four sororities of the Divine Nine, the nine Greek organizations of American Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
SEFD (Cont.)

vehicles or resources, he made appropriate arrangements for coverage and was not on call or working at the time. Johnson stated that disciplinary action was taken against the Chief; however, he cannot say what that action was due to privacy and confidentiality restrictions. In a recent interview with the PRT, Belt stated that she was never informed of the results of the investigation.

Phil Burdine, of Sonoita, addressed the SEFD Board at the Sept. 28 board meeting. “I was a firefighter here for 17 months,” he said. “What I am about to say is not going to be welcome to some, but I have to say it. I left the day that Mark Bennett allegedly quit. I believe there were some improprieties with his departure. Also, there’s another person here leaving in November, for reasons I believe are questionable...These two people are tremendous assets to this department, and I don’t believe their departure is legal.”

At that same board meeting, Jade DeForest, of Sonoita, a volunteer at SEFD, said, “I am concerned for myself what is happening to this department. I am working with these people on a regular basis and I see more and more depression, despair, anxiety...How can we do our job and not be afraid of retaliation?”

There are members of the department, and in the community, who are opposed to this latest investigation. Angel Perez, who is a volunteer at SEFD, spoke at the Oct. 26 board meeting to praise Chief DeWolf both personally and professionally. “I could never see him create a hostile work environment,” he said.

Suzanne Jenkins, of Elgin, a past member of the SEFD Board, felt that “the board has taken some actions that may or may not be necessary...The board, by putting the Chief and Laura on administrative leave, it’s costing the district a lot of money. Is there any real reason for them to have done that? He could have come back to work.”

The cost of the present investigation is also a point of contention. At the Oct. 26 board meeting, Vicki Rutter, SEFD bookkeeper, spoke about the “huge” expense overages due to the unbudgeted salaries for the acting Chief and for temps filling in for personnel on administrative leave. “Necessary maintenance is being set aside” because of these expenses, she told the Board. “Expenses should be monitored very carefully for the rest of the year,” she advised.

The 2019 investigation and attorney fees totaled $19,478, a cost borne by the fire district taxpayers. When asked about the cost of the current investigation, Johnson stated that this investigation is much broader in scope than the 2019 investigation and involves multiple events, a broader timeframe. Rutter, SEFD bookkeeper, spoke about the “huge” expense overages, which the district has to monitor very carefully for the rest of the year, she said.

By the end of November, the Board will move forward with necessary actions.

DeWolf receives a salary of $84,413 from SEFD, as well as $52,000 for his role as Chief of the Palominas Fire District, for a total salary of $136,413. This past spring, DeWolf’s contract was extended for two years effective Sept. 1, 2020. It can be terminated by either party as provided in the contract.

PUHS Campus To Remain Closed, Elgin Still Open

By Sarah Klingenstein

Patagonia Union High School, after having moved to distance learning on Oct. 14, due to two cases of COVID19, will continue in that mode for the immediate future. Though the administration had hoped to return to hybrid learning on Nov. 2, the data from Santa Cruz County is showing upwards trends in cases and percent positivity on testing.

The Patagonia Middle and Elementary campuses remain open. COVID testing is available to students every Friday from 12:30 to 1:30p.

While the latest data dashboard indicates that hybrid learning may be possible, it is up to each district to make its own decisions for its community.

According to Superintendent Mary Foley of Elgin School, it is still critical that these decisions are made taking the county data into account, but along with school trends, hyper-local trends, and in consultation with area experts.

Patagonia School Superintendent Kenny Hayes says that with the numbers going up, it just doesn’t make sense to bring the high school students back on campus, and that they will be evaluating on a weekly basis. “Now we are entering a closely spaced holiday period, with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the potential for large gatherings.”

He believes, if students and families are really careful, hybrid learning at the high school may resume. “Your friends and family members would never give you COVID on purpose. But the virus doesn’t care about intent. The virus will spread from one person to four to six others if unchecked. You don’t know what other people are doing when they are not around you. We all need to look in the mirror and ask ourselves if we are following the procedures strictly, or if we saw someone not social distancing and didn’t say anything. It’s hard to do, but we have to do it.”

Elgin School is still conducting in-person school. Foley says about ten percent of students are participating through distance learning. “We had one positive case, but we were lucky that the student was sick or contagious during our fall break, so the virus did not spread. We’ve had no other cases.”

School leaders continue to work closely with Jeff Terrell, County Health Director, and Mariposa Community Clinic as they navigate the changing situation.

COVID School Benchmarks Revised

By Aisha Sander

In August 2020, the Arizona Dept. of Health Services (AZDHS) established three benchmarks for school districts to assess opening in-person, staying virtual, or opting for a hybrid model. The three benchmarks were (1) a two-week decline in the number of cases or two weeks with new case rates less than per 100 per 100,000 population; (2) testing positivity of 7% or lower for two weeks; and (3) two weeks of declining hospitalizations. Santa Cruz County met all three benchmarks in September 2020, and schools in Elgin and Patagonia have begun in-person instruction. The Patagonia Union High School opened for a few weeks but has returned to virtual high school due to a COVID-19 outbreak among its students. (two positive cases not from the same household). Patagonia Middle and Elementary Schools remain open for in-person instruction.

In August AZDHS guidelines stated that schools were expected to evaluate their decision to reopen if any ONE of the benchmarks had changed to substantial risk for consecutive two weeks. During the week of Oct. 25, however, AZDHS changed the metrics so that school districts would have the option to continue in-person instruction until all THREE benchmarks are met.

Currently, the state and Santa Cruz County are showing an increase in cases, testing positivity, and hospitalizations. When asked by journalists at an Oct. 29 press conference, Governor Ducey said that the decision to change the metrics was based on input from stakeholders in the education community. Schools will continue to make decisions based on their local district and with help from their local health dept, said Ducey.

However, it appears that Kathy Hoffman, AZ Supt of Education, was not involved in this decision. She posted a statement shortly after the press conference, clarifying that the “AZ Dept. of Education did not request or recommend any changes to AZDHS school benchmarks.”

File Photo by Marion Vendittoli

“It was a total shock,” said Chief Joseph DeWolf after the SEFD Board put him on administrative leave. Patagonia’s Union High School, after having moved to distance learning on Oct. 14, due to two cases of COVID19, will continue in that mode for the immediate future. Though the administration had hoped to return to hybrid learning on Nov. 2, the data from Santa Cruz County is showing upwards trends in cases and percent positivity on testing.

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South32 Hosts Open House
By Marion Vendituoli

More than 40 people attended an open house hosted by South32, held on the football field at PUHS on Oct. 20. Visitors were not permitted to film any of the open house and the press was only allowed to quote ‘designated spokesperson,’ not the presenters at each of the stations. The PRT was given permission to take photos at the event.

One of the most visited stations at the South32 Open House focused on access routes, as many residents of eastern Santa Cruz County are distressed about the route that the mining company has proposed for moving equipment, ore and personnel between the Hermosa Mine on Harshaw Rd. and Tucson.

The proposed ‘Cross Creek Connector’ between Harshaw Rd. and SR 82 would skirt the town of Patagonia, crossing over 15 parcels of land recently purchased by South32. Some construction has already begun, although the presenter at this station emphasized that the company’s pre-feasibility study has once more been delayed, and that they would be revisiting all options.

This was in contrast to the statement made at the open house by Pat Risner, President of the Hermosa Project that “this needs to be the initial route.” He did say that there could possibly be other routes developed later as mining operations proceed.

He pointed out that South32 had brought in experts to evaluate cultural and biological resources over the Cross Creek route. He also said that the company determined that the proposed route would result in less significant environmental disturbance than other routes that they looked at, and, because the road would be built entirely on private land, the company was not subject to any permitting requirements.

The presenter at the resource monitoring station discussed mitigation efforts to minimize the effect of the Cross Creek Connector on wildlife along the route of the new road. The road would be built in an undeveloped area which is part of a major wildlife corridor between the Patagonia and Santa Rita Mountains. The presenter stated that the speed limit would be set at 35 mph and that the three bridges that would be constructed all met AZ Game and Fish criteria. She said that animals could avoid the road by passing under these bridges. She also said that they would be monitoring the situation and they could potentially install rumble strips to slow traffic down.

According to Jenny Fiore, Communications Director for South32, “Modeling efforts by Northern Arizona University and the Arizona Game and Fish Department have located biologically-best corridors for wildlife movement between the Patagonia and Santa Rita Mountains at approximately 1.5 miles north and 1 mile south of the prospective route.”

“They are correct that NAU and AZGF identified those two corridors,” local ecologist Ron Pulliam said, “but they [NAU and AZGF] also identified the swath of land alongside Sonoita Creek as part of that corridor. South32 is proposing to put a major industrial road right through that corridor.”

Objections to this route are not only focused on the creation of the connector road, but also on the increased traffic that would travel through Sonoita to Tucson. The presenter at the access routes station estimated that traffic from the mine would travel the roads during 16 hours per day, potentially doubling truck traffic on both SR 82 and SR 83, according to data collected by ADOT.

Fiore responded to this by stating that this number of vehicles does not “represent average daily counts. Rather, they reflect peak total truck traffic (not just concentrate trucks) for Hermosa that might be experienced on a given day. Therefore, it would not be correct to infer an average hourly traffic volume from that range, especially with preliminary studies indicating that the truck traffic would hit such peak volumes only on rare occasions.”

Four other stations were set up around the field covering underground exploration, hydrology and wastewater, water treatment plant and discharges, and well monitoring and creek crossings.

South32 has announced that they will be holding a similar Open House at the Sonoita Fairgrounds on Nov. 16 from 4p.m. to 6p.m.
The Patagonia District School Boards voted to extend the existing IGA between the school districts and the Town through Feb. 2021, with the caveat that if the cost assessment to get the pool up and running came in over the Town's finances as well as for the the schools. FOPP was pleased to learn that the cost for the facility audit, to be conducted by Counsilman-Hunsaker, will be considerably less expensive than the originally proposed full opening plan, which had included training for operators and a complete opening, operations and maintenance plan. FOPP determined that the facility audit would be sufficient at this point. It will identify the physical needs of the pool to operate and be in compliance, along with costs and phased timing for most immediate needs. This assessment will give the Town and schools a clear picture of what they own, its value, and costs to get it ready to open.

The recent article in the PRT has also been bearing fruit. A resident of Patagonia contacted FOPP who has experience in teaching swim lessons and water safety, programming and pool operation, expressing interest in being the pool/program manager. Also, a chiropractor is interested in coaching swim teams and has experience teaching CPR, and a musician has volunteered to help with a fundraiser with his music.

On Nov. 4, FOPP plans to have Patio Pools reassess the pool cleanup costs. The group expects to receive the quote for the assessment from Counsilman-Hunsaker and scope for facility assessment in the near future, as well. The company could schedule their assessment trip in about a month after that and would have a final report about a month after the visit.

The South32 Hermosa grant committee will meet in mid-November to determine whether to award FOPP an extra $10,000 for the assessment. The good news there is that the group can get the basic assessment and do a good deal toward pool cleanup and ongoing operation for a few months without it, if need be.

FOPP has not asked donors to send in their earlier pledges up to this point, because they wanted to make sure there was a path forward for the pool. The results of the facility audit should provide the answer to that question.
DORIS WENIG
OCTOBER 27, 1928 – OCTOBER 3, 2020

Patagonia lost one of its most beloved citizens when late on the night of Oct. 3, Doris Wenig passed in the familiar surroundings of her home with her devoted husband Don Wenig at her side. She would have celebrated her 92nd birthday on Oct. 27.

Doris Marie Melcher was born on Oct. 27, 1928 at home in rural Pipestone County, MN, the second child of three born into the family of Joseph and Marie Melcher. Though she grew up on a farm, as her cousin Dick Klosterman remembers their childhood, Doris was “not your typical farm girl. She was more adventurous.” Perhaps that was the trait that led two of her aunts to urge her to “get off the farm.”

Doris took that advice and got a teaching certificate after two years of schooling in Browns Valley, MN. She recalled that one of her elementary students was 16 years old. Later she returned for more schooling and received a bachelor’s degree in education at Morehead College.

She was recruited by Tucson District One Schools at the elementary level. Always bent on self-improvement, she added credentials to become a children’s librarian and art teacher. She served in those capacities during her 40-year career.

Tucson sustained her not only with a job, but she made several life-long friends, two of whom became key figures in her life, Bernice Pomeroy and Don Wenig, who later became her husband of 48 years.

When the Wenigs retired, they moved to Patagonia, a town they had already grown to love. They opened a B&B and traveled off and on for several years. They then designed and built the home of their dreams and enjoyed it for several years before deciding that a formal retirement community was more suited to their needs. They sold their home and moved to Green Valley, but ultimately, they decided it was less fulfilling than they expected and bought and moved back to the home they had reluctantly left.

She and Don enjoyed life, nature, and dancing, spending many Sunday afternoons across the border at La Roca dining and dancing.

Patagonians will miss seeing Doris as they go about their daily lives around town. Many will recall the countless occasions on which she brightened their day with a warm smile, light-hearted laughter or kind words of acceptance and support that came so easily to her. They will remember, too, her love of the community’s bountiful music, dance and art.

Doris was a doer, a roll-up-your-sleeves and get to work kind of person. An avid supporter and participant in many community activities, organizations and causes, she will likely be best remembered for her work with Friends of the Library.

Upon learning in the late 1990s that the town could not pay the librarian’s salary, Doris swung into action with a most improbable fundraising idea...selling chocolate chip cookies baked and donated by her friend Bernice. The cookie sale proved to be only the first of a myriad of fundraising activities that included two golf tournaments and bus tours to surrounding points of interest that raised nearly $18,000 in support of the library. Perhaps the most important outcomes of this flurry of activity, however, was the creation of the Patagonia Regional Community Fund and the Patagonia Library Endowment Fund, both of which provide critical financial support to a wide range of activities.

While those who knew Doris will miss her infectious warmth, energy and enthusiasm, the entire town will long enjoy the fruits of her tireless efforts to make this community like no other-friendly, vibrant and captivating.

A lifelong Catholic, Doris was a member of the St. Therese Parish in Patagonia.

Memorial donations may be made to the Patagonia Public Library. No memorial service is planned.

H. WAYNE PRUETT
JUNE 10, 1942 – OCTOBER 22, 2020

H. Wayne Pruett, long-time resident of Sonoita, Arizona, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020. Wayne Pruett was born in Raton, New Mexico, on June 10, 1942, to Ben and Mary Pruett. Wayne was the fourth of five siblings: the oldest, JB, followed by twins Leonard and Lloyd and after them Wayne. The boys have a younger sister, Lynette Lovitt. Wayne grew up on the TO Ranch in northern New Mexico, outside of Raton. He grew up working on the ranch, working cattle and playing basketball. After graduating high school in 1960, he earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, in 1964. At NMSU he met his wife, Barbara Handley. They were married on June 12, 1965.

After a brief career in land appraisal, he met Peter Wray of Scottsdale, Arizona, and together they started Pruett-Wray Cattle Company (later known as Victoria Land and Cattle Company). Pruett-Wray had ranches in southern Arizona, western New Mexico, Oregon, and Kansas. Wayne Pruett ran those ranches for Victoria Land and Cattle Company until 1986. Their eldest daughter, Shannan, was born in Nov. 1966; their second daughter, Valerie, was born in January 1969; and their son, Russell, was born in January 1971.

Wayne and Barbara raised their children on various ranches in Arizona including the Heady-Ashburn Ranch (Patagonia), the Buenos Aires Ranch (Sasabe) and the Singing Valley Ranch (Sonoita). Wayne’s work took him to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and China as an agricultural consultant. As the cattle industry declined Wayne found himself working in real estate and construction until an accident in March 2001 left him paralyzed at the waist and below.

Wayne was simply “a good man, known by all,” whether in his home communities, in the cattle industry, or by family and friends. He was always friendly and knowledgeable and had an adventure for anyone who came to visit.

Wayne was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara (July 2010), but is survived by his brothers; JB (and Libby), Leonard (and Mary Lynn) and Lloyd (and Annette); by his sister, Lynette (and Cloyd) Lovitt; and by his beloved friend, Eleanor Ortega. His legacy lives on in his children Shannan (and Torey) Bell, Valerie (and Brady) Burleson, and Russell Pruett; and in his grandchildren Noah and Joshua Bell; Taylor, Cameron, and Amy Burleson; and Blake and Sheyanne Pruett.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wayne and Barbara Pruett Memorial Scholarship. Wayne and Barbara Pruett were avid youth supporters and are continuing that tradition. Mail donations to: Santa Cruz County Jr. Livestock Association (Note: Wayne and Barbara Pruett Memorial Scholarship) P.O. Box 3247, Nogales, AZ 85628

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Mansfield Canyon Mine Remediation Completed

By Robert Gay

The Coronado National Forest (CNF) and its subcontractors completed the earthwork and mine-closure portions of the Mansfield Canyon Remediation Project (reported by PRT in Nov. 2019) at the beginning of 2020. The biological portion of the work – remediation via planting – has now been carried out by Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN), under Native Plant Plant Manager Francesca Claverie. BRN’s work focused on disturbed areas at the tailings encapsulation site along Temporal Road and at the mine sites themselves, a total of six replanted areas. The replanted areas are fenced to prevent grazing, and have ‘straw snakes,’ cylindrical straw-filled wattles, staked into the ground roughly along horizontal lines, to decrease soil erosion.

The disturbed ground of the project was graded to resemble original landforms, and Claverie believes plant ‘volunteers’ from surrounding areas are likely to show up in the enclosures as well, perhaps even oaks and juniper trees. The long-term goal of the project is to return disturbed areas to nature, making them less toxic as well. The Hosey Mine, near the head of the Mansfield watershed, is on a ridge about 1/2 mile west, below which water flows to Josephine Canyon. The mine is in a wash accessed by a branch road from Forest Service Road 72A, numbered 4901, and gated on a ridge, about 700 ft. vertically above the mine site. From about 1906-1935 the several mines of the “Hosey Group” produced both lead and copper, with secondary minerals being gold, silver, barium and zinc. Besides zones of gray and rusty red rock, the site has abundant yellow sulfitie/sulfide coloration in the ground and water. The tailings, containing high levels of heavy metals such as antimony, arsenic and lead, were largely repositioned to the Temporal Road encapsulation site, for a total relocated tailings volume of about 54,000 cubic yards.

An adit at the Dixie Mine has been blocked off with bat friendly wire. slope down to the wash was revegetated and enclosed.

The purpose of these Mansfield projects was to reduce the amount of soluble toxic metals like lead and arsenic flowing from these mines into the Sonora Creek watershed, Lake Patagonia and the Santa Cruz River. However, the remediation proposal did not include an ongoing monitoring program to determine the downstream water-quality results. At both the Hosey Mine and “Site 7,” seepage near creekbed level continues, but at this time does not have enough flow to reach about four miles downstream to the wash at Temporal Gulch, which joins Sonora Creek about a mile below Patagonia.

Using conventional acid-base test strips, pH testing of water in Temporal Gulch (about a half mile above the AZ trailhead) showed its water to be normal at the neutral pH of 7.0. Testing for the first hundred yards or so of flow at the Hosey site revealed increasingly acidic pH levels. Going downstream from seepage beginning at a filled tunnel, readings were 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 and 2.5, with readings less than 3.5 labeled as “ultra acidic.” These values show that the acid mine drainage picks up acidity as it flows over the sulfate/sulfite-containing bed of the stream, likely through the formation of sulfuric acid which in turn dissolves and transports other minerals from rocks it passes over and through.

Dissolved minerals in acid mine drainage, especially heavy metals, are the primary environmental concern in historical mining areas, since most are toxic to life forms ingesting them, or trying, like fish and frogs, to live in them. Determining the mineral content of the Mansfield Canyon waters would require full lab analysis of samples at many different flow conditions.

Work For Border Group Continues Despite COVID

Pancho Ocholea and Linda Hirsch offer supplies to a young mother and child in Nogales, Sonora

By Sarah Klingenstein

Voices from the Border (VFB) has been tending to the medical and humanitarian needs of asylum-seekers and residents in Nogales, Sonora for the past 2.5 years. Several days each week, their refurbished ambulance, ‘La Cristina,’ was a familiar sight at the various shelters and gathering places near the border.

But the situation at the US-Mexico border has changed greatly since the onset of COVID19. In March, the Trump administration halted the asylum process, leaving hundreds of families to choose whether to return to sometimes dangerous homelands, move to new regions, or stay on in Nogales as residents, unable to move forward.

Due to the spread of the virus and the lack of adequate personal protective equipment, the core Sonoran Migrant Services team of Nurse Francisca (Pancho) Olaachea Martin and Kathi Noaker curtailed their frequent medical visits. They could no longer dispense medications or advice, or help sick patients connect with adequate medical care. Other volunteers stopped crossing the border as well.

Throughout the spring and into the summer, Noaker and Olachea did what they could from a distance. Noaker outlined the daily work: “Pancho spent (and still spends) a lot of time on the phone and on WhatsApp, talking, counseling, supporting, and doing telemedicine. And we took many trips to the Oxxo [Store] every week to transfer money to the families for all their needs, including food and daily necessities, doctor appointments, medical tests, medicines, etc.”

The third Migrant Services team member, Linda Hirsch, solicited masks for the migrants. “In the spring, through connections with good friends, we had an amazing response to our ‘asks for masks’ shout out. We received hundreds of cloth masks and two dozen N95 molded masks, plus some face shields.” Donors purchased bakery equipment to enable a migrant shelter to better feed its guests. There have been many good deeds, and the needs continue to grow.

On late summer, the team began visiting Nogales once a month. On August 23, Hirsch joined Olachea and Noaker to spend the day checking in with those they had been supporting. “Although it was certainly different than before – masks, the stress of making sure everyone was social distancing, and constantly reminding each other to hand-sanitize – it was still wonderful for the three of us – Linda, Pancho and Kathi – to be working together again and to see so many migrants that we’ve been working with since and before COVID. But it was REALLY hard not to hug everyone,” Noaker said.

In a special fundraising effort, the Board and supporters paid for a major operation earlier this month for a woman whose health was in grave danger. According to the recent newsletter, “the organization is currently providing safe, clean transitional housing to two families who are trying to make a go of it in Nogales, where basic pay in a ‘maquila’ (factory), if you can get the work, is a little over $10 per day.” They hope for the time when they can continue the asylum process.

One of the mothers expressed her gratitude in the newsletter: “For now, we can sleep in peace, even though we have been through some terrible times being cold and hungry and a lot of discrimination from a lot of people. The rents are so high…We know that times are not perfect. We have learned a lot in the middle of this pandemic. We can never forget the help that you brought us for medical attention and the help you give by buying our bordados (embroideries some asylum-seekers make to sell in a partnership with the organization Artisans Beyond Borders). And now thanks to this safe place to live, we’ve been able to enroll our kids in the internet school so they can continue their studies from home.”
By Chris Werkhoven

The truck route proposed by South32 (S32) from its Hermosa Mine in the Patagonia Mountains to the Port of Tucson passes through landscapes unique to the state, even the country, that have been identified by the State of Arizona as a "Scenic Road" and thus not recommended for trucks. This recommendation, of course, includes S32 trucks, especially when cargo is going to be hazardous. How such transports can affect the quality of life for area residents is going to be addressed below in a series of questions.

What is the additional truck traffic volume?

Assume, as per S32’s suggestion, that the quoted additional 200 trucks per day operate indeed “not 24 hours per day” and “mindful of commute hours”, but for about 16 hours per day, as the company suggested. A S32 vehicle would be passing by every 4.8 minutes. Total truck traffic would average a truck passing every 2.9 minutes. That is more than double the current volume of semi-trailers that ignore the “recommendation” and travel between Benson and Nogales at a rate of about one every seven minutes over a 24-hour period.

What is being transported?

S32 refers to “ore trucks” next to “construction and operational traffic.” Firstly, it is not “ore” that is being shipped out of the mine but concentrate. It is called this because it already has a much higher concentration of toxic metal compounds, a product ready for smelting into pure metals at some other place, probably Asia. From S32 documents it can be concluded that S32 plans to use so-called Containertrips™ containers, that have a payload of 20 tons. Lowbed, 34-wheel trucks will be barreling down the mountain and driving, all on public roads, the 58 miles to the rail transfer station at Kolb Road in Tucson, and back.

The quoted need for transport of construction materials will also include explosives needed to blast mine tunnels in mountain sides. Transport of explosives typically is with 20-ton trucks and the compound used is called ammonium nitrate fuel oil. Only three tons of this chemical killed 169 people during the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, not to forget the large scale devastation it caused in Tianjin in 2015 and Beirut in 2020.

Under the category of operational materials one can count the reagents, which is a euphemism for a plurality of process chemicals needed to extract metal compound concentrates from the mined ore and includes the very toxic leaching chemical sodium cyanide. Given the level of hazard (class 6.1, labeled as poison), residents may not want to wait for some “unexpected situation,” a phrase frequently used after a calamity has taken place, and move elsewhere. After all, this chemical is typically transported in 20-ton tanker trucks, hopefully only during daytime and under escort.

What about traffic accidents?

SR 82 already has a higher density of semi-trailers from/to Nogales than present on an average rural road in the U.S. U.S. statistics show that 52% of the deaths involving large trucks take place on rural roads like SR82, and of that number, 74% involves a second vehicle, the occupants of which account for 97% of the deaths. Most truck accidents are due to tire and brake defects, a scenario to avoid at all costs on mountain roads like SR82 and SR83. School buses, passenger cars, motorcycles and bicycles would all be forced to share the road with South32 truck traffic, as the chances for the number of fatal accidents will grow due to the increased number of trucks.

What about air pollution?

From EPA statistical data it can be calculated that an additional 200 trucks per day will put 350,000 tons of greenhouse gases in the immediate environment along the route over the estimated 30 years of operation of the project. To put this into perspective, households along the same route, and during the same time, can be estimated to contribute 45,000 tons. Across the U.S., the ratio between greenhouse gases from transportation and residential sources is about 4.5:1, while the ratio along the proposed truck route is 7.8:1. This means that those residents would be worse off than the average U.S. citizen, while without the additional trucks they are better off, consistent with the idea that rural life is healthier.

From Tucson to Guaymas?

One of the rail destinations mentioned is the Mexican maritime port of Guaymas, a city with 400,000 people and valuable industries, like tourism and cosmetics. To protect these other industries and its citizens, Guaymas has consistently been increasing environmental regulations to curb toxic dust generation from its concentrate transfer operations. It is surprising that, in 2020, Tucson is still welcoming similar operations in spite of its disadvantageous climate conditions and population vulnerability. It seems that Mexico is not hampered by antiquated mining laws when it comes to protecting its people.

If Guaymas is the final choice, then it is counterproductive and endangering more residents than needed by first going north to Tucson by truck, than going south via Nogales to Guaymas by rail. Nogales can be reached by rail by crossing the border a few miles east of Nogales and about 20 miles south of the Hermosa Mine. Yet it seems that the cheapest solution received priority.

Who is benefitting?

Modern mines in highly mineralized rock formations typically show a very high rate of return, explaining the eagerness to remove mountain tops or dig extensive tunnels even in unique and diverse ecosystems like the Patagonia Mountains. Returns are mainly paid out to executive management and stakeholders, while the average resident will not be compensated for any degradation in quality of life caused by just one foreign company. That is how it has been ever since the 1872 mining law gave extraction companies carte blanche over lands that belong to the people and unlimited access to public roads. Time is long overdue to stop such preferential treatments and realize that it is not in the interest of residents that a foreign company can ravage their environment and jeopardize their safety by extracting and exporting their minerals from their mountains using their public roads.

Editor’s note: Chris Werkhoven, a Sonoita resident is a retired executive from the semiconductor process industry. Werkhoven holds a doctorate in Physical Chemistry from the University of Amsterdam.

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 preditor@gmail.com. The PRT reserves the right to edit all submissions for language, length, and content.
THE BATTLE RAGES ON

When you own a 106-year-old house there are bound to be some creaks and pops. Sometimes the front door locks on its own and the cordless drill just starts drilling at 2a.m. Night after exhausting night we were woken by the presence of this night power had been plotting against us. Shrieking chickens at 2a.m. is the last thing you want to hear as the house fills with that noxious odor that cannot be mistaken.

Night the critter has scratched around driving us both mad. We’ve beaten walls, set traps and, despite my better judgment, I let Zach create a series of booby traps involving water and peanut butter, and yet the critter chews on. When I lay in bed at night, I imagine this huge genius rodent (is it a squirrel? A pack rat? Who knows?) pinpointing our exact location and using its long, sinister claws to scratch right above our heads. Smirk included. Sure, the obvious choice is poison and or an exterminator wielding a toxic concoction that would kill mice for the entire block but we’re dealing with a clever fellow who deserves a fair fight.

While the indoor fight raged on, outside, a skunk with equal staying power had been plotting against us. Night after exhaustion night we were woken by the presence of this nighttime marauder, harassing the chickens, and raiding what was left of their food. Shrieking chickens at 2a.m. is the last thing you want to hear at the house fills with that noxious odor that cannot be mistaken.

Frank must have had a rumble with the skunk and then casually sauntered inside via the open doggie door. Let me just say there is no way to contain a 25-pound cat who doesn’t want to be contained and there is certainly no way of washing him unless you want to die. Well played, Mr. Skunk.

We burned all the incense we had, turned on the fans and eventually cleared out most of the smell. We settled into bed and directly to my left was Frank all curled up in my chair – a purring skunk-scented air freshener. We will have to burn the chair because the sponge bath that I gave him earlier didn’t seem to work. But, as things began to quiet down and we began to nod off the chewing began...

Epilogue

Zach set the live trap and finally caught the skunk. We thought we were so clever right up until we found out there isn’t an animal control person here in Patagonia as of now. We spent the morning trapped in the house with a skunked cat. Thanks to our friend Cholla for coming to the rescue. Our skunk POW is now relocated. The indoor battle rages on.

PATIENCE

By Alxe Noden

"Patience is a virtue." We’ve all heard it; my mother said it, your mother probably said it. But why should patience be especially virtuous?

In Buddhist practice we believe that each of us is primordially pure, but our true nature is obscured. We can’t see ourselves for what we are due to the "poisons" of ignorance, desire, and anger. Counteracting these three aspects of consciousness will bring us to a clear understanding of the way we exist in ourselves and in relationship to all other beings.

Patience, then, is the antedote to the poison of anger. No one who is angry lives at ease. But anger is not something that arises in someone else and is transferred to us, like a cold; it’s something we produce on our own. It’s a pernicious gift to give ourselves. Patience is a particularly difficult virtue to practice, since exercising it doesn’t mean tamping down or choking off angry responses to the things that provoke us. That’s just a recipe for becoming frustrated and repressed. Instead it means understanding where anger comes from, and how we can stop it from arising in the first place.

Anger comes from the ego being threatened. Our sense of “Self” is aroused strongly when we’re angry. And that anger is based on fears: of being hurt, left out, trampled on, lost, embarrassed. That fear swells until we lash out. Whether we perceive the threat correctly or not is irrelevant — we get angry, we react.

There are biologically appropriate reasons for fear. If we’re threatened by a wild animal or a school yard bully, the flight or fight response is appropriate, since we need to do something to keep ourselves safe. But though we should act to prevent harm to ourselves and others, we can do that without anger. If a snake rears up at you when you’re hiking, you might get frightened, but you don’t get angry, since it’s just the nature of a snake to protect itself by threatening you.

Patience asks that we find our courage, that we recognize our fears and overcome them rather than attacking others. It means finding a way to counteract threats appropriately but without anger at the one making the threat, like dealing with the snake on the trail.

Patience also demands that we connect with our common humanity. If someone tries to hurt you, they are driven by the same impulses that drive you: greed, or fear, or jealousy.

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These times are different and challenging, demanding change. Calling us to change.

Presently, the bodies we inhabit are challenging us. Our present condition now hosts a virus which has taken our worldly attention and our attention has given it, COVID-19, a lot of power to destroy us, for a while. Like all phenomena, it will come to an end. The virus, once it no longer has the supportive environment it needs to survive, will leave.

We now and have been for generations treating only the symptoms of our diseases. We have drugs for a headache, surgery for a cancer, vaccinations for viruses. We are fighting a war against Nature which is impossible to win while killing and punishing each other in hopes of happiness. We are presently at war with something which has taken our complete attention. COVID-19 is our collective world’s enemy and we are seemingly lessening the spread of COVID-19 by not fully participating in the act of living. Wearing masks, not touching one another, not joining together in work and play obviously lessens the chances of infection but does not address the cause which is our lifestyle and the consequences of that. There are those who are suffering and dying during the Lockdown. The vaccine that will surely come will allow us to continue our lifestyle as we will. The consequences of which will also surely come to be.

Disease is a result of, and can be a strengthening to, a weakened immune system which includes the body as a whole, an interdependent unified whole. The presence of the virus triggers symptoms we’ve been conditioned to understand as disease meaning “TROUBLE,” which it is, and when we are aware we actually enable our body to retreat, to rest and allow the intelligence of Nature, the natural intellect of our body to proceed in its cleansing, its healing. Not unlike a forest fire or storm cleans out that which is weakening to the whole.

Our entire life, which includes our way of thinking, eating, and consuming, is the lifestyle which can weaken our personal and earth’s immune system (which is one in the same) if we are not living consciously. ‘Trouble’ in Oriental medicine also means ‘Opportunity.’

By David Krest

The nature of reality

By Kat Crockett

County blunders at early voting in Sonoita

Sonoita.

Voters were told that additional ballots were on the way. The county said two voters waited for the ballots to arrive and one said he would vote in November. It was unclear how many people were told by others that there were no more ballots and either left or did not participate. A final total of 15 residents of precinct 15.3 voted in person and 40 early ballots were dropped off.

According to Federici, “The odds of Sonoita being the only precinct to run out of ballots is astounding considering the East County already feels disenfranchised. But, in a year where early voting or mail-in voting is in the news cycle every 15 minutes and one can’t open an iPhone or android without getting a text message reminder to vote, sending 14 ballots to a precinct is either malfeasance or lunacy. Either way, it is a black mark on the Sainz administration.”

In summary, voter suppression, whether intentional or not, cannot be tolerated and the county must put measures in place to prevent this from ever happening again.

The future of farming depends on dreams like this. And at American Family Insurance, we’re proud to support the National FFA Organization and the dreams they help make possible.

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Roadwork to Begin in Town

The proposed start date for road work in Patagonia is Nov. 2. The work will start at SR 82 and Taylor Ave. One side will be worked on while the other side will be used for traffic flow. This work will continue to the County line and then reverse. The projected time frame to finish is the end of December. Around the first of May, work will resume on Third Ave. to McKeown and McKeown to Taylor with sidewalks and water mitigation.

CNF Planning Local Mine Remediation

The Sierra Vista District of the Coronado Natl. Forest is developing a proposal for remediation work on five mines in the Patagonia Mountains.

Elgin School, Fairgrounds to Honor Veterans

The Elgin School, which has a long tradition of honoring local vets, will be holding a modified Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 10. The school is planning to decorate the fence and have students stand outside, socially distanced, waving flags and banners while playing patriotic music. The school will be passing out bags with notes from the students and baked goods for the community’s veterans as they drive through the parking lot. The event will start at 10 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. for more information, call 520-455-5514.

The Sonoita Fairgrounds will be hosting a Veteran’s Day Ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 in the grandstands, starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served after the ceremony.

CLARIFICATION

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MINING MYTHS: BUSTED

ARE YOU FALLING FOR THE MYTHS PERPETUATED BY MODERN MINING COMPANIES?

As hardrock mining companies like South32 and Barksdale Resources threaten our community, they utilize myths and misconceptions to get away with their dangerous and irresponsible practices.

The only antidote is educating ourselves and others. It is imperative we know the truth about the extractive industry and take action on what’s happening in the Patagonia Mountains—home to an incredibly diverse range of flora and fauna and an area scientists say is in dire need of protection for species survival.

LEARN THE FACTS BEHIND INDUSTRY MYTHS AT:

www.PatagoniaAlliance.org/Mining-Myths
Recycling Task Force Update

By Bob Brandt

After a disappointing experience in its effort to attract a large audience to view “The Story of Plastic” documentary film, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force is planning a follow-up screening that may feature some in-person viewing in both Patagonia and Sonoita.

The task force originally registered with the film’s producers and issued an invitation to all interested individuals to view the documentary online free of charge during a two-week period ending on Oct. 24. At the close of the viewing period, the group had planned to engage those who saw the film in a Zoom-based discussion focused on identifying action steps and potential markets, start-up scheduling and funding opportunities so that they can determine what type and scale of recycling would work best for the community.

The task force welcomes input from interested individuals. Contact co-chairs Robin Klibert (crobin66@gmail.com) or Bob Brandt (brantown@gmail.com).

Lack of Permit Halts Construction

By Robert Gay

Construction was halted at this work site on Harshaw Rd. when the town became aware that no use permit had been issued for the project.

On Oct. 22, 2020, a letter to Patagonia’s town officials alerted them to an ongoing project on a recently poured slab at 868 Harshaw Road, to be used in a South32 modification to its current Water Treatment Plant at the Hermosa Project. Construction was being done without anyone having applied for a Use Permit.

The Harshaw Rd. property was sold in August 2019, for $525,000 to a Phoenix construction company, Tallin LLC, owned by Denver Whetten. The sale did not include records of a Use Permit for the property. The property had been owned by the Tree of Life Foundation, and has a home formerly occupied by “the Tree” for selling supplements and herbal preparations.

The forms being constructed were for about a dozen roughly 6-foot-square components resembling spread footings. South32 had contracted the project to the large regional construction company Sundt Construction, as general contractor, and Sundt had subcontracted to Whetten’s construction company, Degan Construction, of Phoenix.

The state’s exemption from county regulation of land use by mining ventures, ARS 11-812 (A)(2), does not apply to this lot because the exemption only applies “if the tract concerned is five or more contiguous commercial acres.” The Harshaw property is 2.28 commercial acres, less than half the lower limit of the current legal exemption.

When the Town brought this matter to the attention of South32’s local officials, they claimed no knowledge of the component fabrication site not having a use permit, and immediately terminated the project. By Oct. 27, the rebar and wooden formwork had been disassembled and removed.

Check It Out At The Library

By Laura Wenzel

Join us on Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 am for a Facebook live virtual storytime event with local author Kristin Gudenberg, who will read her new book “Grumpaloffagus: He Sure is Grumpy!” Tag along on his adventure as Grumpaloffagus discovers different kinds of food. Visit Patagonia Library on Facebook to tune in to the live event. Don’t have Facebook? Register in advance by calling 520-394-2010 or email us at info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org to receive the Zoom link.

Have you checked out any ebooks yet? We have access to thousands of titles through eight different libraries, library districts, networks and consortia in Arizona. Visit our website and click on OverDrive on the home screen, go to lltc.overdrive.com, or download the Libby app directly to your device. You’ll need your library card number to sign up. If you don’t have a card yet or aren’t sure what your number is, let us know. We’re here to help!

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New items arriving weekly.

Special holiday gifts and wrapping paper.

You can now shop before & after hours or on days we’re closed, Call us directly at 602-899-5760 to arrange a special private shopping visit!

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Gifts
And More...
Halloween 2020
Communities Celebrate with Costumes, Candy and Contests

Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin treated kids to several Halloween events this year. Below are scenes from the Patagonia Trunk or Treat, sponsored by the PTC on Oct. 28 at the Town Park gazebo and from the Sonoita Fairgrounds Halloween party, held Oct. 30.

Janitza Valenzuela
Sophia Bergh volunteered at the hay maze at the Fairgrounds
Fawn Hardt rode into the party on her unicorn
Emma and Madison Lewton
Millie Pope came dressed as a sock monkey.
Charlotte Myers and Sawyer Dodson
Barbara Harris came to work at the Cowbelle Cake Walk
Luke Vendituoli, Aurora Fennell, Rydia Fennell and Sophie Vendituoli
Skylar Sanchez and Julian Lopez
Rafael Lopez served root beer floats at the Fairgrounds party.

Photos by Chuck Klingenstein and Marion Vendituoli
Open for Business
New Business News

Sonoita Hardware Store Changes Hands

By Jo Dean

Sonoita Hardware and Buffalo Gals, a valued asset to our community, has been purchased by Joe and Stephani Carnevale.

The new owners are bringing renewed energy, enthusiasm, and a positive vision for local enterprise and community connections.

They are joined by Joe’s brother, Michael Carnevale, a 1995 graduate of Patagonia High School, as the manager.

The Carnevales family has been in Sonoita for the past thirty years. Joe’s parents, Pete and Pat Carnevale, moved to Sonoita in 1990.

Joe, who was acting as contractor for his parents’ home and casita, found the long drives to larger towns for supplies inefficient and expensive, sowing the seeds that ultimately led him to purchase the local hardware store this year.

Carnevale has been working as a contractor for the past twenty years in Indiana. The couple still own and operate Associate Drywall Partners in Indianapolis.

The hardware store in Sonoita was founded by Bob Barnhill, Bill Bowman and Jeff Wright in the early 1990s. It was called Wright’s Lumber until it was purchased by Larry and Susan McDonald in 1996 and renamed Sonoita Hardware. Buffalo Gals, the gift shop within the store, was added in 2000 by Susan McDonald after her husband told her that “You have to do something to make this place attractive to women,” said Susan.

Now, under the ownership of the Carnevales, the chain retailer is True Value. The advantage for the customer is True Value’s online option, according to Joe. Customers can order any True Value product from www.truevalue.com with the shop and choose the Ship-to-Store option with free shipping.

He stated that orders placed early in the week will likely be available for pick-up by the end of the week.

Plans are to more than double the square footage of the current building. Where the parking lot is located on the south side there will be a small nursery providing items that will not compete with their neighbor Diamond JK Nursery. Two additions to the existing building will extend west towards Highway 83. One addition will carry outdoor recreational supplies and the other will carry building supplies, including lumber. A new entryway will be on the west side dividing the two new additions.

The Carnevales promote “Made in the USA” and will avoid products made in China as much as possible. The plan for the gift shop is to attract local art and crafts with the goal of having all inventory for the gift shop locally made.

Sonoita Hardware will continue to be an integral part of the local community, providing a diverse inventory for hardware, home, and garden needs while promoting community unity and support.

Sonoita Hardware and Buffalo Gals is located at 3149 AZ-83, Sonoita. Open Monday - Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m. Closed Sunday.

email: sonoitatvhardware@gmail.com Phone: 520 455 5523.

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Silver Artist ‘Sets up Shop’ in Sonoita

By Pat McNamara

Patti Hughes, a Sonoita resident since 2019, has had a circuitous journey to her current trade as a silver jewelry artist.

A native of Huntington Beach California, Hughes worked as a veterinary technician and as a manager of an equine rental string before marriage and children.

She then trained as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines where she spent the next eight years traveling about the country. This was when a class in silversmithing first caught her eye and she began exploring her creative side in this new-found endeavor.

With children grown and a crumbling marriage, Hughes moved to Bridgeport California where she worked at a guest ranch. Her people skills led to her working at the reservation desk and resolving conflicts with staff and/or guests. Her equine skills led to her taking out trail rides and cleaning stalls and her creative skills and love of western crafts found her producing more silversmith work.

Hughes, who is self-taught, said she “learned by doing.” Until recently she crafted much of her art without expensive machinery to assist her. Her partner since 2015, fellow artist, leather craftsman and horsehair hitcher Douglas Krause has been a great fan and supporter of her work.

He presented her with a gift of a 20-ton press to assist her in her creations. Hughes stated that “most ladies like something more feminine” but the press was a perfect and most welcome gift.

Mostly creating her jewelry for sale as a hobby, Hughes will occasionally do custom work. Her creations are for sale at her Facebook and Instagram Page at “Ranch 52.”

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Growing Up in Patagonia

By Sarah Klingenstein

Patagonian Johnny Urias’ early years were spent like many Arizonans in the 1940s - in the worlds of ranching and mining. His dad, Juan, who came from Sonora to work as a miner in Douglas, lived in several rural communities as he met his future wife and started a family. Juan and Adela met in her home in Klondyke (named, with altered spelling, for the gold rush locale in Canada). Johnny was born in 1939 in Mammoth, north of Oracle, where his dad worked at the Eureka Ranch. In 1943, the Eureka Ranch owner bought the Riall Ranch just north of Patagonia, and Juan hired on as a ranch hand.

Juan and Adela had two daughters when young Juan came along, and the girls doted on him. He remembers that the rancher supplied the family with a pair of twin boys about his age that he remembers fondly.

Johnny rode the school bus to Patagonia for first grade (there was no kindergarten then) and the teacher’s first job, he said, was teaching English to most of the class. Soon the family moved to town, where his dad went out on his own as a fence builder.

The house on Sonoita Avenue, built in 1914, where two more daughters were born and where they all grew up, is halfway through the dance, they had held frequent reunions and kept up with each other over the years. “In 2018, the Class of ’58 held our 60th reunion. It was a pleasure, as always, to reminisce. Eleven of our classmates were still with us but, sadly, in the ensuing two years, three class members have passed away,” she said.

Though future wife Anna Tapia lived in Harshaw and attended Patagonia Union High School as well, she and Johnny didn’t meet at first in person. Anna was younger than Johnny and, when he went away in the Army after high school, she got to know his sister. Anna asked if she could write to him, as was common for young women in those days to keep up the young soldiers’ spirits.

When he returned after stints in Puerto Rico and Duluth, Minnesota (where he says he got on the plane at 85 degrees, then disembarked to -20 degrees the same day), they took up seeing each other, and married soon after. Johnny and Anna have five children, all of whom live in the area. Their son Juan is known to many as the head of Patagonia’s Waste Water Treatment Department.

Johnny retired after 38 years with the Arizona Department of Transportation, working first with the engineers and ultimately as Highway Maintenance Supervisor.

The main source of dancing was the dance hall in town. “All the grownups would dance, but we kids would stay away awhile until, “he said. “When we were kids, Sonoita Creek down Blue Haven Road was a big attraction. Crowds of people would picnic and swim and the kids hung out down there. We’d drive past Solero Canyon Road, then follow the Creek to see who was there that we knew. There were local people, but people really came from all over - Tucson, Nogales. Back then, the Creek often flowed year-round.”

Urias remembers playing pool at Lopez Pool Hall for 10 cents an hour. There was a little store out front that sold milk and bread and soda. “Mr. Lopez would try to teach us how to play but we’d just be goofing around,” he said. “He’d chase us out of there, so we’d stay away awhile until, when we met him on the street, he said he was just joking. Then we’d go back and plunk down our dimes for another hour of play.”

Johnny graduated from Patagonia High School in 1958. At that time the school was housed in surplus buildings from Fort Huachuca which had been disassembled, trucked over and rebuilt on the site of the current high school. The graduating class of 1958 had 14 students. According to classmate Ophelia del la Ossa Spence, they have held frequent reunions and kept up with each other over the years. “In 2018, the Class of ’58 held our 60th reunion. It was a pleasure, as always, to reminisce. Eleven of our classmates were still with us but, sadly, in the ensuing two years, three class members have passed away,” she said.

But Johnny’s first love was square dancing, then other types of dancing. There was a lady who used to call the dances, but as a kid, you know, we just played. “That venue was closed and boarded up in the late 1940s. Johnny remembers helping the owner dismantle the building in the ’50s to sell the wood.

When he was 13, Johnny started playing baseball, which became a lifelong passion. “We always had town teams, as well as high school teams. We played all over - Tucson, Guaymas, Nogales, Bisbee. Every Sunday there would be a double header. We could have played somewhere every day of the week.” In the 1958 PUHS yearbook, ‘The Mesquite,’ Johnny Urias bequeaths and wills his ability to play 2nd base to Henry Moreno.”

Many Patagonians remember playing for Mr. Urias. He worked in Little League for 30 years as an umpire and coach, and coached girls’ softball for 15 years. “I played till I was in my mid-60s. I had never gotten seriously hurt, so I thought I should quit while I was ahead,” he said.

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The house on Sonoita Avenue, built in 1914, where two more daughters were born and where they all grew up, is still in the family.

Johnny has vivid memories of small-town life. There was an opera house next door to today’s Red Mountain Foods, built in the 1890s of mud adobe and later covered in wood siding. It served as a center for many community events - traveling shows from Tombstone, celebrations, funerals, and dances every weekend. “All the grownups would dance, but we kids would run around all night. About half-way through the dance, they had a break, and there would be someone selling food - Mexican food, especially tamales. Everyone would eat, then the dance would start up again.

It was all local musicians. - fiddle and guitar mostly. Part of the evening was square dancing, then other types of dancing. There was a lady who used to call the dances, but as a kid, you know, we just played. “That venue was closed and boarded up in the late 1940s. Johnny remembers helping the owner dismantle the building in the ’50s to sell the wood.

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Johnny retired after 38 years with the Arizona Department of Transportation, working first with the engineers and ultimately as Highway Maintenance Supervisor.
Sensational Succulents

Last night I dreamt of rain, suspecting upon awakening that I was not alone in this fruitless endeavor. We are in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage in an exceptional drought. Clouds, let alone rain, seem like a mere mirage.

Since herbivorous wildlife is often in need of water, eating a succulent might seem a plausible solution. Yet many succulents produce such vile toxins that all but the hardest herbivores are excluded from this would-be banquet - except collared peccaries that is! Finally, not all succulents are equally succulent, meaning that they range from being able to harbor moderate to sensational amounts of water, as well as every level in between.

Quite naturally many Arizonans equate succulents with the cacti. Reap the metaphor: “all cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti!” This little phrase sorts things out on a gross level at least, leaving the possibility that plants not in the cactus family can be succulent as well.

One local plant that is often mistakenly called a cactus is the ocotillo. When precipitation saturates the upper soil, the mostly shallow roots of ocotillo efficiently absorb as much as they can, storing it mostly in their stems.

Like many of our succulents, the ocotillo evolved in the tropics and doesn’t actually do much with its stores of water until spring and summer arrive. In spring, magnificent crimson blooms punctuate the terminal stem tips. A wide range of species visit the flowers, including ants, bees, hummingbirds, pyrrhuloxias, and Lucy’s warblers. Throughout spring and summer ocotillos produce rather succulent leaves as their stores of water permit, losing them when soil moisture evaporates beyond critical levels.

Another set of non-cacti succulents are various members of the asparagus family - the yuccas, agaves, and their relatives. All of them are leaf succulents. They too are mostly inactive when things are cold, but spring to life in May and June. Agaves take succulence within the family to extremes. Palmer agave - our largest native species - may take from 10 to 25 years to initiate flowering. This is owing to its need to accumulate water stocks and hence the sugars that result from them, which in turn furnish them the energy to produce their behemoth flowering stalks.

As with ocotillos, the blossoms of agave benefit a broad spectrum of wildlife - nectar-feeding bats, hummingbirds, wasps, orioles, etc.

We end with the cacti - our most famous stem succulents. Southern Arizona hosts a spectacular variety of species in this unique family. While other plant families may also be exclusively succulent, no others take this adaptation to such extremes. A good soil soaking can result in a significant weight gain by prickly pears, chollas, barrel cacti, giant saguaros and the like. Saguaro are famous for their ability to imbibe water quickly from their shallow roots. The pleats in their stems allow for significant expansion to the point where even one good storm may lead to the addition of tons of water to the plant’s structure.

So, yes, we are in a drought, but by the same token are we ever succulent!

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

Sensational Succulents

Starstruck

If it’s alright, let me tell you a story. In the early part of 1963 I was an eight-year-old boy living on the rolling hills of central New Jersey. It was all farmland then, cows, chickens, and endless fields of soy and corn. By bicycle, it was ten minutes to our closest neighbor and probably a good 20 minutes to reach one of my friends. Usually, I was allowed to ride to each by myself, but sometimes my brother would prop me up on the handlebars of his fancy three speed bike and we’d ride off together.

Our’s was a large chicken farm with several, long, low-slung coops connected by a tractor-wide dirt road that began at our house and ended behind the most distant building, right at the top of a great hill for sledding. It was on that dirt road, during walks with my uncle, that I began to take notice of the night sky. It was dark and quiet, but I don’t remember ever being frightened at the remoteness of it all.

We’d walk along the road and talk about stars and planets, though I don’t think he really knew much about either. He’d just raise his arm and say something like "look out there, Harry, look at all those stars." He planted the seed in me with just those few words. For a poor kid like me, far removed from a library or a town large enough to support a store, there was nothing I could do with my curiosity other than to go outside and stare at the points of light. Fortunately, every few months, my teacher handed out a two-page listing of books we could buy through a school program. For 30 cents one could invest in a Curious George tale or Mays or Mickey Mantle card along with a quarter. Sometimes, there’d be a Willie Mays or Mickey Mantle card along with a single stick of gum. For another penny or two, one could purchase hundreds of little candy dots that miraculously clung to a roll of waxed paper. I wanted for nothing.

Recently, for whatever reason, though I guess for many important reasons, as 2020 winds down to its conclusion, that I realized that some things, despite the passage of time, don’t change at all. It took little effort and no money for my uncle to instill in me a lifelong love of astronomy. Any path or porch or backyard will serve the same purpose as that beloved dirt road of my youth. Political assassinations, wars, and even pandemics have no power to get between an adult and a child talking about the sky or about a garden or about a tree growing in the desert. Indeed, in times like ours, that’s exactly what adults should do. You see, it’s taken me all these years to finally realize what my uncle taught me on those nighttime walks. He taught me that seemingly insignificant moments - "Harry, look at the stars" - can instill in a child a passion for knowledge and a never-ending reverence for the awe that comes with it.
COPING WITH COVID

By Patra Kelly

A common answer these days to the question, “How are you doing?” is “Hanging in there.” What helps people to hang in there when they can’t hang out with others? Outside the Patagonia Senior Center, people often talk about ways they have found to survive, or even thrive, in this time of social distancing and seclusion.

Picking up a lunch at the Center offers a chance to get out of the house, and occasionally eat with a friend in the park. Many people have mentioned experiencing ups and downs—some days enjoying gardening, walking and doing creative projects, and other days feeling weighed down by what is happening in their lives and in the world. Here are a few of the responses given by seniors to the question of how they are coping during this time.

“Psychologists confirm what many of us already know - that we live in depressing times, perhaps unlike any we have ever experienced. I try to counter depression by doing things I consider worthwhile and beneficial to myself and to others,” Chuck Kelly said. “Volunteering at the Senior Center, helping provide nutritious lunches, and driving people to medical appointments are some of the ways I’ve found to light a proverbial candle, rather than to curse the darkness. I believe that to give one’s full attention to another is to bless them, and to radiate a deeply felt joy for living is more persuasive than any words can convey, and that the only human emotion greater and stronger than fear is love.”

“The number one thing is to get out into nature, even if only in your backyard,” Georgette Larrouy said. “I take early morning walks and look up, look down, smell everything. Plants are our sisters and brothers. It helps to touch them and talk to them. Music is also very important. Listen to powerful, soaring, emotional music, like the aria, “Nessun Dorma.” It doesn’t have to be classical. Whatever you choose should have “big sound” that brings a rise of big emotion that touches your heart, pulls it up out of depression or confusion.”

“I’m seeing this time as an opportunity for change,” Lars Marshall said. “It stirs things up. I’m coming up with ideas, using imagination for things I haven’t thought of before, how to do things a different way. I’m reassessing everything! I’m having a kind of awakening. I think, ‘Oh, that was a silly way of doing things!’ I’m home six days a week, working at my computer. One day a week I visit two friends and we sit outside ten feet apart. I have to be careful,” he added. “I’m a tremendously social person. Being an extrovert, I am now taking a break from myself. If I have a bad day and can’t do my usual social self, I say, ‘I don’t feel good today.’ When I go to Red Mountain Foods and see 15 people I haven’t seen in a long time, my appreciation of them is multiplied from not seeing them constantly!”

“Cooking, cleaning, garden, laundry - no letup, no help - just me at 85, along with my spouse (equally mature) picking up the tasks of home care and personal care. I sank down into the ordinariness of it all without much grace,” Rosanna Kazantian said. Then, a friend sent me a suggestion of an on-line retreat. I have done so many retreats in the past I ask myself, am I up for this? ...it turned out the Benedictine Sisters from the monastery of St Gertrude offered a refreshing alternative to the endless bad news of the day. They created a process for exploring feelings about these difficult and troubling times through poems, artwork, and writing. It has felt honest, hopeful, a way out and a way in. I look forward to my mornings of reflection with non-linear thinking, playfulness on paper and new insights.”

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You ask. We answer.

THE ASK

In the summer of 2019, a concerned citizen affiliated with a nonprofit conservation group asked us to share our wildlife survey data about Mexican spotted owl near the Hermosa Project.

Every inquiry from the community matters. Is there something you’ve been meaning to ask?

askhermosa@south32.net.

HOW WE ANSWERED

We hold a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that allows us to conduct surveys and monitor locations of this federally protected species. For the protection of the owls, we are restricted by the agency from sharing the owls’ specific locations. But to provide a level of comfort about how we manage our work in relation to this vulnerable species, we worked with the agency to share the general owl locations from our surveys. We also took concerned citizens on a short tour of our site to discuss the species and our project in more depth.

P.S. We are happy to report that during our Summer 2020 survey, a nest with a fledgling Mexican spotted owl was located within close proximity to our site.
Bird was active in Arizona politics, serving a term as United States Commissioner and was for seven years Clerk of Court in Santa Cruz county. [The San Bernardino County Sun, 12/6/1930]. In 1904 he started his party's support for a Congressional run, and a Phoenix paper wrote: "His republicanism is of the kind known as all wool and a yard wide. He never sulks and he never shirks. He is an honest man, he has aggressiveness and force, he is a good campaigner...Indeed, his strong individuality would make his personality such a prominent feature of the campaign that there would be not a dull day from the convention to the election. He has opinions, and he is never afraid to express them." [Arizona Republic, 5/27/1904].

Expressing his opinions led to an arrest and several fist fights. In 1895 a newspaper venture in Benson, Ohio, attacked slackers*…referred to Tom Turner. In 1918 Bird wrote an editorial which questioned the patriotism of H.R. Sisk, manager of the Oasis. [Arizona Daily Star, 6/29/1949]. Allen T. Bird on the streets and, In the belief that an editorial in this morning's Oasis attacking slackers...referred to him, attacked the Oasis publisher, giving him a severe beating." The editorial enraged the citizens of Nogales. [Arizona Daily Star, 6/29/1949]. A hastily called town meeting an apology was demanded, and Bird complied.

Although he was an avid supporter of women's suffrage, Bird did not ever acknowledge the part his wife Calla played in The Oasis. She finally got credit in her obituary: "Mrs. Bird was one of the pioneer newspaper women in the state and Nogales, assisting her husband with all the details of publication when the newspaper was hand-set. During Col. Bird's frequent absences... Mrs. Bird not only gathered the news but collected the ads and did all the jobs necessary to publish the paper. She never missed an issue." [Arizona Daily Star, 6/29/1949].

Allen T. and Calla Bird, 1920s

* A term commonly used to describe those seeking exemption from the WWI draft.
Patagonia Welcomes Two New Teachers

By Sarah Klingenstein

Two seasoned educators who spent years as teaching colleagues in Nogales have found new homes on the staff at Patagonia Public Schools. Cynthia Colbert, who teaches 2nd grade and gifted education, and Scott Connuck, the new music teacher, are both very happy to have joined such a warm and welcoming faculty who, they say, shows its caring and creativity every day.

Cynthia Colbert

Colbert was a music and elementary classroom teacher, then a gifted teacher, for years in the San Diego area when, in 2005, she came to southeastern Arizona, seeking new adventure in her life. “My kids were out of the house and a friend suggested I might like southeastern Arizona. I came to Nogales to check it out, interviewed, and was hired on the spot,” she said.

“I grew up in a family of educators,” Colbert said. “My mom was a teacher, my two sisters are teachers, as is my brother-in-law. It’s in my blood.”

After years teaching in Nogales and the Little Red Schoolhouse, she began helping with the gifted program in Patagonia last spring. A graduate of the University of La Verne, she holds certifications in K-8 Education, teaching English as a second language and gifted education.

“My experience with giftedness began with understanding my son, who was gifted. The principal of the school where I taught suggested I might excel at teaching those students, and I took part in a certification program the district offered. And I did click with the students and the curriculum. I have always approached the world in a quirky way, so I relate. And I have found wonderful strategies, from logic puzzles to algebra to working with idioms, to challenge kids. I think it’s so important for gifted children to learn the ways their brains process differently, and to value those differences throughout their lives.”

Ms. Colbert enjoys working with second graders “because they are young enough to still be in awe and wonder about the world and all they can learn about it, but old enough to start to realize that everything is not fair. This makes them very interesting people.”

Scott Connuck

Scott Connuck moves from classroom to classroom with his cart of musical instruments, including a keyboard, and xylophones for the children to play. “While theory and music appreciation are important, music is mainly a hands-on activity,” he said. “The most challenging part has been getting the Contemporary Band program to coalesce, as the kids are not all on campus at the same time, due to hybrid learning. So, we’ve been studying jazz and the Harlem Renaissance; it’s amazing how many wonderful Youtube resources there are to expose kids to live music. Soon I hope we will all be able to play together. In the meantime, we are being innovative.”

Connuck admires the collaborative leadership styles of Superintendent/Principal Kenny Hayes and Assistant Principal Michael Young. “They are incredibly supportive, and the entire staff has risen to the challenge of these times by finding new ways to connect with and teach their students. Teachers and administrators here stress good manners, and I find Patagonia kids to be very respectful and eager to learn. And I know I always try to do my best. I believe attitude is everything, and I think it rubs off on everyone you meet during the day.”

Connuck graduated from the LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts, where he remembers playing in juried recitals twice each semester. Known as “P.A.,” the school was made famous by the movie “Fame” and its many well-known alumni, including violinists Pinchas Zukerman and actors Liza Minnelli and Robert DeNiro. “My experience in New York City gave me the highest respect for the melting pot of society that public education helps to foster. Its role in our country is unmatched,” he said.

Connuck holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music performance, a postgraduate certificate in music education and a master’s degree in educational leadership.

PUHS Athletes Competing Despite COVID Constraints

By Marion Vendituoli

Fall sports at Patagonia Union High School have seen cancellations and loss of players due to the ongoing pandemic. Both soccer and volleyball have been affected.

The soccer season was cut short, with all remaining games cancelled, when several of the players had to be quarantined after two students tested positive for the virus in mid-October. The team, which had played six or seven games up to that point, had to cancel their remaining six games, according to athletic director Nate Porter because “we did not have enough athletes to continue to play the rest of the season.”

“This was by far the most successful soccer season we have ever had,” he added. The highlight of the shortened season was the upset by the Lobos over Benson High School for the first time. The team’s 2020 record was 2-3-1.

The volleyball team is still playing. Because of the size of the school there is only one team, which plays both JV and Varsity. The varsity record is 0-6, while the JV record is 0-3. “It is a very young team,” Porter said. The absence of senior players due to quarantining also hurt the squad.

Boys and girls basketball is still scheduled to begin practicing Nov. 9, with the first games set for Dec. 1. At this time, fans are not allowed in the gym to watch the games.

“Sports in the time of COVID is a struggle,” Porter said, but the school will continue to keep the sports programs going, even though PUHS has decided to continue distance learning for the immediate future “We’re trying to offer the student athletes safe, healthy activities,” he added.

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A Short History of Pumpkin Pie

By Jo Dean

What does the children’s song “Mary Had a Little Lamb” have in common with Thanksgiving and pumpkin pie? The author of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and the “Godmother” of Thanksgiving and pumpkin pie, Sarah Josepha Hale.

Mrs. Hale campaigned 36 years for the United States to have a day of Thanksgiving, as we know it today. In 1823, she wrote the first known poem about Thanksgiving, “The House of Thanksgiving,” which included the line, “Let us join our hands in prayer and give thanks to God, the Father of our country.”

Hale would probably be horrified by today’s common use of canned pumpkin puree for baking pumpkin pies. But times are changing and delicious varieties of pumpkins for culinary use are available to purchase or cultivate. A few of the favorite pie varieties are Winter Luxury, Rouge Vif D’Etaples, Casper, Cherokee Bush, Cinderella, Cushaw Green-Striped, Dill’s Atlantic, Fairytale, Jarrahdale, Red Warty Thing, and many more.

Pumpkins come in a large variety of forms and colors. Smithsonian Magazine. Originally from South America, pumpkins and squash were grown by Native Americans who introduced this nutritional food to the early Pilgrims struggling to survive in the 1600’s. The Pilgrims used this nutritional winter squash extensively as described by this poem (circa 1630):

“For pottage and puddings and custard and pies, Our pumpkins and parsnips are common supplies: We have pumpkins at morning and pumpkins at noon, If it were not for pumpkins, we should be undone.”

Smithsonian magazine cited Cindy Ott, author of “Pumpkin: The Curious History of an American Icon,” as writing that there is no proof that the Pilgrims ate pumpkins at the first Thanksgiving, but they “probably ate it that day, the day before, and the day after.”

Pumpkins come in a diverse pallet of colors and shapes. They can be warty, bumpy, shiny, smooth, rough, squat, round, and oblong. Colors from ghostly white, blues, greens, pinks, oranges, to ominous black. In 2012 the Porcelain Doll Pink Pumpkin was the first pumpkin developed for a good cause by the Pink Pumpkin Patch Foundation as part of October’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Proceeds are given to organizations involved in breast cancer research.

No matter your personal preferences there is probably a pumpkin variety for you to enjoy. This Thanksgiving as you are giving thanks and pumpkin pie, do not forget about Sarah Josepha Hale who never gave up campaigning for the tradition of pumpkin pie and this National Holiday of Thanksgiving and Praise.
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<tr>
<th>EVENTS</th>
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<td>Nov. 7: 11a.m. Virtual Storytime by Patagonia Public Library “Grumpal-offagus: He Sure is Grumpy!” Search for Friends of Patagonia Library on Facebook to tune in to the event. Don’t have Facebook? Register in advance, 520-394-2010 or email at <a href="mailto:info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org">info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org</a> to receive the Zoom link.</td>
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<td>Churches are practicing social distancing.</td>
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<td>Nov. 7: Santa Cruz County Youth Invitational Horse Show. Open to all youth 9 - 18. Call 520-909-8307 for info.</td>
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<td>Canelo Cowboy Church Sunday Service: 8:30 a.m. &amp; 10 a.m. for Sunday School Nov 15, Ranch Family Fun Day and Banquet. canelocowboychurch.com/ We are combining both RFFD and the Banquet so this gives you one last chance to improve your scores.</td>
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<td>Nov 10: 10a.m. - 11a.m. Elgin School Veterans Day Celebration. Due to the pandemic, this will be a drive through event for community veterans. Donations of baked goods will be accepted through Mon, Nov. 8. Contact <a href="mailto:abrown@elgin12.com">abrown@elgin12.com</a> with any questions or to arrange drop off of donations.</td>
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<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church is restarting in-person service on Nov 15 &amp; will continue to broadcast a service to KPUP 100.5 Sunday Service: 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Nov 11: 10a.m. Veterans Day Ceremony at the Sonoita Fairgrounds in the grandstands. Lunch will be served following the ceremony.</td>
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<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church 222 Third Ave., Patagonia In Person Service resumed. Call for time &amp; schedule (520) 394-2954</td>
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<td>Nov 14: 7a.m. - 2p.m. Community Wide Rummage Sale. Gardner Hall, Sonoita Fairgrounds. Set up Nov 13 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Call 455-5553 to reserve a space.</td>
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<td>Vine Christian Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonora Sunday Service: 10a.m Cafe, 10:30a.m service</td>
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<td>Nov. 15: 11a.m - 3p.m. Equine Voices Rescue &amp; Sanctuary Annual Fundraiser at the Tubac Golf and Spa Resort. In-person and on-line. Call ahead to register and purchase tickets. 520-398-2814</td>
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<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 2nd &amp; 4th Sat: 10a.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 21: Rabies Clinic at Sonoita Fairgrounds. Call 455-5553 for info.</td>
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<td>Quaker Worship Group, Sundays 10a.m. <a href="mailto:david_krest@yahoo.com">david_krest@yahoo.com</a>, (843) 830-7184 or (760) 614-6959</td>
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<td>Nov. 22: Anchor F Calf Sale at Sonoita Fairgrounds. Call 520-988-8009 for info</td>
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<td>Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church 12 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita 394-2954 Sat 10:30a.m. and 5:30p.m. Sunday Mass: 8a.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 27 &amp; 28: Team Roping at Sonoita Fairgrounds.</td>
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Please note: many meetings may be cancelled or have moved online until further notice.

**AA:** Patagonia Methodist Church Fri, 7:30p.m. Sonoita Bible Church Tues, 7:30 pm. For more AA meetings call 520-624-4183 (Methodist Church is closed until Nov. 15)

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Fragrance-free meeting. Patagonia United Methodist Church. (520) 404-3490. Has moved online.

**AI Anon (for family and friends of alcoholics):** Patagonia Community Methodist Church, Wed, 6p.m. online on Zoom. Call (315)516-5998

**NEW Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA):** Methodist Church, Tues, 6p.m. Online on Zoom. Call (315)516-5998

- **CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.):** Board meeting 3rd. Mon. at 5:30p.m. in Town Council Room
- **Patagonia Town Council:** 2nd & 4th Wed., 7p.m. in Town Council Room. Public Discouraged to attend but not barred.
- **Rotary Club:** 2nd & 4th Thurs., 5:30p.m. has moved online. Info: Sue (520) 990-4648.
- **Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors:** 2nd Mon, 3p.m. at the Senior Center. Senior Center Dining Hall is closed.
- **The So AZ Republican Club Meeting:** 7p.m. every 3rd Thurs of the month, Sonoita Fire House Board room.
- **The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting:** every 3rd Sat. of the month 9:30a.m., has moved online.
- **Community Youth Bible Hang Out:** at the Sonoita Bible Church. 2nd and 4th Wed. and 5:30p.m. in KPUP 100.5 Sunday Service: 10a.m. For Sunday School continues until further notice. Info: (520)-860-0173.
- **Open Tennis:** Sat & Sun, PUHS at 6a.m. - 5p.m. Info: 394-2973.
- **Gratitude Drum Circle:** Every Tuesday 4 - 6 p.m. at the Gazebo in Patagonia Park. Open to everyone. Bring water, chair, & drum. Extra instruments available.

Lunch for Seniors: Dining Room Closed. Fresh-cooked meals Available to pick up, Mon - Fri, noon - 1p.m. At the Patagonia Senior Center.

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

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

Sonora/Patagonia Email Newsletter: Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonorapatagonialocals.com.

**Patagonia Farmers Market:** Thursday 10a.m. - 1p.m. in front of Red Mountain Foods

**Flea Market at Heart of Gold Antiques:** first Sat of every month. Free to set up. Call 520-394-0193 for any additional information. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**East SCC Community Food Bank**

- 2nd Wednesday of the month 9-10a.m. at St Therese Catholic Church.
- **Sonora Produce on Wheels:** every 3rd Saturday of the month at Vine Church (previously Harvest Christian) will restart in December.

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

**Crossroads Quilters:** No meetings until further notice. Info: (520)-860-0173.

**Angel Wings:** Free. Sign up at clarebonelli@sonorapatagonialocals.com.

**Canelo Banquet:** canelocowboychurch. Nov 15, Ranch Family Fun Day and Banquet.

**Canelo Cowboy Church**

- **Sunday Service:** 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. for Sunday School
- **Community Youth Bible Hang Out:** at the Sonoita Bible Church. 2nd and 4th Wed. and 4th Sun. Call 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey 520-559-0155

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COMING SOON!

Look on our website for our New COVID Family Resources Page www.www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/ covid-family-resources/

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Email prtasted@gmail.com with any event updates you would like listed.
HELP WANTED
ARE YOU A COMPASSIONATE AND QUALIFIED CAREGIVER AND LOOKING FOR WORK?
Please contact Patagonia Assisted Care Agency 520-604-8179 or fill out an application online at www.carepatagonia.com

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

FOR RENT
TRAILER FOR RENT
Trailer for Family in Patagonia $300/month
520-394-2007

FOR SALE
HOME FOR SALE:

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

KPUP Broadcast Schedule Fall 2020
Mon: 7:00pm to 8:00pm: eTown repeat of Saturday’s show.
Tues: 10:00am to 12:00pm: World Jazz with Mark Berg
7:00pm to 9:00pm: Jazz and Blues with Fred Hansen
Wed: 7:00pm to 10pm: Sean Alexander show
Thurs: 7:00pm to 10:00pm: Possibility Explorers.
“Celebrating the Evening of Mushkil Gusha, the Remover of All Difficulties”. Hosted by Graves
Fri: 7:00pm to 9:00pm: Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse
Sat: 12:00pm to 1:00pm: eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire listeners through music and conversation”
Sun: 10:00am: Patagonia Community United Methodist Church service
6:00pm to 8:00pm: Acoustic Café “Today’s great songwriting talents. A bit of country, rock, blues, folk, pop”
8:00pm to 10:00pm: Folk Alley “Folk Music Radio from WKSU-FM in Kent, OH”
Daily Shows:
Swing Hour: 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
Best of the Oldies: 1:00pm to 2:00am.
Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8 am., 12pm and 6pm., Sat. 8am & 6pm., Sun. at 8am.
Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.

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

MISCELLANEOUS
PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
SONOITA: Corner of Hwys 82 & 83, next to Post Office  520-455-5235
www.buysonoita.com

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