Wall Construction On Hold

Newly bladed roads on the west side of Patagonia Mountains near Kino Springs. Since Jan. 9, the road has been cut about 1.5 miles up the Patagonia Mountains in the span of three weeks.

By Jo Dean

The last few years of the Trump administration has added hundreds of miles of new border wall construction that has dissected the US/Mexican border, for better or worse. The terms, wall and fencing, are used interchangeably but the definitions are quite different. The wall refers to a pedestrian “fence” or wall which is constructed as an impermeable barrier disallowing movement from one side to the other. In the case of the bollard construction along the border, the largest animal able to move through the 4-inch slats of the metal bollards would need to be no larger than a rabbit. The need for a barrier that is “one size to fit all” and the funding for this construction has resulted in a massive national controversy.

On January 20, 2021, President Joseph Biden signed 17 executive orders after his inauguration. The order that pertains to the wall is the “Proclamation on the Termination Of Emergency With Respect To The Southern Border Of The United States And Redirection Of Funds Diverted To Border Wall Construction.”

The order is written to pause work on the wall until the legality of funds that were diverted for the wall is resolved. As stated in the first paragraph of the proclamation, “It shall be the policy of my Administration that no more American taxpayer dollars be diverted to construct a border wall. I am also directing a careful review of all resources appropriated or redirected to construct a southern border wall.”

The proclamation repeals the National Emergency Declaration to build the wall. The Secretary of Homeland Security will no longer be allowed to waive all laws for wall construction. The power of the Secretary of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been amplified by the 2005 REAL ID Act. The provisions in the act have allowed the DHS to operate unchecked, above the law with no accountability to any laws, federal, state, or local. Forty-eight environmental laws have been amended by the DHS to operate unchecked.

By Jo Dean

SEFD Board Receives Toxic Work Place Report

SEFD Board members Reba Webber and Chairman Chris Johnson study the report on the investigation into charges of a toxic work environment at the Sonoita Fire Station at the Jan. 26 Board meeting.

By Kat Crockett

During a special meeting on Jan. 8, 2021, the Sonoita Elgin Fire Board voted unanimously to sustain the termination of Chief DeWolf effective January 5.

Prior to the termination, the Board provided DeWolf an opportunity to submit documentation of Board approval for his increase in compensation from $700 to $1,000 per week effective November 1, 2018, for providing services to Palominas Fire District (PFD). Although DeWolf provided a written statement and financial documents, he did not provide proof of Board approval for the increase, yet he continues to deny any wrongdoing.

According to a statement read by SEFD Board Clerk Reba Webber, “DeWolf admits creating a document dated December 3, 2018 in which he expressed his intent to ask for the additional $300 per week. He then directed, allowed, and/or accepted the increase without having the request placed on the Board’s Agenda and/or without any documentation of Board approval.” Webber also stated, “Chief DeWolf occupies a position of public trust and must act to maintain the confidence of the public and the Board. He has an obligation to avoid any appearance of impropriety and should act in a manner that brings credit to SEFD.”

The Board also directed Chairman Chris Johnson and Attorney Donna Aversa to contact the auditors, Walker and Armstrong, to undertake a forensic audit to determine the amount by which DeWolf was overpaid, to include discrepancies between his contract which provides for group insurance coverage and SEFD policies which allow SEFD members to elect dependent coverage with full cost of coverage to be paid by the member through payroll deductions. The Board also requested the auditors to review the amount overpaid to DeWolf for providing service to Palominas Fire Department and the amount refunded to PFD, because he did not provide services under the IGA while on leave.

Official documents provided to the PRT indicate that, at least since 2015, the SEFD paid both the employer and the employee contributions to DeWolf’s Public Safety Personnel Retirement System based on both his salary and PFD compensation. For Fiscal Year 2019, the employer contribution was $21,594 and the employee contri-

See WALL, p. 5

See SEFD, p. 4
Someone visiting from Phoenix asked me the other day how we could find enough news to fill a paper in this rural area, where it looks, to casual observers, that not much is going on. I just laughed.

For this edition, our writers continued to find a host of interesting issues facing us here in Eastern Santa Cruz County, including the work pause on the border wall, the ongoing investigation at the SEFD Fire Station, the effects of South32 on groundwater levels in Patagonia, COVID and local vaccine availability, and so much more.

But I would ask our readers to also pay close attention to three special sections in this issue. First, look at the PRT 2020 donor list. If your name is there, thank you for enabling us to continue to provide important local news that is not available anywhere else, to our community.

If your name is not on this list, please consider donating in 2021. Any amount helps this almost completely volunteer effort to continue to flourish and grow.

Speaking of growth, our newly launched weekly e-newsletter, continuing the great work of Clare Bonelli to keep us all informed of late breaking news and community events, has been a huge success. Kudos to Assistant Editor Nisa Talavera for developing this new format and producing such a great newsletter. We now have 1607 subscribers, and the number of readers grows daily.

The third section I would urge you to read is on p. 21, where we have included the winning school essays from the 2nd annual PRT School Essay Contest, co-sponsored by Borderlands Restoration Network and the Patagonia Creative Arts Center. We are so proud of our kids and we hope you like these essays as much as we did.

The third section of the paper that you should read, beginning on p. 8, is the obituaries. We were stunned to get eight obituaries. Normally, we get one or two, and in some months we get none, so the number of people – friends, acquaintances, siblings, fathers, mothers, grandparents – was staggering.

Not all these deaths can be attributed to COVID, obviously, but reading these loving, beautifully written obituaries about vital, interesting individuals made me pause to consider the 425,000 people in our country whom we have lost to this pandemic, and whose obituaries we have not read.

It’s not just an unimaginable number, it’s friends, acquaintances, siblings, fathers, mothers, and grandparents, and each of us should pause for a moment to honor their lives, as our loved ones did.

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Thank You to our Generous 2020 Donors!!

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patagoniaregionaltimes.org/connect-with-the-prt

Receive Breaking Local News Sent Straight to Your Inbox

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PAGE 3 PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES FEBRUARY 2021
County, Residents Frustrated by Slow Vaccine Rollout

By Sarah Klingenstein

“When can I get my COVID vaccine?” It’s on almost everyone’s mind. A lot of the talk is about how many doses of the vaccine Santa Cruz County has and the fact that, when someone calls or goes online to register, the appointments have all been taken.

The problem is slow vaccine allocation, both to the states in general, and to our area specifically. Dr. Cara Christ, AZ Health Director, says that the state is only releasing one third of the number of doses it could administer. Local media reports that southern counties have received allotments that are woefully insufficient for our population, with an inequitable amount going to other parts of the state.

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce Bracker said, “We are fighting for vaccines, applying as much pressure as possible.” State Representative Rosanna Gabaldon, among other local legislators, has been carrying the message to the State Department of Health and the Governor. “My constituency is frustrated,” she said on Jan. 22. “We need ADHS to consider the whole state, not just certain parts...I ask local residents to make their voices heard as well.” She suggested that people concerned about vaccine availability call 520-628-6580 or email engage@az.gov to send a message to Governor Ducey.

That pressure may be helping. Bracker said that, after being told earlier to expect 200 doses per week, the State is increasing the number of vaccines to be distributed to our area. Jeff Terrell, Santa Cruz Health Director, reported on Jan. 22, “This week we received 1,400 doses for first-time administration and 1000 for second shots. We expect 1,000 first doses next week, as well as second doses. In addition, the State Health Department understands that they did not account for the additional needs of vaccinating all the federal border employees, and we are hopeful that they will address that.”

“We are still working through vaccinating the highest priorities of Group 1B,” Terrell explained. “Teachers and staff at schools and day care centers are high on the list after that. We will work with each school district to prioritize those most vulnerable within that group. Those who are older and have greater exposure will be vaccinated first.” According to local school leaders, that process has already begun. The County has asked for their prioritized lists and has started making appointments for school staff.

Dr. Pereira said it has been frustrating to not know more than a week ahead how many doses they will get. “It makes it very hard to schedule people, and leads to frustration, but we are glad to say that we have not had to cancel any appointments we’ve made.”

Bracker described the appointment process. “On our County homepage, there is a form to fill out. We also encourage people to call in (520) 375-7626. We have found offering several ways to reach us to be the most equitable, especially when we are trying to reach out to people over 75 years of age. Once someone signs up in Santa Cruz County, their information is registered and they will be contacted when their priority group comes up.”

It’s an extremely time-consuming process at this time, which will hopefully get more streamlined. “I spent nine hours the other day scheduling 75 appointments,” Bracker said, describing the “all hands on deck” effort underway.

Cynie Murray, of Patagonia, who works in home health care, recounted her experience. “I care for a client who is at high risk. It was important to the client’s family that I be vaccinated as soon as possible. It took several tries, because I am not technically within one of the groups being prioritized right now, but each time I called, someone did return my call, and eventually I got an appointment.”

According to a recent article in tucson.com, there is no geographical restriction on the vaccines within the state. Anyone can try to sign up for an appointment in any county.

All the local professionals told the PRT that, while they look forward to holding vaccination clinics outside of Nogales in various communities in Santa Cruz, it will be a while before the supply is sufficient to begin that process. The Mariposa Community Health Clinic, which is working with the County to staff the vaccination sites, is seeking clinical personnel that can provide assistance with vaccine administration on an on-call basis. Dr. Pereira asks any interested people to go to the Center’s website: mariposaschc.net and click on “Careers.”

SEFD (Cont.)

button was $10,436. According to Johnson, “we are looking at the payments to make sure they are correct and comply with governing statutes.”

Fire districts are special taxing districts and most of their funding is derived from personal property taxes paid by residents within the fire district. The costs emanating from the original hostage work environment investigation and expanding into additional audits and actions taken by the Board continue to grow. As the PRT goes to press, the known expenses exceed $100,000. No bill for services performed by Walker and Armstrong has been received. It is unclear what costs may be recovered from the SEFD insurance provider; however, according to Johnson, the Board intends to file a claim.

During a Special SEFD Board meeting on Jan. 25, 2021, the Board reported that they had received the results from the investigation into a toxic workplace, which stemmed from allegations made against Chief DeWolf. Johnson stated that the investigator found no evidence of retaliation against SEFD members stemming from involvement or perceived involvement in the Nov. 2018 incident when Chrystal Belt alleged misconduct against Chief DeWolf. A motion was approved for the Chair to issue a written response to Kathe Prentice and Mark Bennett based on their inquiries. The investigator did find workplace conduct in violation of SEFD policies. Acting Chief Jon Buonaccorsi is addressing potential disciplinary matters. According to Johnson, conduct by Chief DeWolf does not warrant additional discussion as the Board has terminated his employment contract. Buonaccorsi stated that since Laura Sink was on administrative leave, Medical Chief duties have been assigned to the Operations Chief and her position has been eliminated. He was authorized by the Board to coordinate a waiver and release of claim with Sink and present recommendations to Johnson for review and approval. In a follow up interview with Johnson, he stated that no lawsuits have been filed against SEFD.

The Board agreed to discuss filing the Fire Chief vacancy at the next meeting. No lawsuits have been filed to date.

According to Board Chair Johnson, “I regret having to take the actions we did, but ultimately, we will end up having a better, more efficient and happier district. I remain concerned about the budget, but I am confident that we will end up with a net positive at the end of this fiscal year because of the changes we made.”

Murder and Mayhem Make for a Good Read

Local author Bob Kimball has spun a good tale in “News To Die For” it’s a mystery, a love story, and perhaps most of all, a window into the newspaper business.

The LaFerla family owns and manages The Tucson Independent, a daily newspaper, with a proud history and a fragile present. The heroic protagonist, publisher Meghan LaFerla, faces multiple adversities, including the violent deaths of two of the most important people in her life, her dying newspaper, an evil stepmother, embezzlement, a lightning strike, and her own illness.

Throughout the twisting and twisted plot, we get a hint’s eye view into the daily running of a newspaper. Kimball, a retired (2005) editor and publisher of the Nogales International also includes some local landmarks and a four-mouthed, but talented, reporter who hails from Patagonia.

The bibliography is a treasure trove for those interested in reading more about journalism and the newspaper business.

“News To Die For” is Kimball’s first novel. It is available at Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle editions. More reviews of the novel are posted at Amazon.com.

- By Lynn Davison contributor and board member of the Patagonia Regional Times

News To Die For

by local author Robert E. Kimball

is available at The Patagonia Trading Post and at Amazon.com
Local Vintners, Distillers Win Awards
By Kat Crockett

Several Sonora/Elgin Wine and Spirit producers have once again earned national recognition this year.

Callaghan Vineyards received notable mention in Forbes Magazine in November for its 2017 Petit Manseng, a grape originating from southwest France.

Deep Sky Vineyards was awarded 89 points by Wine Spectator for its 2017 Petit Manseng, August 2021.

Dos Cabezas WineWorks received Silver for its 2017 Petit Manseng, August 2021.

Callaghan Vineyards received an award from Forbes Magazine in November for its 2017 Petit Manseng, a grape originating from southwest France.

Dos Cabezas WineWorks received Silver for its 2017 Petit Manseng, August 2021.


Dos Cabezas WineWorks received notable mention in Forbes Magazine in December for its sparkling wine Principrana, a blend of garnacha, riesling, and tempranillo, “fermented and aged in neutral barrels with traditional sparkling fermentation creating an aromatic, lush, fruity, rose-hued sparkler with hint of spice,” according to Forbes.

Flying Leap Vineyards won the 2020 Hero of the Community Award for its commitment to the community and for their efforts to assist those who are struggling. The award was presented by the Minority and Small Business Alliance of Southern Arizona.

The Regalo de Vida rum became the first rum to win Platinum at the World Spirit Competition in Virginia.

The El Gin and Graciano El Gin won gold medals at the Los Angeles and San Francisco World Spirits this past August. Village of Elgin also received the ICONS of Gin Distillery Manager award from Gin Magazine in London. The El Gin and Graciano El Gin won gold medals at the Los Angeles and San Francisco competitions, and El Gin won best spirit at the American Wine and Spirit Competition in Virginia.

The Regalo de Vida rum became the first rum to win Platinum at the World Spirit Competition. Their new Triple 3 Rum won Best American Rum in the worldwide competition.

The Naughty Monkey won bronze with 89 points at the American Wine Society Commercial Competition. The Arizona Straight Rye scored 92 points at IWSC in London (high silver).

Wall (Cont.)
been waived, some of which are National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, and many others designed to protect wildlife, wilderness, coastal zones, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges.

The proclamation does not deal with rescinding the Real ID Act, which must be rescinded by congress.

The pause to construction is requested as soon as possible and no later than seven days from time of proclamation to be stopped, January 27, 2021. There will be some exceptions if work needs to continue for safety reasons. There will be a 60-day review process to access the use of funds and how to proceed with border security.

Since the Nov. 3, 2020 election, wall excavation launched into a fevered pace with blasting and blading the mountains and stacks of bollards transported to construction sites. Locally, new bladed roads in the Coronado National Forest are moving from west to east in the Patagonia Mountains.

According to Myles Traphagen, Borderlands Program Coordinator for Wildlands Network, the western section of segment 5 of the wall running west from Nogales toward the Tohono O’odham Nation has been in active construction in what is designated critical jaguar habitat. Heading east of Nogales are newly bladed roads from west side of Patagonia Mountains near Kino springs where the Santa Cruz river reenters the U.S.

Since January 9, 2021, the road has been cut about a mile and half up the Patagonia Mountains in the span of three weeks. If one more mile is built to the east toward the San Rafael valley, critical jaguar habitat will be cut off. If all these projects from east to west of Nogales are completed, then 90% of the critical habitat for jaguar migration would be cut off along with migratory routes of numerous migratory land species.

Since the proclamation for the pause in construction, activists are watching the border construction for activity. As of January 23, 2021, at Project B Segment 5 site, which is located just east of Kino Springs, there was no construction activity observed. All heavy equipment is sidelined, and very few personnel were on site.

The “pause” gives all of us time to reassess our own opinions on the border wall. What type of security is best, how should it be funded, human factors, environmental factors, and the long-term environment we want for our community and borderlands?

You ask. We answer.

THE ASK
"What purpose does Santa Cruz County's recent adoption of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with South32 serve if not to provide tacit approval of 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 collaborate with local officials on key regional activities, such as sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development. As we develop Hermosa, we want to continue this collaboration and also include local employment and local procurement. The MOU provides a formal framework for continuing on this course with transparency and accountability. You can view the full document at south32.net/documents. The county’s sovereignty is explicitly preserved in the MOU, and one of our first resulting actions was to consult on community investment to meet the greatest need. This resulted in South32 directing $50,000 for COVID-19 relief grants to nonprofits operating in Santa Cruz County that continue to help locals through the pandemic.

south32.net/hermosa

PAGE 5       PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES       FEBRUARY 2021
Commemorative Tree Sale Set for Town Park

The Tree and Park committee has gained approval to plant trees in this portion of Doc Mock Park. For a donation of $200, donors can have a commemorative tree planted.

By Caleb Weaver

As Nelson Henderson said, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Have you ever wanted to plant a tree in celebration of a loved one? Here’s an opportunity! The Tree and Park Committee and Town of Patagonia have teamed up to plant a new community forest in Doc Mock Park. Patagonia community members can commemorate loved ones by purchasing a tree for $200 as part of a fundraiser to install an irrigation system in Doc Mock Park. Fifty new trees will be planted in Doc Mock Park this summer by Patagonia youth.

The new ADA-accessible sidewalk and ramada constructed by McKay’s Custom Home in Doc Mock Park is nearly complete. The new community forest will be planted in the space between the new concrete pathway and Highway-82. The trees will receive water from a newly installed irrigation line along with a new rainwater harvesting installation.

Trees will be planted this summer by Patagonia Union High School students as part of Borderlands Restoration Network’s annual training program - Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY). Patagonia youth will plant trees and construct French drains to harvest rainwater from Arizona Highway 82.

Borderlands Restoration Network received a grant from Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management to pay the Patagonia youth to plant the trees and harvest rainwater. Each $200 donation will purchase the following: a native, custom-embossed commemorative metal plaque on a stand, tree guard to protect the young tree, landscape cloth to keep weeds from growing around the base of the tree, water line running the length of Doc Mock Park, and irrigation hookups to each tree. Trees will be replaced if they perish.

To claim a commemorative tree, visit the Town Hall and ask for the Tree Fund Raiser form. Fill out the form, including the message that will go on the plaque, select the location of your tree on a map, and drop off the check. Trees will be planted in June/July 2021.

Improvements in Doc Mock Park continue. The concrete pathway is complete. The ramada will be finished in February. A new regional trail map is being designed by Robert Gay and will be posted in town. The Tree and Park Committee is developing educational signage to be installed along the new path. A new water line will be installed in Doc Mock Park. Barriers will be installed to ensure vehicles will not drive over the new path.

As soon as it is safe for groups to gather, the Tree and Park Committee will host workshops in the newly constructed ramada. Keep visiting Doc Mock Park throughout 2021 to track the exciting changes.

Community Weighs in on County Building in Sonoita

By Kat Crockett

It has now been a little over two years since the county moved judicial services to Nogales. Largely unused, the building that housed the courthouse still contains our library, a few county offices and is a storage facility for excess county equipment. 81 people responded to a survey sent out last summer focusing on possible uses for the property.

About 75% of the respondents were very supportive of having a visitor’s center, community resource center, and a permanent, indoor farmer’s market. About 67% also favored an outdoor park. Many respondents supported senior exercise classes, a tech room with computers, expanding the library, small apartments for the elderly, horseshoes, badminton, movie theater, doggie park, recreation center, and multi-purpose rooms. Over a dozen people volunteered to help.

Plans for a town hall at the fairgrounds to refine responses and reach out to more residents have been put on hold due to the pandemic.

Supervisor Bruce Bracker provided the following comment about the future of the building. “I believe that there is an opportunity to repurpose the County’s Sonoita facility to address some of the community’s needs. Given the location and condition of the facility, a project that is worthy of consideration, and I would hope would require minimal investment, is an expansion of the library.

As I see it, this proposal would fit mandates from the state as well as the needs of the community. With the library designation we could also work to create a facility that would meet various needs, including meeting spaces, a visitor center, and an outdoor public space. But please know that I am always open to community input as to what would be a best-use scenario for this installation.”

South32 Provides Add’l COVID Relief

South32 announced in this recent press release that the company will provide $50,000 in additional COVID-19 relief funds to area non-profits starting this month.

As with the company’s previous donation of $50,000 for COVID-19 relief, these grant funds will be administered by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSAZ) through the foundation’s current COVID-19 grant program. The grants will be limited to organizations operating in Santa Cruz County and will provide a variety of benefits to citizens in need, from meals to rental assistance.

This investment was guided by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in November 2020 between South32 and the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. “Consulting with the community investment was one of the first things we did following the MOU signing,” said Pat Risner, president of the South32 Hermosa Project.

“We’re working to understand the best way to help the region through this fatiguing time when the pandemic is still weighing heavily on so many. A top priority for the county is to help those who are at risk of having their most basic needs go unmet as mission critical organizations that provide care and support to these people are now themselves hurting. Our donation is intended to help those organizations continue their essential work.”
By Sarah Klingenstein

According to family lore, soon after Carolina and Antonio De La Ossa came to the San Rafael Valley in 1880, he wanted to move on to Guaymas. Carolina, on the other hand, believed they had uprooted themselves enough so, as one might say, “she nailed that man’s boots to the floor.” And thus, a local family settled and grew in what is now Santa Cruz County.

Many locals share a connection to the De La Ossa family, which was originally spelled “De La Osa,” meaning “of the bear.” Local families with the surnames Gardner, Lorta, Padilla, Quiroga and others all claim the De La Ossa pioneers as kin.

The family hailed from the West. Antonio from California and Carolina from La Paz, Baja California. The De La Ossas are thought to have originally emigrated from the Basque Country in the Pyrenees Mountains in the 1700s.

Antonio’s father, Vicente, was the owner of a land grant, the Rancho El Encino, in the San Fernando Valley, where the family farmed and raised cattle. After a hayday of supplying beef to the gold miners to the north, drinking, and select bulls were kept for breeding, and most calves were sold to be fattened elsewhere.

The drought that had begun in the mid-1880s, killed cattle, bankrupted homesteaders, and changed the nature of ranching.

Some ranchers lost between 50% and 75% of their stock in 1892-3. Wealthier cattlemen bought up and consolidated ranches and many who had run their own operations went to work for these new, larger spreads. Rather than raising beef cattle to maturity to ship to market, many turned to cow-calf operations. Herds of cows and select bulls were kept for breeding, and most calves were sold to be fattened elsewhere.

The drought of that year is often considered to be part of a 20-year drought that began in 1885, much like the drought we find ourselves in today, which some consider to have begun around 2000.

In 1902, Antonio De La Ossa died in a horse accident, and Carolina continued with the help of her sons, especially Rosamel, the second-to-youngest of the 13 children.

As the time the drought ended in 1904, the De La Ossas had only one cow remaining. So, they started over.

The 1917 list of Forest Service grazing permits shows “Mrs. C De La Osa” as grazing 164 head on public land, in addition to an unknown number on the family’s land. Data from 1934 show the De La Ossas as being major stock raisers in the Lochiel area. The original adobe house that was their ranch headquarters is still standing in Lochiel.

Over the following decades, De La Ossas ranched and cowboyed on other local ranches. Family spread out into surrounding countryside, including Duquesne, Washington Camp and farther afield in Santa Cruz Valley and beyond. The De La Ossas still own property and a ranch in the Valley. Most of the handful of residents in the Lochiel area still bear the pioneer name.

Editor’s note: Part 2 of this series, to be printed in the next issue of the PRT, will feature two great-grandchildren of Antonio and Carolina, brothers Arnulfo and the late Onofre De La Ossa, whose wife, Maureen, continues to live on, and participate in, ranching at the San Antonio Ranch.
Bud Krietemeyer passed away peacefully at his home in Elgin, AZ on January 5, 2021. He came to Tucson with his parents and older brother from Evansville, IN in 1944. Bud served in the U.S. Navy with his brother from 1946 to 1948. He managed LeCave’s Bakery for over 20 years.

Bud is a past president of the Tucson Junior Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure they were responsible for the operation of Old Tucson and the July 4th fireworks display for Tucson at the U of Arizona for a number of years.

Bud was a member, and a past chairman, of the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee for 55 years. Bud was also a member, and former board member, of the Tucson Rodeo Committee for over 35 years. Bud also served as a leader in the Boy Scouts and led a number of 50 mile canoeing trips down the Colorado River.

When he and his wife Lois moved to Elgin, he volunteered at the Elgin Club and the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association, where he served for years on the Santa Cruz County Fair Committee. Bud was presented with the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association President’s Award in 2016 as recognition for his many contributions to the organization. He absolutely loved the outdoors, camping, fishing.

Bud is survived by his wife of 19 years, Lois, his three children with his previously deceased wife Diane, daughter Kathi Mele (Don); sons Mark and Russell (Brenda) who served on the rodeo and parade committees with him; step-daughters Carol Lopez (Robert) and Stacey Tate (Brent); 20 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, Bud requested that donations be made to the Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum at P.O. Box 1788 Tucson, AZ 85702. A celebration of life at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds will be announced at a later date.

Respect
By Christina Wilhelm

Ultimate gift
Cannot be given to
Others, if not already self
Possessed

Ben was born on July 22, 1928 to Berlin Nelson Claridge and Maurine Fancher Claridge in Phoenix, AZ. He was the stepson of Dale Chamberlin. He passed on January 2, 2021 at Casa de la Luz Tucson, AZ after a 2-month battle with bilateral pneumonia.

Ben is survived by his two daughters; Lori Claridge Bowles (David) and Jan Escalera (Brian); grandson Dalton Bowles, and granddaughters Rachelle Escalera and Amy Gaglione (Marc).

When Ben was a young boy, he got to spend time with his biological father who was cowboying on The Sandy Ranch in Northern Arizona, which is where he got his first taste of ranch life. He graduated from Mark Keppel High School in South San Gabriel, CA where he lettered in baseball, basketball, and football.

He grew up in San Gabriel with his two younger brothers, Dale Chamberlin, Jr., and Ron Claridge (both deceased). They did not have a television, so Ben spent a lot of time from a young age playing baseball which he felt led to his successful years as a professional baseball player/catcher.

He served in the Korean War where he received the Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), Korean Service Medal with bronze star and silver star, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Shortly after being discharged, he met his wife of 50 years, Patty Galvin Claridge, on a blind date. They were married in Santa Barbara, CA on April 17, 1955. While living in Santa Barbara, Ben worked for General Telephone Company for 32 years as a Supervisor.

Shortly after retiring, Ben and his wife Patty moved to Sonoita where his hobbies included cowboying and working in his leather shop almost every single day. They remained truly in love until her death in 2005.

Another very important person in Ben’s life (after Pat’s passing) was his “gal pal,” Marilyn Isaacks.

Ben was proud of his honesty and love of God. He loved attending Canelo Cowboy Church, which was a huge part of his life. He loved raising cattle and cowboying, he was a great fisherman, a scratch golfer and a great singer. He was most proud of his accomplishments in his leather shop and the years he spent showing his prize-winning mules at Mule Days in Bishop, CA. His favorite motto was “wake up happy every day” which he held true to for 92 years.

Ben was the greatest father and best friend anyone could ask for.

Respect
By Christina Wilhelm

By Christina Wilhelm

Ultimate gift
Cannot be given to
Others, if not already self
Possessed

Longtime Patagonia resident Ann Caston passed away on January 4. Ann lived a full 94 years before declining health and dementia took her from us.

She was born Charlann Ramsey on Nov. 20, 1926 in Cushing, Oklahoma. The daughter of a refinery worker, Char grew up in Ponca City, OK and attended Oklahoma University and Antioch College. Early on, she developed a wanderlust. Char moved to New York where she met Fred Caston. They married and had two sons, Christopher and Daniel. The couple formed Caston Associates, a successful building and development company. Char and Fred shared a love of art and studied with Chinese brushwork master Ho Tit Wah.

They also loved to travel. In the early 1960s, the Castons purchased a home and lived part time in Torremolinos in southern Spain. After divorcing, Char owned a houseboat which she motored to the Bahamas. Eventually, Char landed in Hawaii. People in the aloha state knew her by the second half of her given name, Ann. Many would see her in Honolulu behind the wheel of a taxi or managing one of the various art galleries she worked in.

After surviving Hurricane Iniki on Kauai, Ann made the move back to the mainland in the early 1990s and settled in her beloved Patagonia. Ann loved butterflies because she thought of herself as one. She not only took the Spanish name for butterfly and named both of her boats “The Mariposa, but named her Patagonia store Mariposa Books and more. Tucked inside of the store was the Patagonia Visitors Center.

Ann loved getting the lowdown on where people traveled from. She enjoyed sharing information with the birders and visitors who floated through town on the hunt for hummingbirds and other feathered creatures.

Ann thought of herself as the unofficial mayor of Patagonia. In 2002, she started the Santa Cruz Singers, helped with the Benderly-Kendall Opera House and was thrilled to be made Grand Marshal of the 4th of July parade. Ann would have loved for all of us to celebrate her long and exciting life with a huge party and memorial. Due to current conditions however, it’s not possible. Instead, think of Ann when a butterfly comes into view. We know she’s keeping an eye on the place that made her the happiest.
Despite hard times and distance at the end, Pappy loved rainy days. He told his son stories, told him about the facts of life during those days. He'd sit back and drink his coffee and could relax. I imagine he’s never laughed so hard. ”

One winter, while he was writing “The Outfit,” we were cutting wood. We climbed the snowy mountain and found a tree, that we brought down on a toboggan. When we were finished, my little sister and he came down on the toboggan and had a wreck. They hit a pile of snow on the bottom. He had icicles on his mustache. He told him about the facts of life during those days. He’d sit back and drink his coffee and could relax. I imagine he’s never laughed so hard. ”

Joe Brown loved rainy days. He told his son stories, told him about the facts of life during those days. He’d sit back and drink his coffee and could relax. I imagine he’s up there right now, listening to the rain, having a cup of coffee.

Despite hard times and distance at the end, Pappy Joe to his kids, passed away on January 9, 2021, in Patagonia. An author with several books in the Cowboy Hall of Fame, Joe was much more than a writer. He was an athlete, cowboy, movie wrangler, Notre Dame graduate, Marine, father, grandfather, great grandfather.

He might not have been happy, but he loved life. He loved music, especially Mexican music. He loved to fly fish. He got so excited when he caught one. People looked up to him. When you saw that smile, he could make you happy. “No one had a dad like me,” said his son Billy. “He loved to play golf, but he was terrible.”

“Once, when he was writing “The Outfit,” we were cutting wood. We climbed the snowy mountain and found a tree, that we brought down on a toboggan. When we were finished, my little sister and he came down on the toboggan and had a wreck. They hit a pile of snow on the bottom. He had icicles on his mustache. He never laughed so hard.”

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Donald Paul “Doc” Bryan, 98, previously of Blaine, Minn., died Jan. 15, 2021 at the Good Samaritan Society - International Falls. He was treated with TLC and loved his “Good Sam Family.”

Don was born Feb. 18, 1922 in Verndale, Minn., to Glen and Helen Bryan. His family moved to Columbus Heights and he attended high school in Minneapolis. Don followed his brother Leroy to California where they worked riveting war-birds for consolidated aircraft. He was drafted into the U.S. Army Air corps in Jan. 29, 1943. Don’s arm was crushed in the ball turret gun in his B-17. He spent three months in an Army hospital and was honorably discharged on March 22, 1946.

Don attended Northwestern College of Chiropractic and graduated March 24, 1950. Don and a classmate flipped a coin to see where they would practice. Don won and chose International Falls over Bemidji. Don loved International Falls. Although a “city kid” he embraced the Northwoods. He owned several planes, had several wind sleds and was never one to pass up an adventure. Don built a shack on Duckfoot Island and shared many Rainy Lake sunsets there.

Don was president of the Lion’s Club from 1961-1962 and also a Masonic Lodge member. He retired in 1977, sold their house, bought an R.V., and they became snowbirds. They lived on the beach in Mexico for many years before settling in at Patagonia, AZ. They lived their summers at the cabin at Bald Rock and loved their loved there.

Don’s first marriage to Patricia Tischer produced three children; Kathleen, Virginia, and Jeffrey. They divorced and Don married Marlene Rasmussen who had two children from a previous marriage; Mark Christianson and Nancy. From their marriage a son was born, that’s me, Douglas.

Don is preceded in death by almost everyone he knew. He is survived by all children and several grandchildren, their cherished granddaughter, Lisa Norstad, her two children, and a very special great-granddaughter, Ava. Pat, Barb, and Jessie Porter were part of our family and he loved him.

Don will miss the Arizona sunshine, playing his mandolin with his friends, and catching walleyes at Bald Rock with me.

“The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.” - Jack London

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

John Amos Jollie, 98, passed away on January 10, 2021 with his family at his side. John was born on June 26, 1940 in Belcourt, North Dakota, to parents Robert O. Jollie and Virginia A. Lafrance. Though John was born on the reservation and was an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, he and his family worked and lived on the Yakima Reservation in Washington State, and the Flathead reservation in Montana.

John graduated from Dixon High School in MT in 1959. He married his first wife, Ernestine Roullier and the couple gave birth to Patricia Ann “Patty” Jollie in 1960. John worked in Billings while simultaneously pursuing a Bachelor’s of Arts degree at Eastern Montana College where he earned a degree in Political Science. John and Ernie had two other daughters, Pamela Jaye and Joan Rochelle Jollie in 1963 and 1964.

The family left Montana for Navajo Nation when John went to manage the Fairchild Industries semiconductor plant in Shiprock, New Mexico. Afterwards they moved to Cupertino, California, and finally to the Washington DC area, where John pursued a position in the Office of the Vice President, the National Council on Indian Opportunity. John held several managerial positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and worked on a variety of initiatives. His achievements for Indian Country were many, but highlights include his work getting the landmark Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act passed into law in 1971. He managed the BIA Indian Action Team program, an integrated training program that was implemented on reservations across the country. He greatly enjoyed his program management work with the Chippewa Cree Tribe, and at the Turtle Mountain Manufacturing Company, designing products for the Department of Defense.

He lived a full life, and had many hobbies, including playing golf with friends, restoring old cars, and playing the guitar. John married his second wife, Sharon Gail McCully, in 1975. The couple welcomed their only child, Jessica Winston Jollie, in 1991.

After a long and prolific career, John retired from the government in 1999, but kept busy working for his tribe’s company, Uniband, playing golf, and driving around in his eggplant-purple Porsche 911. John, along with his wife and youngest daughter, relocated to Sonota, Arizona, in 2002. He made friends in the rural southwest just as quickly as he had in metropolitan DC. He was beloved by the community, and was a constant feature in any old car garage, the local café, and at various school functions.

He was diagnosed with Aphasia and Apraxia in 2013, which he fought for over 10 years. John is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Sharon; siblings Edward “Mick,” James, Robert (Karen), Karen (Ray) Patnode, Colleen, and Tara; daughters Patricia, Pamela (Jon) Herring, Joan, and Jessica (Jackson) Menner; grand-children Kristen (Dez) Turgeon, Carolyn Herring, and Sarah Herring; and two great-grandchildren and Jonathan Turgeon.

It is a truly impossible task to capture John’s spirit in words on a page. He was fiercely loving and kind to everyone around him, and as a result, every person who encountered him loved him back instantly. He was always playful and encouraging. He had a fantastic singing voice, and would play the guitar as long as there were people singing along. He would tell wonderful, funny stories, and had a way of putting those around him at ease with his sense of humor. He was never afraid to bring dreams to life, and never let fear get in the way of living the life that he wanted. He was always unabashedly proud of you, and he would not be shy to say it. He was, respectfully, the best person in the world.

Though a service to celebrate his life is post-poned due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, donations can be made in his name to Friends of Aphasia, a Tucson Non-Profit Organization that provided much support to him in his later years.

Roger Andrew (Andy) Clyne, 70, went to our Lord Jesus on January 10, 2021, on his cattle ranch in Cochise, AZ. Clyne was a long time Arizona cattle rancher and a member of the AZ Cattle Growers Assn.

He was raised near Elgin, AZ and was a graduate of Tombstone High School and Cal Poly University, where he earned a degree in agriculture business. In college he was a member of the livestock judging team and the rodeo club. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, and her two sons, his son Frank Strong Clyne (Stephanie), of Vail; his daughter Amanda McAlerney (Rob); his stepson Frank Dowell (Theresa) and family; his sister Janet Clyne Anderson, of Elgin; his brother Meade (Doc) Clyne (Frances) and her children; his nephew Roger Meade Clyne (Alisa) of Tempe; Gregory John Clyne (Amy) of Mesa; and grandchildren Samantha Rose Clyne, of Vail, Emmett, Scarlett and Isabella McAlerney of Spokane, WA; Otis, Rusty and Lily Cyne of Tempe, and Travis Clyne, of Mesa.

The Clyne family is grateful for the many condolences and strong support from friends. He will be sorely missed.

Services will be private.

Passports
By Christina Wilhelm

Passports
Entries and exits
Is there one for the trip
Stamped with our lives that allows death
Entrance?
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Jim Koweek

SPOILED CHILDREN?

By Martin Levowitz

I hate being told what to do or not do, and almost always side with rebels who reject the status quo. There was an old cowboy song - "Don't Fence Me In" - which my family used to sing to me - or at me - whenever I got antsy, as a kid. Even now, 70 years later, rather than trying to reason me out of my twice daily snit, my wife simply lampoons my stance - hands on hips, chin thrust out, yelling "DON'T F***ING TELL ME WHAT TO DO!" It sometimes makes me laugh.

Last month I wrote a column dismissive of evangelical and Hasidic crybabies who refused to observe anti-virus precautions. Perhaps that was insensitive of me. (Imagine that!) With church services forbidden, some even took their case to court, complaining that their religious freedoms were being abridged. There are undoubtably good, sincere folks out there who rely on weekly religious assemblies for comfort and sustenance. (I doubt that they're the ones who sue. Can't say for sure)

Compared to folks in most parts of the world, Americans have led a com-fy, unafflicted life. We have never en-dured foreign occupation, or, almost, not even attack. The U.S. has been blessed with lots of space, gener-ous, sharing candy and cigarettes with those who, only days earlier, had been trying to kill us, as if war were only a game.

Kathryn and I don't have kids of our own, but we used to enjoy having our young nieces and nephews over to the house. The kids would have a real good time, play games they liked, eat food they liked, and run around and laugh a lot. But, in the evening, when their folks returned, they'd sober up and cop the peevish stance of kids who'd been through hell. Pourquoi? To rattle their parents, I guess, hop-ing they could milk the guilt to gain some sort of treat on the way home, like a stop at the neighborhood donut supply.

What's remarkable to me about the simplistic, Don't Tread On Me! posture of America's current rebels (religious and political) is the melodrama: assembling on the steps of the state capitol with their assault rifles, which are really just props, like the six-guns nine-year-olds wear to birthday parties to make them feel macho and cool. (Who do they think they are going to shoot, after all? And to what end?) It's mostly to impress themselves (and camera crews, of course.)

Rebellion is sometimes a form of distraction. If I believe that COVID is a hoax - despite the full-up ICU's, exhausted staff, and semi-trailers out in back, overflowing with corpses on ice, then I can bury my nervousness under indigation, which feels much less helpless. If I were a judge in a courtroom somewhere, and those gun-packing, mask-refusing show-offs were brought before me, I'd sentence them to such educational "community service" as emptying hospital bedspans or schlepping COVID corpses to the reefer's in the yard.

Opposite page, in fact, I go being judgmental again! Oh, well.

This is an op-ed, after all!

By Jimmy Kowee

I saw a disturbing site the other morn-ing on a walk. It was a 4' tall Alligator Juniper. From a distance, it looked almost normal. I say "almost" because when I walked up and touched it all the leaves (needles?) crumbled in my hand. It was dried out and dead. This was the first, but certainly not the last casualty of the drought. A closer look at others in the area showed they were hurting too. The really bad part was that this juniper was growing down in a draw and not on a south or west-facing slope where things dry out quicker. The effects of the drought and above normal heat are already here... and, it isn't even spring yet.

Right now, all of Santa Cruz Coun-ty is officially classified as being in "Extreme Drought" and is trending towards the highest rating of "Excep-tional Drought." This is not fake news or media hype. We and our plants are hurting and here are some things you can look forward to. Bad wildfires - think of 2002 with the Ryan Fire and many others locally. Oaks will drop their leaves and not release until sum-mer rains, if they happen. No acorn crop which is vital to many wildlife species. Junipers and manzanita will drought out and die adding to wildfire potential. Also, expect losses of native perennial grasses that didn't receive the moisture last growing season needed to carry them through the hot spells of late spring and June. We are at the mercy of the natural weather patterns and right now the natural patterns are headed by La Nina, an ocean current that brings drought to the Southwest. La Nina is predicted to last until at least April. By then it will already be too late for many plants.

This really stanks. (Authors note: when Jim uses the word "stanks" he really means "sucks" but doesn't like to use inappropriate language in a public forum.)

We can't change the weather patterns (please scientists, don't even think of trying) but there are some things we can do to help our individual situations. The first and most important is to mow the grasses and vege-tation around structures. I am not an expert in fire-wise management, but find out whatever the recommended mowing distance is around a house, then do 4 or 5 times that distance. Uncut grasses and burn up to 6' high. Cut grass burns closer to 6”.

Another step to take is water existing trees close to your structures. You can't take care of every plant in the west but pick a few that you don't want to lose and water them properly. Trees still need moisture even in dormancy. Rain and snow usually take care of this but not this year. A month-ly good watering should be enough. You might be thinking "But Jim, some of these oaks are 150-250- years old. They have made it through times like this before." The quick answer is "No they haven't." Most areas locally just went through the driest year since records have been kept and that is basically the last 100 years. Last year's summer rainy season was a bust too. Couple that with the hottest years on record and we are in never been seen before territory.

Watering in this case means a deep soaking. The best way to do that is using a soaker hose placed just outside of a tree's dripline. The dripline is where most of a tree's feeder roots are and is located in the zone underneath the outer branches of a plant. Water slowly until the moisture has penetrated at least 24” deep. You can check this by pushing a piece of rebar into the ground. It will easily penetrate the zone of wetness. I watered some trees the other day in a heavy clay, rocky soil and it took about 6 hours to get the moisture down far enough.

Now I can see some “cowboy logic” cooking up here. “If once a month is good then four times a month should be great.” That is not a good idea. You are trying to keep things alive, not make them grow. If you do succeed in having lush new vegetation in the springtime, it will be the only place for miles and miles that has new growth. You can be assured that every insect pest in the area code will pay you a visit. Also, there is the water usage factor but that will have to be an article at another time.

We all know we will eventually get through this drought. It just won't be a soon as we would like. Some of you all might be thinking “Wow, sure wish you would have come up with a funny article instead of something this seri-ous. I could use a laugh.” Well folks, sometimes things just stank.

Editor's note: Jim Kowee's latest book Grassland Plant ID For Everyone can be found wherever it is sold. In better times he can be found playing mando-lin at local watering holes.
LEARNING TO SURVIVE

By Cholla Nicholl

This year has been extremely challenging. Our collective choices have presented consequences that many of us have not survived. In the modern and wealthy world some of us live in, we rarely see the full results of our actions or inactions like we have in 2020. Many of us are learning to survive in ways we never thought we would have.

Most of the time, I share light-hearted and educational stories of our local wildlife in an attempt to soften the reality of the frequently brutal nature of survival that we all as animals encounter. We need these gentle breaks to maintain hope and balance in our lives, and there is beauty in the hardest of times. To close out 2020 and ring in 2021, I would like to share a beautiful story of survival from the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve.

Several months back, as summer was waning into fall, I discovered a video that was difficult to watch. A coyote was waning into fall, I discovered a video that was difficult to watch. A coyote and she was part of a pack of four coyotes. Four-legged animals can survive well with three legs, and this coyote with the strong bonds formed in a pack now has an even better chance of survival.

Over the past year, I have collected a small group of images showing her moving throughout the preserve. Please enjoy this unique glimpse into her life and respect her story by not seeking her out. Fleeting from prying human eyes drains vital energy from our precious wildlife. This coyote needs no further challenges.

Once again, I find myself learning and teaching from the animals I observe. When the only choice we have is to survive or perish, we must adapt, seek the support we need, and flourish despite our challenges. Never underestimate that each of us has this ability, don’t give up, disappear when you need to heal, find your pack, and keep trying to survive.

A STRANGE GOOD-BYE

By Aisha Sander

I did not really say good-bye or even so long to Patagonia when we moved right before the end of 2020. It felt quite abrupt that my whole life was packed up in nine pieces of poorly organized luggage. I had been home sick before in countless big and small ways, but this time it was more than a passing feeling. It felt like a slow and painful death. Only by processing this grief of separation from my homeland did I find the courage to say goodbye to the dreams and hopes we had put into our life in Patagonia.

Yet still many nights before we moved, I couldn’t sleep, anxious about the future. I wondered how my family would fare in my childhood home of Karachi, a gargantuan monster of a city in the raw and wild place known as Pakistan. Many days leading up to the move I survived like a zombie, eating my feelings and gaining weight even though I was nursing a baby full-time.

The COVID schedule of my days in Patagonia was a dark hole. Some hope peeked in when the weather turned in the fall and the mosquitoes abated. But by then the upcoming elections and the hysterical news cycle was keeping me up all night. I did not like what I was seeing in others, but more importantly in myself. I was turning into a resentful, bitter and angry version of myself that I loathed.

There will be hundreds of thousands of stories like mine coming out of this bizarre and strange time of the pandemic. Stories of exhaustion, endings, beginnings, and transformations.

Undeniably there will be stories of countless strange goodbyes. Perhaps the strangest one that will mark this time are those virtual goodbyes with loved ones in hospitals. My strange good-bye to Patagonia has left it like a faraway dream in my consciousness. Even though I bared myself monthly in my PRT column I doubt people understand how equipped children of alcoholics are at putting a mask over their real feelings and how seeking approval dominates our unconscious intentions. I pretend it was okay to be so alien until I couldn’t, and it took the pandemic, again like it has for so many others, to bring the curtain down on my charade.

I have thought for months about the purpose of my time in Patagonia with its particular beauties and its particular challenges. Today I realized that the time I spent away allowed me to grow in ways that I never would have if I had stayed in Karachi. My longing to return to Pakistan has only made my reunion sweeter and my conviction stronger to trust my inner heart at all costs, even if it sacrifices what I am most attached to in this world.

There’s a tradition in South Asia of what a guest says to his or her host at the end of their stay. He or she says, “Please forgive me if I did anything to offend you during my stay. Thank you for your hospitality. I am very grateful. I will remember you in my prayers. Please remember me in yours.”

May the peace of God be with you all. Ameen.
By Cassina Farley

One Sunday morning I got sucked into one of those "Steals and Deals" segments on a national news program. Usually they sell things like weighted blankets and scented candles, nothing too interesting. On this particular Sunday it was all about New Year - New You. Naturally it centered on weight loss, exercise and all the unholy gad—

Then it was all about New Year - New You. Naturally it centered on weight loss, exercise and all the unholy gadgets that make you feel bad about yourself.

My interest piqued at the latest in smart watch technology. Not only was this watch at the rock bottom price of 80% off, it also measured steps, counted calories, monitored heart rate, blood pressure, temperature and so many more exciting features! Never mind that I never wear watches, I still jotted down the ordering information and with a click of the mouse I ordered it.

When this genius piece of technology finally arrived, I couldn’t wait to put it on. I walked around the house to make sure it was counting my every step. I went outside and then back in. I watched the watch face as the little ticker counted in rapid succession my every move. I walked into a wall. I sat down and downloaded the companion app for my phone so I can have additional features. Now my smart watch will remind me to drink water and receive text messages. Oh the joy! I spent the rest of the day testing my watch. I didn’t really want to but the watch wanted me to drink water. Cool, I can really appreciate this. The companion app sends you health reports and it was really mad I hadn’t logged any sleep data. I must wear the watch to bed. I didn’t really want to but the watch said. The first night I wore the watch to bed it reminded me three times to drink water and that I had a Facebook notification.

I needed to adjust the notifications - but how? I sat on the couch fiddling with the watch while Zach rolled his eyes. It buzzed, reminding me to get up - sedentary warning. Who enabled that?

Two days in, I found myself unable to keep up with the water demands. It didn’t like my REM sleep habits and I was way behind on my steps. It was like living with my 9th grade PE teacher. By day four I found myself passive-aggressively “Forgetting” to put it on. I sat down with it this morning and gave it some parameters. I will not be wearing it to bed. It will just have to deal with it. I will drink water as I see fit and I disabled the sedentary warning feature. My self esteem can’t handle it.

So far we are getting along just fine. My heart rate, blood oxygen and temperature are holding steady. My wrist buzzes sometimes for no reason and it makes me wonder if the watch is trying to punish me. I’m fully aware it can probably hear me. I still don’t know how to take a picture on purpose or how to drink enough water to satisfy it.

What is the moral of this story? A smart watch makes you anything but smart.

**GROUNDWATER THREATS TO SONOITA CREEK WATERSHED**

By Dave Ellis and Chris Werkhoven

The Nature Conservancy has recorded Sonoita Creek surface water flow at its riparian preserve near Patagonia since 1992. Water flows from there into Patagonia Lake, joins the Santa Cruz River at Rio Rico, and flows north toward Tucson. The average flow has been about 3,500 acre-feet per year.

Mining company South32 is seeking permits for up to 7,000 acre-feet per year of treated dewatering effluent that will flow down Harshaw Creek from its treatment plant 900 feet above Patagonia. This would reduce mine tunnel flooding but triple Sonoita Creek’s total water flow. South32 estimates from their model numbers are plotted in reverse order for illustrative purposes and rainfall

The second chart correlates rapid rain events with rapid downhill groundwater flows. It can now be expected that with groundwater monitoring wells carefully sited at the intersections with major tributaries of Sonoita Creek, the sources of Patagonia’s water can be identified with a click of the mouse at the Nature Conservancy.

What is the moral of this story? A smart watch makes you anything but smart.
Staying Safe
By Sarah Klingenstein
Even as the County receives and administers vaccines, the virus continues to infect record numbers of area residents. The month of January saw Arizona having the highest per capita rates for new infections in the country and Santa Cruz County having the highest rate in the state.
Dr. Eladio Pereira, Chief Medical Officer for Mariposa Community Health Center, continues to recommend that all residents act as if they are positive for COVID. “If your mindset is such, you will do the right things. You will stay home as much as you can, not have company over, keep your distance, and always wear a proper mask.” Dr. Pereira advises that a lot is unknown about how and when we will be able relax our vigilance around this virus, even after many people are vaccinated.
New variants, such as the UK variant, appear to spread between 30% and 70% more easily than the original virus, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. Currently, it is unknown whether any of the new variants cause more severe illness or increased risk of death, though that has not yet been seen. However, any increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.
Recent reports that morgues in Tucson are full and that refrigerated trucks have been brought in to store the bodies of those who have died has highlighted the fact that our ability to handle this crisis is being stretched to the limit. Now, perhaps more than ever, rigorous or increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such as vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine, will be essential to protecting public health.
To protect ourselves and those around us, the Center for Disease Control and Johns Hopkins Health, among others, have identified several factors that make mask-wearing more effective:
• Wear a mask of two layers at least; three is even better.
• Wear a mask made of breathable but tightly woven fabric, but NOT fabric you can see through or blow out a candle through. (Johns Hopkins does not allow neck gaiters in its facilities. If you choose to wear a neck gaiter, double it up.)
• Non-medical disposable masks that fit snugly with no large gaps are also effective. Bandannas are not effective. The effect of plastic face shields is still being evaluated.
• Do not wear a mask with an exhalation valve or vent. They still allow you to spread the virus.
• Masks must be worn over both the mouth and nose to protect you and others.
• Do not wear a vinyl mask. It does not allow healthy breathing.
For more information, go to cdc.gov.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Thank You to Clare
I’d like to thank Clare Bonelli and acknowledge her invaluable contributions to our community. Her weekly email of events, services, and notices have kept us informed and aware. And, most importantly, she has promoted a sense of community among the residents of Elgin/Patagonia/Sonoita.
Enjoy your retirement Clare!
Alison Bunting
Sonoita

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES
By PRT Staff Reporters
January 13, 2021
A brief video of new Councilor Francesca Claverie being sworn in by Judge Bracamonte was presented, as this was Claverie’s first meeting. Departing Councilor Melissa Murrietta was thanked for her service.
The Volunteer Fire Dept. reported about 20 incident responses for the month. Of them were medical calls, and two were fire related.
The Patagonia Senior Center reported 238 volunteer hours, with 5364 miles driven in service of 80 seniors in the last quarter. The dining room remains closed, but takeout meal service is conducted from 12-1, Monday through Friday. Building maintenance continues.
The Tree and Park Committee reported on the sale of commemorative trees with plaques, to raise money for extending the irrigation system in Doc Mock Park. There would be roughly 50 emory oaks available at $200 each. Committee member Caleb Weaver noted that some of the trees would be coming from the Borderlands Restoration nursery.
The Council and Mayor approved the writing of a letter of support on behalf of a Borderlands Restoration Network grant proposal to the National Environmental Education foundation for extending irrigation lines in Doc Mock Park.
The Council and Mayor approved new wording to clarify the Encroachment Permit process (under Town Code article 7-7, for Street Excavations).
The Council and Mayor approved an application of Jim Stratton to have a second variance, for five feet of extension into the right of way to the home of Bob Brandt, that would allow a drive-through carport and allow safer and physically easier movement in and out of the home was granted, on the condition that it not block emergency vehicles.
The Council and Mayor approved camping in Doc Mock Park by the “WIN” (Wandering Individual Network) group, from March 17-21, 2021. It was mentioned this group has self-contained trailers, would follow the Town’s COVID protocols, and are a known group who has visited for several years, always leaving a donation to the Town.
A study session to consider the implications for the town of State Proposition 207, allowing the legalization and taxation of recreational cannabis for adult use, was scheduled for Jan 19, 2021. At that session, many pros and cons for the town were considered, along with some discussion of the differences in regulation and sales of medical vs. recreational cannabis. It was decided that the Town’s attorney, Bobby Yu, would draft language for the Town to review, on the business license & regulation process for cannabis businesses.
The Town Council and Mayor approved a meeting in the Town Park, on March 15, 2021 between 11a.m. and 1p.m. of the PAC group of 12 cyclists.

The Patagonia Regional Times encourages everyone to comment publicly on the events and times in which we live. Letters must be signed by the author and include town of residence. Letters are limited to 200 words. PRT reserves the right to edit all letters for language, length, and content.
The Coronado National forest (CNF) is currently conducting a project to remediate the downstream effects of tailings from the 3R Mine near Patagonia. The project, which began in Nov. 2020, is expected to be completed by April, 2021.

The 3R Mine, located high on the west flank of the Patagonia Mountains, was established in 1896 by Rollin Rice Richardson. It produced ore intermittently from 1908 to 1956, leaving behind a sizable legacy of toxic tailings. Copper was the primary metal produced by the mine. It also produced lesser amounts of silver, gold, lead, molybdenum, and aluminum. It was a complex underground mine with several openings, as mine historian William Ascarza wrote: “Workings of the Three R Mine include a 1,000-foot and 3,000-foot adits, three tunnels and a 558-foot shaft, along with 20,000 feet of workings.”

Ore was first brought down the mountain’s switchbacks by burro, later replaced by a wagon road. A concentration plant was built onsite, using crushing & flotation methods. A loading dock at the New Mexico and Arizona railroad near the current Circle Z ranch allowed ore to be put on train cars destined for smelting in El Paso. The 3R operation included a camp, from which one badly damaged adobe cabin and a funky but still workable outhouse survive to this day.

The 371-acre parcel containing the mine was purchased by the Nash family shortly after they acquired the Circle Z Ranch in 1974, and has been put into permanent conservation easement, along with much of the Ranch’s 5,000 or so acres. The Ranch gets its water for both stock and humans from a shallow onsite well, so owner Diana Nash says she and husband Rick Nash are naturally supportive of the CNF cleanup & detoxification efforts.

The historical legacy of the 3R has shown exceedances (excess levels) of copper, cadmium and zinc, the three “minerals of concern” determined by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (AZDEQ) studies in 1996 and 2003. Low pH is also of concern, and the main source of acidity AZDEQ found was acid drainage from the 3R mine, findings which led CNF to finalize design of the project.

The goal of the project is to reduce the flow of these soluble contaminants and unduly acidic water into the watershed. At this moment of continuing major drought, there’s no flow to be monitored for acidity and metal contamination, but when rain returns and water begins flowing in the tributary washes of the Sonoita Creek Watershed, future monitoring will tell if remediation projects have been successful.

The basic plan is to relocate and encapsulate approximately 9,200 cubic yards of tailings nearby. To visualize this volume, picture a football field (45,000 square feet, just over an acre) fully covered at about 6 feet in depth. The earthwork is being performed by the international environmental company Tetra Tech, who will be also doing erosion control and fencing for revegetated areas.

Heading downstream, the 3R Canyon wash joins Sonoita Creek near the Circle Z Ranch buildings, flowing from there to Lake Patagonia. When water overflows the Lake’s dam, it continues into the Santa Cruz River at Rio Rico. Concern about the accumulation of possibly hazardous materials in lake-bottom sediment was reported on in a 2016 Nogales International article by Murphy Woodhouse. In that article, Woodhouse mentioned the 3R Mine as a significant source needing remediation. Also, in the article, CNF environmental engineer Eli Curiel is quoted as saying “They built that right across the drainage bottom, so as the water comes down, it plows right through it and spreads it all around. This is going to be a tough project.”

The remediation of the 3R Mine is one of the 19,000 legacy mining sites in the State’s legacy mine remediation program, with over 120 miles of streams known to be impaired by pollutants from the sites, with associated watersheds being “home to over 150 endangered or threatened species of wildlife, fish and plants, such as the Mexican spotted owl, jaguar and leopard frog,” according to AZDEQ.

By Robert Gay

Forest Service Working to Clean Up Legacy Mine
In case you hadn’t noticed, 2020 wasn’t much fun - and 2021 hasn’t gotten off to a much better start. On the other hand, hopefully, what we’re going through is birth pains and much good will come out of this mess.

I’ve been praying a fair bit and what I’ve been praying is against evil. I think we too often pray for what we want or for what we think God wants, but we are not God and He says: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” (Isaiah 55:8 - NIV) So I’m praying generically and letting God sort it out.

Ephesians 6:12 says “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (NIV) And so I’ve been praying against that stuff. That has always helped me to keep my focus off people and on the evil itself. I don’t believe the vast majority of people are fundamentally bad - even ones I strongly disagree with. So, I pray a lot for wisdom and discernment, not only for myself, but for others as well.

I’m also praying against “hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions” (Gal 5:20 – NIV). What I’m praying for is an in-pouring of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of that Spirit. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Gal 5:22,23 - BSB)

I’m also praying that, through this painful birthing process, we will come out a more just, merciful, and humble people (Micah 6:8) - that we will be more compassionate and that we begin to adopt, in this country, an attitude of “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit [through factional motives, or strife], but with [an attitude of] humility [being neither arrogant nor self-righteous], regard others as more important than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is fulfilled in one precept, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF [that is, you shall have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit].” (Gal 5:14 – AMP)

I’m praying that we birth a nation that is truly “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for ALL” - and that the baby is not stillborn or aborted. That we do not go back to a divided nation full of self-interest, with liberty and justice for some.

I hope others will pray with me.

By Clare Bonelli

Praying in 2021

Patagonia’s destination for local art, gifts, jewelry, and books. New items arriving weekly.
Special holiday gifts and wrapping paper. We are always searching for new local artists with truly unique items.

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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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Gordon Purvis Agency Inc
Bus: (520) 298-3900
gpurvis@amfam.com
gordonpurvis.com

Supporting the ranchers of tomorrow.

Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

The January 2021 Glimpses’ article tells the story of two of the vaqueros who participated in the famed 1890 cattle drive from the Empire Ranch, owned by Walter Vail, to Warner’s Ranch in California. The focus this month is on Severo “Chappo” Miranda and Jesús Maria Elias. Since 1880, when the Southern Pacific Railroad reached Tucson, cattle growers normally shipped their stock by rail. In 1889 the Southern Pacific instituted a 25% rate hike for cattle shipments. To defy the railroad rate increase, Tom Turner, Foreman of the Empire Ranch, and Vail’s brother Edward volunteered to drive 900 steers overland to the Warner Ranch near San Diego. The drive began on January 29, 1890 and ended two months and ten days later.

Severo Miranda was born in Hermosillo, Mexico in 1837. He was nicknamed “Chappo” due to his short stature. He married Norberta Sasueta in 1869 and they emigrated to the United States in the late 1870s. The couple had two daughters, Matilde and Severa, both born in Arizona Territory. As Edward Vail recounted in the 1920s: “Pa Chappo, as he is called now, commenced working at the Empire Ranch about 1880 and is still on the payroll.” Chappo died of pneumonia at age 85, on April 27, 1922 at the Empire Ranch. His death certificate states he is buried at the Empire Ranch, but there is no known gravestone for him.

When the 1890 cattle drive arrived at Yuma, prior to crossing the Colorado River, Edward Vail wrote in his Diary of a Desert Trail: “The next day we let all of our cowboys go to town to buy some clothing, which some of them needed badly and we gave them free rein to enjoy themselves as they pleased. Of course, they did not go all at one time as some had to stay and herd the cattle. Among the last of our men to get back to camp that night was Severo Miranda (Chappo). He was somewhat ‘lit up’ and made a short speech to Tom Turner in Spanish, which translated amounted to this: ‘Mr. Tom, I am sorry that I am pretty full tonight, and you know that no matter what you tell me to do I am always ready and willing to do it – riding mean mules or anything else.’ According to Vail’s diary notes, Chappo was paid for 2 months and 19 days’ work on the trail drive. His compensation was $65.83 with $2.30 off for funds advanced to him.

Jesús Maria Elias was born in Tabuc in 1829, so he was 61 when he joined the cattle drive. During a meal of rattlesnake Ed Vail wrote: “The only man among us who tasted it was Jesús María Elias, who told us that when he was with General Crook as his chief trail he had frequently eaten it. I knew Elias and his family well, but I never knew he was so celebrated a man as he really was. I afterwards learned that he was the leader of the celebrated so-called ‘Camp Grant Massacre.’ He with William Oury, eight Americans, quite a number of Mexicans and a large number of Papago Indians marched over to the mouth of Aravaipa Canyon, which was right in sight of the old Camp Grant but then occupied by American troops, and nearly exterminated that band of Apaches.” Elias was paid $56.70 for 2 months and 8 days minus $11.30 for funds advanced to him. Elias died in Tucson in 1896.

Monthly Recycling Events Continue in Patagonia

By Bob Brandt

Until a comprehensive recycling program can be implemented in the town or county, in cooperation with the town, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force will hold monthly events at which it will accept a single recyclable commodity. Its first single-commodity event took place on Jan. 23 when the all-volunteer group collected only glass.

The event was held in tandem with the Mountain Empire Rotary Club’s collection of electronics, scrap metal and household batteries. Both events took place in the rear of the Patagonia Post Office. Clare Bonelli and her husband Mike Sweedo were again key volunteers for the glass collection. Sweedo helped load the estimated quarter-ton of glass and transported all of it to the City of Tucson which recently purchased a machine that crushes the glass for use in sandbags and as aggregate for construction projects. Also helping were Donna and Tom Edmunds, Annie McGreevy, Quentin Lewton and PRT President Jac Heiss.

Bonelli also coordinated the Rotary event.

Fifty residents brought their glass to the event, a number that exceeded the task force’s expected participation.

Patagonia Town Manager Ron Robinson, who did much of the loading, was pleased with the turnout because it will save the town on tipping fees, which have increased substantially since the county suspended its recycling program nearly a year ago. For this reason, he suggested the task force consider accepting glass along with its commodity of the month.

The task force is planning to hold single-commodity events on the fourth Saturday of each month until a more comprehensive program can be instituted. The next event is scheduled for Feb. 27 when clean corrugated cardboard will be accepted. The task force will publicize the specifics of each monthly event on the PRT website and will post flyers around the community.

Cardboard acceptable for recycling must be free of food and beverage residue, staples and duct tape or other heavy tape. Clear or paper tape is acceptable. The cardboard must be flattened. Wax-coated and non-corrugated paper board such as cereal boxes are not acceptable and should be recycled with other types of paper.

Stand up for a child who has been abused or neglected.

Become a CASA volunteer today.

CASA of Santa Cruz County
2160 N. Congress Dr., Nogales, AZ
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Become a CASA Volunteer Today.
Rock Solid!

In the dead center of a dry, desiccated, and somewhat desolate winter there is always one thing we can rely upon to pique the naturalist in each of us - rocks! With wildlife populations diminished by drought and our local flora seeming little more than a motley collection of half-alive trees and shrubs, we can take true solace in our unique Sky Islands geology.

Through the vast expanses of geologic time, what is now Southeast Arizona has been variously: inundated by a shallow sea, blasted by violent vulcanism, uplifted and sunk by major faulting, seriously eroded by a wetter/colder Pleistocene ice-age climate, and even rocked by devastating earthquakes. Collectively, these and other natural forces have rendered our Sky Islands one of the most geologically diverse regions in North America, if not the world. Here, I shall profile some of the star players in our local and distinct geologic theatre.

It is perhaps fitting to begin with our nearby mountain ranges, as they visually and ecologically dominate our landscapes. Have you ever pondered the truly bewildering variety of shapes and profiles presented by our mountains? They run the gamut - from bold spires (think Baboquivari Peak and the Dos Cabezas) to super-sized rock walls (e.g. the Atacossas) to gentle domes (e.g. the Pinalenos and Chiricahuas) and even bizarre hybrid landscapes (e.g. the Catalinas). By comparison, other mountainous regions of the world often present more uniform and thematic mountain shapes and profiles.

Delving for a moment into one of our ranges, the town of Patagonia is on the precipice of its namesake range, which generally harbors more gentle profiles with a few triangular peaks. Herein lies a vast armada of assorted rocks and minerals, which a casual walk up the dry bed of Harshaw Creek readily reveals. The array of colors, shapes, and textures is best appreciated by picking up and handling each rock that catches your eye.

As you allow yourself to delve deeper into the nuances of a particular stone, realize that almost assuredly you are handling an exogenous piece. One maxim of geology is: “gravity never sleeps.” In other words, what goes up (i.e. mountains, via vulcanism and faulting) must come down (i.e. via erosion). The journey that each rock takes until it becomes mere particles must truly be epic.

Going back to the macro scale, contemplate the astonishing variety of canyons found within a 100-mile radius of Patagonia. Some, like Madera Canyon are major defiles, while others are measured in mere dozens of vertical feet. Be they grand or minute, canyons literally funnel water and its attendant erosive forces, as well as life itself into their depths. More water equates to more flora and fauna, while the looming cliffs

climate change and economic distress, has pushed me beyond my normal boundaries. Call it luck or maybe serendipity, but just recently an article appeared on my phone, via CNN, about scientists discovering the oldest quasar and its parent black hole. That’s what I wanted: to be led as far away as possible from current events. So, all credit and thanks to the author, Ashley Strickland, for the piece that was posted on January 14, 2021. Even more, thanks to the two University of Arizona astronomers who co-authored the study based on their research. Go CATS!

“Quasar” stems from the combination of quasi and stellar, a star-like object. Supermassive black holes appear to serve as the driving forces behind the creation of these incredibly luminous regions located at the heart of galaxies. As gasses near the black hole begin to collapse into it, a vast amount of energy, of electromagnetic radiation - light - is released.

The quasar just discovered, according to the article, is not just incredibly bright, but its black hole is more massive than one billion suns. It is effectively pulling in and devouring the equivalent of 20 suns every year. But what really makes this quasar different from all others is that the light emanating from it took 13 billion years to reach us. Feel free to do the math: light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Nothing similar has ever been found.

Now, though, let’s return to luminosity. This measure goes beyond brightness. Two identical flashlights set at different distances can appear brighter or fainter to an observer. To correct for this, luminosity measures the actual amount of energy an object emits. In the case of our quasar, it is estimated to be 10 trillion times more luminous than the sun.

The discovery has led to new questions about black hole formation. It’s amazing, isn’t it? We can see it, calculate its age and its energy output. But, at least for now, we can only guess how it formed.

So, why is this at all important when so much horror, hate and fear surround us? I marvel at the technology, at the human genius and determinism that has made such measurements possible. I marvel at the infinite possibilities found in the universe. How is it that we can find so much to argue about when so there is so much yet to learn?

Long before there was even a single celled organism on our planet, well before our planet was formed, and billions of years before our own sun exploded into existence, a black hole was consuming the stars, dust and gas that created the quasar whose light has been on the move for 13 billion years. But here, now, we find reasons to fight over just about everything.

I guess we do it to feel important, to feel in control. I’d rather we all found self-importance in our ability to realize just how incredible it is that each of us has the ability to begin to grasp that light, time - let’s call it life itself - has been on the move for 13 billion years. Really, what the hell are we fighting about?
Cassandra Hunsdon is not only the founder of her new business, The Farmer’s Daughter, but she actually is a farmer’s daughter originally from Hunsdon Farm in Willcox, AZ, which is now part of Apple Annie’s Produce and Pumpkins in Willcox.

While she was growing up on the Hunsdon Farm with seven siblings, her mother was instrumental in teaching her how to bake. As an adult, Hunsdon enjoyed roving and working on several small family vegetable farms in Virginia for about eight years, working as an intern and then in management.

Her return to Arizona was precipitated by debilitating Lyme disease. She hoped that the low humidity and clean air would help her to heal. Now recovering her strength, Hunsdon started her cottage business, The Farmer’s Daughter, from her home in Sonoita in January, 2020. Unfortunately, the timing coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic, which set her back for several months. Finally, in October, 2020, the timing coincided with the “up event” coordinating with Aishah Lurry from Patagonia Flower Farm, in Patagonia, and an early Valentine’s Day, will be offering flower arrangements, heart and moss wreaths made from manzanita, dried flowers, and live daffodil and tulip bulbs. Hunsdon will provide specialty Valentine cookies, flourless chocolate Valentine cake and her regular baked staples. She will also take some special orders for art, plants, and oils.

Since starting up she has focused on baked products. In addition, she delivers, provides a specialty subscription service for deliveries once or twice per month, and provides baked products for several local wineries and the Food Coop in Sierra Vista. Hunsdon also distributes and sells Pamela’s Gluten Free Flour.

The Farmer’s Daughter is registered with the Arizona Cottage Food Registration #10314, Arizona Department of Health Services.

For orders or inquiries contact Cassandra, www.farmersdaughteraz.com, 623- 523-7367, or email farmersdaughteraz@gmail.com
2nd Annual PRT Essay Contest Winners

The PRT had an amazing response to our school essay contest, receiving 15 essays in the high school division and 39 essays from middle school students. These essays came from Elgin School, PUHS, Patagonia Middle School and local home schooled students. Students in grades 6 - 8 were asked to write about what they would include in a time capsule that would embody the culture of their community. The high school students were asked to write a persuasive essay convincing readers to support a cause. The PRT would like to thank Borderlands Restoration Network and the Patagonia Creative Arts Association who co-sponsored this event and we would like to thank all the teachers who partnered with us on this essay contest. We couldn’t have done this without their help.

We hope you enjoy reading these prize-winning essays as much as we did. Next month we will share more of our prize winning essays.

First Place Essay
High School Division

GRASSLANDS INTERRUPTED

By Cheded Chap, PUHS, grade 12

I wake up in the schoolhouse, dawn tapping on the window pane above my sleeping bag on the floor. I wake up, and creep out without anyone noticing, and my socks drag me through the dirt at four in the morning. The only breath of heat comes from the hot plate, the smell of chorizo and eggs rising. I look out on the grasslands, stretching for forever, and the array of the border stretching less than a mile away; an array of ‘x marks the spot,’ an array stamping where forever should end.

Here at four in the morning, three days short of summer solstice, standing at not a bridge but a border of two countries, it is my birthday. Cooking chorizo and eggs, I have turned sixteen in America - and if I could run down the dirt road, my socks studded with goatheads, if I could hold my breath to suck my stomach in and bend a little, by work when we break out our shovels and hardhats and pickaxes, we’re not restoring America. We’re restoring a sky island, with wasps and tarantulas and deer and El Jefe the jaguar and medialunas and streams and trincheras- a sky island that is whole, that is one even with a border stitched across.

The border is a hiccup, and as much as it may deter my water from flowing, I pray it sinks beneath. I pray the water sinks beneath so the flowers can grow the same on the other side. I pray the water sinks beneath so the ground is sticky and strong enough to hold a July flash flood ripping through. I pray the water sinks beneath so whichever way the herd stays they have a stream to lap a pink tongue on. And above all, I pray whatever walls and watch towers that could erect stay away, so I don’t have to pray for the other side, so that the sides left are none and these split grasslands that look so similar north or south just become one.

I want my streams to be bridges, I want the water to not flow under but through. I want puddles to jump in, and herds to roam, and the land that belonged to so many before this country began to stop being stolen and drawn off and being labeled ‘x marks the spot.’ I want forever. Grasslands uninterrupted.

First Place Essay
Middle School Division

TIME CAPSULE IN SONOITA

By Dixie Maier, Elgin School, grade 8

Sonoita is a very small ranching town with dirt roads, hilly grasslands, wineries, ranches, and mountains for miles, but it would not be easy to put any farm animals into a time capsule, nor would it be easy to stick a whole mountain into one.

When I think of Sonoita I think of all the dirt roads full of cattle who escaped through the barred wire fence, and in a hundred years from now the town of Sonoita will probably be completely different. If I were to pick something to represent the town of Sonoita, I would choose to put dirt from different parts of Sonoita into a time capsule.

The first container of dirt I would put in the time capsule would be from dirt roads. Citizens of Sonoita know what it is like to never have a clean car, and how annoying it is to always have to fix an uneven driveway. They also know what it is like to drive a trailer full of animals down bumpy, hilly dirt roads, but that is a part of the country life in Sonoita.

The next container of dirt I would put in the capsule would be the dirt used to grow grapes for wine. A huge part of Sonoita is its wineries, and people come from all over to taste wine. There are seventeen vineyards, fourteen wineries, and a brewery, so the wine industry is a big part of the town of Sonoita.

The next container of dirt I would put in the capsule would be dirt from an arena. Sonoita is a huge rodeo town with a Labor Day rodeo that has been held annually for over 100 years. Between ranchers, bull riders, bronc riders, ropers, barrel racers, and plenty more, rodeo and ranching is the basis of how Sonoita citizens live.

In conclusion, it may just sound like dirt, but it really is a lot more than that to the people of Sonoita. One hundred years from now, I would want whoever opened that time capsule to envision how amazing this little town really is, and I hope it would influence them to try to preserve it or return it back to how it is now.

Grayce’s

For someone you love on Valentine’s Day.

Gene Griego
Chef/Owner
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Patagonia, AZ 85624
524-394-0010

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Patagonia Schools

Congratulations To Our Local Honor Roll Students!!

Patagonia Elementary
Dodson, Jayme
Fimbres, Alexis
Pelayo, Arihanna
Cabrera, David
Castellanos, Valeria
Gomez, Adrian
Guzman, Andres
Lewton, Emma
Majalca, Brianna
Salazar Wilson, Laila
Sanchez, Skylar
Vervantes Valenzuela, Isela
Dodson, Serenity
Estrada, Losiram
Guzman, Erika
Pelayo, Viviana
Ruskowitz, Alexander
Somoza, Amaya
Cabrera, Nicole
Hoyos-Mingura, Airam
Leon, Sebastian
Majalca, Sophia
Mihai, Priscilla
Guerrero, Eslé
Hawkins, Troy
Lorta, Allesandra
Lorta, Camila
Lorta, Naomi
Myers, Charlotte
Nunez, Damian

Patagonia Union High School

12th Grade
Aguilar, Lalo
Chap, Chedish
Jacob, Dylan
Lattanzio, Sophia
Neustadter, Eugene
Quiroz, Carol
Santos, Alex
Sedam, Asa
Urias, Justice
Vasquez, Julian
Whitcoe, Kurt
Woodard, Hannah
Young, Brianna
Young, Emma
Young, Hannah

11th Grade
Aguilar, Santiny
Botz, Thomas
Carranza, Ivan

6th Grade
Sapphira Bandelin
Rashel Gronlund
Jace Scuton
Alayna Swanson
Joshua Woods

7th Grade
Ximena Gonzalez
Diego Padilla
Miguel Albarran Gomez
Julie Rodriguez

8th Grade
Ryan Bronstein
Sebella Dineley
Johnathan Fields
Dixie Meier
Sebastian Padilla

Honor Roll is selected from the students who had a 3.0 GPA or higher for the first semester of classes.

Elgin Elementary School

2nd Quarter Honor Roll

6th Grade
Sapphire Bandelin
Rashel Gronlund
Jace Scuten
Alayna Swanson
Joshua Woods

7th Grade
Ximena Gonzalez
Diego Padilla
Miguel Albarran Gomez
Julie Rodriguez

8th Grade
Ryan Bronstein
Sebella Dineley
Johnathan Fields
Dixie Meier
Sebastian Padilla

Basketball Returns to PUHS

By Marion Vendituoli

The PUHS girls and boys basketball teams played their first games of the 2021 season at home on Jan. 19. The boys’ team won their game, 32 – 25. The girls’ team lost to Fort Thomas School, with a final score of 75 – 31.

In a normal year, the high school basketball season kicks off in late November, but the pandemic caused the Arizona Interscholastic Assn. (AIA) to first delay, and then, on Jan. 8, to cancel the 2021 winter high school sports season.

However, the AIA executive board then reversed that decision on Jan. 12, allowing sports to resume. “David Hines, the AIA executive director, said that [Jan. 8] decision brought about harassment and threats to some AIA board members,” according to an article posted on ArizonaSports.com.

This most recent decision left it up to individual school districts to decide whether to participate in winter sports. The AIA made it mandatory that everyone in attendance must wear a mask, including players, coaches and spectators.

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund is now accepting scholarship applications! Scholarships are available for high school seniors or adults returning to school at community colleges, four-year universities or technical schools. Apply by March 1. Through one application, you will also be matched to any of the other 90 ACF scholarships for which you qualify.

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund

We’re here to help you make a difference.
Call or click: 520.439.0595
or www.azfoundation.org/Patagonia

The kids are really excited. It’s been a roller-coaster for them. We’re excited that they get an opportunity to play, especially the upper classmen” he added. “High school athletics are an important outlet for kids in a small town.”

Justice Urias attempts to dribble past a Fort Thomas player at the season opener of Lobo basketball January 19.

Photo by Marion Vendituoli
### EVENTS

#### MEETINGS

**AA**: Patagonia Methodist Church Fri, 7:30p.m. Sonoita Bible Church Tues, 7:30p.m. For more AA meetings call 520-624-4183.

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

Aalanon (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 encouraged 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 Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month, Sonoita Bible Church. All are welcome.

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. April Anderson at andea@msn.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-0155.

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

Lunch for Seniors: Dining Room Closed. Fresh-cooked meals Available to pick up, Mon - Fri 12p.m. -1p.m. At the Patagonia Senior Center.


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

Sonoita Farmers Market: Sat 9a.m.-12p.m. Located at post office parking lot, NW corner Hwy 82 & 83

Patagonia Farmers Market: Thursday 10a.m. -3p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods

Flea Market at Heart of Gold Antiques: First Sat of every month. 10a.m. - 2p.m. Free to set up. Call 520-394-0199 for any additional information.

East SCC Community Food Bank: Every Monday from 10:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. Distribution of fresh vegetables at the senior Center in Patagonia through vegetable season.

Sonoita Produce on Wheels: Every Monday from 10:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. Info: 520-394-2954


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

Open Tennis: Sat & Sun, PUHS at 6a.m. - 5p.m. Info: 520-394-2973.

Drumming Circle: Every Tues. 6p.m. Social distance is practiced. Located in Central Park in Patagonia. All are welcome. Weather permitting. Call Lori 520-490-4991 for info.

### CHURCH SERVICES

Churches are practicing social distancing.

Canelo Cowboy Church 14 McCarthy Lane, Elgin 520-604-6990 Sunday Service: 8:30a.m. Sunday School: 10a.m.

Patagonia Community United Methodist Church In person Sunday service 10a.m. Services will continue to be broadcasted to KPUP 100.5 as well. Several other services are being offered throughout the week. Call or email church office for more info. 520-394-2274 patagoniaumc@gmail.com

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church 222 Third Ave., Patagonia In Person Service resumed. Call for time & schedule 520-394-2954

Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin Sunday Service: 10a.m.

Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Hwy 83, Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Wed.

VINE Christian Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita Sunday Service: 10a.m Cafe, 10:30a.m service

St. Andrews Episcopal Church 969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales Services are weekly, however times changes frequently. Visit standrewsaz.org for additional info.

Quaker Worship Group, Meets via Zoom. Contact Janice Pulliam if interested 706-614-6959

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church 12 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita 520-394-2954 Sat 10:30a.m. 5:30p.m. Sunday Mass: 8a.m.
KPUP Broadcast Schedule
WINTER 2021

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: Wednesday, 3pm: Jackson’s 10 Songs
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 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. 8am.
Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.