Derby Day 2021 at the Sonoita Fairgrounds

Shalynn and Randilynne Etchart, of Sonoita, took first place in the Derby Hat Contest at Derby Day.

 Although the pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2021 Sonoita Races, the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Assn. (SCCFRA) Board hosted a day of community activities to celebrate the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 1.

The event kicked off in the morning with four teams entered in a softball tournament, organized by Ashley Mathews and Megan Thomas, which was won by The Sonoita Sluggers. 142 teams participated in the team roping event, put on by MB Productions.

The 4-H held a successful fundraiser with a rummage sale; a saddle walk, a form of musical chairs with five saddles offered as prizes; a silent auction; and chicken poop bingo, where players bought squares on a board, the winner being the one whose square was graced with a deposit by Romi the chicken, who also was entered in the Derby Hat contest accompanied by her owner Faith Keith.

The Derby Hat contest, sponsored by Michelle Cole, of Pretty Situation, was won by Shalynn and Randilynne Etchart.

The newly renovated Pioneer Hall kitchen was dedicated at the event to Diane Collins, who has been a long supporter and volunteer of the Sonoita Fairgrounds.

Barbecue prepared by the Elgin Club, mint juleps and live music by John E. Mann and Garry Rust, sponsored by Dave and Dorene Daiss, continued the festivities well into the evening.

Faith Keith and her chicken ‘Roni’ entered the Derby Hat contest. Faith, a member of the Mustangs 4-H Club, also worked at the 4-H rummage sale, saddle walk and chicken poop bingo fundraising events at Derby Day.

SCCFRA Board President Harry Dotson presents Diane Collins with a plaque dedicating the newly renovated kitchen at the Fairgrounds to her.
MISSION STATEMENT
To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz County, including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita, and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

WHO WE ARE
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4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION RETURNING TO PATAGONIA!!
Sky Island Tourism Association, Patagonia Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, and the Town of Patagonia are excited to announce the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks will take place this year.
The “Hometown” parade will start staging at 10:00 a.m. at the Patagonia Schools parking lot. Bring a float, bike, horse, truck, old car, or walk in the parade. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. The Town of Patagonia is enforcing “NO WATER BALLOONS, etc.” to be thrown or sprayed on the parade participants.
The fireworks will begin at dusk. (weather permitting).
Bring the family and line the streets of Patagonia, have a picnic in the park or eat at a local restaurant and support local businesses. There will not be food vendors in the park this year.
Fireworks are paid for by donations to a special fund held by Sky Island Tourism Association (SITA). Donations can be mailed to SITA, PO Box 241, Patagonia, AZ 85624.

The bridge in Elgin is decorated with flags, bows and stars to commemorate Memorial Day.

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

What is The Press Core?
Press Core is the Patagonia Regional Times monthly giving program that helps sustain the PRT’s operations throughout the year.

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Photo by Marion Vendituoli
Meet the PRT Writers
Introducing the writers who regularly contribute articles and columns to the Patagonia Regional Times. Look for more profiles in upcoming issues.

Francesca Claverie
Hello, my name is Francesca Claverie and I write native plant related content for the Patagonia Regional Times. I grew up on an alfalfa farm in Calexico, CA where my family has strong roots on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. I attended elementary school in Calexico’s sister city, Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, where my mother would walk me and my brother across the border every day so we could learn Spanish, understand border life, and have a deeper connection to our Mexican heritage.

I started working with native plants at the UC Davis Arboretum while in college and, after graduating with degrees in Native American Studies and International Agricultural Development, continued as a manager, assisting with propagation research and organizing plant sales. I also had a brief stint working in a nematode identification lab, and although fascinating and enjoyable, I am happy I didn’t stick to that career path.

In 2013 I moved to Patagonia for an internship with Native Seeds/SEARCH and will never leave! I now work at Borderlands Restoration Network managing the Native Plant Materials Program. I am passionate about increasing accessibility and enthusiasm for native plants, and promoting partnerships between nurseries and plant programs on both sides of the border. I currently serve on boards of the Patagonia Regional Times and the Sweetwater Center in Cascabel, AZ and in 2021 began a term on Patagonia’s Town Council. I enjoy living with many wonderful housemates and co-workers, including my sweet pup Chitipan, baby cats, and a couple old chickens.

Vince Pinto
As a naturalist with degrees in wildlife biology (B.S.) and ethnobotany (M.A.), I offer unique and inspiring tours and educational outdoor programs through Ravens-Way Wild Journeys - my nature adventure and conservation organization based in the Sky Islands of southeast Arizona. My wife, Claudia, and I own and manage two nature preserves: Raven’s Nest by Patagonia Lake and Sonora Creek State Natural Area & Raven’s Mountain in the Chiricahua Mountains. Raven’s Nest hosts a luxury safari camp for birders, nature-lovers and those craving peace and solitude.

My lifelong mission and passion is to educate and inspire people about the beauty and critical biodiversity of the natural world. Thus, we offer custom birding tours, naturalist training, biodiversity tours, wilderness survival training, astronomy programs, ethnobotany programs, and more.

My field research in Arizona includes spotted owls, willow flycatchers, yellow-billed cuckoos, and wild turkeys. My naturalist explorations have included: Hawaii, Alaska, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Japan, Singapore, Australia, France, Italy, & Botswana.

I have trained participants for several Survival TV shows and acted as a Consultant to ‘Fat Guys in the Woods.’ I was the survival expert for the Arizona episode of ‘Marooned’ with Ed Stafford, and have lent my expertise to several pilot shoots focused on endangered wildlife, such as Mexican Gray Wolves, and on Conservation in AZ. I also acted in an anti-mining film based in Patagonia.

Patra Kelly
I grew up on a ranch in Idaho, imagining what it would be like to explore lush, tropical places. The opportunity came in the late ’60s when I went to Bogota, Colombia for six years to teach in a school established by a group of Franciscan nuns from the U.S. that emphasized creative thinking and originality. I also taught English in a language center to groups, such as airline pilots.

When I returned to the U.S., I lived briefly in New York City, then moved to New Jersey where my husband, Chuck, our daughter and I became involved in a parent-owned school. With two friends, we purchased a mansion in the inner city for a low price and formed a cooperative, ages six to eighty, that lasted almost ten years. There were never any privacy issues, as there were three floors and seventeen rooms, including a ballroom which we used for music and exercise.

Laura Wenzel
I have been writing for the PRT for nearly eight years and working at Patagonia Public Library for just as long. Ever since I was a child, I wanted to write and to be surrounded by books and now I get to do those very things. Prior to working at our library, I studied literature and creative writing at the University of Arizona. I worked in restaurants as a server, dishwasher, a garde manger, and baker, cleaned houses, and was even assistant editor of this paper for a year.

Though my culinary career didn’t "pan" out, working at the library has been one of the highlights of my life thus far, mostly because I love the many aspects it has allowed me to serve our community.

The pandemic has put many things into perspective for me, namely that I miss when the library was completely open and full of exuberant people. As Library Director, I continue to look towards the future of the library. Turns out, all of the writing I did in my youth paid off and the library was awarded all four of the grants that we applied for at the beginning of 2021. Later this year, we’ll have hotspots and Chromebooks for lending, new and exciting digital content, as well as a new Library of Things collection.

When I’m not at the library or plunked in front of my computer working from home, I’m probably in my kitchen cooking a meal or baking something tasty for my household.

Cooking is my love language. I recently rekindled my love affair with delicious food and it has become a godsend for my mental health (though not so much my waistline) in these stressful times. Although I have my tried-and-true standbys, experimenting with new recipes and flavors is too much fun, even if things don’t turn out quite right.

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New Route Connects Town, Arizona Trail

By Zay Hartigan

Construction has been completed this spring on Phase 2 of the Train Track Trail (TTT) that now connects the town of Patagonia with the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) at Casa Blanca Canyon.

The TTT was originally envisioned by Betsy McGee and Cornelia O’Connor to connect the towns of Patagonia and Sonoita using the old New Mexico and Arizona Railroad railbed. By 2007 the group they formed became META, the Mountain Empire Trail Association. Some of the key players were Gary Gay, then Mayor of Patagonia Museum, and Jeffrey Cooper of the Community Coalition.

I became involved that year as an individual with a penchant for design and trails, building and maintaining trails, and building and maintaining trails, as such a project has always been of interest in such a project. In a typical "rails to trails" conversion, the railbed right of way is a long, narrow, legally defined piece of property that is of no use to a railroad company, and can be transferred to another entity (usually a local government) intact, and managed as a whole.

Unfortunately, the local rail-bed had been abandoned so long ago that it had reverted to the deeds beneath it, meaning the physical route and its structural remnants belonged to 17 private properties as well as the town of Patagonia.

Many of these landowners were resistant to a recreational trail crossing their properties. This obstacle was discovered early on, and a number of strategies were identified and pursued. It was decided to start with "Phase 1," a partnership with the town, TNC, and Native Seeds, to build a trail crossing their lands from the town hall to the town limit using the old rail-bed, as well as a partial loop back. This would give the group experience, and hopefully establish a track record that might sway other potential partners down the line. All parties were supportive, and three years later the 2.5-mile partial loop Train Track Trail was opened.

"Phase 2," the next 3.25 miles, would not be as easy. Initially, we built a trail around the properties that did not want to participate, using the ADOT right of way, but unfortunately, the first couple miles of it leaving Patagonia are too narrow, and that plan was not feasible. However, the trail now reaches the area where the right of way is wide enough, and that will be an important element in connecting the two towns.

With the completion of Phase 2, the TTT now provides a crucial connection to the new route being created for the AZT, which now crosses Hudbay and Borderlands Restorations private lands. The partnerships with these two organizations are critical to the AZT, and the TTT. The "Last Spike" in Phase 2 of the TTT was laid when South 32 bought the three critical parcels we previously could not get permission to cross. Their generosity and support of the local trails has allowed us to connect the town to the new route of the AZT, and in turn, to the trail system on Borderlands.

The AZT is an 825 mile non-motorized, primitive, recreational National Scenic Trail crossing the entire state bottom to top. It was completed the same year the TTT was opened, 2010. Because it uses only public lands, the only route through the Patagonia area came right through town using ten miles of public roads. From the beginning this was viewed as not ideal, but as the trail became more complete and established, and as local traffic increased, getting the trail off the roads became a priority.

When I became a steward in 2004, work was already under way to identify an alternative route. This route would have to cross a minimum of two miles of private land and would have to maintain access to Patagonia.

Patagonia, “the best little trail town in Arizona,” consistently gets rave reviews from trail users. But the route through town is consistently rated as such a negative that it cancels the value of the town to through travelers, those who wish to travel long stretches or even the entire trail at once.

Trails, at their heart, are about connections. Predating roads, they were always about connecting one place to another. Now they are mostly about recreation, and many trails or trail systems feature a loop back to the starting place. But even such a trail connects the user with the landscapes and lifeforms they encounter on the trail, and to some degree with other users, and the builders and maintainers of the trails. They can connect communities, and they can create communities. Our own Train Track Trail with its many artifacts, also connects us to Patagonia’s past as a rail-head town, where ranchers and miners could send their goods to markets far away.

Strong communities build trails, and trails strengthen communities. Will the TTT make the final connection between Sonoita and Patagonia some day? It will if the communities really want it to. For more information on META/TTT, contact us through our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Train-Track-Trail-112305312450072.

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Local Woman Doing Her Part

400 – 700 people have been going through the center each day, according to Miller. “Why our center is so well run is because they listened to Emergency Management on flow,” Miller said. “The Mariposa Clinic and the County Health Department worked together. The flow was designed to make it easy, no long waits. It’s just so efficiently run.”

“It’s so great. You have these people who have been cooped up in their homes, isolated and then they come in to get a shot and they are so ecstatic, joyous, thrilled. They come out pumping their arms, old ladies and old men,” she said. “Workers who had colleagues die, who had the disease go through their entire warehouse or grocery store, and they are so happy that there is a solution. They didn’t want to take the disease back to their families.”

Before she retired four years ago, Miller taught English as a second language to international graduate students and to refugees for 20 years, taught University faculty members to become better instructors and worked for USDA in leadership development. She and her husband, Steve Finch, had been visiting family in Patagonia for over 40 years and moved here full time eight years ago, where they became involved in several community organizations.

Miller believes that her training as a member of the Patagonia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) prepared her for her job at the vaccine center. She is also President of the Friends of the Patagonia Library, serves on the Patagonia Elementary School Board, and, pre-COVID, volunteered at the Methodist Thrift Shop.

The vaccine center is scheduled to be shut down the third week of June. Presently the Center is accepting walk-ins as well as people with appointments. Miller urges everyone to take precautions against catching the virus. “You have a right to your opinion,” she said. “But the thing you might consider if you have children or other people who depend on you, wear a mask or get a vaccination because they need you to stay alive.”

By Marion Vendituoli

Marilyn Miller has been the volunteer coordinator at the Nogales vaccination site since January.

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

CASA of Santa Cruz County
2160 N. Congress Dr., Nogales, AZ (520) 375-8159 or mfish@courts.az.gov

Charles Houston Cobb, JD, PhD
May 25, 1943 – April 3, 2021

Marilyn Miller has served as coordinator at the Nogales vaccination site since January.

C. Houston Cobb was born in Alamogordo, New Mexico May 25, 1943 to Mary Schultz Cobb and Gentry Cobb. Gentry was a railroad bridge maintenance forman, so the family lived in a boxcar near Douglas for awhile when Houston was two.

The family moved to Reno, NV where Houston explored, studied, ran track and became a champion roller skater. Then he went to the University of Nevada and graduated with the highest grade point ever in the physics department up to that time. He worked at the Nevada test site and Los Alamos while in college, then went to UC Santa Barbara for his doctorate in 1970.

Houston took a professorship at the University of Nevada and graduated with the highest grade point ever in the physics department up to that time. He worked at the Nevada test site and Los Alamos while in college, then went to UC Santa Barbara for his doctorate in 1970.

Houston helped St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Nogales develop their computer system and helped Sara produce six Year Books for the Preschool at St Andrews. About 2006 Houston became the president of the Red Rock Acres HOA in Patagonia. After 11 years he stepped down due to deteriorating health.

Houston was kind and generous with his skills and knowledge.

Houston once told nurses where he was “incarcerated” (TMC) that they could call him Professor they could call him your Excellency, BUT don’t call him Charles. Unfortunately he was “incarcerated” several times before he finally passed away on Easter Saturday, April 3, 2021, at home where he could see the mountains he loved and had his two Siamese furry friends with him.

Houston is survived by his wife of 41 years, Sara, his son, Gentry Troy Cobb who lives in Kentucky, his step-children Dr. Sheryl Wright and Bruce Jones who live in California, his brother Gary Cobb (Peggy) who lives in California, his daughter Dr. Sheryl Wright and Bruce Jones who live in California, his brother Gary Cobb (Peggy) who lives in Idaho, eight nieces and nephews and 15 great nieces and nephews.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, there are no plans for a memorial in the near future.
SEFD Bd. Seeks Attorney's Advice, Adds New Member

By Kat Crockett

On May 24, a public meeting was held at the Sonoita Fire Station that included an executive session to consult with the Sonoita Elgin Fire District (SEFD) attorney Donna Aversa on several issues. Upon reconvening the public meeting, a motion was unanimously approved to deny a $10,000 claim submitted by Peter Potoski alleging withholding of payments. Former Chief DeWolf and potential recovery of such payment was unanimously approved to deny a $10,000 claim submitted by Peter Potoski alleging withholding of payments. Johnson stated that the Board’s attorney had public records.

As one agenda item, Board Chair Chris Johnson stated that the Board’s attorney had contacted the Santa Cruz County Attorney’s office regarding the unauthorized payments made to former Chief DeWolf and potential recovery of such payments.

The County Attorney suggested that SEFD contact the local Sheriff’s office; however, no decision to do so has been made at this date. Johnson also stated that the board intends to submit additional information on their insurance claim by June 1 to attempt reimbursement for costs associated with DeWolf’s salary and benefits overpayment and subsequent costs for attorney and investigation services. The board unanimously approved an IGA for contract services for a part-time Fire Chief’s position and ad hoc administrative services from Palominas staff. The IGA will be sent to Palominas for approval soon. Proposed compensation is $1,625 per week for the part-time Chief position, and $200 per day for administrative services on an ad hoc basis until the administrative assistant vacancy is filled.

Three fire district residents had submitted applications for the remaining SEFD Board Member vacancy. Peter Potoski failed to appear for the interview and Julie Firos, a previous candidate, withdrew her application stating she was committed to another non-profit project. Russ Kolsrude was interviewed and unanimously approved for appointment to the Board. Kolsrude, an attorney familiar with open meeting laws, conflict of interest, and confidentiality, has been in and out of the community for the last 19 years. “I am always looking for a challenge and want to make a contribution,” said Kolsrude.

The current Board Members pointed out the urgency to clean up residual issues stemming from the former Chief’s tenure; balancing the public’s right to know with open meeting laws and protecting people’s privacy; confidentiality, to include not sharing information with friends; and limited resources; but Kolsrude was up for the challenge, saying, “Solving problems is my greatest strength, along with getting consensus from people who often do not agree on things.”

What We Learned This Year

By Patra Kelly

COVID19 overturned many of our ways and habits of doing and thinking, replacing them with new practices, protocols, and polarizations. The PRT asked community members what they had learned over the past year, what surprised them, and how their lives and outlook has changed.

Leslie Schupp

“I wish I could say I’ve learned a lot from the last year of the pandemic, but no, I’m still the same person,” Leslie Schupp, of Patagonia, wrote. “I did not write a novel. I did not clean out my storeroom. I did validate myself for my habitual hoarding of toilet paper, paper towels, and books. Cutting your own hair is survival, and I finally have no one to blame for my haircut but myself. And dusting is not the way I want to spend the ‘one precious life’ I have left on this earth.”

“I’ve been waiting for this time of pandemic, of disaster, of drought and war and pestilence, all my life, trial and transience, of being Great Depression poor and hungry and Dust Bowl dusty, because we have not learned from history. I was thankful this year for my grandkids living with me; I was never bored. (Annoyed, yes.) I discovered that wine bottles mount up drastically when there is no recycling. I discovered that I have archaeological layers of clothing in my closet. We, the human family, cannot go on HAVING SO MUCH STUFF. Digging it, drinking it, eating it off the Earth. She can only take care of us if we take care of her.”

Karen Rovang

“My experience with COVID was a little different because it happened just shy of a year after my life partner passed away,” wrote Karen Rovang, of Sonoita. “I was already in the staying home and being a hermit mode and COVID just gave me validity to continue. I had become very satisfied with being alone until Christmas, when my brother and niece visited for a week. When they left, I realized how lonely I really was and needed to be around people. In January I had the opportunity to help out at the COVID vaccination center in Nogales. It was a saving grace.

“Wearing a mask came easily for me. I didn’t want to get sick and certainly didn’t want to be the one to spread the disease. Now, taking it off is a little harder. I worry that I might get sick. I have been shocked how people are misled by the media and by rumors. I am dismayed at the number of politicians who promote falsehoods. I used to believe that America was “the great melting pot” of people from all over the world. It now seems to be that we are much more tribal. This last year made that much clearer to me. I think many people are afraid to lose “white privilege” as the racial make-up of our country changes.

“My thinking has changed in the past year. I know that I cannot be a hermit forever; I do need to interact with people. I know that I need to volunteer to feel useful. I can accept that people are tribal and divided, that we are probably hard wired this way, but also hope that with recognition of this failing we can overcome some of the harm it does. I always have hope that the next generation will be better.”

Linda Depew

“The last fifteen months have been stressful on nearly all aspects of our lives; health certainly, but also financial, emotional, domestic, and even political,” Linda Depew, of Patagonia, wrote. “These stresses have created a magnifying glass through which to view our relationships in new ways. Using this magnifying glass, I see more clearly the people in my life who do care and can be trusted, as well as those who are hurtful and untrustworthy. This unexpected tool has given me fresh direction within a more secure circle of people that I can trust with my heart. And I smile.”

Brandon Doles

“This has been a trying year,” Brandon Doles, of Patagonia, wrote. “When COVID first popped up, I thought it would not be that big of a deal, just another sickness. In the beginning a few people wore masks. I thought it was unnecessary but understood they were doing what they felt was right. Soon this way of thinking was pushed aside as people were getting sick and dying. Because of COVID restrictions, businesses were changing hours, temporarily closing doors and even going out of business. This was scary for my family because most of our revenue comes from a small business and we were worried about what would happen to our employees and main source of income.

“Another way my family was affected was how schools changed seemingly overnight. The kids were at home all the time and watching a computer screen to learn. My kids are young, so it was difficult for them to learn in this environment. My youngest - preschool age - couldn’t do it and I felt she missed out on what should have been a wonderful introduction to school and relationships. When school eventually started classes, the kids had to wear masks, get their temperature taken every morning and bring a water bottle, but the kids didn’t seem to be bothered at all as they were just happy to be in school with their friends.

“One thing I learned is that people, especially kids, are resilient and can adapt when it is needed. We all gained a lesson on how things can change in a moment, and to take each day with hope and appreciation. The kids showed us that as long as we are in it together, we can make the best of it, and to think about how we can be ready if something else like this happens in the future. My family is so happy with how things are getting easier, but we have learned not to let down our guard.”
Who Funds Town Hall?

By Ron Robinson

As Town Manager of Patagonia, the common comment I receive is, "I pay my taxes so this issue needs to be taken care of." There is an assumption by the citizens that they are responsible for funding Town Hall. However, that is not entirely accurate.

The utilities the Town provides are water, garbage and sewer. Our citizens pay the fees for these services and those fees fund the labor, equipment replacement and daily activities, so the operation is about break even. The Town of Patagonia does not participate in the collection of property taxes by the County. The only tax the Town has is the sales tax.

The Town also receives a portion of the collected Town Sales taxes, 3% sales tax and 3% bed tax via Hotel or BnB and the Town has a Business License charge if you operate a business inside Town Limits. Other revenue comes from Building Permits and Franchise Fees (SSVEC) and the Court collects revenues on citations to offset the Court costs.

The Town has four sources of State revenue; Urban Revenue Sharing (URS), Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF), State Sales Tax and Vehicle License Tax.

Urban Revenue Sharing is the collection of state income taxes paid by citizens across the state. The legislature set aside 15% of all income tax collections to distribute to the 91 cities and Towns in Arizona. There is a two year lag of time in the distribution, so in 2021 we are receiving revenues from 2019.

All revenue is based on current population except URS. Former Town Manager Heiss helped lobby to have the eight towns in the State of Arizona that have less than 1500 population receive revenues based on a minimum of 1500 population base.

HURF is a collection of road use tax by truckers and the gasoline tax collected at the pump. Our population, based on the 2019 average population of 874, is what our distribution is based on.

Our portion of the State Sales tax is also based on the Town’s population, as is the Town’s share of the Vehicle License tax, what you pay to renew your license plate or when you buy a new car.

The other source of money to get large projects accomplished is grants. We work to apply for grants that are available for different types of infrastructure projects.

So, when you buy or sell in the Town of Patagonia, you contribute to the taxes paid on items purchased or sold. The four State revenue streams fund over 50% of the Town’s budget and the local sales tax and enterprise funds fund the balance.

Check It Out At The Library

By Laura Wenzel

If all goes well, the library will open on June 1 without appointments. Drop by anytime Monday-Friday from 10-5 p.m. to use a computer or browse for books for up to an hour a day. Masks will still be required, regardless of vaccination status.

I implore you, please be respectful to library staff and other patrons by wearing your mask correctly at all times. We understand the excitement at getting back to normal life and regular library services as quickly as possible, but also believe that caution and care for our most vulnerable community members is necessary.

Curbside materials pickup will continue to be available, as will our 24/7 WiFi, which may be better options for those who feel uncomfortable entering the library or unable to follow the rules during our open hours. Special appointments may be made for student or family visits outside of our open hours.

We are still working out the details of our Summer Reading Program, but kids and teens can sign up for our Summer Reading Challenge. Read at least 20 minutes or more a day and receive prizes, including Arizona State Park passes and free meals from restaurants in the community.

The library will also host outdoor storytimes in our Legacy Garden and in the Town Park. For more information, go to our website at www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org or contact Laura at 520-394-2010.

The library was awarded a $4,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) mini grant through the Arizona State Library. The award will pay for hotspots and their data plans for one year for lending as part of our new Tech Takeout program. This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Youth Center Reopens

By Anna Coleman

The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center (PYEC) reopened its doors on May 17, after fourteen months of closure due to the COVID pandemic. The preparations for a safe reopening were thorough, with minor adjustments for safety measures.

Over 27 youth returned within the first hours of opening to enjoy the relaxed company of their peers. The center was filled with laughter, a few happy tears, and lots of love.

Caitlyn Coleman, the PYEC Program Coordinator, along with Anna Coleman, the director, have been busy with forthcoming activity plans for the youth center in the coming months. Much of the activity will be utilizing the outside space of the center, including the garden project. Masks and safety behavior are required by all who gather at the youth center. The hours of operation will be different, allowing for proper sanitation between gatherings.

Even with the mitigation procedures in place, the smiles in the youth’s eyes were plentiful as they walked through the front door. One youth summed up the evening by stating, “It’s so good to be home!”

Patagonia Pool Schedule

Starting June 28, 2021

Monday - Friday
8:30 - 9:45 Lap Swim
10:00 - 11:00 Water Aerobics
12:00 - 5:00 Open Swim
6:00 - 7:30 Open Swim / Lap Swim

Fee Schedule
Season Pass..............................................$80.00
Daily Pass Adult.........................................$6.00
Daily Pass Child (12 or Younger)...............$2.00
Student of Patagonia Public Schools........Free

Cera Lynn L.Ac., LMT Aesthetician
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Skin Care - Aesthetics - Medical Massage
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www.spazen.net cerafina13903@hotmail.com
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LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Martin Levowitz

With whom do you identify? And with whom not? It’s pretty hard to mention race these days without an avalanche of woe. The topic is so fraught, to use a current, loathsome term, that even to refer to it (or gender-issues, too) is to risk being branded a bigot or boor.

This article derives from the recent uptick in anti-Semitic sentiment here in the U.S.A. We all know lots of care- less racist myths: that Blacks are lazy, Jews are greedy, and the Irish drink too much. So, having always regarded Asian Americans as well-behaved, hard-working people who exemplified discipline, politeness, and even respect for tradition - I find the current hatred a surprise. (Of course, my vague approval of this group must be a prejudice as well.)

A lot of people choose to feel superior to those with whom they don’t identify. Perhaps that’s natural. Still, bigotry seems like a place where those who yearn for self-esteem take refuge from their own self-doubt and shame; a shabby mental neighborhood equivalent to the dirty space behind the kitchen cabinets where only bugs and rodents congregate.

With new reports of violence against Asian-Americans, I felt impelled to watch some videos. In the first two, small Asian people - a well-dressed man in the New York subway and an old lady on a city sidewalk somewhere - were viciously assaulted by large black men. Somehow, that rattled me. I had simply assumed that the racist assailants were white. Another prejudice, I guess.

As you can tell from my exotic name, I’m part of a minority. (In Hebrew, Levowitz translates: O’Ro urke.) Raised during the 1940’s, before anyone knew whether Hitler would triumph or not, I had some vague awareness of being endangered, but only in a very abstract way. I also felt and still maintain a notion that my ethnic group identifies with and cares about other “outsiders.” We disadvantaged scum should stick together, don’tcha think?

Some people find that view naive: “No one’s more nasty to the powerless than others near the bottom of the hole.” The poor and hopeless rural whites down South adored the blacks, who gave them someone to look upon and then, of course, presumably, the blacks were glad to have a dog or Chimaman on whom to spit when they were feeling down.

It may be somewhat “normal” to regard oneself as better than whoever else there is, but normal isn’t always good enough. What little progress has been made with women’s rights around the world occurs in times of relative prosperity and ease, when men feel more secure and generous.

Hmm. Looking Out For Number One - the universal creed.

In the early 1960s, right after college, my wife and I sold what we owned, booked passage to Morocco on a Yugoslavian freighter, and settled in Tangier for several months. We were intrigued by the tribesmen living on the beach, with their djalbas, tattooed faces, and long caravans. We noticed that the women and animals walked first, ten yards ahead, with the men, on their camels. Behind. We had mistakenly presumed (or maybe read) that patriarchs always went first, while the women and herds trailed behind. We asked the locals, who confirmed, “Yeah, that was true for centuries, until the recent war. But now the women must walk first, in case of unexploded landmines hidden in the sand.”

Hmm. Chivalry connotes civility, “especially that of a man toward women.” The word is derived from cheval - that’s the French word for horse. Perhaps the gawky camel stirs less noble sentiments.

MY TWO CENTS

By Clare Bonelli

ANGER, SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, CRITICISM AND REACTIVITY

What to write? I was going to write about “Informed vs. Misinformed” as it seems that whenever someone says something about voters needing to be informed, it’s usually followed by some piece of misinformation. But I didn’t like where I was coming from on that topic. If you care about accurate info, check facts. Do a search for “Fact checking sites.”

God has been working on me on anger, criticism, self-righteousness, and reactivity. I don’t carry as much anger as I used to, but that’s still there too. Reactivity and self-righteousness? Argg.

I have a mentor who does not react to stuff. Her late husband was a walking reaction machine and I remember being in the car with them once and he was reacting to whatever - and it wasn’t affecting her at all. She responds, but she doesn’t get plugged in. I get plugged in so easily. This is especially true with politics. I can’t stand misinformation and it drives me nuts that people make decisions based on misinformation. But, this being driven nuts is part of what we’re working on.

One of my core values (if that’s the right word) is effectiveness. Why do something if you’re not going to be effective? (Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is a good marriage manual and a good child-rearing guide as well as being good for business and life in general. I have figured out that being reactive is rarely effective. Ditto being self-righteous. Getting so mad at misinformation that you jab back at the speaker is not effective. Not at all. Thinking that people are flat out stupid for believing something does not make the speaker is not effective. Not at all. Thinking that people are flat out stupid for believing something does not make you more righteous. Getting so mad at misinformation and it drives me nuts that people make decisions based on misinformation.

Thinking that people are flat out stupid for believing something does not make you more righteous. Getting so mad at misinformation that you jab back at the speaker is not effective. Not at all. Thinking that people are flat out stupid for believing something does not make you more righteous. Getting so mad at misinformation...
By Cassina Farley

My brain and I have a standing 2:30 a.m. reservation every night in my bedroom. At this meeting we use the time to go over every stupid thing I've ever said or we try to fix things we cannot possibly fix. For example, last night my brain woke me up to think about my trashcans. In particular, the blue one we just bought. Earlier that morning I went out to bring in the cans and discovered that our trash collectors had mangled yet another innocent can. Unable to deal with it at the time, my brain filed it away and decided to bring it up at 2:30 in the morning. A fine time to talk.

This pattern has gone on nightly for most of the year. I fall asleep without incident just to have myself jolted awake by my brain wanting to talk about the half eaten can of chili beans in the fridge or the dying bush in the back yard.

I read somewhere that if you write down what you keep thinking about, it will allow you to let it go. I decided to give it a try. Armed with my note pad I began to write down all my random thoughts. All this accomplished was an agenda for my brain to follow at our 2:30 a.m. meeting.

So I tried vodka. A few drinks in the evening to help me sleep translated into a hangover while my brain rattled on and on about the dog hair on the couch in the living room. Sleeping pills? Hilarious. My brain still managed to wake me up to tell me that I hadn't put the butter back in the fridge after dinner. I've tried it all; CBD, Melatonin, lavender, warm baths, meditation and weird sleeping sounds that scare the dogs.

The other night as I lay in bed wide awake, I heard an owl hooting. Although charming at first, the hooting began to grate on my nerves - everything does at 2:30 in the morning. I opened the door in an attempt to "shoo" it away and didn't realize just how close it was. I was nearly hit in the head by a giant owl. All of this could have been avoided if my brain would just let me sleep.

I am writing this column from my bed. On tonight's agenda my brain decided to replay bad country songs. Every time I close my eyes I hear an endless jukebox while Zach snores away. I hear the owl in the tree and the faint sound of an occasional semi drive through town. The light at the library flickers on as javalinas wander through. I can hear them rattling the trashcans next door at Red Mountain Foods. Eventually I will fall back asleep and if I don't there's a $20 bottle of eye cream that will make me look like I had.

I guess it's just my fate to be awake everyday at 2:30 a.m. According to my dear friend Martha, it's what happens to women of "my age." The nerve. Out of curiosity, I Googled "How long does it take to go crazy from lack of sleep?" The answer is 72 hours - 72 consecutive hours, not a few hours here and there over time. So for now Patagonia you are safe. Should my ride to crazy happen to accelerate, I'll let you know.

By Leslie Schupp

The Spider Tree died last spring. She had been on the edge for a long time. When the big oaks experience drought, they keep the leaves on the upper branches and let the lower ones die. She looked like a spider with all of her black dead spidery legs hanging down and a few live green leaves on top. Once I found Martin under the tree, scavenging fallen limbs. It was exciting because he had his shirt off. We discussed the 70s and lost adventures.

The last thing Spider Tree did was, when she shed her old leaves in March, instead of putting out new ones, she just put out blossoms. She was sending the last of her pollen to the other oaks in our canyon, like an old witch bequeathing her herbal spellbook to her grandchildren. I read that dying trees send out carbon to surrounding trees through their roots.

One night the next month the wind was high, and when I passed by the next day, the Spider Tree had blown over. It's been a year now since she died. The younger trees around her accepted her offerings. And one night this last winter, we burned part of her limbs in our fireplace to warm our house.

This spring is different. We had meager summer rains, and in Flux Canyon, less than an inch of rain this winter. Nothing but evaporating drops in months. I drive through a gray ghost forest on my way home. The oak trees always lose their leaves in spring, turn golden, then sprout new leaves and blossoms for a new beginning, but this year, without rain, they are quiet and gray, waiting, hoping. A few have sent out hopeful new spiky leaves, but most, like us humans, are waiting for better times. "If you listen, you can hear nature is weeping," said Frank Pole from Flux Canyon.

There's a long line of spider trees stretching out into the past, each mother giving birth to the next generation. Under the trees sit a long line of ghost people who mourned each tree, ate its acorns, painted underneath them, took a nap. Helen is worried about the tree we call the Mother Tree in Flux Canyon, but today I finally saw a little green unfurling from the tips of the branches. Hang in there, Mother Tree, Tweenie Tree, Serengeti Tree. We love you.

Remembering Grannie

I just want to take a minute of your time to say how delighted I was (if you can be delighted by an obituary) with the wonderful obituary of "Grannie Swyers" by Patra Kelly. She truly captured Grannie's unique multidimensional personality and life.

I have my own fond remembrance of Grannie, bumping along on her well-worn electric tricycle, American flag furiously flapping in the wind, right down the middle of the street, headed to the Food Bank Monday vegetable distribution. She visited us nearly every week and her colorful language and personality perked up every Monday.

One Monday last year she motioned me over to her scooter and presented me with a $50 check, a donation for the Food Bank. I was hesitant to accept it but she insisted. "I want to donate for all the f@$%#*g good things you do."

I thanked her profusely for her generosity and just smiled when the check bounced. Clearly Grannie's heart was always in the right place!

Jim Staudacher
Patagonia

Kudos for the PRT

"We moved to Patagonia in December and prior to that had become acquainted with the PRT on past visits. It is such a special publication and such a wonderful representation of all the great people and happenings in this area. We really appreciated the fact that it gave us a sense of community since we moved here during COVID and were unable to get out and meet people and take advantage of social activities we knew were a part of Patagonia. I also very much appreciate the weekly bulletin. Thanks for your wonderful publication."

Tori Schmidt
Patagonia

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It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in MS Word, to preditor@gmail.com. The PRT reserves the right to edit all submissions for language, length, and content.

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The Mountain Empire Rotary Club (MER) has not missed a beat in the past many months of the COVID19 pandemic. Our Rotary year is ending with our primary annual fundraiser, the presentations of cash awards to well deserving students at local schools, and multiple recycling events.

This year we partnered with the Benson Rotary Club and the San Pedro Golf Club in Benson for our annual fundraiser, the Swing into Spring Golf Tournament held on April 24. Thanks to the great work of the Rotarians and the generous sponsorships by our local community it was a fun event, and a tremendous success. 76 golfers had a day of sunshine, laughs, and exercise beginning with a continental breakfast and ending with a pulled pork lunch, a lively auction, and 40 great raffle items. The event realized a profit of more than $10,000 for each of the Rotary Clubs.

Every cent of this money goes directly back into the community through the many projects the clubs provide. We extend hearty gratitude to our sponsors, who have supported our work for years. We couldn’t do it without you!

In addition to our annual post-secondary scholarships (see article, p. 19), our Club honors six eighth grade graduates from Elgin School and Patagonia Elementary with a Certificate of Merit and a crisp $100 bill. The students, selected by the teachers, are as follows Elgin School: Academic Excellence – Sebastian Padilla; Exemplary Citizenship – Dixie Meier; Scholar Athlete – Johnathan Fields. Patagonia Elementary: Citizenship - Arihanna Payoya; Scholarship - Keahna Valenzuela; Leadership - Alexis Fimbres

This community produces such impressive young adults. MER is dedicated and proud to support them all through their academic years, with the Birthday Books program, Student of the Month, Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, and many other literacy projects. It’s our privilege to partner with the local schools in supporting our youth. If you’d like to get involved and experience the sheer fun and joy of working with our youth, please consider joining The Mountain Empire Rotary Club. Contact Keith Barth at judgebarth@gmail.com or your favorite Rotarian.

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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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

By PRT Staff Reporters

May 12, 2021

The recent Border Patrol-initiated pursuit into town was discussed. The Marshal reported that a high-speed vehicle with migrants collided with a concrete road barrier near Duquesne AV and Harshaw Rd and was tipped on its side, resulting in injuries, but no fatalities. The Border Patrol will investigate possible criminal charges.

The County’s availability of COVID vaccine for anyone 12 or older was announced, by appointment or walk-in. Youth 12-18 will need to be accompanied by a guardian.

New business fees for business licenses and commercial dumpster fees were announced and finalized by adoption of Resolution no. 21-08.

Clear Creek and Associates presented a third-party data review and hydrologic evaluation of potential flow impacts to the Town from South32’s proposed discharge of water from tunnel-dewatering into Harshaw Creek. Hermosa Project President Risner assured listeners that his company would help with mitigation if anything adverse happened.

A recreational marijuana sales business license was approved for the former Cose Buone Restaurant on Naugle Ave. Mark Beres presented the company’s plan to deal with all regulations and provide security for the facility.

The town designated a Chief Financial Officer to submit required fiscal reports to the AZ Auditor General.

The job description for a Library Clerk was approved.

The Mayor & Council voted to continue as a contributor to the town’s pool, but no longer as a partner.

May 26, 2021

The Flood & Flow Committee reported having had a Clear Creek hydrological presentation expanding on the one previously given to the Town. At the Committee’s next meeting, Patagonia Area Resource’s two hydrological consultants will present what’s known about existing monitoring of water, and what further data and studies are needed.

German Quiroga’s resignation from the Library Board was accepted.

An update to the Cady Hall Facility Use Agreement was approved.

Tucson Audubon’s purchase of five acres of land beside the Paton Center was approved, noting Audubon’s offer was a generous solo bid.

JGP Consulting’s bid of $4,200 for updating the Town Landfill’s Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan was accepted.

Todd Norton Plumbing’s bid for a Doc Mock Park irrigation project was accepted, part of the Memorial Tree Project.

While minerals and metals may be necessary for human consumption, we believe there are certain places that SHOULD NOT be mined. In fact, no type of mining can support the long-term ecological needs of the Patagonia Mountains in Santa Cruz County, Arizona. It is a hotspot for biodiversity that’s home to over 300 species of birds, 600 native bee species, and 100 Federally-listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

Arizona is already experiencing a megadrought and unsustainable pumping of water.

Do not let the Patagonia Mountains become a casualty of corporate greed.

Suffrage Sign Dedication Held

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Descendants of Mary Kane, who was one of the first women to vote in Arizona, gather in front of the suffrage sign at the Patagonia Museum.

By Marion Vendituoli

Thirty people gathered at the dedication of the suffrage marker at the Patagonia Museum on May 15. After a short business meeting, Museum President German Quiroga introduced his historian Mary Melcher. Melcher was the lead historian for the Arizona Women’s Heritage Trail and served on the committee for the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT), which “seeks to recognize and celebrate the enormous diversity of people and groups active in the struggle for women’s suffrage,” according to its website.

Melcher described the struggles of early suffragists in Arizona, which culminated in an initiative to give women the vote that passed in 1912, shortly after Arizona gained statehood.

The historical marker at the Patagonia Museum, one of approximately 250 markers throughout the U.S., names two of the 23 women who voted at the site in 1915, Amalia Valenzuela and Mary Kane. In the audience at the dedication were several descendants of Mary Kane, who was born in Mexico in 1863. The women must have been able to read, according to Melcher, as a requirement for voting was the ability to read a line of the constitution in English.

“Today we honor these women,” Melcher said, noting the importance of continuing the fight for “voting rights for all.”

Let’s protect the biological wealth of our region. Learn more about our mining concerns at: www.patagoniaalliance.org
The Gardens of Patagonia

By Sarah Klingenstein

For a town of fewer than 900 residents, Patagonia has an impressive culture of volunteerism, and it shows in the public gardens around town. Last month, we took a look at the Community Gardens and the Post Office Garden. For the June issue, we dig into two others.

The Library Legacy Garden

An official project of the Arizona Centennial Legacy Project, the Legacy Garden was created in 2010 to perpetuate and display plants and trees brought by pioneers settling in and around Patagonia.

Abbie Zeltzer, former Patagonia Library Director, said that when the restoration of Cady Hall as the Patagonia Library was completed in 1997, she looked around at the bare lot behind the library where a garden had once flourished with irises, roses, and a large mulberry tree. Only the mulberry tree remained. “I thought it would be great to fill it with plants that represented the era of the Cady Hotel construction (1901 - 1912). A fellow plant-lover, Bob Schmazel, and I drove around and asked for cuttings and bulbs from local ranches such as the Apache Springs Ranch and the Hale Ranch. With the help of many volunteers and funding from AZ Humanities and others, we planted, installed irrigation, a cistern, and a gate built by Richard Connolly.”

“Our first plantings were rose cuttings from the garden of Rita Smith, who lived next door to the Library. She was a prolific rose grower whose parents emigrated from Spain and Greece, Zeltzer said.

In a brochure available at the Library, Chris Ellefson and Mary Ann Cresswell Mynard recount how their grandmother Minnie Amerman Bond brought iris bulbs along when she relocated from New Jersey to Alto, a remote mining settlement up Salero Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Through the years the rhizomes from those iris were shared, and they bloom today in the Legacy Garden.

The Garden is open during Library hours, currently 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The entrance is through the iron gates behind the Library on Smelter Avenue.

The Butterfly Garden

Across from Red Mountain Foods, on Duquesne Avenue in the shade of a large, jenavilla-attracting oak tree, the Butterfly Garden has been serving bees and butterflies since 1998. That’s when the late Don Wenig, whose efforts endure in several gardens around town, gained permission from the Town of Patagonia to use the space and town water to grow native pollinator plants. The goals were to attract and feed some of the 250 species of butterflies estimated to live in the Sonoran Desert, and to demonstrate the use of pollinator plants that thrive in the local landscape. Garden developers recruited local talent and, over time, contributions included a rail fence by Abel Murrietta, signage by Linda Chase, and benches built by Manny Mingura.

In the past several years, resident jenavillas, overcome with desire for acorns on the ground inside the fence, began to dig under the fence, then the fence plus added chicken wire. Finally, according to Lou Schatz, head of the Garden committee, “We pounded in rebar every six inches or so all the way around the garden perimeter and that seems to have put a stop to it.” The plants, including phlox, echinacea, asters, bee balm and many others can grow in peace once again.

Five to seven volunteers meet in the spring for a general cleanup, then take turns weeding and watering throughout the summer and fall. A fund has been set up in memory of Don Wenig for anyone who would like to contribute toward garden maintenance. Patagonia Creative Arts Association is accepting the donations. They can be emailed at makeart1@msn.com.

As you make your way around town this summer, rest a moment in one of these garden spots. And if you have the urge to volunteer your time to keep them up, you’ll be joining a long line of dreamers who saw beauty in a bare patch of ground.

Coping With Summer Heat

By Mary McKay

We’ve all seen it. Wilted, scorched plants that were fine yesterday and gone today. Scorched by the sun and heat of June. Luckily there are things we can do to help our gardens through the torrent of low to no humidity, hot, dry winds, and scorching temperatures.

Plants come with built in evaporative coolers. As they breathe in carbon dioxide through their pores, they release water vapor at the same time. This brings down the leaf temperature while also supplying the plant with water and nutrients from the roots in the soil (a.k.a. transpiration in plant nerd language). Keeping the soil moist during the hottest part of the summer is critical. Without ample water at the root zone, the plant can’t transpire, and the water balance is lost. Because of hot and dry conditions, most plants close their pores (stomata) to prevent transpiration in order to conserve moisture in their tissues. When pores are closed, they can’t draw water efficiently through their roots, and they can’t get the carbon dioxide they need for photosynthesis, resulting in slow or stunted growth. In evening or early morning plant pores open when there is higher humidity and cooler temperatures. So watering in the evening or early morning prevents water loss through evaporation and makes more water available to the plant.

No one wants to waste water, especially here in southern Arizona. To make the most of the precious water we put on our gardens, it’s important to do a few things. First is mulch, mulch, mulch. For one thing soil is dark. Dark colors absorb heat. Light colored mulch will help reflect some of that heat. Apply thick layers of mulch. By thick I mean eight inches or more of straw, leaves or other lofty materials, four inches of heavier composted stuff. It will cool the soil and roots, keep the soil moist, reduces water run-off, and help control weeds. It adds texture, structure and nutrients as it decomposes and nourishes countless microorganisms that play a role in the water and nutrient availability to plants. As I’ve said before, don’t mix it into the soil unless it’s properly composted or you will end up with nitrogen deficiency (more on that in July’s article.) Mulch in the form of weed cloth that is water permeable is also a fine choice, though you should add some compost or straw on top to cool it down. Even newspaper works if you use at least 8 layers.

Water deeply and less often. Sprinkling gingerly over your plants with your garden hose or sprinkler will only waste water in the long run. Water needs to penetrate deeply to the root zone. Let it run low and slow to minimize run-off. The best choice, if you can, is to install a drip irrigation system. It can be as simple or complex as you want. There are many inexpensive choices available now that simply screw onto an existing faucet complete with timers and are battery operated. They’re not complicated and everything you need to install one is available at any home improvement store.

What to plant in June: Continue planting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, pumpkins, squash, melons, corn, beans, and pretty much any heat loving crop. We still have a long growing season ahead, so get growing! As always if you have any questions or comments, I invite you to email me at kmcckay810@gmail.com. If you need starter plants for your vegetable garden email me to visit my greenhouse or find me @patagoniaplants on social media.
Borderlands Plant, Seed Sale a Success  

By Francesca Claverie

The Borderlands Restoration Network's (BRN) Native Plant Nursery was open on May 1 for a spring plant sale event that was a roaring success.

Almost 400 people came out to Patagonia to shop at the nursery and came away with plants, pottery, books, and wind chimes. Besides the sale benefitting BRN’s native plant program, it also featured the Friends of the Patagonia Library's book sale, Martha Kelly’s Shooting Star Pottery, Mary McKay’s Patagonia Plants, and students’ work from the Patagonia Creative Art Center’s art class.

Nursery sale visitors not only came from the Patagonia-Sonoita area, but as far away as Phoenix, Bisbee, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Hereford, Nogales, Rio Rico, and Sahuarita. If you weren’t able to landscape your home during lockdown this last year and missed the spring sale, the nursery is open Tue - Fri, 9 - noon and Saturday, 10 - 1p.m. You can order ahead for pickup on borderlandsplants.org.

There will be a monsoon plant sale on Saturday, July 17 from 8a.m. - 3p.m. In the fall, there will be a sale on October 9 from 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) is excited to announce the ‘Desert Foods For Tomorrow’ free workshop series, part of a collaborative grant with the University of Arizona’s Desert Laboratory at Tumamoc Hill and the Southwest Center, to bring together food, culture, community, and the resources of the Sonoran Desert to explore our local food systems.

Participants will learn about the importance of wild desert food crops and the skills necessary to grow, maintain and harvest wild desert foods on their own. Participants will receive free informational resources, recipes, seeds, and plants to take home to begin creating your own desert-adapted edible garden.

Upcoming workshops are as follows: Tepary Beans for Monsoon Gardening, June 5, 9a.m. - 11a.m.; Mesquite Bean Harvesting Walk, June 19, 9a.m. - 11a.m.; Purslane: The Sonoran Desert’s Superfood, July 17, 9a.m. - 11a.m.

The workshops on tepary and purslane will be by zoom. The mesquite workshop will take place in Patagonia near the mesquite bosque by the cemetery. People can register for the workshops by email at dortega@borderlandsrstoration.org.

Through this project BRN is implementing an edible desert and pollinator demonstration garden at Deep Dirt Farm in Patagonia, that will be used for ongoing future permaculture workshops.

Desert Foods Workshops Planned

By Denisse Ortega

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 Lafferty family owns and manages The Tucson Independent, a daily newspaper, with a proud history and a fragile present. The heroic protagonist, publisher Meghan Lafferty, 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 bird’s eye look 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 foul-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 softcover 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
A Taste of the East

There is no doubt that southeastern Arizona is firmly planted within the greater southwestern U.S. Any casual observer can plainly see that we are nife with the foder of the desert and other, associated arid lands. Cacti, rattlesnakes, thorny trees, ants, and other species emblematic of this parched quarter of our country abound. Some of you, then, might be surprised to learn that you aren’t the only species emblematic of this parched greater southwestern U.S. Any casual stroll west of the Sky Islands of Arizona. A rather surprising species whose main range is the eastern U.S. It is endangered in my native Pennsylvania, as well as in Arizona - the two states bookending its distribution. Here it can be found only in a few localities in Coconino County, where desert grasslands in the San Bernardino, San Simon, San Pedro, and Sulphur Springs valleys provide a tentative foothold for it. There, it consumes mostly reptiles and small mammals, with a spice of large centipedes. Its remote habitat and scarcity make it perhaps the most difficult rattler to encounter in a state abounding in them. Arizona hosts a race of the eastern bluebird dubbed the “azure” bluebird, somewhat erroneously, as it is actually less blue than its eastern cousins. Its range swings up from the forested Sierr Madre in Mexico to marginally puncture our Arizona Sky Islands. Like all bluebirds, ours in Arizona nest in tree and other cavities, including nest boxes furnished by humans. Perhaps one day soon ornithologists who decide which birds are full species and which are not may assign the azure bluebird full species status. The same can be said of our local race of eastern meadowlark, “Lillian’s” meadowlark, which may soon attain full species distinction. Among mammal species my favorite eastern spillover is the Virginia opossum, the only marsupial in the U.S. and sporting the most teeth of any North American mammal! Even as recently as the late 1990s the presence of this species in Arizona was somewhat in dispute. It seems to have pulled the same distributional “ma-neuver” as the eastern bluebird in that it penetrated our state via the Sierra Madre mountains. Since the 90s it has become locally common to the point where it is a frequent member of our “flattened fauna” - i.e. roadkill. Drive slow at dusk and night you might just enjoy this odd mammal, while also sparing its life. A much more subtle infiltrator from back east is the eastern cotton-tail. This familiar lagomorph inhabits our mountains, such as pine forests. Given that it is near a dead ringer for our desert cottontail from lower elevations, habitat differences are generally the best way to tell the two species apart. A cottontail in a desert or grassland here is likely to be a desert cottontail, while those inhabiting higher elevation environments over 6000’ are probably eastern cottontails. My favorite easterner among our plants is gum bumelia, member of an otherwise almost exclusively tropical family that includes the tree which yields chicle - hence the gum moniker. While the main of its range encompasses the southeastern U.S., in the Sky Islands we host a disjunct population, primarily along arid riparian corridors at the base of mountains. There this small, solid tree sports wizened spined tipped twigs, which serve to protect its dark purple fruit from mammals, as birds are the main seed dispersers. Walk through a gum bumelia forest, such as the one in Fort Bowie National Historic Site, in June and you’ll be treated to a suffusion of sweet aroma proffered by the tiny white flowers of this distinctive tree. Breathe deeply and appreciate it and the other eastern hints that help flavor our local haunts. Vincent Pinto & his wife, Claudia Campos run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS LLC, their Nature Adventure and Conservation organization - devoted to protecting and promoting the unique biodiversity of Sky Islands region. RWWI offers a wide variety of private, custom-made courses including Birding and Biodiversity Tours. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.com

STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

On a recent hike, while looking out for snakes and occasionally losing all sense of time and place, my thoughts settled on the endless examples of the cycles of life we find all around us. Huge trees, once spectacular, were now broken and decaying, giving life to countless organisms. Bird nests reminded me that, for some, regeneration is always a top priority. The occasional sound of running water directed my view to fresh greenery that, I hoped, would soon be replicat-ed throughout the desert.

As it is on our planet, so it is in space. Strange as it seems to think of life cycles where no evidence of life has yet been detected, for nearly 14 billion years stars have also taken part in this never-ending process. Like us, stars vary greatly. And, like us, what they look like in their infancy is not what they look like after many years have passed. It appears that a star’s size largely determines how its life will play out. The energy we associate with stars comes from the fusion of hydrogen atoms into helium. Over time, though, the hydrogen begins to deplete. For a star smaller than the sun, it’s a slow decay that ends with the sun shrinking to the size of a planet. Dense and hot, but without the power of its youth, it becomes a white dwarf. Sun-sized stars take a different path. As they lose their hydrogen, helium begins to fuse into carbon. This causes the star to expand and cool. In, perhaps, a billion years, the sun will undergo this change. It will turn into a red giant, becoming so large that its size will swallow the Earth. And then, after its outer shell blows off into space, like its smaller cousins, it too will collapse into itself and be renamed as a white dwarf. The real big stars go through the most trauma. Many times larger than the sun, they eventually go supernova, an explosion that can be seen across the galaxy. What is left from this cataclysm condenses to something much more compact than any white dwarf. The remnants of these massive stars, sometimes measuring just several miles across, are so heavy that just a teaspoon of their cores weighs a billion tons. They have become neutron stars. Further, some of these objects, highly magnetized, emit incredible streams of light. We call them pulsars. From clouds of condensing gas, stars are born, produce energy for billions of years and then cycle into something very different. The majority of them are called “main sequence” stars. Based on color and temperature, they are assigned to one of seven lettered labels. Blush stars — O, B, A — are the hottest. Blue/white “F” stars come next. Our sun falls under the “G” rating, given its white/yellow color. “K” stars appear orange/red. Finally, “M” stars are unmistakably red and are the coolest, coming in around 5000 degrees Fahrenheit. We revel in their differences. We marvel at their stages of life. In stars we see that nothing stays the same. Everything changes. Their ends are predictable and that, really, is rather soothing.

As I continued my hike I tried to reconcile the amazement I have for the natural cycles of life with the man-induced climatic degradations our planet is experiencing. I marvel at the supernovas, but cringe at the rising level of carbon dioxide. I fear for our future.

I’ve often wondered what benefit is derived from the study of astronomy. It’s not like the science that gives us life-saving vaccines, or the engineering that gives us altering modes of transportation. But yet, everything about astronomy, from the billions of galaxies containing trillions of stars, to the ever-growing number of known planets orbiting those stars, brings us back to our own little rocky world.

For me, astronomy isn’t the study of distant objects in an endless, remote universe. Astronomy is a means to see our place in all of it, to realize that we are, incredibly, both observer and participant. Maybe, by following the stars we will have a better appreciation, and be more protective, of the life cycle of our own place among them.

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Elgin School 8th Grade Graduates

Lily R. Armenta
Ryan E. Bronstein
Xanadu A. Demeritt
Sebella E. Dineley
Johnathan S. Fields
Christopher Ford
Dixie G. Meier
Samuel I. Navarrete
Sebastian Padilla
Rylee N. Rivers
Brooklyn M. Tafoya
Lucas Wallace
Nicholas L. Young

Justice Urias and Kurt Whitcoe were presented with the Athlete of the Year award at the sports award ceremony.

Patagonia Montessori 8th Grade Graduates

Sayra Miranda
Contributed Photos
Joel Albert

PUHS Class of 2021

Patagonia Elementary 8th Grade Graduates

Natalie Arbizo
Daniel Castro
Jayme Dodson
Alexis Fimbres
James Hughes
Gabriel Nunez
Arihanna Pelayo
Keahna Valenzuela

Julian Vasquez and Hannah Young receive the 2021 Babe Ruth Award at the recent sports awards ceremony at PUHS.

PUHS Sports Awards

Julian Vasquez and Hannah Young receive the 2021 Babe Ruth Award at the recent sports awards ceremony at PUHS.
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Congratulations to our PHS graduates

Lalo Aguilar
We are proud of all you’ve accomplished, stay focused and work hard in the next chapter of your life. Your future depends on you.
Dios queue te cuide.
Love you,
Nana, Papa, Sisters, and Family

Brian Arbizo
We look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish after graduation. We know that you are ready to achieve greatness.

Chesed Chap
We love you and are so proud of you. Go Yale!!!
Dad, Carlos, Mom, Nana, Tata, Papa, Robespierre, and all your relatives and friends!

Gideon Ellefson
I have no idea how this could have happened. You are a man now.
You were God’s Gift to me. The Boy I always wanted. And I have NEVER stopped thanking God for you.
Al

Sean Fleder
We wish you the best as you move out into the world and find your calling. We hope you remain positive and healthy and accomplish all you desire in life.
Much love,
Mom and Dad

Dylan Fox
Templar Knight of the Fox Clan who chose the path to venture forth to become a cardiovascular surgeon in a quest to save the unfortunate and lift their souls in their future unending. Tilted lance

Esteban Guzman
“Ask me for money no more than twice a year.
Call me at least once a week. Be true to yourself; otherwise, your life will not be what you want. I love you.”

Dylan Jacob
Remember you are stronger than you think.
Your voice matters.
Dare to dream big.
Forgive yourself and others and let stuff go.
Change takes work.
Love well.
Shine.

Sophia Rose Lattanzio
We are so proud and love you so much!
Excited for everything that the future has in store for you!!
You are my sunshine...
Love Mom Dad and the family

Yami Montano-Cortez
I’m so proud of you, little sister.
You deserve the world!
We love you!
Your Nephew, Yari, and Frankie

Geno Neustadter
We are so proud of how hard you have worked this year to graduate on time and very grateful we got to be a part of your Senior year! Can’t wait to see where you go from here!
Love Dad, Yana and the whole family

Jami Peterson
We know that you are destined for great things, we are proud of the woman you have become. Good luck in the future!

Carolina Quiroz
Carolina you made it. We are so proud of you and everything you have accomplished throughout these years. Always look forward and never look back. We love you so much Mamas.
Mom and Dad

Alex Santos
Congratulations! Remember where you came from but always look ahead. Your future will be filled with opportunities. Be the best version of yourself! You are loved - always and forever!

Asa Sedam
We love you and are so proud of you!
Congratulations! May Truth and Wisdom always be your guiding Light!
Love,
Jared, Mom, Enoch and Ezra

Justice Urias
You have come a long way on this journey. Words can’t describe how proud I am of you. Looking forward to see what the future holds for you.
Love you!
Dad

Julian Vasquez
Siempre has logrado todo lo que te propones, sigue avanzando, llegaras lejos porque siempre te detienes a ayudar al que va lento, sabes que tu familia te apoya siempre confiamos en ti.
Tu familia esta orgullosa de ti!

Jocelyn Webb
You are such a tough, thoughtful, intelligent young woman who has blossomed before our eyes.
This year has been a great milestone. We just wanted to let you know how proud we are of you.
Grandma and Grandpa
Chesed Chap, valedictorian for the Patagonia Union High School class of 2021, plans to pursue a career in the theater, a passion she has developed through her participation in the Tin Shed Theater at the Patagonia Creative Arts Center (PCAC). Most notably, in 2020, she wrote, directed, and starred in an original adaptation of “The Catcher in the Rye.”

PCAC Director Cassina Farley worked with Chesed over the past several years. “Chesed was always receptive to all of the ideas and concepts we threw at her,” she said. “She was the ideal kid to teach—always happy and grateful for the opportunities presented to her. The teaching artists at the art center can hardly take credit for Chesed’s success, instead we were blessed to have had her blossom in our presence. She is the pride of The Art Center and we can hardly wait to see what she accomplishes in the future.”

Chesed, the daughter of Peter Chap and Elia Manjarre, has a 4.4 GPA. She has been involved in soccer and tennis, served as editor-in-chief of the Patagonia Yearbook during her junior year, and has played in the school’s steel band.

Outside of school, she is a member of the Arizona Youth Arts Council, an organization that focuses on arts education. She is proud to have worked to get the Patagonia Arts Center a $1500 grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts to help fund the summer art camp and ‘Kids Rock’, an after-school music program.

Chesed interned at the Borderlands Earth Care Youth Institute (BECY) this past summer and is returning as a youth leader this year. “I’m returning because I’m excited to grow with the crew as a youth leader this year; I love what BECY does and the way it teaches teens how to care for their environment,” she said.

“I’m going to miss my teachers a lot,” she said when asked what she would miss the most about Patagonia next year, when she goes away to college. “I’m just going to miss walking around and knowing everyone I see.”

Chesed will be attending Yale University in the fall, majoring in theater arts on a full scholarship. She looks forward to this new adventure and is confident that she will thrive in this new environment. “I’m pretty adaptive, I think,” she said. “I’ll be all right.”

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Hannah Young

2021 PUHS Salutatorian

By Marion Vendituoli

Brianna Young’s focus on agriculture and her animals, and her pursuit of excellence in her studies have driven her to academic success at PUHS. The 2021 PUHS salutatorian, who graduates with a 4.3 GPA, will attend the University of Arizona next fall to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian. Brianna, the daughter of Michael and Tammy Young, has been an active member of 4-H, showing lambs and participating in the livestock skillathon competition at the national level.

She has also been active in the FFA program at PUHS, serving as chapter president. In FFA she has won seven state titles and has two national rankings. She has worked part time for the Vera Earl Ranch in Sonoita and for Bloomquist Club Lambs.

Brianna is an avid barrel racer and plans to participate in college rodeo next year. She has eight horses and actively competes with three of them, whom she will be taking to Tucson with her.

Brianna is looking forward to moving on to college. “I’m super excited to get out and see the world and make new connections,” she said. “My biggest challenge will be living alone, because my parents really help me with everything.”

Brianna’s favorite classes at PUHS have been history, because “Mr. Hayes and Mr. Porter are really fun and really good teachers,” she said. In addition to her parents, she credits former FFA teacher Amanda Zamudio for her success. “She got me started in 4-H nine years ago,” she said.

Zamudio, in turn, is proud of Brianna. “Brianna is an impeccable young lady and has matured into a very responsible young adult,” she wrote. “Her desire to achieve and her perseverance to accomplish any task at hand is impressive. She is passionate about agriculture and is the first to step up to help our younger generation develop a deeper understanding. Her grit and dedication to responsibility will help her succeed in any endeavor she embarks on. She is an inspiration to me and others around her.”

Emma Young

2021 PUHS Valedictorian

By Marion Vendituoli

We are so proud of you and your success you have put forth. Keep up the hard work and let your dreams take you to new places. Congrats! Love, Mom & Dad
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

Ever wonder about the origin of the names of the canyons along Highway 82 from Patagonia to the Sonoita crossroads? Roskruge’s 1893 map of Pima County lists only Casa Blanca Wash, Adobe Cañon, and Buchanan Cañon on the west side of the railroad tracks and Hog Cañon and Cottonwood Cañon on the east side. The 1905 USGS Patagonia Quadrangle map identifies Casa Blanca Canyon on the west and Corral and Monkey Canyons on the east. The 1958 USGS Elgin Quadrangle map lists Stevens and Smith Canyons, south of Casa Blanca Canyon, and Wood Canyon, north of Casa Blanca, on the west side of 82. This article tells the story of George Lewis and Lucy Reagan Stevens, who ranched in what is now known as Stevens Canyon.

George Lewis Stevens was born in 1880 in Iowa. He moved to the Patagonia area in the early 1900s with his brother Harry. The brothers worked in the local mines and by 1915 were working their own claim, the Blue Eagle copper mine, in Alum Gulch. George, who was also known as Lou or Lew, filed a homestead claim in 1915 were working their own claim, the Blue Eagle copper mine, in Alum Gulch. George, who was also known as Lou or Lew, filed a homestead claim in Township 21S, Range 16E, Sections 30 and 31.

In 1913 George, age 32, married Lucy Reagan, age 18, who was born in 1895. Their wedding notice notes: “Lucy Reagan, age 18, who was born in 1895. Joseph and Mignon had two sons, James and Mary Louise Reagan Grier, and a daughter, Edilia Louise Stevens (Ruby), and his occupation is U.S. Mounted Inspector for the Custom Service. Daughter Louise wrote in her memoir: “In 1929, George and her husband were divorced, but the property was never divided. He continued to work for the U.S. Customs Service and she managed the ranch. In the fall, after the stock was shipped and all expenses were paid, Lucy divided the profits 50-50 with her ex-husband.” [And Then There Was Patagonia] by Louise Stevens Easley, 2001.

The 1940 U.S. Census lists Lucy as living on 3rd St. in Patagonia. She was quite active in the Patagonia Woman’s Club, serving as President in 1938. In 1940 George is back ranching at the Stevens ranch. He never told his first family that in 1941, at age 60, he married Edilia Chapparo, age 21. They had a daughter, Edilia Louise Stevens in 1942.

George died in 1944 without a will. As Louise recalls: “A long court battle ensued because of no will, a second wife, a minor child, the ranch never having been divided.” When the case settled “Lucy received an undivided half interest in the ranch, and the other half was divided three ways to Mignon, Louise, and the second wife.” [And Then There Was Patagonia] by Louise Stevens Easley, 2001.

Mignon and Louise attended Patagonia schools and became teachers. Mignon graduated from Arizona State Teacher’s College in Tempe in 1932 and returned to Patagonia to teach. In 1940, age 26, she married Joseph. Joseph and Mignon had two children: Carol Ann and Joseph Stevens Grier. When Mignon retired she returned to the Stevens ranch where she lived until her death in 1988.

George and Mignon are buried in the Patagonia Cemetery along with Harry Stevens who died in 1916 of gas asphyxiation, presumably from his mine. Lucy and Louise are buried in the Nogales Cemetery where Lucy’s parents, James and Mary Louise Reagan are buried.

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Elgin Community Club Awards Fern Collie Scholarship

From left: Alex Santos, Ginny Cosbey, representing the Elgin Community Club, Carolina Quiroz. The Elgin Community Club presented PUHS seniors Alex Santos and Carolina Quiroz with $1000 scholarships. The Fern Collie Scholarship is named in honor of Fern Collie, a member of the Elgin Club and a local educator.

PUHS Student Receives South32 Grant

Press Release

Three graduating seniors from high schools in Santa Cruz County have been selected to receive a one-time academic scholarship from mining company South32. Among them was local student Brianna Young of Patagonia Union High School.

Students who receive the $2,500 scholarship show a strong academic performance and have plans to pursue secondary studies in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

South32 STEM Scholarship requires that all applicants submit an essay about their STEM ambitions, and all submissions are then reviewed by an independent selection committee.

“It’s inspiring to see the focus and passion expressed by these students,” says Pat Risner, President of the South32 Hermosa Project. “In our own workforce, I see what happens when young women and men who pursued STEM studies after high school later arrive into careers where they can channel their passion into real-world challenges, within an industry that values them. They’re innovators, problem-solvers, and changemakers, so we are happy to support these scholarship recipients in realizing their own potential.”

The South32 Hermosa STEM Scholarship is awarded each May to three local college-bound seniors with a 3.0 or higher GPA and with an expressed desire to major in a STEM-related field.

Stradling Foundation Awards $50,000 to Local Scholars

Sarah Lyman
By Betty Barr

The Anne Stradling Equine Foundation has awarded five scholarships worth a total of $50,000 to graduating high school seniors from Santa Cruz County. “These students epitomize the qualities of high academic scholarship, a deep commitment to community volunteerism, a strong background in agricultural activities and a dedication to their school’s organizations that our scholarships were designed to promote,” said Foundation President, Beth Sullivan.

Two of the awardees, Sarah Lyman and Brianna Young, are majoring in Agriculture with the aim of achieving a degree in Veterinary Medicine, a goal close to the heart of Anne Stradling. Those two will each receive a four-year award totaling $20,000, payable to the college of their choice in increments of $2,500 per semester.

Sarah Lyman, of Elgin, will graduate with a 4.213 grade average from Benson High School, where she ranks 4th in the class of 74 students. Sarah is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. She has served as president of FFA in her high school, and was a delegate to the 4-H Engaged Citizens Event representing Santa Cruz County to the Arizona State Legislators. She is a dedicated community volunteer, serving as junior swine project leader in 4-H, assisting with the Sonoita Ranch Youth Rodeo and the Canelo Cowboy Church Ranch Family Fun Days and many others. She is enrolled in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, majoring in neurosciences, with a goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian.

Another aspiring veterinarian is Brianna Young, of Patagonia, who will graduate from Patagonia Union High School (PUHS) with a 4.107 grade average where she ranks 2nd in a class of 23 students. Brianna will attend the University of Arizona in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. After receiving her degree she plans to return to her hometown where she can serve the needs of the community. She has competed in many competitions and conferences including 4-H livestock skillathons, where she has placed in the top ten ever since junior high school and competed in the national contest in Louisville, KY. She won the state champion sheep production proficiency award in 2020. Among her many volunteer activities, Brianna has worked at the Patagonia Fire Department’s Annual Steak Fry, and helped with fundraising for the town’s dog kennel.

Hannah Woodard will receive a $4,000 award, payable in increments of $1,000 per semester for a two-year period. Hannah ranks 5th in her class at PUHS with a grade point average of 3.842. She plans to attend the University of Arizona pursuing a degree in marketing in the Eller Business program. She has been active in sports participating in basketball, volleyball and tennis. She also helped out with her mother’s farm and has been active in FAA as well as serving as junior class vice-president and secretary of student council in her senior year.

Two students, Alex Santos and Hannah Young, who are enrolled in Pima Community College will receive $3,000, payable at $750 per semester for a two-year period.

Alex Santos ranked 10th in his class at PUHS with a grade point average of 3.67. He will pursue an academic career in school counseling which he feels is a way for him to help his community. Alex has delivered food boxes during the pandemic, provided music for church services, and helped at the Patagonia Youth Center by painting a mural and shoveling dirt for the garden.

Hannah Young, was 5th in her class at PUHS with a 3.842 grade average. Hannah’s ultimate goal is to become a flight nurse. She will first attend junior college to earn her associates degree and then continue to the University of Arizona to study for a nursing degree focused on advance life support. Her school activities include varsity sports, serving as president of the San Rafael 4-H program and class president in her freshman, junior and senior years. She volunteers with the Patagonia Fire Department and Marshall’s Department and is a member of National Society.
Spring is cliffrose season in our corner of Santa Cruz County, and this year’s bloom did not disappoint.

2020 was a rough year for the native flora. Native plants haven’t been dealing with a virus, but they have been dealing with one of the driest years on record in over a decade. The lack of wildflowers and greenery this year is heartbreaking and will have long term effects on the flora of our region. On the bright side, this season was glorious for cliffrose (Purshia stansburyana).

Philosopher Matshona Dhliwayo said “a rose in a desert can only survive on its strength, not its beauty” but maybe our grassland roses get the best of both worlds.

Cliffrose is an evergreen shrub in the rose family native to the Southwest US and northern Mexico. It can grow to 11 ft tall and is found in grasslands and woodlands between 3000 - 8000 ft in elevation. Stands often burst into flower all at once with rose white flowers blooming along the stems.

It’s a great plant to establish in your home landscape and has medium to low water needs that can survive without too much irrigation. Cliffrose should be planted in full sun, but can tolerate part shade. It’s an excellent pollinator plant, mostly for native bees (we have several hundred species in the area) and provides nectar and pollen in a dry and often resource scarce time of year. It’s growth provides habitat for birds and food from the seed it produces after flowering.

It’s easy to confuse this plant with it’s similar looking cousin, Apache plume (Fallugia paradoxa), but the flowers and growth differences are distinct enough to not be too difficult to identify. Both of these plants are in the rose family (Rosaceae) which means they’re related to the well known ornamental roses you see around town (both the climbing and bush rose kinds).

We don’t think of these ornamental roses as being drought tolerant, often because the European varieties need plenty of water to look great, but the whole family actually produces some amazing native plants in our region that are both beautiful and hardy.

If you’re interested in learning more about the native plants in our region you have many options. You can pick up a copy of Jim Koweek’s book (Grassland Plant ID for Everyone) in most stores in the Patagonia and Sonoita area, and you can join the local chapter of the Arizona Native Plant Society and attend some meetings (email San-tacruz.aznps@gmail.com to sign up).

If you’re looking to buy plants and seeds or volunteer with any planting events, check out Diamond JK nursery by the hardware store in Sonoita, and the Borderlands Restoration Nursery (borderlandsplants.org).

A Cliffrose By Any Other Name
By Francesca Claverie

CHOP to Build Affordable Housing
By Tod Bowden

Based on its mission and the recently completed Affordable Housing Assessment and Strategy Report, Community Homes of Patagonia’s (CHOP) Board of Directors has decided to focus on the development of Gopher Field. The vision is four permanently affordable single-family homes plus open space.

The next step in the process is hiring a qualified consultant to develop and implement a one-year action plan to build CHOP’s organizational capacity, partnerships, and funding resources during this pre-development phase.

The Board has approved submission of a Consultant Request for Proposals (RFP). To receive a copy of the RFP, interested consultants can email: info@chopatagonia.org or call: 520-394-9051 Board President, Tod Bowden. Referrals to prospective consultants are also welcome.

CHOP is currently seeking individual donations and grants to fund the consultant’s services. If you are interested in donating or learning more, please contact Board President, Tod Bowden. “DIVERSITY HAS A HOME HERE.”

YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

congratulations

class of 2021

Enjoy your summer and the journey beyond!

south32.net
The Mustangs 4-H Club would like to thank our community members and local businesses for their support and donations which helped raise money for the club. 4-H members and volunteers met new community members and were reacquainted with old friends at two new Spring fundraisers. The Krispy Kreme doughnut sale in April raised $789.80. The club also held a rummage sale, saddle walk and chicken poop bingo game at the Fairgrounds on Derby Day which raised $2495.52 for a total of $3285.32. The funds will be used by our club to host the first annual Livestock Activity Day on June 26. The event will provide educational opportunities to our members through experiential learning. The Livestock Activity Day will provide campers with showmanship coaching, nutritional information guidelines, fitting knowledge and culminate in a showmanship show-down. The event will provide plenty of opportunities for growth through team building and goal setting. This event is open to all livestock 4-H members of Santa Cruz County.

We would like to introduce our community to two of our outstanding members and highlight their accomplishments and goals.

Jayla Umfleet is a six-year veteran of the swine project. She has become a leader among her peers and often mentors the younger members of 4-H in showmanship, fitting, care and nutrition. Her favorite hobbies include playing volleyball for her school and she is an active member of FFA. Her favorite subject in school is English and she loves pizza!

Brynlee Mathews is entering her second year with the Mustangs 4-H Club swine project. Her favorite activities include roping and volleyball. When she is not busy with her extra-curricular activities, she enjoys studying science and eating her favorite white chicken chili. She wants to be a mom when she grows up. One of Brynlee’s goals is to learn how to build better muscle on market swine. She will have a chance to gain this knowledge and build these skills at the Livestock Activity Day in June.

The next community event will be Family Bingo Night on Friday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30p.m. in Pioneer Hall at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. Bingo cards are $2 each with the chance to win themed prize baskets. Blackout Bingo will conclude the evening. Food will be available for purchase. We look forward to seeing you there.

Editor's note: 15-year-old Cash Keith and 16-year-old Daniel Lindsey are club officers of the Mustang 4-H Club.

Local Girl Qualifies For Nat’l Competition

By Marion Vendituoli

Lexie Miller, of Sonoita, will be competing at the National Jr. High Finals Rodeo June 20 – 26 in Des Moines, IA. Lexie, who is 13 years old, will be entered in three events, barrel racing, pole bending and ribbon roping.

The top four point earners for the year in each state are invited to participate in the Finals Rodeo. Lexie finished 1st in the state in pole bending, 2nd in barrel racing and 4th in ribbon roping.

Lexie came into the AZ High School Rodeo Assn. HSRA Jr. High Finals, held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds May 7 – 8, in 7th place in barrel racing, but earned enough points to move up to 2nd place for the year after her successful runs there.

Lexie, the daughter of Juli and Dickie Lee Miller, has been competing in rodeo events since she was 6 years old. She has competed throughout Arizona, and in New Mexico, Texas, Nevada and California.

Rodeoing is a family affair for the Millers, as both her parents and her older brother, Sterling, also compete. According to her mother, they travel to rodeos two to four weekends a month. Lexie has four horses that she uses for rodeo and will be taking two of them for the Finals. In addition to rodeo, Lexie, who is a student at Casas Christian School, enjoys, hunting elk and mule deer, cooking and sewing.

Lexie Miller competes in pole bending at the AZ Junior High Rodeo finals held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds in May.

Photo by Tim Lawson Photography

Mustang 4-H Club News

By Daniel Lindsey and Cash Keith

The Mustangs 4-H Club would like to thank our community members and local businesses for their support and donations which helped raise money for the club. 4-H members and volunteers met new community members and were reacquainted with old friends at two new Spring fundraisers. The Krispy Kreme doughnut sale in April raised $789.80. The club also held a rummage sale, saddle walk and chicken poop bingo game at the Fairgrounds on Derby Day which raised $2495.52 for a total of $3285.32. The funds will be used by our club to host the first annual Livestock Activity Day on June 26. The event will provide educational opportunities to our members through experiential learning. The Livestock Activity Day will provide campers with showmanship coaching, nutritional information guidelines, fitting knowledge and culminate in a showmanship show-down. The event will provide plenty of opportunities for growth through team building and goal setting. This event is open to all livestock 4-H members of Santa Cruz County.

We would like to introduce our community to two of our outstanding members and highlight their accomplishments and goals.

Jayla Umfleet is a six-year veteran of the swine project. She has become a leader among her peers and often mentors the younger members of 4-H in showmanship, fitting, care and nutrition. Her favorite hobbies include playing volleyball for her school and she is an active member of FFA. Her favorite subject in school is English and she loves pizza!

Brynlee Mathews is entering her second year with the Mustangs 4-H Club swine project. Her favorite activities include roping and volleyball. When she is not busy with her extra-curricular activities, she enjoys studying science and eating her favorite white chicken chili. She wants to be a mom when she grows up. One of Brynlee’s goals is to learn how to build better muscle on market swine. She will have a chance to gain this knowledge and build these skills at the Livestock Activity Day in June.

The next community event will be Family Bingo Night on Friday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Pioneer Hall at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. Bingo cards are $2 each with the chance to win themed prize baskets. Blackout Bingo will conclude the evening. Food will be available for purchase. We look forward to seeing you there.

Editor’s note: 15-year-old Cash Keith and 16-year-old Daniel Lindsey are club officers of the Mustang 4-H Club.

Lexie Miller holds the saddle she won at the 4-H Saddle Walk held during Derby Day at the Sonoita Fairgrounds. From left: Brynlee Mathews and Faith Keith.

Photo by Jennifer Keith
### EVENTS

**June 5:** Patagonia Fire and Rescue Burger Fundraiser 11a.m. until sold out. $10 Take out orders only. 520.394.2010

**June 5:** Friends of Sonora Creek-Citizen Science Opportunity-7a.m. for FOSC’s first Wet/Dry Mapping of Harshaw Creek. Email kpasierb1@gmail.com for more info.

**June 5:** Sonora All Breed Circuit Show #1 8:30a.m.-6:30p.m. at the Sonora Fairgrounds

**June 9:** CCMA Rodeo Bible Camp Wed-Sat 8:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

**June 13:** American Red Cross Blood Drive at Our Lady of the Angel Catho-lic Church 22 Los Encinos Rd 10a.m.-3p.m. Must pre-register at redcross-blood.org Contact Karrie for more info at jjcalluxys@gmail.com

**June 26:** Santa Cruz County Livestock Day 8a.m.-6p.m. at the Sonora Fairgrounds

**June 26:** Patagonia Recycling Task Force Event 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m. at Quirora Lane across from senior center. Only clean, flattened cardboard will be accepted.

**June 28:** Patagonia Pool Re-opens M-F 8:30a.m.-7:30p.m. Check sched-ule and fee chart at (520) 394-3018

**Borderlands Restoration Network Workshops- June 5th 900a.m.-11a.m. Tepary Beans for Monsoon Gardening June 19: Mesquite Bean Harvesting Walk 9:00am-11:00a.m. July 17: Purslane: The Sonoran Desert’s Superfood Edible Weed 9:00a.m.-11a.m.

**July 17:** Borderlands Plant Sale 8:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

**Patagonia Library StoryWalk Walking Club:** Meet at the bench outside the historic Train Depot (Patagonia’s Town Hall) for an in-person, outdoor story and walk along the path in the town park. Mask encouraged for non-vaccin-ated.

**June 18:** 9:30-10:30a.m. July 2: 9:30-10:30a.m. July 16: 9:30-10:30a.m. July 30: 9:30-10:30a.m.

**July 4:** Parade and Fireworks 11:00a.m. Parade. Fireworks start at dusk. (See p. 2 this issue) More info can be found at the Sky Island Tourism Assoc.

The Tin Shed Theatre will be reopening in June with new films. Visit www.patagoniacreativehearts.org for more info.

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### MEETINGS

**AA: Alcoholics Anonymous** In person meetings weekly Tuesdays at 7PM at The Sonora Bible Church 3174 N. Highway 83, Sonora. Social distancing honored This meeting is also on Zoom at 544 376 9756 (no password re-quired)

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

**Alanon (for family and friends of alcoholics):** Patagonia Community Methodist Church, Wed. 6p.m. on-line 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:** Meet the @rd and 4th Weds. of the month. 7p.m. in Town Council Room. Public invited. CDC Guidelines will be followed.

**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, Sonora Bible Church. All are wel-come.

**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 Sonora Bible Church. 2nd and 4th Wed. April Anderson at andea@msn.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-0155.

**Patagonia Library:** now OPEN without appts. M-F 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Closed Sat/Sun. Call for more info. 520.394.2010

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### 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.

**Sr. Citizens of Patagonia Van Service:** Medical transportation, Mon - Fri for seniors & disabled by appointment only. Info: 520-394-2494.

**Santa Cruz County Native Plant Society (SCCNPS):** Meetings held on the third Thurs. of the month. 6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m. Meeting ID is: 874 9175 9629. Questions or considerations, email Robin at crob-int60@gmail.com

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

**Patagonia Farmers Market:** Thursday-Spring/Summer hrs 9a.m.-12p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods

**Nogales “Little” Mercado - Fridays 4-7pm, summer hrs. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. email david@maria-posach.com for more info.

**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.

**Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Thrift Shop - Re-opening Mar. 5th and 6th from 10-2p.m. Please note it may not be every week. Look for thrift shop signs and flags. Items will be located in Thurber Hall.

**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.

**Sonora Produce on Wheels:** Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 7a.m. - 10a.m. VINE Church Contact Garde-nia for more info 602-292-6161.

**Patagonia Museum:** Open hours 2p.m.-4p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. www.thepatagoniamu-seum.org for more info.

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### CHURCH SERVICES

**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. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic Church** 222 Third Ave., Patagonia In Person Service re-sumed. Call for time & schedule 520-394-2954

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

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

**VINE Christian Church** 3107 Hwy 83, Sonora 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.

**Tubac Buddhist Meditation Center** Sunday@8:30a.m.-10a.m. Meetings are currently on Zoom. Email tubacbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com for login information.

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Email prtasted@gmail.com with any event updates you would like listed.
HELP WANTED

ARE YOU A COMPASSIONATE AND QUALIFIED CAREGIVER AND LOOKING FOR WORK?
Please contact Patagonia Assisted Care Agency 520-604-8179 or fill out an application online at www.carepatagonia.com

WHISPER’S SANCTUARY IS SEEKING EXPERIENCED ANIMAL CARETAKERS
Couple with RV preferred. 520-455-9246. Start date negotiable.

WANTED: PERSON OF QUALITY, INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY
Seeking household managerial or horse caretaker position to include room and wage. Part-time caretaker negotiable. Contact prrwnd@yahoo.com

BARN HELP WANTED 4-5 DAYS A WEEK:
feed hay, water, pick up manure for 2 horses. Approx. 1 hr./day $20./day. Located in Sonoita 1 mile south of Fairgrounds. Call: 520-975-9920.

FOR RENT

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

PATAGONIA RENTAL INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES
Furnished, Very Clean and available now. Easy In and easy out. 520 678 1011

MISCELLANEOUS

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

KPUP Broadcast Schedule - SPRING / SUMMER 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 Community United Methodist Church service
6:00pm to 8:00pm: Acoustic Café “Today’s great songwriting talents. A bit of country, rock, blues, folk, pop”
8:00pm to 10:00pm: Folk Alley “Folk Music Radio from WKSU-FM in Kent, OH”

Daily Shows: Swing Hour: 5:00pm to 6:00pm / Best of the Oldies: 1:00pm to 2:00am/ Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri.  8 am., 12pm and 6pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm, Sun. at 8am / Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.
CROWN C MOUNTAIN VIEW ESTATE
MLS # 21930138  44+ ACRES
Privacy with WOW views. $475 with 2 living units. Sunroom, bonus room, courtyard, garage, loads of storage. 3Bd/3Ba. Private well. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$649,000

TOP OF THE WORLD VIEWS ON 18 ACRES
MLS # 22100804  18.01 PRISTINE ACRES
Spectacular land with 360 degree views! Highe on a ridge with several lovely building sites. Private, with no HOA, gentle deed restrictions. SAMANTHA SHORE 602 743-7833

$559,000

COUNTRY LIVING NEAR PATAGONIA
MLS 22109772  4.16 ACRES
This ranch home has been transformed. 3567 sf, 4Bd/3Ba, gourmet kitchen, beamed ceiling, guest quarters. Bring the chickens and pets. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$225,000

PANORAMIC VIEWS —LAKE PATAGONIA
MLS # 21622738  41.7 ACRES
379 Circulo Montana. Bring your horses! Next to State land with wow views of Sonoita Creek marshland. Private Well, electricity at lot line. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$425,000

THE BEST IN PATAGONIA LIVING
MLS # 22110657  297 DUQUESNE AVE.
Well maintained home in the heart of town. 2262 sf, 3Bd/2.5Ba, fireplace. Built by Patagonia’s legendary Dr. Mock. On 2 town lots. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$497,000

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY
MLS # 22104300  316 NAUGLE AVENUE
Great Location w/high visibility in center of Patagonia. Ready to go for retail/business. Back apt w/2Bd/1Ba can be rented separately. SAMANTHA SHORE 602 743-7833

$149,000

BEST DEAL ON LAND IN LAKE PATAGONIA
MLS # 21607229  36 ACRES w/WELL
Mountain and sunset views. Can be divided into 4 parcels for future income. Good building sites, and electricity/phone at the lost line. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$109,000

COZY PATAGONIA COTTAGE
JUST LISTED! 322 DUQUESNE AVE.
Great location! Restored and remodeled w/new paint, new appliances, fenced yard and a new deck. Roof warranty. Ready to move in. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$159,900

ELGIN WINE COUNTRY ACREAGE
MLS # 22007944  9.42 ACRES
11 Camino del Corral, just off Elgin’s winery row. Fenced on 3 sides, solar gate. Several possible building sites, out of the flood plain. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$79,000

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

www.buysonoita.com

Download FREE Long Realty App for instant Arizona real estate active listings, pending sales and recently sold properties. JUNE 2021