Marijuana Store Gets Thumbs Up

By Robert Gay and Marion Vendituoli

Despite opposition by some residents, the Patagonia Town Council approved a special use license for a recreational marijuana dispensary on July 14. Aari Ruben, of Tucson, is planning to open the dispensary in the former Cose Buene Restaurant building at 436 W. Naugle Ave.

Earlier that evening, the Planning and Zoning (P & D) committee had recommended the approval of the license. At the P & D hearing, questions were brought up about parking, proximity of the facility to Richardson and Doc Mock Parks, availability of potentially disruptive drugs to underage kids, attraction of criminal elements, odor, security and flow of clientele from out of town. Tempest Smith read summaries of studies on the relationship of marijuana use and social-psychological problems among young users, such as suicidal tendencies. Samantha Carlson presented a petition of opposition by Patagonia residents, having about 70 signatures. Ruben stressed that there would be no consumption of products on the premises, and education of buyers about the need to keep his company’s products out of the hands of youth.

His use permit application was recommended by the Committee to the Town Council for adoption, with added provisions that there be full compliance with all applicable regulations by state, county, and town, with annual review of the license, and that revocation of the license could occur if there were violations, or the Town considered the operation deleterious to residents.

Ruben, who owns Desert Bloom Re-Leaf Center in Tucson, describes himself as a “medical practice manager and cannabis entrepreneur.” He won the right to open a recreational marijuana operation in a state lottery held last April and hopes to open his Patagonia store, which he plans to name Re-Leaf, in the fall. He had been looking at Tubac as a possible site but was not able to secure property there. He chose Patagonia, he said in a recent interview, because local ordinances were more favorable than in Nogales or in unincorporated parts of Santa Cruz County, and because of the availability of suitable property. “If we went where we were more welcomed,” he said.

Getting a special use permit is the first step for getting approval to operate a dispensary from the AZ State Health Dept., which sets standards for security, administrative policies, inventory control and sanitation and cleanliness, Rubin noted.

Investigations Show Areas of Concern

By Kat Crockett

The Sonoita Elgin Fire Board (SEFD) has received reports stemming from a series of investigations initiated over the past several months. In January 2021, the Sonoita Elgin Fire Board (SEFD) Board terminated the employment of Chief DeWolf for misconduct because he had increased his salary by $300 per week without Board approval. The County’s Sheriff’s office is now investigating DeWolf’s misconduct for possible criminal or civil action. That investigation is currently on-going.

The SEFD’s former Administrative Assistant, Katie Goodwin, who resigned in April 2021, had alleged that she was bullied by SEFD Board Chair Chris Johnson, and that Johnson implied her employment was conditional upon her signing a management letter for the special audit. The investigation into Goodwin’s allegations, conducted by Green and Baker LTD law firm, concluded that Goodwin and Johnson had a tense discussion at a meeting on March 10 where Goodwin started talking over Johnson and, according to Board member Annette Dorney, “they were going at each other pretty good.” The purpose of the meeting was to obtain Goodwin’s verification of information contained in a letter to satisfy the Walker & Armstrong auditors’ demands to complete the final audit report to support an insurance claim on DeWolf’s overpayments.

The investigator concluded that the meeting was tense and discourteous, but it did not rise to bullying by Johnson. Goodwin’s allegation that her employment was conditional upon her signing the management letter for the special audit was also not sustained and it was determined that it was Goodwin and not Johnson who raised the idea that her job might be in jeopardy and people were trying to get rid of her. SEFD Fire Chief Buonacorsi reprimanded Goodwin on March 22, describing her actions in the meeting as, “unprofessional, argumentative, and discourteous.” He also stated that Goodwin’s inability to respond to Walker & Armstrong demonstrated a level of neglect, inefficiency, or indifference in the execution of her job and commented on the apparent disarray of the files she was responsible for.

Another investigation by Green & Baker focused on an assessment of how DeWolf was able to obtain the improper benefits and overpayments to which he was not entitled. The SEFD Board requested the investigation to learn what steps, if any, could be taken to prevent any similar occurrences in the future.
WATER: THE UNAPPRECIATED MIRACLE

By Ron Pulliam and Valer Clark

It was called a miracle when manna fell from the sky and fed the wandering Israelites, but when water falls from the sky, we think nothing of it - just another rainy day. We are so used to having as much water as we want that we take it for granted: turn on the tap and water flows, quenching our thirst, irrigating our crops, and filling our backyard swimming pools.

Few of Patagonia’s citizens are old enough to remember when Sonora Creek flowed year round from Monkey Springs near Sonora to the Santa Cruz River. Stream flow declined gradually; year-round flows in the early part of the last century were reduced by a month or so every decade until now the creek above Patagonia only flows for a few days each year, following heavy rains. Along with the water, the cottonwood-sycamore forest has mostly disappeared, and wildlife populations have declined. We are so used to the current degraded situation that we think that it is the norm and there is nothing we can do about it.

We could learn a lot about water from the Tohono O’odham. Their elders have a saying “Su:dagī ‘O Wud Doakag” that in English means “Water is Life.” The Sonora Creek valley was home to Native Americans long before the first European settlers arrived; by some estimates more people lived here 1000 years ago than do now. The ancestors of the O’odham people understood the importance of water; they not only grew crops in the flood plain and hunted game in the uplands, they actively harvested rainfall with small rock structures like the ancient trincheras that can still be seen at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cerro Trincheras, less than 100 miles south of the border. The original human inhabitants of our valley built trincheras and contributed to the problem. The problems of the past 100 years is surely part of the cause, but poor agricultural practices as well as climate change also contribute to the problem.

Patagonia is a microcosm of the world. As we step in to carry on Clare Bonelli’s popular community newsletter, we will continue her tradition of issuing weekly updates of local events, news and items of community interest. patagoniaregionaltimes.org/connect-with-the-prt

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Meet the PRT Writers

Introducing the writers who regularly contribute articles and columns to the Patagonia Regional Times.

Alison Bunting

I am a proud 5th generation Arizonan with deep roots in Santa Cruz County. Although my parents moved to Tucson before I was born, much of my childhood was spent in Patagonia with my grandparents and great-grandparents. My father, being an avid hunter and outdoorsman, took us on every back road in the county and taught us a deep appreciation for where we are from.

As a kid I aspired to be a teacher and a writer and was doing well until my teen years. Bad boyfriends, bad decisions and bad luck made getting out of high school a contact sport. In an attempt to get myself together, I moved to Patagonia to live with my grandparents.

I took a job at the Circle 2, and spent a couple of years working on the dude ranch circuit. After returning to Patagonia I landed a job at the Steak Out where I learned the art of grilling and butchering. It was during this time that I accepted a ride from a boy with a jar full of moonshine that I ended up marrying in 1997.

Cassina Farley

My family helped settle Arizona. In Laveen, they had a dairy farm, an orange orchard, and grew cotton and alfalfa. I grew up working on the dairy and raising a menagerie of animals. I was active in community organizations including 4-H, barrel racing associations (a rodeo event), and dairy cattle breeder associations. I competed in team roping, barrel racing, and showing dairy cattle.

I attended UofA to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in animal sciences pre-professional option minoring in chemistry. I worked in a genetic lab that mapped genes leading to progressive, degenerative neurological diseases in dairy cattle. I continued my education, earning my Master’s in animal science working on several projects that focused on genetics, nutrition, anatomy and physiology.

I started a PhD program focusing on Duchenne muscular dystrophy. I worked primarily in the fields of cell culture and microscopy.

For the next ten years I honed my restaurant skills and ended up managing three local restaurants. I also spent six years as a “produce specialist” at Red Mountain Foods. It was here that I really got to know the community and all of its quirks.

My first experience with nonprofit work came with the Patagonia Community Garden and KPUP. During my time with KPUP I discovered my skill at fundraising and nonprofit management. I joined the board of the PRT, became a regular columnist, and was hired as the director of another nonprofit, the Patagonia Creative Arts Association.

I have rounded back to my childhood dream of being a writer and a teacher. Currently I have the privilege of providing art classes to grades 6-12 at the local school, write a monthly column for the greatest little newspaper in the world and I get to live with the love of my life in the town where it all started. How about that for full circle?

Cami Schlappy

I grew up in Connecticut near the mouth of the Connecticut River. The river was beautiful and clean – at least on the incoming tide.

When I left in the 70’s, the blue crabs, sunfish, ospreys, eagles, shad and others were all gone due to the pollution. You couldn’t see three inches down into the water. Thankfully, the river has been cleaned up and you can now see the tip of a canoe paddle and the critters are back.

I was voted the shyest girl in my high school class of about 70 kids and thought, “Is that all that’s wrong? I can do something about that!” I went to Colby College in Waterville, Maine where I excelled in goofing off and driving around the state. I only graduated because Colby was one of the colleges that went on strike in 1970 and I didn’t have to turn in the dozen papers that were due in the next two weeks.

After college, I did some hitchhiking and traveling in Europe and Canada, waitressed, worked as a veterinary assistant, and finally went to nursing school after my dad died. Paying my own way made me a much better student. Another trip to NW Canada and Alaska showed me it was time to leave CT and I moved to Tucson where I became an ICU nurse.

Around 1986, I ran an ad in the Tucson Weekly looking for a husband. Mike Sweedo answered, and we’ve been married ever since. Sparky came along in 1991 and, thankfully, was a really easy child. We moved to Sonoita when she was a month old and she attended Elgin School and Patagonia HS. She got her PhD in biomedical engineering last summer, then went to Pima College and got her automotive mechanic’s certification.

At the moment, Mike and I are building a house in Wildlife Haven, just outside Patagonia. I’m also involved in saving the Patagonia Pool, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force, and Mountain Empire Rotary. Thankfully (yes, I have a lot to be thankful for!) the PRT took over my newsletter – and they are doing a wonderful job!

Clare Bonelli

I started a PhD program focusing on Duchenne muscular dystrophy. I worked primarily in the fields of cell culture and microscopy.

My husband Wade and I moved from Los Angeles to Sonoita in late 2002 to build our retirement dream home. We chose Sonoita for its beauty and dark skies - Wade loves astronomy.

I was born in Caracas, Venezuela and lived there until I was 12, when my parents relocated to Southern California via Oklahoma. I retired from a 32-year career at UCLA, having served as the Director of the UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library and as interim University Librarian.

Retirement provided the time to read and participate in several local book clubs. I also joined the Crossroads Quilters to learn quilting and make friends. The highlight of each meeting was lunch at the big round table of the Crossroads Café where the Collie sisters, Marka Moss and Jane Woods, entertained us with stories of growing up in Elgin. I was hooked on learning more about the history of our new home.

When I was recruited to organize the Empire Ranch Foundation (ERF) archives I quickly became interested in documenting and sharing the history of the ranch and its families through the ERF docent program, website, and publications. My first contributions to the PRT were about the Empire Ranch history, and later evolved into the Glimpses Into Our Past column in the PRT. The subject matter for ‘Glimpses’ is drawn primarily from research of Ancestry. com and local newspapers. I welcome suggestions for topics for ‘Glimpses,’ so let me know if you have any ideas.

During this program, I realized my passion for teaching science. I was able to transfer mid-program to the College of Education to earn a Master’s Degree in teaching and teacher education and to complete a certification program to teach at the college level.

Since then, I have taught multiple college biology courses, ranging from nutrition and allied health courses to microbiology. I love the opportunities that this gives me to teach people about the world of biology!

That being said, I am a total science nerd. I share my love of nonfiction, nature, and exploring the outdoors with my husband and daughter. I still ride horses everyday and compete most weekends barrel racing. When not at a barrel race, my family and I roam the back country birding, nature watching, and exploring historic areas and archaeological sites.

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Relief Programs Available for Ranchers, Vineyards

By Kat Crockett

Loss of income can hit hard when irregular and extreme weather events impact growing seasons and production yields for ranchers and farmers. Drought, back-to-back hailstorms, and early and late freezes/frosts over the past year have wallowed the Sonora-Elgin growers and cattle producers. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a variety of programs and services to help communities, farmers, ranchers, and businesses that have been hard hit by natural disaster events. Two of the many USDA programs offered are the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) and Livestock Forage Program (LFP).

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. In August 2020 hailstorms battered several local vineyards destroying fruit prior to harvest. Some local growers, including my husband and myself, lost up to 90% of their crop which was destroyed by large hail and high winds. We lost over one third of our crop on 10 acres that we sell to local wineries. In October 2020, a severe freeze, dipping temperatures into the teens before the vines went dormant, did further severe damage, which did not become apparent until bud-break this spring. This May we were able to see the damage to our grapes. Over 600 – 800 vines had died. Other vineyards on Elgin Rd. were hit even harder, forcing many producers to re-think and modify their operations.

TAP can assist vineyards by providing funds for replanting or recovery. To qualify for TAP funds based on the 2020 freeze, growers must have suffered more than a 18% mortality loss and must file a claim with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Wilcox within 90 days of the date the loss becomes evident. FSA determines if growers are eligible for funds and the amount to be allocated. Funds may be used for costs associated with pruning, removal, replanting, and salvaging damaged vines. After FSA approval of the claim, growers generally have 12 months to replant or rehab vines and then file proof of qualifying expenditures to receive reimbursement.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

LFP provides compensation to livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to a qualifying drought on native or improved pastureland. For eligible livestock owners or contract growers, when the Drought Rating for the county is at D4 level for four weeks during the normal grazing period (not necessarily consecutive weeks), the rancher is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.

A U.S. House of Representatives Hearing on the status of drought conditions throughout the western US was held on May 25, 2021. According to experts who briefed the panel, Arizona and other Western states just lived through the driest year in more than a century, with no drought relief in sight soon. The period from last April to this March was the driest in the last 126 years for the West, including Arizona.

The US Drought Monitor (USDM) has a 5-level drought rating system from D0 - Abnormally Dry to D4 – Exceptional Drought. Over 57% of the state has been at D4 or D3 for the past four weeks, including all of Santa Cruz County. The Arizona State Climate Office states we are in our 26th year of a long-term drought. Our local ranchers are facing huge challenges as forage is reduced and disappearing, water is not replenished, feed bills are increasing, productivity is decreasing, costs are increasing, and ranchers are selling livestock.

Local rancher Ian Tomlinson currently runs 1,700-1,800 cattle in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties, including the Vera Earl and Empire ranches. He has also partnered with the Sands Ranch. “Most ranchers in Arizona will max the forage with the max number of cows and if you are in a drought, you have to sell some of your cows,” said Tomlinson. “I have heard of the LFP and I utilize it. It is helpful in a drought where you turn in the number of cattle you owned during a certain time and the number of cattle you sold during that period of time and they take into account your different ranches and your leases to come up with a payment.” He believes LFP is a way to help recoup some of the cattle costs and loss of income and added that there are other Federal programs like NAP insurance and other insurance subsidized by the Federal Government. NAP is a Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program also offered through the Farm Service Agency. “If ranchers are not taking advantage, they need to,” Tomlinson added. “It’s not a program that will make you whole or build you up from drought, but it covers some expenses.”

There are many disaster relief programs available through the US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. If you believe you may be eligible for TAP or LFP funds, or if you need information on other programs, contact the FSA office in Wilcox for assistance. They can be reached at (520) 384-3588.

Rose Tree Ranch Signs Conservation Agreement

By Jo Dean

The historic Rose Tree Ranch located on Upper Elgin Road has made history again by entering into an agreement for conservation status with the Arizona Land and Water Trust (ALWT). Originally a Spanish Land Grant in the early 1600s, the ranch provided grapes that were used to make the wine for the Catholic Mission in the Santa Cruz Valley. Since the 1600s Rose Tree has managed to raise cattle almost continuously, even during the 1800s when the Sonora Valley was the land of the Apache, controlled by Cochise and then Geronimo.

In April 2021, the Rose Tree entered an agreement with the Arizona Land and Water Trust to protect 1,150 acres of their private land from development. Owner Al Wilcox wants to improve the land’s natural resources and preserve it in its natural state, and has been working to improve wildlife habitat and the conservation of various species found on the ranch. Species found or near the ranch include federally endangered ocelot and jaguar and several vulnerable species: the lesser long-nosed bat, Chiricahua leopard frog, Sprague’s pipit and pronghorn antelope.

Twenty years ago, soon after they bought the ranch, the owners partnered with University of Arizona, Arizona Game and Fish, the Arizona Antelope, Mule Deer and White Tail Deer Foundations to improve and protect wildlife habitat.

The total grazing allotment for the Rose Tree is approximately 9,000 acres leased from the Bureau of Land Management and Arizona State Land. The private land purchased by Arizona Land and Water Trust (AWLT) protects the grazing and agricultural rights of the Rose Tree Ranch while assuring the land will not be sold or developed beyond agreed agricultural use.

AWLT has purchased conservation easements on 60,500 acres of private ranch land in southern Arizona as of July 2021. Their purchases focus on native and restorable grassland and water sources. Conservation goals are protecting a network of connected properties expanding wildlife corridors in the Sonora-Elgin and Upper San Pedro River Watersheds.

Other local ranch properties that have entered into agreement with the AWLT include the Babacomari, Pyeatt, and Mustang Ranches in Elgin, the High Haven Ranch north of Sonora, the Circle Z in Patagonia and the Clyne, Sands and Rain Valley Ranches in Rain Valley.

Funding for land purchases in the Elgin-Sonoita area comes, in part, the USDA’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, individual donations, and from the Department of Defense’s Readiness Environmental Protection Integration Program which serves to protect development encroachment on Fort Huachuca as well as providing conservation easements.

Rose Tree Ranch is an integral part of protecting the unique grasslands, habitat, and wildlife of Santa Cruz County and surrounding areas of southern Arizona.

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Patagonia Students Head Back to School

By Sarah Klingenstein

Following a year of in-person and virtual learning scenarios due to COVID-19, the Patagonia School District plans to open for on-campus classes on August 10th.

To keep students safe and learning in person, the Patagonia campus will strongly encourage the use of masks and social distancing. While the Centers for Disease Control have placed in-person instruction as a top priority, they strongly advise all unvaccinated people age 2 and older to wear masks indoors, especially where physical distancing is not easily maintained. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released guidelines for schools, highlighting the importance of in-person learning, which included this statement:

“All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).”

Though the state of Arizona does not currently allow schools to mandate mask-wearing, the District will strongly encourage their use.

Patagonia Schools will offer a distance learning option at the start of the year for families who still desire it, and, if the area sees a large increase in COVID-19 cases, full virtual learning will be revisited. Leaders hope that can be avoided but are concerned about the recent increases in cases in Arizona due to the delta variant.

“The talented and caring staff and administrators in our district will work with the kids right away to find out where they are and take them forward from there,” School Board President Nancy McCoy said, noting that this year should be about getting things back to normal.

Superintendent Kenny Hayes is encouraged by the preliminary results of the AZ Merit tests given last spring. While these incomplete results are only available to superintendents, not to teaching staff, the complete results will be sent to schools in September.

“The numbers I have seen,” he said, “we did not experience the same levels of learning loss that national news stories have described in other areas.”

“We are redoubling our emphasis on data-driven instruction this year. We will look to our end-of-year and beginning-of-year benchmarking tests, as well as ongoing formative tests throughout the year, to plan instruction based on the students’ achievement and needs. Teachers are undergoing additional training to make the most of assessment data.”

“Attendance at summer school was similar to 2019, the last summer it was held, and we extended the session from four to six weeks. We were very grateful for our collaboration with Patagonia Creative Arts Association. After the kids finished their summer school session, they spent the afternoon the Art Center,” Hayes said. He believes the kids got a good balance of academics, art and play in their day.

McCoy stated that the District budget did not suffer too greatly through the pandemic. “The Cares Act provided additional funding, so the budget is in pretty good shape. We had a strong budget going into last school year, so we were able to absorb any losses.”

According to Mr. Hayes, “We may have some budget issues moving forward, as Cares Act and other grants will go away, so we’ve been trying to use that money to make the school safer for the kids. And the District was careful not to overexpend, in anticipation of the end of some emergency funding in the future. For example, we didn’t hire additional staff that we mightn’t be able to keep on long-term.”

“The one area in which we lost funding for the coming year is transportation,” he said. “Unfortunately, the State of Arizona determines each year’s transportation monies based on the mileage used the previous year. And with the hybrid and distance learning we undertook for parts of the year, our numbers were way down. We had to increase our tax rate a bit.”

The elementary tax rate is 4.3445, only slightly up from the prior year which was 4.0417. The high school tax rate is 2.5328. The elementary was affected because they receive Equalization Assistance from the state, funding tied to the transportation mileage, and the high school does not, according to Hayes.

Henry L. Dojaquez Sr. passed peacefully at his home in Sonoita surrounded by family on July 15, 2021. He was 103 years old. A celebration of life will be held at the Sonoita Fairgrounds on August 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Henry was born to Miguel and Felicitas Dojaquez on September 1, 1917 in Benson, Arizona. One of thirteen children of Mexican immigrants, Henry lived his entire life in and around Sonoita. Henry lived during two World Wars, The Great Depression and countless other world events. From the front porch of his home where he lived for over 90 years, he watched the world transform and grow.

He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, opening up rural areas of southern Arizona. Later, he carved out a career with the Arizona Dept. of Transportation developing and maintaining highways and roads throughout Southern Arizona. As much as he enjoyed operating a grader for the State, his true passion, like his father’s, was raising cattle and cowboying. After he retired, Henry went from riding a blade to riding a horse and cattle raising full time.

He was quick to laugh, and even quicker to prank friends, family, and even strangers - anyone passing through Sonoita was fair game. He was the patriarch of the family who passed on his knowledge of ranching and cowboying to generations of his family. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

He is predeceased by his two daughters, Paulette and Helen and granddaughter Kimberly. He is survived by his son Henry Dojaquez Jr., his daughter Mary Anne Hunt, 10 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, dozens of nieces, nephews and loving family members.

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LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Martin Levowitz

Returning home from nine days in New York City, I went to see local filmmaker Michelle Gisser's latest opus, "Exit Route," at the Tin Shed. Like her last movie, it celebrates the natural beauty of this region, and raises lots of angst and doubt about what harm the current mining renaissance might wreak. The film includes footage of the beauty hereabouts, reminding us that this, our home, is nearly paradise.

Statistics show that now, for the first time in human history, more people live in cities than in rural settings. By 2030, which is coming right up, two-thirds of us will be city-dwellers. (One third of them in dreadful slums.) It’s almost impossible for those who live amidst natural beauty to realize how ignorant billions of people are of nature. They’ve never been exposed to it. They’ve never been enchanted by the sound of wind in trees. Have never watched as hawks and ravens ride a spinning updraft of warm air. Have never slept beneath the stars or even seen the stars.

Perhaps you’ve read about those NGOs which take tough inner-city kids in buses to the countryside to see their first real cow or even camp out in the woods. (The kids are kept awake all night by scary, unfamiliar sounds including oh, Good Jesus, mice and birds. Owl = ghost.) When asked about nature in urbanites’ lives, a friend of mine said, cynically, “The only nature city folks have ever really known is weather, sex, and food.

On Saturday we took a pleasant walk in Central Park. The beautiful spring weather had brought out a lot of folks - still, just a tiny fraction of the city’s populace - to sunbathe, picnic with their kids, and walk their happy dogs. Quite a heart-warming scene. It’s odd to think that all Manhattan once resembled Central Park, with woods and meadows, even streams and lakes. But not no more.

Next day, we rode the subway out to Coney Island Beach. The beach was packed, to put it mildly, crammed full of folks who craved both sun and sea. I guess the scene was nature in some crowded, sweaty way, devoid both of tranquility and charm. A little like those mud-holes that you see in Africa on your TV, overcrowded with hippos and crocs.

We, here, who live in beauty at a peaceful country pace are both surprised and horrified when industry comes sniffing at our door. A lot of us were born elsewhere and know how bad the blight can get. Along The Turnpike, in New Jersey, where I lived when I was young, you’ll find immense industrial wastelands - oil refineries - mile after mile of poisoned soil, metal tanks and pipes and power lines and glaring lights, where not one trace of nature has survived. It’s surreal, some other world, not Earth.

The beauty of nature is sacred only to those who have experienced it. Those living here, who care, campaign vigorously to inform politicians of threats confronting the ecology. It’s no surprise that threatened owls and leopard frogs and marmosets get little interest or support from urban lawmakers whose voters are indignant over potholes, tunnel tolls, and rent-control.

The Bible teaches metaphorically. It may be true that humans got their start in Paradise, but I’ve my doubts that Jahweh threw us out. Our ancestors were human, after all, and just like us. (Perhaps myopic is the word.) They almost surely trashed the place, then turned and walked away to seek a better neighborhood.

PARADISE TRASHED

By Leslie Schupp

The first pool I was ever introduced to in Patagonia was a water tank out toward the Dump Road. For skinny dipping, of course. Yes, we old folks used to do a lot of that in our day.

After I had my daughter Sage, we used to swim at Cleo and Doc Mock’s, who let kids from town swim in their backyard pool.

But since then, the mainstay of our summers, for me and my daughters and now my grandchildren, has been the Patagonia Pool at the High School. I cannot imagine a summer without it.

"Hang on to the side," I said, somewhat callously, to my girls when they were too little to stand in the shallows, and when I wanted to swim a couple of slow laps. They did. They spent their summers happily hanging onto the gutters, and soon learned to swim, along with our town’s other kids. They jumped and played, and got sun and exercise. The pool is literally the lifeline for Patagonia’s kids in the summertime.

Of course a lot of us folks of a “certain age” like to use the pool too, for laps or aerobics or just bringing down our core temperatures. “Is that really a thing?” I asked Paula the other day. “I don’t know,” she said, “but I feel like it is.” When you go home after the pool, you can live through the rest of the day. Believe it or not, many of us Patagonians do not have air conditioning to this day.

Some of my favorite things: my kids hanging with the lifeguards, their role models. Swimming every day. Becoming lifeguards.

Making new friends at the pool. This week it was Silas and AJ and Sally. Avari and I still remember Flip, Flap and Flop, blonde haired brothers from Sonoita who did flips, and flops, off the boards.

A bee you’ve scooped from the water fluffing his wings and wiping pool water off his face with his front legs and antennae. Rescuing big stink bugs out of the filter, dead and alive, and once a sodden (dead) tarantula that my granddaughter insisted on bringing home.

My grandson being pampered by lifeguards for toe injuries and begging for starbursts.

Watching the monsoon clouds gather over Red Mountain, until the lifeguards shout of “All out! Lighting!”

The Patagonia pool, long and cool, the center of our lives every summer. Otherwise it would be a big bummer. Of course we have our excellent summer school programs, the Art Center’s Art Camp, the town library, the Youth Enrichment Center - our town has done a great job of providing for its kids. But for just cooling and swimming, we need the pool. Or would you like all the kids to be home playing video games?

Save the Patagonia Pool.

WHERE WILL THE CHILDREN PLAY?

By Leslie Schupp

The first pool I was ever introduced to in Patagonia was a water tank out toward the Dump Road. For skinny dipping, of course. Yes, we old folks used to do a lot of that in our day.

After I had my daughter Sage, we used to swim at Cleo and Doc Mock’s, who let kids from town swim in their backyard pool.

But since then, the mainstay of our summers, for me and my daughters and now my grandchildren, has been the Patagonia Pool at the High School. I cannot imagine a summer without it.

"Hang on to the side," I said, somewhat callously, to my girls when they were too little to stand in the shallows, and when I wanted to swim a couple of slow laps. They did. They spent their summers happily hanging onto the gutters, and soon learned to swim, along with our town’s other kids. They jumped and played, and got sun and exercise. The pool is literally the lifeline for Patagonia’s kids in the summertime.

Of course a lot of us folks of a “certain age” like to use the pool too, for laps or aerobics or just bringing down our core temperatures. “Is that really a thing?” I asked Paula the other day. “I don’t know,” she said, “but I feel like it is.” When you go home after the pool, you can live through the rest of the day. Believe it or not, many of us Patagonians do not have air conditioning to this day.

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Save the Patagonia Pool.

106th Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo

September 4-6

Gates Open 10 am


For more information visit:

SonoitaFairgrounds.com/Labor-Day

Come See "The Best Little Rodeo in Arizona"

Sonoita Fairgrounds
By Cassina Farley

My paternal grandmother, Nana Barbara lived in a camper on a Chevy truck in a Safeway parking lot somewhere near Campbell and Prince in Tucson for most of my early childhood. From what I remember her little “neighborhood” consisted of a grocery store, dollar store and a Bosa Donuts.

My father would take my sister and me to visit her on the weekends and I have a vague memory of sitting in the parking lot among other cars visiting with her and my tata. Since she didn’t have a kitchen, we would often make our way to the donut shop where we would feast on powdered donuts while my Dad and grandparents would drink coffee and talk in Spanish. If we were lucky, she would hand us a few dollars and send us over to the dollar store for whatever we wanted. Everyone in Safeway and the donut shop knew my nana and tata by name. Going to see my nana never seemed weird until it did.

I must have asked once, or maybe my sister did, but either way we were told that she chose to live that way because she was afraid to live in a house, and to make things weirder it was because she was afraid someone may have died there. My nana lived in a camper in a Safeway parking lot because she was afraid of ghosts.

Sometime later she moved into a ground floor apartment (parked the truck with camper outside) and covered everything in plastic. The floor, carpet and couch and everything squeaked. I guess since they lived indoors now, my dad would sometimes leave us with her and that’s when she’d wash us. My sister was three years younger and much smaller, so she got the “on the kitchen table tub treatment” while I was scrubbed raw with a washcloth. (In her defense, our maternal grandma practiced this, too.) Once she was finished, we were deemed clean enough to sit on the plastic covered sofa. She’d give us Cokes and sugary Mexican cookies and hide them when my dad came back because she was diabetic.

As I got older, I went to see my nana less and less and she rarely ventured to our house. She was afraid to come to our side of town and if she did make the trip, she’d hurry off before dark fell. About the time my tata passed away the family set her up in a gated senior mobile home park where she smudged the house every day and my aunts would take her to Furr’s Cafeteria for food she shouldn’t eat. Occasionally, my dad would show up and raid her pantry and remove all her Cokes and Mexican cookies.

For years when I was at dinner parties and people were comparing their weird family stories I’d always win. “Oh yeah but did your nana live in a Safeway parking lot?” This was still amusing right up until the other day when I had an epiphany.

Lately I have been having trouble sleeping, which I believe is rooted in anxiety. As the monsoons have been raging on here in Patagonia our 106-year-old roof sprung a leak. Nothing major, just enough to send me over the edge with worry. Add that to the million other things I think about and now I’m really not sleeping. Then a few thoughts crossed my mind. Wouldn’t it be so much easier if we didn’t have this house to think about? Or this job to worry about? Or this stuff to clean? Or...?

I finally understood her. She couldn’t control her environment, so she made it more manageable. She was anxious about living in an unknown place, so she fixed it the best way she knew how. She covered her world in plastic and tried to live the best way she could.

My nana had some major anxiety. As a kid it meant all the donuts I could eat and a surprisingly good story I could tell my friends and now I feel bad that she didn’t get the help she needed. My lesson: quirks lead to funny stories but deserve a second look. Sorry, Nana.

COVER IT IN PLASTIC

By Robin Kulibert

For asylum seekers, crossing the border is certainly significant, though still just one phase in their epic, if not harrowing, journey to a semblance of normal. What happens once they get here? And how is Voices From the Border (VFB) assisting migrants who come to our side of town and if she did make the trip, she’d hurry off before dark fell. About the time my tata passed away the family set her up in a gated senior mobile home park where she smudged the house every day and my aunts would take her to Furr’s Cafeteria for food she shouldn’t eat. Occasionally, my dad would show up and raid her pantry and remove all her Cokes and Mexican cookies.

Next comes locating the basics of English with the young ones, and a full round of parting hugs, comprised a most treasured birthday gift.

Meanwhile, between these delightful visits, VFB board members now spend a great deal of time online and on the phone helping migrants with the initial stages of life in the U.S.

First, a migrant needs a place to land as his/her case winds through the courts. While most live with family or friends, some have been taken in by volunteer sponsors who agree to provide hospitality and services to their guests for at least six months to a year. VFB has helped one family make its way to Valley Neighbors, a sponsorship community in rural Montana.

Next comes locating the basics - food, clothing, ESL classes, school for children, legal assistance, public transportation, etc. - all within walking distance of the migrant’s residence, and all for free, incidentally. Asylum seekers are not allowed to apply for a work permit until 365 days after their case is filed.

And then there’s the paperwork. It’s all in English. It must go to the correct offices within the established deadlines. If a migrant changes addresses, he or she must let ICE and the courts know within five days or deportation looms.

VFB is helping people navigate all of this. We’ve developed spreadsheets. Our expenses have increased. Yet, after all of this filing, adjusting and settling in, deportation is still the likely outcome for most of those who seek asylum in this country. The bar for asylum is high, the burden of proof demanding.

VFB has always been a humanitarian aid organization focused on helping people in their time of need. The stories we’re told about why people seek asylum are often difficult to hear, sometimes horrendous. I’ll save roots of the violence, persecution, and extortion must have suffered for another article. Suffice it to say that, but for the grand lottery of life, we could all be in a migrant’s shoes. The least we can do is walk with them, at least for a while.

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

BORDER GROUP’S WORK CONTINUES

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By Cassina Farley

By Robin Kulibert
The Patagonia Public Pool has been a cherished part of the community for over 30 years. It originated with a grant given to the Town of Patagonia, which acted as the managing entity for many years. In 2004 the management and operation of the pool switched over to the Patagonia Union High School. At that point, three main entities were a part of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), Patagonia Union High School, Patagonia Elementary School, and the Town of Patagonia. Each entity contributed $10,000 in order to keep the pool open. At the time of the change, it was enough money to run the pool, along with some community fundraising to support maintenance and improvements.

The cost of running the pool has dramatically increased and it now costs between $65,000 and $75,000 a year to run the pool. This increase in cost is due to the increase of cost in chlorine, electricity, and also for wages of lifeguards. Patagonia Union High School has been covering the extra $35,000 to $40,000 for the past five years. We received a grant to replace the filter system that was originally installed when the pool was built, but just like an old car, replacing that filter created more problems that need to be fixed.

Additionally, there are major upgrades required both in the short term and long term. The short-term permanent fixes are estimated to cost around $250,000. We need to replace the deck ($60,000-$90,000), the pool surface ($100,000 - $150,000), replace the fencing ($20,000), install a lift ($9,000-$17,000), along with other problems that may arise.

This discussion began in October 2019. At that time, Friends of the Patagonia Pool (FOPP) was created by our community to help alleviate the financial burden that PUHS has been facing. They have worked diligently to come up with funding to help support the pool. We also received $30,000 from South32 in order to open the pool for this year. Most of the monetary information in this article came from a report funded by FOPP through grants they received.

Unfortunately, the schools cannot continue to pay for and run the pool. We ask for another entity to come forward in order to keep the pool open, as it no longer meets the educational needs of the students enough to justify the price tag that comes with it. We need to properly spend the taxpayers’ money for what it was intended for, and that is the well-funded education of the students of Patagonia Public Schools.

We do not make this decision lightly. Many hours have been spent discussing this issue. If management and financial support can be appropriately provided, the pool can remain open, but Patagonia Public Schools cannot continue to fund it at the current levels.

Thank you to our community’s strong commitment to helping this cause.

Editor’s note: Kenny Hayes is Superintendent of Patagonia Union High School and Patagonia Elementary School Districts.

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**POOL’S FUTURE RESTS IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNITY**

By Kenny Hayes

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**GET INVOLVED TO SAVE THE POOL**

By Clare Bonelli

The conversation about the Patagonia Pool has shifted from “what can we do to open the pool next year?” to “can we create an organization to take over funding of and, eventually, management of the pool?” The answer to that appears to be “Yes” it is possible – and there is the talent in our community to make that happen.

In the two weeks since the first meeting held to explore the future of the pool, experienced non-profit and grant people have begun to develop a strategic plan: paperwork will be begun for the creation of a 501c3, a mission statement will be drafted, name ideas will be sought for the 501c3, usage data will be obtained, and research will be done on grants.

Eastern Santa Cruz County, this is our public pool. Let’s keep it! It is used pretty heavily by kids and also by a fair-sized group of people ranging from their 20s into their 90s who participate in water aerobics and lap swimming. There is the potential for a real aquatics center with lessons, swim team, training opportunities – but the pool needs your support. For more info, contact Clare Bonelli at clarebonelli@gmail.com or come to one of the 9:30 Friday meetings under the ramada at the pool.

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**PLANNING AND ACHIEVING OUR REGION’S FUTURE**

By Robert Jacobson

At the confluence of futuristics, community development, and ecology resides our region’s “desired future.” Our desired future, in town-planning terms, is our shared vision today of how we hope to live tomorrow and the places that will enable us to do so. Design is the discipline that enables us to envision, create, and realize our desired future.

In the Borderlands, designs of our individual and collective desired futures has typically been ad hoc - that is, without rules or methods, the accumulation of uncoordinated, location- and situation-specific experiments - a ranch here, a tourist attraction there, housing developments and neighborhoods, environmental sanctuaries (and human sanctuaries, too), community organizations, zoning, businesses, schools, jobs, and customs and events - resulting in a melange of individual trials, errors, and successes. We wander toward our common future rather than claiming it and then deliberately working together to make it as we wish. Sadly, our region, so full of smart people and potential, is classified by the USDA as a “zone of persistent pov- erty.” This needn’t be.

Every decade or two, some new and unexpected development creates an inflection, a turning point, enhancing or limiting our ability to design our desired futures. These inflections have included the expansion of the American nation (and the resulting constrictive notion of national lands and cultures); the discovery of local copper, silver, and gold deposits; the struggle between agriculture and ranching; the construction of railroads and roads; and issues associated with our largest neighbor, Mexico.

More contemporary phenomena, including national and state party politics, industrialization, labor markets, immigration, local and multi-state water compacts, industrialization, environmentalism, and a kaleidoscope of books, movies, and media portraying us, have accentuated pressures for us to conform to customs and, at the same time, express and act on our individual and collective aspirations. The result for most of us is experienced as mysterious and beyond reckoning, let alone humanly malleable, subject to willful change.

Such is the case now, where a single enterprise, the Hermosa mine owned by South32, promises to generate for its owners and their relatively few Borderlands employees considerable riches - $5 billion from Hermosa itself, multiples of that for each of the 15 locations on the eastern slopes of the Santa Rita range that South32’s CEO, in a global videoconference with international investors, last summer identified as desirable future mine sites.

At this historic moment, we in the Borderlands’ futures are faced with a challenge: determine and design our desired future, or cede this responsibility to others. There are many ways and opportunities for Borderlands residents to gracefully conform South32’s desired future to enhance our own, assuming we know what to ask for and the rewards we should receive for sharing. Of course, if we’re not asked, that’s a valuable lesson, also.

Abdicating our regional stewardship by allowing Santa Cruz County to surrender our desired futures for unknown considerations is irresponsible, given the consequences now and for our Borderlands’ future.

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**By Robert Jacobson**

**By Clare Bonelli**

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**Get Involved to Save the Pool**

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**PLANNING AND ACHIEVING OUR REGION’S FUTURE**

By Robert Jacobson
**Letters to the Editor**

**Hermosa Realities**

I would like to comment on the statements made by the president of mining company South32 (S32) in the South32 Hermosa Project News of April, 2021, who argued that his mine is needed to meet the Biden Administration’s electrification and renewable energy objectives by making availability of the “required” metals less “reliant on overseas supply chains”.

First of all, S32 is an Australian company that will export concentrates from ores mined in the Patagonia Mountains, to overseas smelters. That means that US industry and consumers still will be dependent on overseas companies and governments, which is far from the promise of a “domestic” supply. Consequently mainly foreign pockets are filled so that the suggested “benefit to all” is far from reality as well.

Secondly, history shows that many “required” metals can be replaced by alternative materials that are performing better and can be produced without the enormous environmental impacts of hard rock mining. Well known are carbon fiber construction materials but also in the mentioned batteries for electric vehicles, conventional metals and chemistries are rapidly made obsolete by more efficient energy storage technologies; in the real world this is a goal of the Biden Administration, as well.

To bridge any time gap to develop those alternatives, money invested in new mines like Hermosa, should rather be used to extract the millions of tons of residual metals from the thousands of legendary mine-tailing mountains across the country. This may be less profitable to S32 but it is a reckoning to the US taxpayers who, in reality, have to forever protect their groundwater and health from acid leakage and toxic dust due to past, very profitable mining operations.

Last but not least, global warming and unchecked residential and agricultural developments are causing water in reservoirs like Lake Mead to reach the reality of Dead Pool level. Being part of the Colorado River Watershed, this ecological disaster obviously disqualifies S32 from getting a permit to “dewater” the Patagonia Mountains just to realize maximum financial return for a few.

Chris Werkhoven  
Sonoita

**Thank you for Donations**

A very sincere thank you on behalf of the Town of Patagonia, the Sky Islands Tourism Association and the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department for the donations from the community that allowed the exceptional fireworks display on the 4th of July.

Our gratitude goes to: Dick & Phyllis Klosterman, Long Realty Sonoita, the Bergier Family Limited Partnership, Janice Pulliam, Jan Herron and Dos Cabezas Wine Works, as well as to the many folks who generously contributed to the donation jars around town.

Chris Werkhoven  
Sonoita

**Neighbors Engage**

The advisory panel for the Hermosa Project, compromised of community members representing diverse interests from across Santa Cruz County, is now meeting monthly. Meetings are open to the public. More information, including agendas and minutes, is available at south32.net/hermosa/documents.

The autumn issue of Hermosa News will land in local mailboxes during the month of August. To sign up to receive electronic versions of this quarterly newsletter, just email us at hermosacommunity@south32.net.

While tours to our site remain suspended due to COVID-19 precautions, we invite you to drop by our Patagonia office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the first Friday of any month for a masked/outdoor visit with Hermosa President Pat Risner.
A P&D hearing on three use permits preceded the Council meeting. Mary Tolena’s proposal for using her “purple house” property on Harshaw Ave. for a van-camping facility and event space, and Zander Ault’s proposal to operate a bicycle parts facility and wine and beer bar at the Patagonia Lumber Company building were both approved for recommendation to the Council.

The third project, Aari Ruben’s proposal for an adult use recreational marijuana facility in the former Cose Buone building at 436 W Naugle Av, was controversial but was ultimately approved for recommendation to the Council. In the Council meeting, the Mayor reported on the success of the memorial tree fundraising effort, with 72 trees being sold at $200 each.

George Wyssopal, from Trail Riders of Southern AZ, confirmed details for the previously approved weekend for 50-60 visiting riders, Nov. 19-21, 2021.

The three Planning and Development use permit recommendations, discussed above, were approved.

A donation of the victory escort motorcycle, with trailer, from the Patagonia Marshal’s Office to the Red Sleigh Riders, was approved and will be used in the Town’s annual toy run.

The Town recommended approval to the AZ Liquor Board for an event-specific liquor license, for the Spirit World 100 event on Saturday Nov. 6, as applied for by Zander Ault.
PUHS Students Receive Scholarships

By Sarah Klingenstein

Four PUHS seniors received grants from the SCC Jr. Livestock Committee. (From left) Supt. Kenny Hayes, Brianna Young, Carolina Quirroz, Amanda Zamudio, Dean Fish, Hannah Young, Julian Vasquez, and Asst. Principal Michael Young.

In the June issue, the PRT highlighted scholarships and grants given to outstanding Patagonia Union High School students by the following organizations: The Elgin Community Club, The Anne C. Stradling Foundation, South 32, and Mountain Empire Rotary. This month we round out the awards with scholarships from four more organizations.

Many students from last year’s PUHS graduating class are now registering for classes and loading themselves down with fall semester books at college and university bookstores. For some hard-working kids, at least, their financial burdens have been lightened by one or more scholarships or grants. Their proud community of Eastern Santa Cruz County has sent them off with financial help.

The Michael Martin Pay It Forward Scholarship

Michael Martin was one of the older kids in the informal youth group that preceded the formation of the Patagonia Youth Center. “There was a group of kids who hung out at our house after school,” Director Anna Coleman said, “and Michael was a real leader who became a role model to others. He would have been 26 or 27 this year, but he passed away tragically in an auto accident four years ago. The loss was huge for the Youth Center family, because Michael was so well loved. We created this scholarship as a legacy.”

The $1200 scholarships that Alex Santos and Lalo Aguilar, this year’s recipients, received will help them begin their studies, Alex in Youth Counseling at Pima College, and Lalo in Range Management at New Mexico State University. Both recipients are from Patagonia.

Los Charros Foundation

Los Charros Foundation was founded in 2015 as a way for the members of the Tucson-based Los Charros del Desierto to give back to the rural communities where they have enjoyed their annual horseback rides since 1950. According to Board member Amanda Zamudio, the Foundation strives to help youth who would not have the same chances as those in larger communities in achieving their goals. The scholarships are open to youth in Santa Cruz, Pima and Cochise counties, with a focus on leadership, education and agriculture.

This year’s recipients are Alex Santos ($4,000), Julian Vasquez ($4,000), Hannah Young ($5,000), Carolina Quirroz ($4,000) and Brianna Young ($16,000). They were chosen for their hard work, dedication, and their outstanding applications.

The Santa Cruz County Junior Livestock Committee (SCCJLC)

The SCCJLC awards scholarships to youth who are active in 4-H and FFA and who participate in the Junior Livestock Auction at the Santa Cruz County Fair. The Committee is part of the Champions for Youth Foundation, which seeks to connect people to agriculture through community projects, special events and educational programs.

Brianna Young, Carolina Quirroz, Hannah Young and Julian Vasquez, all of whom have been very active in 4-H and FFA during their school years, received $2,000 each. Besides being selected for their hard work and dedication, they were judged on their participation in the junior livestock auction at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

Patagonia Regional Community Fund

Arizona Community Foundation

Hannah Young and Alex Santos are the recipients of this year’s Patagonia Regional Community Fund scholarships. They each received $2,000 to use towards tuition, books, lab fees, and more.

Each year the Foundation looks for students who are passionate, ambitious, and who can truly benefit from the assistance. The PRCF scholarship program is part of a larger fund of over 200 scholarships given by the AZ Community Foundation, which all applicants become eligible for once they apply for the local fund. The students can apply to renew their scholarships in subsequent years, as well.
Livestock Activity Day
Preps Kids for Fair

By Dusti Prentice

On Saturday, June 26 the first annual 4-H Livestock Activity Day was hosted at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds by the Mustang 4-H Club. The event was set against a backdrop of youth excitement, coaching excellence and outstanding community sponsorship, creating an amazing learning experience for the Mustang and Rattlesnake 4-H clubs and local FFA members.

The day brought 45 animals to the fairgrounds including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, turkeys and rabbits. Master fitting demonstrations were taught to reflect the latest techniques. Also presented were tricks and tips for skin care, grooming, clipping and presentation. Individual projects were coached in showmanship, nutrition, anatomy and etiquette. Informational binders to take home, sponsored by Southern Arizona Equine, were filled with articles on nutrition, grooming, anatomy, carcass evaluation and products for success.

“Learn by doing,” is the motto of 4-H. This is exactly what the youth participants achieved throughout the day. The barn vibe was exciting, fun and focused as the youth soaked up every bit of information taught to them while applying it directly to their animals.

The day’s activities culminated in a Showmanship Showdown. Parents were invited to cheer on their kids in the show ring and observe what they learned throughout the day.

Personalized certificates, monogrammed glasses and prizes were awarded to the junior and senior Grand and Reserve Champion Showman, Most Improved and the coveted Herdsmanship Award given to one person from each project who exemplified a team spirit, went the extra mile, and had an enthusiasm to share his/her knowledge.

Cash Keith, 4-H Mustang Sergeant at Arms and Beef Project member, was the recipient of multiple awards including Herdsmanship. "The clipping demo taught by Mr. Bryce was the first formal training I learned," said Keith. He also said it has given him the confidence to enter his first SAILA show this Fall.

The sponsorship table was filled with brushes, buckets, show sticks, halters, grooming products and feeders donated by JEM’s feed, 3-bar-3 Feed and Vista Feed. One ton of High Octane specialty feeds was donated by Purina Mills. Each member took home multiple door prizes and feed products after answering some lively trivia questions by coaches Cannon Brown and Joseph Fickett.

In total, 11 coaches and many parent volunteers made this day educational, fun and amazing for the youth. Many coaches were alumni of Santa Cruz county 4-H. With the help of our supportive community, the Mustang 4-H Club hopes to make this an annual event to improve opportunities for hands-on learning, build relationships and help our youth succeed in the show ring and in life.

The Mustang Club would like to thank Daryl’s Designs, The Steak Out Restaurant, the Cheatham Family and Prentice Family for their sponsorship and support of Livestock Activity Day.

The Mustangs 4-H club will be hosting the Buyers Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, August 21 to thank our past and present community auction supporters.

The youth members have been working hard on their projects and have top notch animals to introduce to the community. The Mustangs are inviting you to meet them at the Santa Cruz County Fair Sept 17-19. We hope to see you there!
Ghosts of The Museum

By Leslie Schupp

If you are ever alone in the old grade school (now the Patagonia Museum), you might hear the ghost. I started asking museum members and old teachers if they’d heard her (I think it’s a girl), and at first they scoffed. “There’s no ghosts!” they laugh. Then I ask, “Have you heard footsteps?” and a strange look comes over their faces. German, our Museum President, said, “There’s times I’ve been here alone and I think I hear someone come in, and when I go to look, there’s no one there.”

No one you can see, anyway. Lee Gordon was head of maintenance for Patagonia schools some years back, and he doesn’t believe in ghosts. But he admitted that when he was working in the crawl space underneath the 1914 building (and how creepy must that be?) he would always hear footsteps on the hickory floors above. When he knew no one was there.

Bonnie’s right there with me. She has heard and felt the ghost. Maureen, however, looked at me as if I was insane. Ten minutes later came a rustling in the hallway, and she went to investigate, coming back with a picture of the old Patagonia Opera House that had detached itself from the wall. “It’s the GHOST!” I mouthed to Maureen, swirling my ghostly fingers in the air.

Pretty sure she still thinks I should be?) he would always hear footsteps and shell teeth. They were scary in their own way.

Also my grandmother’s black velvet cloche hat with a tiny veil that was in the bathroom, and an old umbrella with black fabric and faded red flowers. Where are they now? Are they playing with Astrid and Bangs, and Buzz Lightyear, and the stuffed pink pig, in some antechamber of the Otherworld? I suppose it doesn’t matter. The little girl poltergeist has them now.

My favorite museum ghost is the hamster, rolling around in his hamster ball from room to room. If you went to school there, you know.

The Patagonia Museum is home to a collection of dolls, some of whom, the author contends, have been taken by the resident ghost.

BRN Receives Wildlife Conservation Grant

News Release
Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) is honored to have received a $245,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Climate Adaptation Fund with the support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, to fund critical ecological restoration work along the path of the jaguar in southeast Arizona. WCS’s goal is to conserve the world’s largest wild places in 14 priority regions, home to more than 50% of the world’s biodiversity.

Marijuana (Cont.)
He opened his first medical marijuana dispensary in Tucson in 2013 and added recreational marijuana sales this past January after the passage of Prop. 207 made recreational marijuana use legal in Arizona. He also operates a cultivation site in Tucson, produces edible products and sells wholesale to other stores.
He expects to employ 20 people at the Patagonia site, and hopes to train and hire approximately 12 local people. The hours will 8a.m. – 8p.m., seven days a week.
500 customers a day visit his Tucson store. In Patagonia he expects less traffic. “If we had 80 – 100 customers a day, I would be happy,” he said. The permit allows the business to operate a cultivation and production site, but he does not plan on doing this on a large scale in Patagonia. Because the new law in Arizona permits individuals to own up to six plants, with certain restrictions, he has plans to sell some plants at the store.
Curbside Recycling Options Being Explored

By Bob Brandt

After 18 months of research into options for reinstituting a regular recycling program and having sponsored monthly recycling events since last December, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force now reports that many residents of Eastern Santa Cruz County may soon be able to subscribe to a curbside recycling service.

With Patagonia Town Manager Ron Robinson’s participation, the task force has considered a variety of ways in which recycling could be brought back in the communities of Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin. The group has identified a provider of curbside recycling services, Recyclops, that members believe would work well for people who are willing to pay for that service.

Discussions with Recyclops have progressed to the point that the company will initiate its curbside service when 100 households have subscribed in this area, possibly as soon as this fall. The company’s CEO, Ryan Smith, said he is also in discussion with a group in Sierra Vista and is likely to institute the service there.

Recyclops uses a unique curbside service model. For about $12/month, Recyclops will pick up household recyclables except for glass at the curb every other week. Glass recycling is available as an extra cost option. Rather than using large trucks with robot arms that pick up plastic totes, the company provides reusable plastic bags to its customers and contracts with independent drivers to collect the bags and deliver the recyclables to a central collection site from which the company transports the materials to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting, processing and selling the materials to end users.

The Recyclops system has significant advantages over the curbside services offered by most recycling companies. It greatly reduces the environmental impact of operating heavy trucks, while providing income to local residents who do the pickup. Most importantly, it substantially lowers the level of contamination in the recyclable stream, the very problem that plagued the Patagonia recycling operation before the county shut it down.

While the curbside service would be a major step forward, most households will not participate, for financial or other reasons, and therefore a drop off center will be needed for all households to have local access to recycling. Smith has expressed interest in working with the task force to determine whether his company could benefit from a drop off center and therefore help underwrite the expense of operating such a facility. The task force hopes to develop a detailed plan that will be used to apply for grants and to solicit donations for establishing and operating a drop off center.

While neither the town nor the task force has had any recent word from Santa Cruz County about restarting countywide recycling, the group hopes that the county will in some way support the implementation of recycling in eastern Santa Cruz County.

The task force has documented strong support for recycling throughout the region. Task Force member, and PRT Board President, Jac Heiss expressed optimism for recycling in the PRT readership area. “It’s encouraging to see the progress we have made and with the continued support of the community we’ll have a recycling program that actually works.”

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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

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, embattlement, 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.

*News To Die For* by local author Robert E. Kimball is available at The Patagonia Trading Post and at Amazon.com

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My Sister Mib

By Cynie K. Murray

My sister Mib was born Mary Elizabeth. My parents’ intention was to call her Mary Lib, but my brother turned that into ‘Mib.’

There were five kids in our family. On car trips we would play the game of who could be the quietest longest. Mib would holler, “Wait-wait! We can’t start yet; I have something I have to say!” Mib never won; she always had something to say.

With six years’ difference in our ages, Mib and I weren’t close in our younger years; our closeness began in the last few years of her life. I will always be thankful for that closeness we found; I would have missed out on so much.

Mib spent many years in an abusive relationship. I don’t know if she ever admitted it out loud to anyone, but I witnessed it, and it frightened me. That relationship isolated Mib and created a distance between her and the family. Fortunately, when Mib turned 30 years old, she found the courage to leave that life behind. She had so much support from her family, her friends, and her church that she blossomed. She shared her love, her passion, and her laughter with many. She brightened and touched more lives than she ever knew.

I remember all too well when I got a message from my Mom that I needed to call Mib. Mib told me she had been diagnosed with cancer. She said there was nothing to worry about; she was going to be okay. I had no reason to doubt her.

For seven years Mib fought her cancer with courage and grace, along with her unique sense of humor. She tried many treatments; the cancer would leave and then return. The tougher things got for her, the tougher she seemed to get, until the sudden death of our mom. That’s when Mib’s health really declined. Mom and Mib were each other’s personal support, and it was hard for Mib to go on without her.

In the summer before Mib’s passing, I spent six weeks in Pennsylvania with my dad, helping Mib. When it was time for me to return home to Arizona, we all knew her time was short. We sat in the living room and discussed my returning for Mib’s funeral. Mib spoke up and said there was no need; I had been there when it counted - when I could help - and she was thankful.

Contributed Photo

Mib and Cynie circa 1960 for the time we had spent together. My returning for the funeral was not necessary.

At the very end, Mib was kept comfortable. Loved ones, those who knew her best, kept vigil around her. Imagine their chuckles when they heard Mib say, “I’m having trouble talking!” Yes, even at the end, Mib still had something to say.

The morning of her funeral, Mib came to me in a dream. It was so clear - so vivid and real. We were in my living room in Arizona. She was sitting in the corner chair with one leg over the arm. My first thought was, “She’s comfortable.” She had been in so much pain for so long that it was a relief to see she was pain free. She told me that death was easy, and loved ones were waiting for her. That’s when I asked, “Mib, what is it like afterwards?” She looked me straight in the eye, and with the biggest smile on her face, she said, “Cyn, it’s Glory!”

Imagine their chuckles when they knew her best, kept vigil around her. Mib’s loved ones were waiting for her. That’s when Mib’s health really declined. Mom and Mib were each other’s personal support, and it was hard for Mib to go on without her.

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Library, Art Ctr., Receive Nat’l Endowment for the Arts Grant

By Laura Wenzel and Cassina Farley

The Patagonia Public Library and Patagonia Creative Arts Association (PCAA) have been selected to receive a 2023-2022 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read grant. The grant of $5,350.00 will support a community reading program focusing on “An American Sunrise” by Joy Harjo in the Fall of 2021.

An initiative of the NEA, in partnership with Arts Midwest, the Big Read grant broadens understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

“We are honored to be one of this year’s 61 projects selected to represent the NEA Big Read grant program,” said Laura Wenzel, director of Patagonia Public Library. “As we learn to navigate the world post-pandemic, we’re hoping to ‘meet’ the community again through poetry, music, art, and fellowship.”

The NEA Big Read offers a range of titles that reflect many different voices and perspectives, aiming to inspire conversation and discovery. The main feature of the initiative is a grants program which annually supports dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection.

“For 15 years the NEA Big Read has supported opportunities for communities to come together around a book, creating a shared experience that encourages openness and conversations around issues central to our lives,” said Ann Ellers, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “We congratulate Patagonia Public Library and Patagonia Creative Arts Association for receiving an NEA Big Read grant and look forward to a wide variety of meaningful community events.”

The grant will provide funding for a variety of all-ages programs centered around the themes of “An American Sunrise” including a youth poetry slam, book discussions, art and ecology workshops, an Arizona Humanities speaker series, local artist showcases, and more.

Project partners include: Borderlands Restoration Network, Friends of the Patagonia Library, PCAA, Patagonia Public Schools, the Patagonia Regional Times, and Town of Patagonia.

Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,700 NEA Big Read programs, providing more than $23 million to organizations nationwide. In addition, Big Read activities have reached every congressional district in the country. Over the past 15 years, grantees have leveraged more than $50 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. More than 5.7 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, over 90,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and over 40,000 community organizations have partnered to make NEA Big Read activities possible. For more information about the NEA Big Read, including book and author information, podcasts, and videos, visit arts.gov/neabigread.

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PAGE 15          PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES          AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021
Through the Lens of Texas Mulberry

Our much-anticipated monsoon season has at long last arrived. With excellent early July rainfall totals in many Sky Island locations come equally strong expectations of much-needed habitat recovery. The daunting truth is that we are still officially in an “exceptional drought.” This sobering state of affairs is something that even an abundant monsoon may do little to remedy in the long term.

Still, we can celebrate the seasonal rejuvenation of native plants and wildlife. One of my favorite plant species in monsoon season is Texas mulberry (Morus celtidifolia). This rather uncommon Sky Islands denizen not only harbors the potential of a good monsoon, but also forewarns us of the long-term effects of drought. Further, it serves as a window into the past and perhaps future of our region.

The leaves of this species are palpably rough to the touch, so much so that it’s easy to listen to a raspy mulberry leaf symphony while rubbing one. In stature this mulberry rarely tops 25 feet tall, often with multiple, small trunks rather than a dominant central one. Texas mulberry ranges sporadically from the Mogollon Rim of Arizona and Gila region of New Mexico, as well as central and western Texas, into northern Mexico. While it grows most robustly along or near water sources, such as streams, rivers, and lakes, it also colonizes rocky outcrops that naturally funnel extra water to its roots. Both habitats provide insights into its drought sensitivity. Having seen hundreds of specimens of Texas mulberry over my many years in the southwest, I can attest to its mercurial nature. Good levels of precipitation engender astonishingly rapid summer growth, while drought conditions produce a rapid dieback of branches and even trunks.

Given that most suitable habitat in Arizona only seems to support more dozens of mulberry trees at best, a megadrought may well spell local doom for this species. Thus, Texas mulberry may well be one our better barometers for quantifying climate change in the Sky Islands. A long-term study of it and other drought-sensitive species in our region would be a worthy endeavor.

Texas mulberry uniquely flowers during the heat of May and produces fruit in June - a time when few, if any, other fruits are available to wildlife. Nor does it discriminate in proffering its abundance. Mulberry fruits are equally relished by birds and mammals alike. The cast of consuming characters includes northern mockingbirds, thrashers, bluebirds, white-nosed coats, common gray fox, and many others. Of course, the end game for the mulberry tree is seed dispersal, which mammals and birds effect both near and far. I have devoured my fair share of mulberries over time and rate them as my favorite wild fruit. In a word they are sublime. If you are fortunate enough to beat the wildlife to a few or to hit a banner year, then you too may partake. So good are mulberries that once, having avidly picked those within easy reach, I accidentally ate 4 mulberry-bird-scat bundles before realizing my error!

Historically, many (if not all) southwest native nations also ate mulberry fruit. The Havasupai of the Grand Canyon region even seem to have introduced mulberry trees to their realm in an effort to harvest its fruit. Most historic caloric gains were made via the wood of the species, however. Properly harvested and tillered, TX mulberry makes a deadly hunting bow and was often considered the premier bow wood of the region. No surprise, then, that it is related to the more famous archer’s wood, Osage orange. Many a deer or smaller game were “put upon the fire” thanks to Texas mulberry bows. The inner bark also makes a strong cordage when suitably processed.

Ironically, one threat to our native mulberry is nonnative white mulberry from Asia. Originally introduced to

STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

The crazy thing about looking at the sky is that we see is such a small part of what is actually there. Like putting a drop of pond water under a microscope, with technology we often find so much more than we could have imagined.

So it is with the constellation Bootes, The Herdsman. It sits well up in the western sky throughout August and begins to slide toward the horizon and a bit to the north in September. The red giant star, Arcturus, 25 times larger than the sun, forms its base. Simply follow the curve of the Big Dipper’s handle to find

Arcturus, unmistakably the brightest star in that part of the sky. The standard direction is easy to remember: arc to Arcturus.

I’ve always looked at the constellation as a giant sugar ice cream cone with Arcturus the pointy bottom. But, thanks to work being done by scientists, specifically a PhD student in England, Bootes is filling more than my summertime need to escape the heat. There is now another arc to consider that runs along the top of the cone and points back towards the Big Dipper.

You and I can’t see this new arc, not with our eyes nor our backyard telescopes. But it is definitely there. Dubbed the Giant Arc, it consists of a stream of galaxies spanning over 3 billion light years in length. Its distance from Earth has been measured at 9 billion light years. Just one light year is 5.8 trillion miles, putting the math beyond my comprehension.

While size alone makes this a big deal, there is something else about the Giant Arc that raises a larger, more significant issue.

The cosmological principle is a fancy term for something that seems quite fundamental and obvious. Assuming everything began with the Big Bang, the distribution of matter in the universe should be pretty uniform. To illustrate this on a small scale, fill a large bowl with water and drop a pea into the center of the bowl. The waves should spread out evenly with just minor fluctuations. In the case of the Giant Arc, our simple experiment falls apart.

The discovery of the Giant Arc raises several questions about the cosmological principal and, in the extreme, possibly about the Big Bang. The structure appears to show that galaxies sometimes form against expectations, in an unpredictable pattern. This doesn’t mean the Big Bang didn’t occur, or that all of the science connected to the Big Bang is wrong. But it does push us to keep digging and to keep questioning.

For most of us, at this point, the response to the implications of the Giant Arc is akin to finding sand between our toes after a walk along the beach. Following a year we’ve had and with increasing worry about excessive heat, drought, virus variants and political strife, astronomical discourse seems more than a bit extraneous.

Why look to the heavens with so much trouble right here on Earth? More than once in the past 18 months I told myself to stop thinking and writing about the stars. So many other things were so very much more important and immediate. At times, it seemed as if the weight of all the sickness and destruction would drive me to seek solace through isolation.

Instead, though, I’ve continued to be drawn to stories like the Giant Arc. I’ve long held to the belief that “everyone needs a passion.” Call it a hobby, if you like, or a pursuit. The benefit does not come from collecting a new stamp or sighting a bird for the first time or hitting your first home run beyond the fence in left field.

The benefit is in recognizing that the daily grind hasn’t beaten you. The desire to remain passionate about something special in spite of endless obstacles not only proves one’s fortitude, but also proves, as Yogi Berra proclaimed, that it “ain’t over til it’s over.” And, if it ain’t over, then every day brings an opportunity to learn something new, to be in wonder of something and to believe in the hope of better days ahead.

New England in a failed silk industry start-up attempt, this fast-spreading species may usurp the Texas mulberries that manage to escape any climatic gauntlet.

As drought likely will continue to cast its dark specter over our area, think back to the droughts endured by native people in centuries gone by. It was then that a Texas mulberry bow might mean death to other humans during battle. As our mulberry trees decline, I hope that their meager skeletons do not portend an analogous, contemporary death for our Sky Islands ecosystems.

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. RWWJ offers a wide variety of private, custom-made courses including Birding and Biodiversity Tours. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.com

Photo Courtesy Western New Mexico University

Texas mulberry fruit
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK THERE YOU ARE

By Charlotte Lowe


She is the most regional of artists. With empathy and humor, Brew’s art, made in pencil, charcoal, acrylics and oils, depicts her community of friends and relatives.

One painting in progress is made up of a crowd of faces from Patagonia and her past. There is her brother, Mike, wearing a baseball cap. There’s Butch, happy and full-faced, fresh from The Gathering Grounds. Many others, some dead, some still walking our streets, are shown shoulder to shoulder making up a town on this large canvas.

This painting is temporarily on the back burner. For the past two years Brew has concentrated on a collaboration. Her friend, the poet Patra Kelly, suggested they compile a collection of Tarot images with Brew’s paintings and Kelly’s responding poems.

When Kelly explained the concept of The Emperor - poof! - out of Brew’s responding poems. “I did the first Allied Van Lines trailers,” said Brew. “I was in the Union. Locally and was formerly a journeyman painter,” said Wittner) Brew is insecure about tackling the commercial market. Although other artists, such as Paula Wittner, enjoy and encourage her work (“She’s a brilliant up and coming painter,” said Wittner) Brew is insecure about tackling the commercial market.

Brew’s paintings are often representational and are of people, people people. Brew’s craft background shows in her use of color to define perspective. Her subjects have limbs that flow rather than depict actual measurement. Often it works to show the flow of impulse and emotion. The color is bold.

“The Blue Lady,” a painting by Brew a few years ago, is a universal image of a moment of despair. A woman - blue from her hair to her shoes - is arched over her broken pearls and high heels shattered on the ground she faces. “She fell off her shoes,” said Brew. A green curtain pops the image. How does she decide on this contrast? “You’ve got to be careful,” she said. “I don’t paint to sell it. I do sign and houses for that,” she said. Brew paints signs and murals part-time locally and was formerly a journeyman industrial painter. “I was in the Union. I did the first Allied Van Lines trailers,” she said.

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Brew sold paintings locally at a former taco house and, of course, to friends. She’s thought of putting up a little stand at a local vegetable and crafts market. But she wavers. Although other artists, such as Paula Wittner, enjoy and encourage her work (“She’s a brilliant up and coming painter,” said Wittner) Brew is insecure about tackling the commercial market.

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Rhonda Brew holds the painting she is working on that is portraits of friends and family from Patagonia and from her past.

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Photo by Marion Vendituoli
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

Smith Canyon, north of Patagonia on the west side of Highway 82, gets its name from John Smith who owned property and businesses in the community of Crittenden (not to be confused with Fort Crittenden). Crittenden was established about 1882 when the New Mexico & Arizona (NM&A) railroad established a stop to serve the mines at Harshaw, Lochiel, and Washington Camp and the Crittenden Land & Cattle Company owned by Rollin R. Richardson. “The leading business houses at Crittenden are those of John Smith, general merchandise and hotel; William Powers, blacksmith and wagon shop; James Kane hotel.” [The Oasis, 5/13/1899].

John Smith was born in Denmark in 1843 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1865. In 1866 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the 6th Cavalry unit until 1871 when he was discharged near Ft. Hayes, KS. “After his discharge from the army in 1871 he went to Texas and engaged in the cattle business, where he was cleaned out by Indians in 1873.” [The Oasis, 5/13/1899]. He next lived in New Mexico and in 1881 came to Arizona “just as the construction of the New Mexico & Arizona railway was commenced out of Benson. He entered the service of the railway, where he remained until the construction reached Crittenden, when grasping the business opportunity he opened the first store in the place, and constructed the first house.” [The Oasis, 5/13/1899].

John quickly became a town leader and owned several businesses, served as Postmaster (1884-1886; 1888-1901), Notary Public, and Mayor.

In 1886 John married Helena Rieger who was born in Germany in 1855. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1878 and lived in California for several years before moving to Tucson where she met John. [Arizona Daily Star, 12/1/1935]. “Our merchant and postmaster John Smith and Alisa Helena Rieger of this place were joined in wedlock Monday evening. Numerous guests were present at the ceremony and heartily congratulated the newly married pair. After the congratulations everybody repaired to Emil Sydow’s place to swing the ‘light fantastic.’” [Tucson Citizen, 11/13/1886]. The couple had three children: Helene, born in 1889; Oliver, born in 1890; and Emeline, born in 1894. Emeline died in 1895 and was buried in the Crittenden Cemetery on the hill behind the town.

John and Helena were best known for their hotel, a two-story stone building, across the road from the NM&A depot. Daughter Helene recalled that her mother managed the hotel, which was frequented by local miners, railway passengers, and other travelers. “If guests at the hotel were flush with money, they paid 50 cents a night and slept on the first floor. For the men who slept in the big second-story dormitory, the cost per night was 25 cents.” Helene also helped: “As early as I can remember, it was my job to keep all the lamps filled with kerosene and the lamp chimneys clean and shining. When I was 9 years old, Jim [the Chinese cook] taught me how to bake bread and from that day on it was my task to keep the hotel supplied with bread.” [Tucson Citizen Daily, 5/30/1963].

Crittenden remained a thriving community until about 1900 when the railroad station was discontinued. [Arizona Daily Star, 8/9/1900]. In 1901 the post office was closed, and the schoolhouse was moved to Patagonia. [The Oasis, 2/2/1901; 5/25/1901].

After closing the Smith Hotel, John and Helena bought and managed Patagonia’s Crocomb Hotel for a time. [Arizona Daily Star, 1/16/1907]. In 1907 the couple reopened the Smith Hotel when the Mansfield mining camp provided sufficient business.


John and Helena, Charles and Helene, and Vivian and her husband Richard, are all buried in the Crittenden Cemetery.

The Smith’s son Oliver (Ole) moved to Alaska to work as a mine bookkeeper and postmaster. He married Anna Early in 1916 and they had three children: Royal, Forrest, and Virginia. Ole returned to Miami, AZ by 1930 and is buried in Pinal Cemetery.

New App Helps Kids Learn About the Empire Ranch

By Pat McNamara

The historic Empire Ranch is moving into the cyber world of the twenty-first century. And it is doing this without disturbing the historical charm and beauty of the ranch.

The Bureau of Land Management, who manages the Empire Ranch, has made the ranch house and surrounding buildings available to the national internet application, “Agents of Discovery.” This volunteer organization’s mission is to map and allow interactive access to historical areas throughout the United States by making tours more interesting and exciting for families with their children. It uses GPS to monitor where the participants are currently located at the site and then explains what they are seeing. It asks questions and then plays exploring games with the children to keep them entertained and interested.

Camille Schlappy, of Sonoita, who recently used the app explained how the system works. “My daughter, Celine, is six. She loved that she could navigate to each question mark on her own. She even said that she’s a really good navigator...At each question mark, they are to read and answer the multiple-choice question. Being that she’s six, we read the questions to her and helped her answer the questions. She was really engaged and focused on the quest. She tried to answer correctly and move on to the next adventure. It really tapped into her adventurous spirit. When we were done, she was ready to try another one. We will probably visit other sites that have the same feature.”

Suitable for all ages, it has been a real asset to parents with their frequently disinterested, bored charges, allowing the children to use their phones to actually participate in the experience and perhaps learn something in the process. This free app is downloaded while one has WiFi access. It is then ready to use, even where internet access is not available. This makes it suitable for the remote areas of the Empire Ranch. The app at this time is only on its “First Mission” according to Jeff Van Ryberg, who created and mapped the “Mission.” Ryberg plans on extending this to other parts of the ranch and is excited to provide more missions for the little explorers, mapping more areas to be explored.

To get started:
1. Download the free Agents of Discovery app to your mobile device at the Apple App Store, Google Play or visit www.AgentsofDiscovery.com.
2. After downloading the app, click on the Missions button and select the ones you want to play.
3. Preload the missions and head out to the Historic Empire Ranch to start completing your challenges!
Revamped Fall Festival to Return To Patagonia

News Release

The Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance and Sky Islands Tourism Association invite the public to experience the newly reimagined Patagonia Fall Festival with a focus on regional tourism, fine arts and crafts, award-winning music, diverse food, and family fun - at the Patagonia Town Park, October 9 & 10, 2021.

The Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance (SAACA) and the Sky Islands Tourism Association (SITA) will partner to present the 32nd Annual Fall celebration of arts and culture, the second weekend of October 2021 at the Patagonia Town Park. This two-day festival has been recognized as one of Arizona’s most well-attended rural community art gatherings, featuring fine artists, sculptors, weavers, potters, jewelry makers, crafters, live music, award-winning music, and food vendors from around the region.

In light of the tremendous toll the pandemic caused in communities throughout the State, the Patagonia Fall Festival, which was canceled in 2020, is returning this fall in a scaled-down format as the Sky Islands Artisan Market. Due to ongoing community health precautions, the 2021 event will take on a new feel in the community of Patagonia, AZ, with a reduced capacity and a renewed focus on supporting the entire Sky Islands communities.

The celebration will highlight tourism to the Sky Islands region and introduce programming to support the small businesses, wineries, and regional experiences that only Patagonia, Sonoita & Elgin can offer.

The weekend will feature the main event located at Patagonia Town Park, featuring up to 100 artisans, food vendors, and exhibitors, live music, entertainment, and picnic fun. The festival will feature a weekend of fun, excitement, and entertainment for all ages. Children can partake in the South 32’s Kid Zone featuring interactive and Grab and Go Activities all weekend long. Festival attendees can enjoy a variety of food offerings – from Patagonia Fire Department’s hotdog and hamburger cookout to Food Trucks offering a variety of sausages, Indian Taco Fry Bread, vegan/vegetarian entrees, gyros, sweet treats, and more.

A complete list of participating artists, vendors, and event details will be announced on September 1, 2021. Check back often at www.

Senior Ctr. Continues to Offer Meals, Transport, Dental Care

By Patra Kelly

The mission of Senior Citizens of Patagonia, incorporated in November 1989, is to provide hot and nutritious meals five days a week to senior citizens and people with disabilities who live in the Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin, and Canelo districts, and to provide transportation to medical and dental visits. All its services are on a donation basis. Senior Citizens of Patagonia is also the recipient of a grant from Delta Dental of Phoenix, AZ which helps pay the dental costs for low-income seniors. The meal program began in 2014. Take-out meals are provided at the front door from 11:30 to 12:15 pm. In-house dining is from 12:15 to 1:30.

We now average 50+ meals per day. All meals are planned, prepared, provided, and served in accordance with the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services.

These menus are approved by a registered nutritionist. South East Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) funds half the cost of the meal services. The other half comes from foundation grants, individual donations, and volunteer in-kind hours.

There are 171 clients who renew their registrations yearly. In 2020, there were over 9,100 meals served, which are provided to any individual who meets the eligibility requirements. The commercial kitchen is licensed yearly by the Santa Cruz Health Department, and all the food helpers are vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The transportation program began in 2003. The Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles funds half the cost of the expenses. The other half comes from foundation grants, individual donations, and volunteer driver and administrative hours.

In 2019 volunteer drivers drove 36,242 miles with 504 passengers and 1,728 volunteer driver hours. In 2020 (during the coronavirus pandemic), they drove 24,199 miles with 373 passengers and 1,109 volunteer driver hours. Presently due to COVID, there are few drivers. Those wishing to be volunteer drivers should call the Senior Center. There are two vehicles stationed in Patagonia and one vehicle stationed at the fire department in Sonoita. The vans typically go to Nogales, Sierra Vista, Green Valley and Tucson.

The senior center’s phone number is 520-394-2494 and its website is www.patagoniaalliance.org.

Working to protect the water and wildlife from the risks and realities of 21st century industrialized mining.
Sonoita Hills Church Welcomes New Pastor
By Pat McNamara

From cold, gray Sitka, Alaska to sunny Elgin, Arizona, 42-year-old Andy Benton has traveled a long way to his new position as pastor of Sonoita Hills Community Church. Benton is eager to bring his service, his unbounded energy and the words of Jesus Christ to the Elgin/Sonoita community as the leader of his new congregation.

A talented trumpet player, Benton started out after high school with a music scholarship to Boise State University. However, he states he “wasn’t quite ready to take that opportunity seriously enough,” so was back to Sitka after only one year. Recognizing his need for a bit more discipline, Benton, whose father was an Army veteran, enlisted in the Marine Corps and served for the next five years. His military career ended abruptly when in Okinawa he sustained a serious injury while training. This caused him to be medically retired and he returned to Alaska for his recovery.

He found employment with the Department of Veterans affairs, but the call to serve God became too strong to ignore. He used his GI Bill benefits to enroll at Liberty University in Virginia to earn his BA and then his Master of Divinity. Working in various capacities in Virginia as an associate pastor, a temporary visiting pastor and developer of music programs for different churches in the area, Benton also volunteered as a chaplain to the local jail. He then became the associate director of Hope Aglow Prison ministries where he worked for several years.

Feeling a pull to find a life partner who shared his passion to spread the word of God, Benton found Christian Mingle.com, a dating site for like-minded people. There he met Lisa Hauser, a fifth generation native of Sierra Vista, AZ. She shared his passion but had a successful career at Fort Huachuca, so he decided to move to Arizona for his soon-to-be wife.

With the help of Pastor Steve Lindsey and his family, Benton was able to move to Arizona, meet members in the “Christian Community” and share the gospel while courting Hauser. They married this past February.

Benton still enjoys his music as a trumpet player with the Desert Swing Orchestra in Sierra Vista where he joins fellow military veterans playing the swing pieces of the 30s and 40s. Lending his talents as a musician is yet another way to share his joy in serving others.

Applying first as a guest speaker in April 2021 to the Sonoita Hills Community Church, then installed as the new Pastor on June 1, Benton and Lisa look forward to serving the community. They are passionate about their mission to spread the gospel or to just help “up-right a barn, feed the hungry or minister the down-trodden” in any capacity and look forward to a useful and happy future in this little community, the same size as the community that Benton was born and raised in... only sunnier.

Check It Out At The Library

By Laura Wenzel

Patagonia Public Library will receive a $17,520.54 allotment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding. The funds are designed to help “communities respond directly and immediately to the pandemic, as well as to related economic and community needs.” The goal of this project is to provide an adequate COVID-19 response to Patagonia Public Library, while also adding some fun things into the mix. Funds will be used for a variety of services, including additional PPE such as large capacity HEPA filters and acrylic barriers to stand between our public-use computers. The current circulation desk will be replaced with a new mobile modular system to provide maximum efficiency and updated PPE such as large capacity HEPA filters and acrylic barriers to stand between our public-use computers. The current circulation desk will be replaced with a new mobile modular system to provide maximum efficiency and updated

MACHOBURGERS
Recipe by Carolyn G. “Keri” Jelks, Ranchwoman and Cowbelle.

Working cattle calls for a hearty, warm lunch to provide energy and satisfy hungry cowboys.

- ½ pound Chorizo sausage
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 can (8 oz) tomato sauce
- ½ cup prepared taco sauce
- ¾ package taco seasoning mix
- 2 cans (4 oz) diced green chiles
- 1 can (2 ¼ oz) sliced olives, drained
- 1 ½ cups shredded Jack cheese


The Elgin/Sonoita Cowbelles are part of the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles, organized in 1947. The Cowbelles actively support the youth of the community through 4-H, FFA and a Scholarship Program. To learn more about Cowbelles, visit the Patagonia Museum.
New Mystery Has Local Setting

By Jo Dean

Carl and Jane Bock have written a third borderlands mystery, titled “Grace Fully,” featuring locales and communities that residents of the Sonoita/Elgin area will find familiar. The main character, Grace Vieumilliers, is a deputy with the Santa Cruz Sheriff’s office. While Grace is adjusting to life as a newlywed after years of independence, she is faced with the murder of a dear friend while on a hike in the Santa Rita Mountains with the local Plant Club.

Grace specializes in forensic plant evidence for criminal investigations while her husband, Patrice, is part of Fort Huachuca’s top secret investigation team. Along with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s department and Nogales, Sonora Police Department the search for the killer becomes a complicated web of drug trafficking and international crimes.

Co-author Jane Bock has three degrees in botany. Her expertise has earned her international recognition as an expert in plant evidence in criminal investigations. Bock uses her scientific knowledge for fascinating reading as Grace, utilizing the laboratory at Elgin Elementary school, uses autopsy results to identify the victim’s final meal that leads to a French restaurant in Tubac. The web of evidence mounts with love triangles, illegal drug trade, medical clinics on both sides of the border, and shady French restaurant owners.

The Bocks are both retired professors of biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Carl has a PhD in zoology and is an ornithologist conservationist. Together they have written three borderland mysteries that reflect the natural beauty and awareness of the local ecology and beautiful surroundings of the Elgin/Sonoita area.

Visitor’s Ctr. to Reopen

News Release

Plans are being made by the board of the Sky Islands Tourism Association (SITA) to reopen the regional Visitor’s Center located at 301 W. McKeown in Patagonia. The proposed hours of operation beginning in September will be Friday – Sunday from 10 to 4.

Since the doors of the certified AZ Office of Tourism facility opened in March 2015, an enthusiastic team of volunteers has welcomed over 30,000 visitors from all 50 states and more than 30 foreign countries to the area.

If you are interested in volunteering for a two hour shift at the newly redecorated Visitors Center, send an email to SITA at visitskyislands@gmail.com and a board member will be in contact with you. No special skills are required beyond an interest in meeting people and introducing them to all there is to do in the Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin communities.

For more information on the Sky Islands Tourism Association, our member businesses and upcoming activities in the area, see www.visitskyislands.com.

Garden Guides

Nutrients and Lightning

By Mary McKay

Like all living organisms, plants require nutrition to live and develop. Nutrients come in the form of fertilizer, via organic or inorganic sources, and are obtained by plant roots from soil solution or through the pores on leaves. The three most important fertilizers for plants are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Nitrogen produces amino acids and proteins to build plant tissues. Phosphorus plays a role in root, flower, and fruit production, while potassium helps a plant transport water, nutrients and carbohydrates within their tissues. Soils in our area usually contain plenty of potassium but we do need to supply a source of phosphorus and nitrogen.

Here’s a cool bit of information about nitrogen that I have always found interesting. I’m sure you have noticed just how quickly things have burst into vibrant green growth with the onset of our monsoon. Sure, it’s because of the extra water and humidity that allow plants to really open up their pores and draw a lot of water, nutrients, and carbon dioxide for peek photosynthesis. But there is another huge factor that plays out during a monsoon storm - lightning! Lightning is able to break the very strong bond of the atoms of nitrogen bound together by 7 electrons because of the extra water and humidity and the extra energy of nitrogen floating around in our atmosphere.

Nitrogen occurs naturally in gaseous form in our atmosphere as two atoms of nitrogen bound together by a powerful triple bond. It requires a very high amount of energy to break that bond and release the nitrogen to form into a compound that plants can use. The process to break the bond of nitrogen can only occur by high energy industrial processes, soil microorganisms, or by atmospheric lightning.

When electrical discharges occur during storms, the broken nitrogen molecules combine with oxygen in the atmosphere to form oxides. The nitrogen oxides are dissolved by rain then brought down to the soil and plant surfaces to be immediately absorbed as nitrate. Now that’s something neat to think about the next time a summer thunderstorm is roaring through!

Even with this burst of immediate nutrition, large amounts of water will also wash the nitrates away, so we still need to be diligent with our fertilizing regime in our gardens.

What to plant in August: Continue planting short season warm weather crops through the end of this month. Examples include bush beans, summer squash, and 60-day corn varieties. Start thinking about which leafy greens or fall broccoli you might like to try and seed at the end of August. Check seed packets or plant tags for days to maturity to determine if there is enough time for a crop to set before our first frost. Monsoon time is a perfect time to plant a vegetable garden! I still have many plants, herbs and some ornamentals available. Please contact me at kmmmckay810@gmail.com if you are interested in visiting my greenhouse or if you have any questions or comments. Happy monsoon gardening!
**EVENTS**

**Dance.**

Aug. 27: Raise the Roof Benefit AZ
6-9a.m. produce boxes giveaway at Zions Church. 5p.m. - 8p.m. Dinner and live music. Live and silent auction.

Sonoita Fairgrounds
Aug. 14: Bud’s Memorial Pancake Breakfast. Elgin AZ
Aug. 15: Sonoita/Elgin Soccer: Registration Deadline. Contact Charlie Dimerling 520-975-8994
Aug. 21: Sonoita Produce on Wheels. 6-9a.m. produce boxes giveaway at The Vine Church 3107 AZ-83 Sonoita, AZ
Aug. 27: Raise the Roof Benefit Dance. Sonoita Fairgrounds. A fundraiser event for Canelo Cowboy Church. 5p.m. - 8p.m. Dinner and live music. Live and silent auction.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS**

**Patagonia/Sonoita/Elgin Community Pool Meetings** every Friday 9:30a.m. through August. Held under the rama-da at the pool. For more info, contact Clare Bonelli at clarebonelli@gmail.com

Aug. 5 & 12: Live music at The Cafe. Sonoita 5-7p.m. Call 520-455-5044 for more info.

Aug. 8 & 20: Live Music at Twisted Union Winery. 1-4p.m. 370 Elgin Rd. Elgin AZ
Aug. 14: Bud’s Memorial Pancake Breakfast. Sonoita Fairgrounds. Fundraiser for the County Fair 7-10a.m.
Patagonia/Sonoita/Elgin Community Pool Meetings every Friday 9:30a.m. through August. Held under the rama-da at the pool. For more info, contact Clare Bonelli at clarebonelli@gmail.com

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Aug. 14: Bud’s Memorial Pancake Breakfast. Sonoita Fairgrounds. Fundraiser for the County Fair 7-10a.m.

**Lunch for Seniors:** Fresh-cooked meals. Take out at 11:30-12:15p.m. In-house dining 12:15 to 1:30p.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 contact int60@gmail.com

**Patagonia Visitor’s Center:** Scheduled to re-open starting in Sept. Proposals hrs., Fri-Sun 10-4p.m. Visit skysilands@gmail.com for info

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

**Patagonia Farmers Market:** Thurs.-Sat. 9a.m. - 12p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods

**Nogales “Little” Mercado:** Fridays 4-7p.m. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. Nogales “Little” Mercado:

**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 info. Open from Tues.-Sat.10 - 6p.m.

**Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop:** Re-opening early August. New location: 22 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita

**Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Thrift Shop:** Please note it may not be every weekend. Look for thrift shop signs and flags. Items will be located in Thuber 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.

**Sonoita Produce on Wheels:** every 3rd Saturday of the month (No Market for Sept/Oct) Summer hrs 6-9a.m. VINE Church. Contact Gardenia for more info 602-292-6161.

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

**Patagonia Library:** Now OPEN without appointments. Mon-Fri 10a.m.-5p.m., Sat. 10a.m. - 2p.m. Call for more info. 520.394.2010

**MEETINGS**

**AA: Alcoholics Anonymous**
In person meetings weekly Tuesdays at 7p.m. at The Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita. Social distancing honored This meeting is also on Zoom at 544-376-9576 (no password required)

**Overeaters Anonymous:** To find a meeting go to www.oasouthernaz.org. Contact Adrienne H. for more info 520-404-3490

**CHOP (Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc.):** Board meeting 3rd Mon. at 5:30p.m. in Town Council Room.

**Patagonia Town Council:** Meet the 2nd & 4th Wed. 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.

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

**The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting:** every 3rd Sat. of the month, 9:30a.m. NOW hybrid. In person at 32 Morley Ave, Nogales or www.sasantacruzdem.org/meetings

**Community Youth Bible Hang Out:** at the Sonoita Bible Church. 2nd & 4th Wed. April Anderson at andeap@gmail.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-0155.

**Crossroads Quilters:** 1st and 3rd Monday of the month 9a.m. at the Sonoita Fire Station. Contact 520-860-0173 for more info.

**Church Services**

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

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

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

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

**Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Hwy 83, Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Wed. VINE Christian Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita Sunday Service: 10a.m Cafe, 10:30a.m service**

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church 969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales Services are weekly, however times change 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.**

Email prtasted@gmail.com with any event or updates you would like listed.
Classifieds

HELP WANTED

PATAGONIA ASSISTED CARE AGENCY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CARING, RELIABLE CAREGIVERS. Apply online at www.carepatagonia.com. Part-time, must have reliable transportation and phone that works in our area. Apply now for Certified Caregiver Training opportunity. 520-604-8179.

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 Sonora 1 mile south of Fairgrounds. Call: 520-975-9920.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

KPUP Broadcast Schedule - Summer/Fall 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.
PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
SONOITA: Corner of Hwys B2 & B3, next to Post Office  520-455-5235
www.buysonoita.com

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$649,000  MLS # 21930138  44+ ACRES
CROWN C MOUNTAIN VIEW ESTATE
Privacy with WOW views.  $475 with 2 living units. Sun-room, bonus room, courtyard, garage, loads of storage. 3Bd/3Ba. Private well. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$225,000  MLS # 22100804  18.01 PRISTINE ACRES
TOP OF THE WORLD VIEWS ON 18 ACRES
Spectacular land with 360 degree views! High on a ridge with several lovely building sites. Private with no HOA, gentle deed restrictions. SAMANTHA SHORE 602 743-7833

$549,000  MLS 22109772  16 REDROCK DRIVE
COUNTRY LIVING WITH WOW VIEWS
This ranch home has been transformed. 3567 sf, 4Bd/3Ba, gourmet kitchen, full guest quarters. Pool, storage shed, chicken coop.  4.16 acres. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$149,000  MLS # 20622738  41.7 ACRES
PANORAMIC VIEWS — LAKE PATAGONIA
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

$500,000  MLS # 22116335  76 CIRCULO MONTANA
LAKE PATAGONIA. CUSTOM HOME
JUST LISTED!  3552 sf split level home on 4.79 acres. 3Bd/2.5Ba, Bonus Room, 2 garages, private well. Spectacular views. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$497,000  MLS # 22110657  297 DUQUESNE AVE.
THE BEST IN PATAGONIA LIVING
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

$600,000  MLS # 22116228  APPROX 20 ACRES
JUST LISTED! 2 HOMES ON SALERO RD
Gorgeous mountain views and just 15 minutes from Patagonia. 2 secluded homes. Live in one & rent the other. Well is shared by both. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$418,000  MLS # 22117902  220 & 222 HARSHAW ROAD
2 VACATION RENTALS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
2 Houses now used as Airbnb rentals. 3Bd/2.5Bath home & 2Bd/1Ba site built home. Completely furnished. Walking distance to town. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$109,000  MLS # 21607229  36 ACRES w/WELL
BEST DEAL ON LAND IN LAKE PATAGONIA
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

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

Carol Ford
Co-Owner, Designated Broker
Direct 520-604-0162
cford@longrealty.com