September a Busy Month At Sonoita Fairgrounds

By Marion Vendituoli

State Renegades Drill Team carried thirteen flags into the arena as the announcer read the name, rank, age and home state of each of the fallen soldiers.

In addition to the pro rodeo, spectators were treated to a junior rodeo, organized by Stacy Scouten, each day before the start of the pro rodeo. “The junior rodeo gets more and more popular each year,” Beyer said.

With 5000 people attending the rodeo over three days, the vendors at the rodeo had a successful weekend “I had so many of them say they had such a good weekend,” Beyer reported, adding “For both the rodeo and the fair everybody was so happy. It was just a good vibe.”

Sonoita Tribute To Ranching

The 21st annual Sonoita Tribute To Ranching Rodeo, held on Sept. 11, carried on the tradition of ranching families getting together and cowboys competing to see who has the best working horse. Ethan Crockett, of the Windmill Ranch in Flagstaff, riding Stella, bested 18 other riders to win the ranch horse competition, where contestants had to open a gate on horse-back, perform a reining pattern, work and rope a cow, all within six minutes.

Five chuckwagon teams competed for the top wagon award, which was won by Double K Wagon, from Mesa, who finished first for their meat, bread and dessert. 17 teams competed in the “Goat Git ‘R Done” junior rodeo, 16 youth entered the Top 10.

Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo

The 106th Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo, held Sept. 3 – 6, was an exceptional event. “I think it was spectacular,” Fair manager Lacy Beyer said.

Highlights of the weekend included First Responder Day on Saturday, Sept. 6, with an opening ceremony honoring firefighters, Border Patrol, and the Sheriff’s Office. As first responder vehicles lined up in front of the grandstands, Livestock Inspector Ron Hirsch carried the flag into the arena. The tribute ended with a Border Patrol helicopter flying low over the grandstands.

At the start of the rodeo each day, in a moving tribute to the thirteen soldiers killed at the Kabul Airport, the Copper Photo by N Cross H Productions

A saddle bronc rider attempts to stay on for eight seconds at the Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo.

September was a busy month at the Sonoita Fairgrounds with three major events held, the Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo, the Sonoita Ranch Rodeo and the Santa Cruz County Fair. The hard work that the staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors put in over the past several months paid off in packed crowds, exciting events and smiling faces at these successful events.

A team at the Ranch Rodeo ‘Goat Git R Done’ competition vies for the fastest time as they milk a goat, as well as rope a dummy, and flank and mark animals.

Funds Benefit Local Schools, Community

By Kat Crockett

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) became law in March 2021, allocating about $7.6 billion to Arizona for COVID-19 relief and recovery, which the state dispersed directly to counties, municipalities, libraries, and schools. According to Patagonia Schools Superintendent Kenny Hayes and Sonoita School Superintendent Mary Faley, the first funds were dispersed in January 2021, again in August, and the third grant will be disbursed over the next two years. The Patagonia Union High School is receiving $600,000, Patagonia Elementary School is receiving $363,000; and Sonoita Elgin Elementary School is receiving $409,800 for a total of $1,372,800.

Hayes said that funds were used for PPE, online services, chromebooks, and at-home meals for students who qualified for the free lunch program. Also, technology for social and emotional learning, teacher classroom cameras, libraries, platforms for virtual learning, creating hot spots for virtual learning, safety, and summer school to address learning gaps. These funds will continue to be used to address learning losses and summer school programs.

According to Hayes, “it’s nice to have the additional funds to help us with distance learning, but it would also be nice to have emergencies funded in the annual budget process.”

Faley reported that funds were used for staffing and materials needed to keep the campus open during the 2020-21 school year, including room sanitizers, disinfectant, PPE, water bottles for students, water fountains retrofitted as water bottle refill stations, hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer dispensers, plexiglass partitions, UV wands to sanitize shared materials, nursing supplies, posters, thermometers, picnic tables for outdoor instructional space, rolling carts for proving special classes in homerooms, and sliding windows to increase ventilation in classrooms.

In addition, funds were used for salary and benefits for staff who sanitized the campus, installed equipment and provided extended instruction. Faley added, “we had a significant loss in enrollment during the 2020-21 school year, which resulted in a loss of funding. In addition to the expenditures listed above, funding enabled us to retain staff and...”
NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRT

Summer 2021 was another busy time here at the PRT, with a great deal of focus on making the PRT even stronger and more relevant for our readers. Two new collaborations that we have been working on over the past few months are worth mentioning here.

As a result of the quality of the stories that our hardworking writers turn out, Patch, an internet news aggregator, has approached us about running some of our articles on their Tucson site. Patch Tucson, which had close to 137,000 visits to their website over the last 30 days, will give the PRT, and our communities, great exposure outside Santa Cruz County, and we are thrilled and honored to partner with them.

The next piece of exciting news from the PRT is our move to JoinNewspack, a website development and tech support company that specializes in working with newsrooms. We will be working with their support team to build a new, much bigger website and to offer more features to our audience, including an amazing interactive calendar that businesses, organizations and individuals will be able to access to advertise their events. It’s going to take a lot of time and effort to put this new website together, but we are confident that this is the right move to keep the PRT growing to serve our community.

With plans for a new website, with our growing number of e-newsletter subscribers, and with our print readership expanding, now is a great time to consider becoming an advertising partner with us.

The other big effort that we are working on is our annual fundraising campaign, in partnership with NewsMatch. In the past two years, Newsmatch, through its matching funds program and outreach assistance, has helped us to continue our work here at the PRT. Next month, we will announce the details for this year’s Newsmatch Fund Drive, which will run from Nov. 1 - Dec. 31. Please consider helping us then, because local news matters - now more than ever.

PRT Sponsoring Poetry Contest

The Patagonia Regional Times, in collaboration with the Patagonia Library and the Patagonia Creative Arts Center, is sponsoring a poetry contest for our local students. This contest is one of several events taking place as part of the National Endowment for the Arts ‘Big Read’ program in Patagonia. (Read more about this program and other events scheduled in the coming months on page 20 of this issue.)

Students will be asked to write an original poem inspired by the work of Joy Harjo, whose book “An American Sunrise” is the focus of, and inspiration for, the local Big Read events. Harjo, a Native American woman, serves as poet laureate for the United States. Using American Indian imagery, folktales, symbolism, and mythology in her work, she writes about the environment, the landscape, her ancestors, traditions, and social issues.

The PRT poetry contest is open to all students in eastern Santa Cruz County in grades 6 - 12. There will be two divisions, Middle School (grades 6 - 8) and High School (grades 9 - 12). Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the first place, second place and honorable mention winners. Winning entries will be published in the Patagonia Regional Times and will be posted on the PRT website.

The deadline for entries is November 5. For more information about these contests, contest guidelines and instructions on how to enter, visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org, email prteditor@gmail.com or call 520-604-7534.

Community COVID Rates Rising

The six weeks between August 17 and Sept. 28 showed a marked increase of new positive COVID cases in the Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin areas. In the four month period from April 14 - August 17, cases in Patagonia (85624 zip code) had only increased from 61 cases to 62. Between August 18 - Sept. 28, five new cases were reported (a 8% increase), for a total number of cases at 67.

In Elgin, there had been 28 cases by mid-April, with an additional eight cases by mid-August. Since then, there had been an additional seven new cases (a 19% increase) reported by Sept. 28.

In Sonoita, there had been 41 cases by mid-April, with an additional 13 cases by mid-August. Since then, there have been 16 new cases (a 29.6% increase) reported as of Sept. 28.

Percentage of residents vaccinated in the three areas have not changed dramatically in the past six weeks. 45.8% of Elgin residents, 61.7% of Sonoita residents, and 63.6% of Patagonia residents have been vaccinated. 77% of residents in Santa Cruz County have been vaccinated. 58% of residents have been vaccinated statewide.

The Santa Cruz County Health Department is planning to reopen a vaccination clinic sometime this fall at the Nogales Recreation Center off Hohokum Drive. COVID-19 booster shots for some residents along with flu vaccines will be offered.
The History of the Fall Festival

Crowds visit booths at the 2019 Fall Festival

By Lynn Davison

The Patagonia Fall Festival has morphed over time due to leadership changes and, well, just because it’s Patagonia. The Festival’s roots began in 1981 with a show of local art at Cady Hall. The next year Annie Mihalik, with help from Martha Kelly, organized an arts festival in the park. Their goal was to promote local artists. For seven years Mihalik led the totally volunteer effort to produce the Fall Arts Festival. Mihalik’s contribution was large and not well acknowledged by the Town, according to Kelly. While crowds were relatively small during this time, sales were good for local artists.

In 1988, The Town of Patagonia began financially supporting the event and it officially became the Patagonia Fall Festival. Shirley Treat and Jean English managed it for a few years and then the job went to Pete and Kaz Workheiser. During these times, there was a shift to more outside vendors, crowds grew, sales grew, and both the artists and the Town benefited.

Kelly recalled that the “Workheisers made a special effort to support vendors throughout the Festival with continental breakfasts and other refreshments.” While the Fall Festival remained primarily focused on art, there were also nonprofit and political booths. Live music was always a big part of the festivities.

Kaz Workheiser retired after coordinating the Festival for over 25 years, a remarkable tenure and gift to the community. It was a challenging and sometimes thankless task. The Town then contracted with Sky Islands Tourist Association (SITA) to put on the Fall Festival. Kaz Workheiser led the effort for three years, as the Festival grew to approximately 125 vendors. The expansion of vendors beyond art and crafts folks as well as more vendors from out of state created a different vibe.

In 2018, SITA hired the Tucson based Southern Arizona Arts and Culture Alliance (SAACA) to manage the Festival. The transition to SAACA management had some rough spots, but the show went on.

2018 was the year of the big rain at the Fall Festival. Tarps prevailed, visitors and vendors were damp but not deterred. 2019 was the year of the crowds. Over 20,000 visited Patagonia during the weekend event. There were 200 vendors, a large number from out of the region or out of state. It was so crowded that sales dropped considerably as many people were unable to get to booths to purchase anything. Food ran out too. As Linda Shore, president of SITA said “it was ugly.” 2020 was the year of covid and the Fall Festival was cancelled.

The 2021 Fall Festival, October 9 - 10 in the Town Park, will again be managed by SAACA. There will be ten food trucks and lots of live music. The maximum number of vendors has been dropped from 200 to 90 to reduce crowds and limit potential spread of covid. The space will be better structured to support viewing and selling of arts and crafts. The refocus on showcasing art will mean no political booths and nonprofit booths unless they have art to sell. Vendors will be limited to those from southern Arizona to return a more local feel. The Fall Festival will be rebranded as the Sky Islands Fall Artisan Market to emphasize the tourism focus in the Sky Island region of Sonora, Elgin, and Patagonia and to reinforce the concept of selling local products to support local small businesses, wineries, artists and craftspeople.

The Sky Islands Fall Artisan Market may sound like a mouthful for those used to calling it just “Festival,” but what’s being planned actually sounds quite familiar, even a little more like the “old days.” So, invite friends and family members to Patagonia on October 9-10 to enjoy the Fall Artisan Market.
Remembering John E. Mann

By Ed Gaines

On August 13, 2021, long time Sonoita resident John E. Mann, a professional country musician and a good friend to many, passed away after a long battle with COVID-19.

John is survived by the love of his life, fiancé, Darlene Miller; daughters Tracy Thompson and Tammy (Greg) Bliss; sister Sherry (Rich) Hagenah; brother Dennis (Cathy) Manherz. He was predeceased by sister Georgeann (Ed) Wendler. He is also survived by five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews, as well as many fans and good friends.

John was a country boy. He was born in Pennsylvania and grew up on a farm. He developed a love for horses at an early age and bought his first horse before he bought his first car. In his early teens he moved to Tucson, AZ, residing in Arizona ever since.

In addition to Darlene, John had other loves. John loved classic country music. He was a professional musician from age 13 up until the time of his death. He recorded in Nashville and played at many venues throughout Arizona. Recent venues include the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, The Maverick Club in Tucson, The Café and The Copper Brothel. John’s last performance was at the Maverick on July 18, 2021.

John’s voice seemed to get better with age. He demonstrated this at his last performance yodeling and reaching high notes that even he was surprised to reach with ease.

John also loved horses, in particular cutting horses. He competed at ranch sorting and team penning events until the time of his death.

I met John in the 1990s and we struck up a friendship which resulted in us traveling to rodeos all over the West for almost two decades. We went to rodeos in Kalsiell, Denver, Cheyenne, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Reno, Las Vegas, and Laughlin. The fact that John continued to chase cows up until age 77 speaks to his passion for horses and the sports of ranch sorting and team penning.

John loved the outdoors and nature. He enjoyed hunting deer and elk and fishing. I am blessed with memories of many hunts and fishing trips throughout the state with my good friend. John also enjoyed observing deer which came to his home off Terry Lane for alfalfa. He would get ten to 12 deer in and he would name them all.

This was a source of great joy to John. John loved Sonoita. He loved participating in community activities. He spent many years in homes off Hwy 83, halfway between Sonoita and I-10. During this time, he could frequently be found in Sonoita visiting restaurants, playing at establishments, or attending rodeos, horse races and fairs. In 2011 John moved to Elgin after purchasing a home he planned to remodel. I took pleasure in helping with the remodel which resulted in a beautiful home off Homestead Lane.

One of many fond memories arose out of a trip to the Houston Rodeo 15 years ago. We had decided to drive straight through, about 16 or 17 hours from Sonoita, and as the sun was rising over west Texas I began singing (I thought softly to myself) “Amarillo by Morning” by George Strait. After a minute or so, John turned to me and said “Ed, we need to reach an agreement here.” I said, “Sure John what did you have in mind?” John turned to me and said “Ed, I will leave the lawyering to you if you leave the singing to me”.

I will continue to leave the singing to you, my good friend. Arrangements for a Celebration of Life Ceremony are pending and will be announced.

Peter Tyler Phinny, 72, passed away on August 13, 2021 after a lengthy period of declining health related to dementia. The oldest son of Robert and Sally Phinny, Peter was raised in Fremont, Michigan and lived most of his life in the Glen Arbor area. Peter will be remembered as a solid citizen, one devoted to family, and, someone who was always kind and generous with friends, associates, and causes.

Peter graduated from The Fessenden School in West Newton, MA, in 1964, and went on to the Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. In 1972, Peter graduated with a degree in literature from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. His love of reading and writing was well known, and writing became one of Peter’s regular pursuits, whether at his Michigan cabin or Patagonia studio. On those retreats, music was always at hand - Peter was an accomplished guitarist.

Throughout his school years and college, Peter excelled at soccer and various other sports - talents he learned over his many years at Camp Leelanau as both a camper and counselor. It was at camp where Peter also began a life-long love of horses. Nothing pleased him more than to be with his horses, especially Mr. Melody Jac, Brennas Kid and Bootlegger - three of several reining horses that inspired Peter to write about that specialty in the horse riding world. His book “Training the Reined Horse” represents a combination of his two passions, writing and equine.

Peter has been honored by the National Reining Horse Association with the establishment of the Peter Phinny Leading Futurity Sire Memorial Award. This honor will remain a fitting legacy of his contributions to the sport. Peter’s horse breeding and training properties were located in Maple City, MI, and Patagonia, AZ. Peter was predeceased by his father, Robert H. Phinny. He is survived by his daughter, Wila Phinny, and her mother Mary, mother Sally Gerber Phinny, sisters Dody Gates Everist, and Gay McClintock Phinny, brother Stephen Phinny, nieces Newell Brookfield, Sally McEnery, Taylor Phinny, Sheila Phinny, nephew Wells Phinny, former wife Molly Phinny, and step children Morgan and Chris Fisher.

A private memorial service will be planned at a later date.

The family takes this opportunity to thank the loving staff at Effie’s Place, and to express deep appreciation to the personal caregivers who provided loving support for Peter.

Tributes to Peter’s life and memory may be made by contributions to the Alzheimer’s Research Foundation, or the National Reining Horse Association.
Juan S. Jimenez
DECEMBER 3, 1929 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

Juan S. Jimenez passed away peacefully at Peppi’s House Hospice in Tucson on Thursday, September 2. He was 91. Though he is gone, a fire burns eternally in the hearts and memories of all who knew him; a fire that was ignited in the mountains of Harshaw on December 3, 1929.

Juan was born to Juan and Josepha Jimenez. At the young age of 16, Juan enlisted in the United States Air Force. He served proudly in the Korean War, and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. Before he was shipped to Korea, he met the love of his life, Magdalena “Nena” Trujillo, at a dance in Patagonia, whom he courted through letters during his time at war. Upon his return, the two were married on February 22, 1953, and spent 64 “damn” years together before her death on July 9, 2017.

Following his military service, Juan worked as a federal employee as an electronics maintenance manager at Fort Huachuca until his retirement in 1981. He then opened his own business called “JJ’s Repair Service,” where he repaired televisions and other electronic devices.

He was a proud member of the Patagonia chapter of the VFW. He was directly involved in the establishment of the annual 4th of July celebration in Patagonia, which they introduced on America’s bicentennial. He served as commander of the Patagonia chapter of the VFW. With his good friend Bill Piper, he was an active participant in the VFW’s 4th of July BBQs, Turkey Shoots, providing the children’s Christmas goodie bags at Christmas time, and many other VFW activities.

Juan was a dedicated member of his community, serving multiple terms as councilman and two terms as mayor of Patagonia. He was also a cowboy, working cattle on the weekends with his cousins, Ricardo Jimenez and Angel “Shorty” Jimenez at the Rocking Chair Ranch in Harshaw and the Crown C Ranch in Sonoita.

He was a kind, generous, no nonsense man with a larger than life personality who always went the extra mile to attend to the needs of anyone and everyone until his health prevented him from doing so. With that being said, he was also known to raise hell when circumstances called for it; a trait inherited by his children, grandchildren and so on.

He was a man who enjoyed early morning coffee with the day’s newspaper, western movies, tending to his garden, going for drives to his beloved Harshaw with a few ice cold Keystone Lights, and sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of the area and the bountiful stories of his adventures as a child.

Juan is preceded in death by his dearly beloved wife Nena, parents Juan and Josepha Jimenez, brother Carlos, sisters Deloris, Christina, Elena, and son-in-law Bob Dunklee.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Margie Dunklee and Mary Jimenez; sons Juan (Helen), George (Gloria) and Frank (Diana); grandchildren Ricky, BobbyAnne, Johnny, Rebecca, Amanda, Lisa, Jesus, David, Adriana, Franco, Bianca, Valerie, Andrea and Samantha; 17 great grandchildren with two on the way; and sisters Maria Louisa Valdez, Josephine Fuentes, Angelita Rowe and Frances Sepulveda, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Juan was adamantly vocal about his wish to not have a funeral Mass or services upon his death. He will be interred with his beloved wife Nena at the Southern Arizona State Veterans Cemetery at a yet to be determined date.

On behalf of Juan’s family, we are eternally grateful to Peppi’s House Hospice and the wonderful nursing staff for the care, empathy and compassion they provided for our dear Tata. There are not enough words to adequately articulate how much we love and miss him, but his legacy lives on.

Dorothy Christiansen Dannis was born on November 7, 1924 in Anaconda, Montana to Matt and Elvina Christiansen. She had three older brothers, Lawrence, Wallace and Roland Christiansen. She spent her early years in the Big Hole valley and then went to Anaconda High School. Dorothy’s mother did not want her to go to college as “nice girls didn’t go to college”, but was encouraged to go by her father. She then attended Montana State College for three years, earning a bachelor’s degree in medical technology. She did an internship at California Medical College in 1946.

Dorothy then accepted a position in Great Falls where she worked in several different positions for several years. She then moved to Yakima, Washington for three years and then returned to Great Falls. In 1963, Dorothy decided to return to Montana State College for her master’s degree. In 1965 she was accepted at Baylor University in Houston to work on her PhD in clinical microbiology which she completed in 1967. Dorothy was very proud of her educational accomplishments and was certainly ahead of her time.

In 1971 Dorothy accepted a position at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona in the laboratory and worked there until she retired in 1986. She moved to Sonoita Arizona where she lived with her longtime friend Judd Marston until 2012. Dorothy chose this location because it reminded her of the Big Hole Valley.

When Judd passed away in 2011, Dorothy decided it was time to come home to Montana. She move to the Springs in Butte and lived there independently until April, 2021 when changing health conditions necessitated her move to the assisted living section at the Springs. After a brief hospitalization Dorothy passed away on September 9, 2021 at the age of 96 years.

After retirement, Dorothy became very involved in volunteer activities. She became a “master quilter” and helped to establish a group, called the Crossroad Quilters, in Sonoita where she taught many ladies the skill of quilting. She herself made over 50 quilts and proudly gave them to each of her many nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

Dorothy also became very involved in a building project for the Fire and Rescue Service for Eastern Santa Cruz County. She later became a dispatcher for the Fire Service and taught basic microbiology and infection control to the fire fighters. Dorothy discovered that she really liked teaching and ended up doing some teaching in whatever hobby that she chose.

Dorothy viewed herself as an only child, even though she had brothers and felt that she was a “loner”, even though she had many friends and relatives. In her biography called the “First 90 years of My Life” she noted that she had a good life, few regrets, and that at 95 she was in reasonably good health and had many friends in many places and great memories.

She is survived by 7 nieces and nephews, Larry, Ted, Paul and Judy Christiansen, Sharon Talbot, Craig Christiansen and Jana Warner and numerous grand-nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be directed to the Montana State University Alumni Foundation or to the donor’s choice.
Along The Path of The Jaguar

By Tess Wagner

In early 2021, BRN received a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Climate Adaptation Fund for $245,000 to enhance and further improve the climate resiliency and adaptability of this landscape. The grant is funding the construction of rock erosion control structures, the collection and dispersal of native seeds, planting of native plants, and volunteer opportunities to help with the project, as well as public outreach to engage the general public and share knowledge with restoration professionals and others. This work will ensure a more climate resilient corridor that supports the vast wildlife found in the region.

Erosion control structures are built into eroding drainages, perpendicular to water flow. They slow water, trap sediment, and increase infiltration. This means that more water is retained in the landscape and erosion is reduced. To date, the BRN watershed restoration crew has repaired and built over 75 structures in the U.S. Forest Service headwaters of Smith Canyon for this project. Smith Canyon is the center of the identified critical wildlife corridor, and work in the headwaters will translate downstream through decreased sediment pollution and run-off.

Throughout the project, which goes through fall 2022, BRN will build at least 200 erosion control structures in Smith and Stevens Canyon, which is just west of Smith Canyon and is also part of the migration corridor. BRN native plant staff will collect local native seed and produce seed pellets which will be incorporated into the structures to enhance native vegetative communities and provide important wildlife habitat and forage. Additionally, the establishment of native vegetation within the erosion control structures will help anchor and build soil while stabilizing the landscape.

This restoration work aims to heal and stabilize local and landscape-level interactions that have been disrupted and severed through contemporary human activity including historic over-grazing, development, and human-caused climatic changes. These human-caused impacts have resulted in drastic alterations to the flow of water, energy, material, and life across our landscapes, with cascading negative impacts. The spiraling of these flows away from their equilibrium state has resulted in problematic erosion, loss of native species, and infestations of exotic invasive species. The restoration work BRN conducts for this project focuses on restoring the flows and biological components that comprise these systems, and helping them regain long-term sustainability, biological richness, and balance.

In addition to the work conducted by BRN staff, BRN is actively engaging volunteers in planting and erosion control construction. In July, over 230 plants were planted with volunteer help around Dragonfly Pond.

On Oct. 8, BRN will teach volunteers how to build erosion control structures. If you would like to participate in either of these opportunities or would like more information, please email Tess Wagner, BRN Watershed Restoration Program Manager, at twagner@borderlandsrestoration.org to reserve your spot.
Redistricting Commission looking for Public Input

By Marion Vendituoli

The Arizona Independent Redistricting Committee (AIRC) has begun the work of resetting both state legislative (SLD) and congressional (CD) voting districts, a process that takes place every ten years based on updated census information. According to the AIRC website, “The concept of one-person, one-vote dictates that districts should be roughly equal in population. Other factors to be considered are the federal Voting Rights Act, district shape, geographical features, respect for communities of interest, and potential competitiveness.”

The commissioners – two Republicans, two Democrats and an Independent chairperson – start from scratch rather than redraw existing districts. The first step, which was completed on Sept. 14, is to create a grid map of the state. These first maps indicate districts of equal population and are only a starting point.

Citizens are encouraged to provide feedback on these initial maps which will undergo modifications to create the final redistricting map. The deadline for public comments on the grid map is Oct. 7. The second draft of the maps will be completed by the commissioners by Oct. 27, followed by a 30-day public comment period, during which public meetings will be held across the state. The Commission hopes to have the final maps drawn and voted on before the first of the year.

Redistricting is necessary because the U.S. Constitution mandates that all districts must have the same number of people, and those numbers can change over the course of a decade. The population of Arizona grew from 6,392,017 in 2010 to 7,151,502 in 2020, an increase of 11.88%. Most of this population growth occurred in Maricopa and Pima Counties. The 2010 census showed Santa Cruz County to have a population of 47,420. In 2020, there were 47,669 residents, for an increase of only 0.52%.

The AIRC Commissioners must draw nine Congressional Districts and 30 State Legislative Districts. “This means three Congressional Districts will have a population count of 794,612 and the remaining six districts will have 794,611...12 Legislative Districts will need to have assigned population counts of 238,384 and the remaining 18 with 238,383 to equal the Total Population,” according to the AIRC website.

Prior to 2011, Sonoita, Elgin and Patagonia were part of CD8, with Cochise County. In 2011, those communities were incorporated into CD3 which includes all of Santa Cruz County, north to South Tucson and west along the border to California. Sonoita, Elgin and Patagonia were part of SLD30 prior to 2011, which included Sierra Vista. In 2011, these communities were redrawn into SLD 2, which encompasses all of Santa Cruz County, goes west to the Baboquivari Mountains and north into South Tucson.

The Redistricting Commission held a public meeting in Nogales on August 5, part of their “listening tour” across the state to hear what concerned citizens have to say about where these lines might be drawn. They specifically asked for comments about communities of interest (COI) that might be grouped together in the voting districts. “This principle encourages the inclusion of like-minded communities within whole districts and discourages splitting them between districts,” according to the New York School of Law.

Matt Parilli, of Sonoita, presented his arguments for including the Sonoita Elgin area in the same district as Sierra Vista at the August 5 meeting. “While Nogales is largely an urban region and heavily invested in produce transshipment, the Sonoita/Elgin area is predominately a rural ranching and vinifera region with a high ratio of retired persons – civilian and military. In that regard, it has much more in common with the current CD2 and LD14 than it does With CD3 and LD2. Many of the residents enjoy equestrian activities and the very rural nature of our special place. Overwhelmingly, residents shop for basic needs in Sierra Vista, a thirty mile drive, as opposed to Nogales, which is a forty mile drive,” he stated.

Kat Crockett, of Elgin feels that political viewpoints should also be considered. “Many of the independents and republicans that reside in Eastern Santa Cruz County identify with more conservative values; however, our state legislature representatives for Santa Cruz County are all Democrat. Because of the small population of the area, local voters have little to no impact on the outcome of elections, making us an easy target for our legislative representatives to ignore. Conversely, all the representatives in Cochise are Republican. As such, Cochise County would align better for many on the east side as a community of interest based on political alignment.”

Residents were also able to submit comments to the IRC’s listening tour survey dashboard. 910 comments were submitted on this site, with 41 comments submitted by residents of Santa Cruz County. All 27 of the comments submitted from Patagonia were against redrawing the district lines, as were all ten of the comments from Sonoita residents. The four comments from Elgin were split, with three comments against and one comment in favor of redrawing the district.

Anne Gibson, of Elgin, wrote, “This is a rural community known for its value and appreciation of landscape, agriculture, lifestyle. I am the 3rd generation native of the largest parcel of private land in the entire state. Our ranch is now into its 5th generation of stewardship. Half of our ranch is in Santa Cruz County and half is in Cochise County. My personal home is in Santa Cruz County, while our ranch headquarters is in Cochise County. I prefer the politics, the ethics, the heart and soul of Santa Cruz County. Economic development thru subdivision and mass agricultural ventures and mining are not the focus of Santa Cruz County and we like it that way.”

A Patagonia resident wrote, “The Patagonia, Sonoita, wine country of Elgin and the Sky Islands share environmental concerns and recreational resources and should be grouped together as Communities of Interest. Eco-tourism and Birding alone constitute a healthy bond throughout this area, interests not necessarily shared by nearby larger towns in Cochise County. Please keep this in mind when drawing governmental lines. To separate and disperse these communities will essentially silence these communities and shut down the financially beneficial and environmentally beneficial efforts long established here.”

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An Unusual Sight in the Grasslands

By Pat McNamara

It’s not every day that Elgin sees an influx of camels, but come they did! Dana Brothers, who has recently moved to the area, hosted a small camel gathering at her place in Lyle Canyon on August 27 and 28.

Her two camels, who came from Washington State, have just taken up residence in Elgin. They were joined at the event by two other camels belonging to Eric Sounder, of Flagstaff, who made the journey down for a little camel training and some camel surgery. There were three Bactrian (two humped) and one Dromedary (one hump) camel present for the event.

Brothers’ camels are not the only camels in the Elgin area. John and Kim Peters brought their dromedary camel, Calypso, whom they had raised from a tiny (if camels can ever be ‘tiny’) calf, with them when they moved from Illinois in 2016, along with their menagerie of dogs, full sized and miniature horses, llamas, chickens, cats, parrots, goats, a pig, a rabbit and some ducks. According to the Peters, the weather here in southern Arizona suits parrots, goats, a pig, a rabbit and some ducks. According to the Peters, the weather here in southern Arizona suits parrots, goats, a pig, a rabbit and some ducks.

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Patagonia Schools Making up for Lost Time

By Sarah Klingenstein

Patagonia schools have been in session, in person, for over a month now and, by all accounts, students and teachers are happy to be back.

As Nate Porter, PUHS social studies teacher and Athletic Director, said, “Enthusiasm is high. Everyone from students to teachers seems relieved to be working together again.”

Student achievement, or loss, during the pandemic year of 2020/21 has been a concern nationwide, between the life stress and personal loss families and teachers have undergone and the experience of online school.

Last spring Arizona students in Grades 3 - 8 and Grade 10 were required to take the State English Language Arts (ELA) and math assessments. The results of these tests show the majority of students not meeting proficiency in either area. Only 36% of Grades 3 - 8 students at Patagonia Elementary School passed the ELA test, about the same percentage as passed in 2019, the last time students were tested. Only 19% passed the math portion, fewer than in 2019.

The small number of students enrolled in the 10th grade at PUHS means that, for privacy reasons, results are not shared with the public.

Music teacher Scott Connuck is happy to have students back in his classroom in-person again. “Music is mainly a hands-on activity” he said.

Patagonia music teacher Scott Connuck has observed that, for some students, being in school is a relief from a stressful home life. “I’ve seen a lot of kids who are so glad to be back. Some have lost family members, and parents have lost jobs,” he said. “Like everywhere, some of our students live in situations with domestic violence or substance abuse. Schools can be a safe place where they learn and receive empathy and appreciation for who they are.”

Connuck shared his enthusiasm about making music with students in person. “While you can teach music appreciation and theory from a distance, music is mainly a hands-on activity. We’re making music with our voices and rhythm instruments in all grades, and middle and high school students are learning to play the ukulele. The year ahead is filled with concerts, both the ones we’ll be giving and some we’ll be attending at the beautiful Opera House in Patagonia.”

The soccer and volleyball seasons have begun at PUHS, as well as Middle School flag football and volleyball. Student athletes must either be vaccinated or must undergo regular testing for COVID19. High school home games commence in October. The public is welcome to attend, provided they wear face masks.

The Patagonia School District requires that all high school students and anyone riding a school bus to wear a mask. “In the lower grades, we had generally very good compliance with our strong recommendation to wear face masks, so a requirement wasn’t necessary there,” explained Hayes.

“There’s been good cooperation with the mask requirement at PUHS. No one wants to go back to distance learning,” Porter reported. “You gain a greater appreciation for school when you can’t have it. We’re glad to be back.”

An Unusual Sight in the Grasslands

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(From left) Dr. Charmian Wright, Eric Sounder of Flagstaff and Nick Morrow. Dr. Wright’s assistant get young camels acquainted with the tack and teach them to travel quietly in a line.

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The small number of students enrolled in the 10th grade at PUHS means that, for privacy reasons, results are not shared with the public. But it has been hard to compare results anyway, according to Patagonia Schools Supt. Kenny Hayes. The Arizona State Department of Education urged “extreme caution,” against interpreting the data saying, “Due to the dramatic and disproportionate impact COVID-19 had on student learning, inference may be invalid.”

Hayes and his teaching staff have instead looked to benchmark and formative tests, which measure students’ attainment of specific skills and their progress throughout the school year. “The students are performing about where we expected them to after last year and are in line with students across the region and the state. These tests tell us where we need to focus our attention,” Hayes said. “Being back in the world after living through a pandemic at home has had its challenges. Students have dealt with trauma at home and in the world.”

A lot of emphasis this fall has been on social-emotional Learning. Dealing with feelings, expressing needs, and getting along can be taught and practiced. According to Porter, students in his history classes are relearning how to work with others in group settings and group projects.

“It takes a little while to get used to being back together, to refresh our interpersonal and communication skills,” he said.

In addition to learning to be together again, Tempest Smith, School Counselor, said that students must be emotionally ready to take in the academic information they encounter in school.

“Last year, the stress of dealing with the pandemic, the isolation and distance learning made it hard for many kids to focus, learn and remember what they had learned. I am continuing the teaching of mindfulness, which helps us to be present in a situation, to focus, and to avoid the “fight or flight” reactions that stress induces.”

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New Vineyard Opens in Elgin

By Kat Crockett

Pavle Milic is realizing his dream of establishing a vineyard in Elgin.

Open for Business
New Business News

Pavle Milic and his wife Carla are co-owners, growers, and winemakers for Los Milics Vineyards, the newest winery in Elgin, located at 423 Upper Elgin Road near Highway 82. “We chose to build a Quonset building for its efficiency and curvature and softening quality,” Milic said. In Mid-May the winery began offering tastings on the crush pad Thursday – Sunday from 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., with a view of the Mustang Mountains and the 12 of 20 acres of Milics’ vines swaying in the breeze. They also planted 13.5 acres of wine grapes at their property in Elfrida called Jenny’s Vineyard and have plans to expand to 68 acres next to Jennys’s. Milic’s current focus is completing the tasting room and from there, probably building lodging on the property.

Milic has been a successful restaurateur in Arizona and California for the past 34 years, having entered the restaurant business at the age of 15 at his dad’s restaurant. While working in Napa Valley, Milic, in his own words, “embraced the interconnected relationships between food and wine, and farmers and winemakers.” Returning to Arizona in 2007, he became the general manager at Prado in Paradise Valley. The journey continued when he connected with longtime friend Charleen Badman. She and Milic opened their own restaurant “FnB” (food and beverage) in Scottsdale. Food & Wine Magazine described FnB as “the epicenter of creative Arizona cuisine.” FnB was also highlighted in the New York Times, Travel & Leisure Magazine, and Forbes Magazine and was nominated in 2017 by the James Beard Foundation for Outstanding Wine Program and in 2020 for Outstanding Beverage Program.

Over the years, Milic dreamed about the time, when his kids were grown, that he would move to wine country and become a winemaker. That dream became reality when the Garfinkle family, who dined at FnB, offered a partnership to achieve that goal. As Milic put it, “the rest is history!”

When asked why he chose the Sonoita-Elgin wine region, Milic stated, “I could have gone to Verde Valley or even Willcox, but as soon as I got off I-10 onto SR 83, it reminded me of the calmness I always felt driving down Jameson Canyon into Napa Valley. Sonoita-Elgin has a very unique landscape and weather systems, temperate summers, cool evenings, and distinctive wine grapes. I also wanted to be near Todd and Kelly Bostock and Kent and Lisa Callaghan, winemakers I admire.”

Milic describes himself as a husband to one of the coolest ladies he knows (who is also a winemaker), dad to great kids (Renato, Lorenzo, Oliver, and Hannah, ages 11 to 22), a cat and two dogs and one who has a penchant for good food and wine and family.

For more information about Los Milics Vineyard, visit https://losmilicsvineyards.com

Funds (Cont.)
and continue the level of staffing and services we provided in previous years.

Patagonia Librarian Laura Wenzel received a grant from the state for just over $17,500. $11,000 will support a mobile modular circulation desk for social distancing and communication between staff and patrons, along with supplies and materials for health and safety and displays. An additional $5,600 is allocated to a one-year Press-Reader digital subscription for patrons to access over 2,000 national and international news sources through the library’s computers or from any device at home.

Also, the library will purchase a one-year subscription to Digital Theatre+ to enable patrons of the library to access an ever-growing collection of world theatre and archived collections covering a breadth of genres, and periods, as well as interviews. The Patagonia Community Arts Association/Tin Shed Theater will partner with the library to provide virtual and in-person programs and education content for local schools and community members.

According to Jennifer Riehl, of the Sonoita Library, they received PPE products from the main branch in Nogales but have not received any funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. They are in the process of meeting with county officials on a potential repurposing of the County Building in Sonoita to include impacts on the library space.

The State allocated approximately $9 million to Santa Cruz County, half for this fiscal year and half for next fiscal year. District 3 Supervisor Bruce Bracker commented that following a study session in April, “we are looking at a division of the funding into re-placement of revenue streams lost by the County for essential services, support to local businesses and nonprofits, and investments into broadband.” At the study session, County staff recommended the board set aside $2 million of the funds for contingencies related to the pandemic and state-mandated costs in upcoming years.

The County hired an outside consultant who reached out to numerous individuals, small businesses, nonprofits, schools, and organizations to discuss their needs to recover from the last 18 months of this pandemic. They are using that report to guide spending for the ARP monies, help develop application processes and a spending plan for non-profits and small businesses, as well as maintain oversight of the money. “We are still waiting on the “final rule” from the federal government as to how the money can be spent before finalizing any community projects,” Bracker added. “Depending on when we receive the guidance from the Feds, we would like to start taking applications in late October, early November. In the meantime, we are monitoring and talking to other counties to see what their spending plans are as well for ideas.”

The PRT reached out to the Town of Patagonia for comment on funds received by the Town, but as of press time, had not received any response.

FALL PLANT SALE
OCTOBER 9TH 8AM - 4PM
SAME DAY AS THE SKY ISLANDS ARTISAN MARKET (FORMERLY PATAGONIA FALL FESTIVAL)

Pavle Milic is realizing his dream of establishing a vineyard in Elgin.
PIECE OF CAKE

By Martin Levowitz

One of the worst things you can do to me is to invite me somewhere where it is implied that I’ve got to dress up. On most days I get away with jeans and t-shirts. I wear dresses for ventilation and the nicest pair of shoes I own are a pair of platform sandals that I can barely walk in. For these reasons I avoid wedding showers, baby showers and all girl-only functions (unless it’s at a bar). Weddings are my biggest hurdle because I love cake and in order to get it, I need to attend, and it’s always a given that Vans and a t-shirt are not approved apparel.

So, I panic shop. The reason I ended up with the platform sandals is because of a wedding in August, 2019. In preparation for the cake, I went to the store and bought a long rose-colored wrap dress. On the hanger it was beautiful, so I tried it on. The smaller size seemed to fit while the bigger size felt comfortable. Once I figured out how to wrap the damn thing around my body, I noticed it was about 6 inches too long, everywhere.

My solution was to buy platform sandals, big mistake. I spent the entire evening sitting down because if I tried to walk my ankles gave way. I also sweated out almost an entire day’s worth of water because all the extra fabric it took to make a stupid wrap dress. I managed to buy the only dress that keeps the heat in.

Thanks to the pandemic, I managed to avoid all formal wear for over a year. I was on a jeans and t-shirt easy street. I had even discovered the joys of elastic waist band pants.

My good time ended when I was invited to a banquet at a resort. “Banquet at a resort” implies an outfit that doesn’t involve stretch pants and socks with tacos on them. Naturally I panicked and what I did next was out of sheer desperation. I took my husband Zach to the department store and let him help me pick out a dress. The first one he handed me was bright green and had a neckline that plunged part way to my belly button. I tried it on to humor him and realized that this dress had way too much ventilation.

As I hung my body partially out of the dressing room, he tried to hand me a dress that was so short it had built in underwear (or maybe it was a onesie, I’m not sure) and that’s when the nice lady in the dress department intervened. I’m not sure how or why, but I ended up with a modest sleeveless dress the color of a green crayon. I looked at the ugly little thing when I got home and realized I could not wear it and ran out the next day and bought a pair of slacks. A pair of slacks! My sister once said to me that if her job made her wear slacks she’d quit and I kind of agree.

In the end I ditched the slacks and pulled myself together. I ended up finding the right dress within walking distance from my house and with it came styling advice for the rest of me. I combed my hair the best I could, wore my flashiest earrings and went to the damn banquet.

Of course, the first person I saw walking into the ballroom was wearing shorts, followed by his wife who was wearing golf shoes and a visor. If it wasn’t for the fancy cheese and cloth napkins, I would have flung my shoes off. I cheered up when I saw all the little, tiny hors d’oeuvres but that feeling didn’t last when I found out there wasn’t any cake. A girl who struggled as hard as I did deserved a piece of cake.

LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Martin Levowitz

When I stumbled upon a website called godfamilyandguns.com, I thought it was a parody - some silly conflation of machismo and religion. Certain less-evolved persons presume that violence is a morally acceptable and even virtuous reaction of manly believers to those of whom they disapprove. To be both so misguided and believe to those of whom they disapprove. To be both so misguided and punishing them doesn’t involve stretch pants and socks with tacos on them. Naturally I panicked and I agreed.

But me clear - as lots of politicians say, especially as they obfuscate - I own these guns to use in self-defense if someone acts aggressively toward me, my wife, my kids, my dog, my Guinea pig, or anyone I love, or is a threat to our democracy.

Does that rap sound familiar? Well, it should. It’s what the folks I see as (maybe) threats so often say. I honestly believe that some of them might punish you for what you simply feel or think. (If that sounds paranoid, Amen!) So, why not knives or baseball bats instead of firearms? Well, just because so many guys and gals in this great land own lots of guns. “You don’t bring bear-spray to a paintball fight,” as Grandma said.

The situation is insane these days. Whenever a Democrat is elected to high office, the N.R.A. and G.O.P. insist that THEY - The Democrats - will take away our guns. In consequence, the public rushes out to buy lots more.

Last year, alone, in this great land, about 40 million firearms were sold, half of them to first-time buyers.

The pandemic didn’t help. Whatever breeds uncertainty makes people more afraid, and they buy guns. If there were fewer guns, we’d be more safe. Is it too late to start again? You bet! Do I have a solution to propose? Well, no. Do you? I’m pretty sure there isn’t one.

Musing about this reminded me of something, although, at first, I didn’t know what. And then, Ahah! I knew. What’s true of guns is also true of God. When things get scary or uncertain, people turn to God. For me (and those I respect) religion’s deep and personal - a basic and mystical sense of connection with that all is and ever was. Call it Eternity.

Although they may have started with this deep, instinctive sense, established sects become bureaucracies, with rules and dogma out the old wazo. They even get involved - by taking sides - in politics. Like corporations and the army, they are hierarchical, as if they think it’s possible to quantify enlightenment. Most claim to be the voice of God, and yet, they can’t agree. If only there were fewer creeds, we’d - more of us - be “saved,” to use their word.

Is it too late to start again? In general, I reckon so. But, even as established sects promote their points of view, for people who are pure of heart and know that love transcends belief, there’s lots of goodness in the world, along with it’s huge warts.

OF GOD AND GUNS

a 12 gauge, and an assault rifle. It’s not because I plan to hunt, unless the whole system goes down - I dislike killing anything - but simply that the world is full of well-armed jerks who think that violence makes sense toward those with whom you disagree. Let me be clear - as lots of politicians say, especially as they obfuscate - I own these guns to use in self-defense if someone acts aggressively toward me, my wife, my kids, my dog, my Guinea pig, or anyone I love, or is a threat to our democracy.

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

Redistricting will always be a highly charged issue. As many of you know, I addressed the Independent Redistricting Commission on the 5th of August in Nogales. They were seeking public comment on the subject of Communities of Interest, as laid out in Proposition 106, the seminal document guiding the redistricting process. I offered them an option for adjusting District boundaries that include Sonoita, Elgin, and Canelo down to the international border.

Since that time, I have been following the public comments from the various IRC public meetings. Among those comments there are several from Sonoita/Elgin and Patagonia as well as “the 110 Corridor” folks. Many of those oppose changing District boundaries. The majority of comments argue against “moving” Sonoita/Elgin and Patagonia “into Cochise County”. That could not be farther from the truth.

Let me set the record straight. The change I argued for, with the support of many of our neighbors, will NOT change the County boundary in any way. We will remain part of Santa Cruz County. What would change are the boundaries of our Congressional and Legislative districts. Further, Patagonia is NOT included in that proposal. The new district boundaries would fall just east of the town of Patagonia.

Why would we want to do that? Sonoita/Elgin has a comparatively miniscule number of voters. The balance slightly favors Republicans. Patagonia and the rest of the west side of the County on the other hand is majority Democrat.

In a quiet moment, ask yourselves how beneficial it has been over the last ten years to have four Democrat politicians (national and state) doing your bidding for you. Have ANY of them been here to host a Town Hall meeting -- ever? They have been to Patagonia and Nogales. That should tell you all you need to know.

Matt Parrilli
Sonoita

South32 Looking at Routing Options

South32 News Release

Evaluating how to bring product from site to market is an important part of our prefeasibility study. While our study is nearing, we do not yet have definitive routes with associated timeframes to share. Yet we do recognize that this is an area of the study that is particularly important to community members, so we have held several community meetings about the route preferences that are emerging, and plan to hold several more.

Earlier this year, we narrowed down to two route preferences: (1) Flux Canyon Road and (2) Harshaw Road to the provisionally named Cross Creek Connector, which is an unconstructed road that would be outside of the Town of Patagonia limits. More recently, our study work, consultations with the community, and the county’s economic development plans (which include a viability assessment for a county multimodal facility) have all pointed to Flux Canyon Road as a preferred longterm route. We would look to the Harshaw Road/Cross Creek Connector as a temporary route to be used only for construction and initial production traffic. We are still working on volumes and estimates to see if it would be possible to manage our traffic and deliveries within the parameters of the existing Town of Patagonia trucking ordinance and will share more information as it becomes available. If we are able to work within the existing parameters, then this would reduce the time of use of the Cross Creek Connector. Understanding that residents near both preferred routes have concerns about impacts, we remain committed to listening, working to understand and address those concerns, and developing plans to reduce impacts as much as possible. We have time to work through this together. Please email askhermosa@south32.net or contact Melanie Lawson at 520-419-5021 or melanie.lawson@south32.net to learn more about future community meetings regarding routes.
Recycling Service Set to Start
By Bob Brandt

Working with the Town of Patagonia, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force has arranged for curbside recycling services to be available by subscription in Patagonia and Eastern Santa Cruz County where clusters of homes make the service economically feasible.

The task force has been in discussions with Recyclops, whose business model should work for many households in the region. Rather than employing large trucks with automated collection apparatus, Recyclops has customers put their recyclables in transparent reusable plastic bags that allow the pickup drivers to monitor the bags’ contents to keep contamination to a minimum. Contamination is the reason Patagonia’s former recycling operation was largely unsuccessful.

Recyclops now provides its curbside recycling service to communities in a dozen states and is looking forward to offering the service to residents not only in Patagonia but in the Sonoita-Elgin area as well. The company has already established a Patagonia page on its website that provides details on how the operation works and allows interested individuals and households to enroll. That page can be reached at https://recyclops.com/patagonia/.

Recyclops has established a target date of mid-October to begin providing the service but the company requires a minimum of one hundred subscribers before it begins curbside pickup.

It also needs to recruit drivers with pickups or other suitable vehicles to collect the recyclables at the curb and take them to a central collection site. Information for drivers may be found on the company’s website through the Patagonia link above.

One of the features of the Recyclops program of particular interest to seasonal residents is that subscribers can stop and start service as they need it. Subscribers can pay monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually using a variety of payment methods.

At press time, Recyclops reported that nearly half the minimum number of subscribers had already signed up. Among the subscribers is Patagonia Town Manager Ron Robinson who encourages all town residents to give the service a try. “If we get lots of people participating, the town will benefit by saving landfill tipping fees and we’ll be helping to protect our environment,” Robinson said.

South32 Shares Drilling Plans in Flux Canyon
By Robert Gay

At a gathering in the Town Park on Sept. 14, five South32 personnel, including Hermosa Project President Pat Risner, presented a proposal for an exploratory drilling project at the historical Flux Mine. The drilling, which will take place about a mile above the Flux Canyon residential area, will shortly pass through the Forest Service’s Schedule of Proposed Actions process, putting it online for public comment for 30 days before issuing a determination.

The company explained that the project would involve six or seven drill pad sites, each with a short access road. One drill rig would operate at a time and would be shifted from pad to pad as the project progressed. The presenters said that, despite the 24/7 operation, disruption would be minimized, lighting would be shielded, the smaller drill rig they would use would be quieter than the larger ones of the Hermosa Project, and the traffic of drill rigs, earthmoving equipment, and workers would be minimal.

There were many questions about the road, such as whether there would be tree pruning, grading or widening, and questions about the company’s routing plans. South32 confirmed that the Flux Canyon route and the “cross-creek connector” route around the town, were the company’s currently preferred exit routes for hauling ore concentrate to SR82, and other mine traffic, stressing that there was a lot of planning to do and that any road construction “would be years off.”

When asked whether the company would be returning to public use the mile of Flux-to-Harshaw Road connection closed by the Hermosa Project several years ago, the company replied that running a public road through a mine site would be too dangerous.

Asked if the company had a long-term plan for mine closure and remediation, President Risner replied that those would be built into their planning.

Realtor and resident Jean Miller commented that the company’s presence and plans are not only stressful personally to the Flux Canyon residents, it causes “transaction paralysis,” with buyers hesitant about pending industrialization, and sellers now having to disclose the ownership and possible projects of South32 in their area. “Is this the beginning of a drawn-out evacuation?” another owner asked.

ARTISTS WANTED!
All media and styles of beautiful, unique, original, quirky, elegant, handmade, heartfelt quality artwork.

PATAGONIA ART WALK
Nov. 26th & 27th
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South32 Shares Drilling Plans in Flux Canyon
By Robert Gay

At a gathering in the Town Park on Sept. 14, five South32 personnel, including Hermosa Project President Pat Risner, presented a proposal for an exploratory drilling project at the historical Flux Mine. The drilling, which will take place about a mile above the Flux Canyon residential area, will shortly pass through the Forest Service’s Schedule of Proposed Actions process, putting it online for public comment for 30 days before issuing a determination.

The company explained that the project would involve six or seven drill pad sites, each with a short access road. One drill rig would operate at a time and would be shifted from pad to pad as the project progressed. The presenters said that, despite the 24/7 operation, disruption would be minimized, lighting would be shielded, the smaller drill rig they would use would be quieter than the larger ones of the Hermosa Project, and the traffic of drill rigs, earthmoving equipment, and workers would be minimal.

There were many questions about the road, such as whether there would be tree pruning, grading or widening, and questions about the company’s routing plans. South32 confirmed that the Flux Canyon route and the “cross-creek connector” route around the town, were the company’s currently preferred exit routes for hauling ore concentrate to SR82, and other mine traffic, stressing that there was a lot of planning to do and that any road construction “would be years off.”

When asked whether the company would be returning to public use the mile of Flux-to-Harshaw Road connection closed by the Hermosa Project several years ago, the company replied that running a public road through a mine site would be too dangerous.

Asked if the company had a long-term plan for mine closure and remediation, President Risner replied that those would be built into their planning.

Realtor and resident Jean Miller commented that the company’s presence and plans are not only stressful personally to the Flux Canyon residents, it causes “transaction paralysis,” with buyers hesitant about pending industrialization, and sellers now having to disclose the ownership and possible projects of South32 in their area. “Is this the beginning of a drawn-out evacuation?” another owner asked.
On September 3, 2021 an appeal was filed with AZ Department of Environmental Quality with respect to the issuance of an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) to Arizona Minerals, Inc. for its Hermosa Project. ADEQ required AZ Minerals Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of South32, to receive an APP Permit in order to continue with their massive dewatering project in the Patagonia Mountains.

The Appellants are Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, AZ Mining Reform Coalition, Borderlands Restoration Network, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthworks, Friends of Santa Cruz River, Friends of Sonoita Creek, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, Sky Island Alliance, and Tucson Audubon. This Tucson native has volunteered with Southern Arizona Rescue Association, Arizona Conservation Corps, Beads of Courage, and Treehouse. All these endeavors increased his skill set which is tailor made for his position as Veteran Outreach Coordinator with the ATA.

He is focused on creating and administering veteran specific programs to help establish meaningful experiences and connections for folks that have served our country in the military, and continue to serve working on the Arizona National Scenic trail.
By PRT Staff Reporters
July 28, 2021
In Call to the Public, there were objections raised to the Aari Ruben Use Permit, and a request for a reading of the wording of the Town’s upcoming Resolutions.

The Mayor squashed a false rumor, that the Town was planning to close the Fire Department.

Kate Musick’s resignation was accepted, with thanks for service, from the Library Advisory Board, with Deborah Goff and Cynthia Berk were accepted as new Board members. The Board’s recommended By-laws were approved.

A Use Permit was approved to operate a retail facility and beer and wine bar at the former Patagonia Lumber Company.

A Use Permit was approved, granting Mary Tolena a facility for events, workshops, camping and RV parking at 542 Harshaw Ave.

A Use Permit was approved for Aari Ruben for the operation of an adult-use marijuana establishment at 436 W Naugle Ave., with conditions.

The Town’s Intergovernmental Agreement with the County for provision of law enforcement services by the Sheriff’s agreement, with minor modifications approved at previous meetings, was approved.

August 11, 2021
There was a public hearing to discuss a $444,608 grant from the Southeast Arizona Government Organizations group (SEAGO) from the AZ Dept of Housing’s Regional Account. The funds are to be used for “shovel-ready” projects rather than project planning, and are intended to benefit low-income population in the Town.

The Town’s Volunteer Code of Conduct was approved.

The new Citizens’ Complaint Form was approved.

A liquor license for the Queen of Cups proposed wine bar at 320 Smelter Ave., was approved.

August 25, 2021
In Call to the Public, Jeff Maxwell berated the Flood and Flow Committee, claiming it focused unduly on problems related to Harshaw Creek because of what he saw as an anti-mining mission, and suggested the Committee should no longer exist or have all its proposals voted on by citizens. Mayor Wood reminded those present that public comments needed to directly address agenda items.

For Flood and Flow Committee, Chairman Carolyn Shafer reported that ten citizens had recently been at ADEQ training in water monitoring equipment and data recording, as part of the evolving water monitoring program. The committee urged the Town to write a follow-up request letter to the Forest Service concerning the release of water data for both surface flow and quality, the Forest Service having not yet replied to an August, 2020 request.

September 8, 2021
Carolyn Shafer summarized for the Flood & Flow Committee, and promised a full report at the next Council meeting.

The Council and Mayor approved a letter of support for Bob Jacobson’s preparation of a grant application to bring comprehensive broadband internet services to Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin.

The town adopted Ordinance no. 21-04, adopting Town Code amendments to change regular Council meeting time from 7 to 6 pm.

For the Sky Island Artisan Market weekend, Oct. 9-10, 2021, a special event liquor license was granted to Cassina Farley for the Creative Arts Association.

September 22, 2021
In Call to the Public, one citizen’s concern about an increase in unleashed dogs was mentioned and will become a future meeting agenda item.

Zander Ault presented logistics and layout for the Spirit World 100 gravel bike race events, planned for Nov. 4-7. The discussion also included event scheduling and other logistical details from the Spirit World 100 event planning.

Ault stated that the event is sold out at 250 riders, with an estimated 30-40 possible tenting groups. The event opens with a $125-per-ticket fundraising dinner event at the Gravel House, for Borderlands Restoration Network.

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

SUPPORTING THE RANCHERS OF TOMORROW.
The Burro On The Road

By Charlotte Lowe

“South32 Exit Route” is an anti-mine documentary by local filmmaker Michele Gisser. I saw it, then I drove down Harshaw Road to look at the site of the Australian owned South32 mine. The road goes through a free grazing land. A burro ambles across the road. Stops. Burro comes over to take a look in my car window. I scratch between his ears. His fur, so dusty, is different than a horse. This is a Patagonia moment, one of the reasons I live here over and over again. I turn my ignition on. Burro backs off.

On my way to South32 I pass seven white trucks waving little flags. They are driving like bats out of hell. It’s a 25 mile per hour speed limit.

The burro doesn’t even know the game has changed. These cars are serious. They have destinations. I wonder if he’ll be roadkill when I go back?

Getting close to the mine site, the drone photographs I saw in Gisser’s documentary become real, showing bulldozed gashes, high posts and electric lines. Wide swathes, improbable skirts, are cut out of the pink earth that two miles before contain billowing trees, high grasses.

I reach their security gate - you’ve got to check in. I know, this is a private company, a big business. I’ll come back and ask for a tour. But for now I’ve seen enough.

This so-called underground mine looks like the product of an earthworks artist gone mad. The flesh of this earth has been butchered and sectioned. This is slaughter. My opinion, yes. But I know what I saw. Go look for yourself.

This is a David and Goliath story,” said Desmond. “Everyone should see this film. Everyone.”

Patagonia’s future, if the mines are not stopped, Gisser says, is our colonization. We’ll get to live the nightmare thrust upon our Native Peoples - our land and governance taken from us. As delicious as it is to think of local white privilege turned upside down, I doubt any of us want to be overtaken by a mine. This film asserts huge trucks will dominate our highways, local roads and devastate our burgeoning eco-tourism economy. Only the experienced, in technology, in mining, will be hired.

Gisser’s film intentionally preaches to the choir, re-activating activists. Her strongest scenes show a woman cutting wood, folks living an intentional non-urban life. Gisser also focuses on local environmentalist interns, young people working with Native Seed Search educating about sustaining our patch of land.

The coda of Gisser’s film is given by a Tohono O’odham leader “In order to survive we as humans are not apart from nature. We are part of nature.”

The vendors and entertainers were really happy,” Johnson said. Many of them have already asked to be included in next year’s fair.

53 4-H and FFA youth competed in the three-day junior livestock show at the fair. (See results, Page 19). 50 animals were sold at the Champions for Youth Livestock Auction, held Sunday, Sept. 19. The auction took in $185,061, with $8168 raised for scholarships. Rummel Construction, Inc. was the top buyer at the sale, spending $36,315, buying six animals. The Steakout Restaurant/Sonora Mercantile spent $17,595, for two animals. David Aizu Contracting purchased two animals for $16,173. Pima and Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau sponsored the Buyers’ Lunch and donated $500 to the junior Livestock Show and Auction.

The Santa Cruz County Junior Livestock Auction is managed by the Champions For Youth Foundation, a 501(c)3 foundation serving youth in Southeastern Arizona.

Murder and Mayhem Make for a Good Read

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

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

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

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

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

- By Lynn Davison editor and board member of the Patagonia Regional Times
Sky Island Giants

Bergmann’s Rule hypothesizes that higher latitudes, with their colder environments, tend to engender the evolution of larger species and larger individuals within wide-ranging species. Simply stated: as one travels to the poles, animal species tend to get larger in order to deal with the rigors of colder climates.

Situated at about 32 degrees latitude north, our Sky Islands region clearly leans towards the tropics. Applying Bergmann’s Rule, one might then surmise that, on average, our bioregion should be largely populated with somewhat smaller species and smaller individuals within wide-ranging species. As with most biological “rules” the truth is far more fascinating than mere theory!

Arizona does host some classic examples that German biologist Carl Bergmann could use to support his hypothesis. Mexican gray wolves, for example, represent the smallest North American subspecies of this broadly distributed predator. So did the now extinct Mexican grizzly bear. Both these predators are excellent examples of species trending larger toward - in this case - the North Pole. There are other examples where I might be able to back up Bergmann’s Rule, but this exploration is about the exceptions - relative giants that inhabit our Sky Islands - all tending their collective noses at this biological maxim.

Starting with invertebrates, we have a good number of examples of large species in our area. The queen of our Mexican leaf cutter ant - nearly an inch long - is North America’s largest ant species. Female Sonoran carpenter bees dwarf most other bee species in the world and are the largest in North America. Look for them near stalky plants where they nest, such as sotol and yuccas.

Our tarantula hawks win the prize for largest wasps in the states, befitting a species that hunt our largest spiders - the tarantulas. I’ll never forget my first encounter with a tarantula hawk, as I eyed what I surmised to be a hummingbird showing an interest in my government issue research truck. Upon closer inspection it dawned upon me that I was in fact watching a wasp too big to be real, temporarily putting on hold my plans to reenter the truck!

Giants darner dragonflies, black witch moths, western Hercules beetles, and giant mesquite bugs - all at or near the top in terms of size within their respective taxonomic groups - only further detract from the veracity of Bergmann’s Rule.

Jumping to vertebrates, we find more exceptions to the rule. Having been a Gould’s wild turkey researcher, I can attest to the behemoth size of some of the gobbler’s. A large male may approach or even exceed 30 pounds. Perhaps their size helps protect them against the legion of Sky Island predators who strive to include them in their diets.

While wrens are generally diminutive, we have the rather gargantuan cactus wren in our area. They inhabit deserts where resources seem to be in short supply. So why the large size? Since they often seem to be monogamous, large body size may equate to a better chance of a pair attracting and holding a breeding territory.

Two other large birds are of note in Arizona: the California Condor, a Pleistocene relic, and the 5-inch blue-throated hummingbird - a gargantuan species among its Lilliputian relatives.

Circling back to mammals, our huge antelope jackrabbit, the greater bonneted bat, and the American beaver, all top their class for either body size and/or weight in North America. Our elusive jaguar is our country’s largest cat species, though these northern populations also contradict Bergmann’s Rule, averaging smaller than their tropical counterparts whose rich diet equates to a larger average size.

We are also home to North America’s largest lizard, the Gila monster, and the largest toad, the Sonoran toad. Their bulk no doubt helps to deter predators, along with their respective venomous and poionous biochemistry. Larger size also broadens what they can consume as prey.

Finally, we end with perhaps our most famous colossus, the giant saguaro. While the cardon cactus of Mexico may average heavier, the tallest giant saguaro ever measured topped out at 78 feet! I hope one day to gawk at a saguaro, while listening to a cactus wren with a Gila monster lurking in the shade of this giant succulent and a spooked antelope jackrabbit bolting by - a congregation of relative leviathans at my disposal.

If he is able to contemplate his main contribution to science from “the other side,” clearly Mr. Bergmann is not a happy man. Our Sky Island super species may represent vexing exceptions to his idea, but they are a well-spring of biological wonder for us still extant humans.

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

The Gila monster is North America’s largest lizard.

By Harold Meckler

For me, Robert Browning’s declaration that “man’s reach should exceed his grasp” sums up the thrill of stargazing and the sense of wonder that fills novice astronomers as well as the professionals at the controls of a broad spectrum of telescopes around the world. Each knows that for all one learns, for all one sees, there is always more.

In December NASA, with help from the European and Canadian Space Agencies, will launch a massive, new telescope that will look deeper and see more of the sky than anything that has come before it. The James Webb Space Telescope, using infrared technology, will challenge Browning’s famous quote. I suspect though, that with every new revelation, another question and another theory will be proposed that will convince us to continue to extend our reach even as we grasp and understand more and more about everything began.

From its orbit in space, Webb’s huge primary mirror will capture enough light to see stars and galaxies that formed over 13 billion years ago. It will be able to look through the dust that surrounds the birth of stars, allowing us to see the process as it unfolds. Webb will also peer into and analyze the atmospheres of planets that exist outside of our own solar system. The chemical structures it finds may give clues as to whether life may exist elsewhere.

As miraculous as the Hubble Telescope has been, Webb will be Hubble on steroids.

None of this comes cheap. Delays have pushed back the launch for many years. The cost has jumped to nearly $10 billion. With so much needed right now for so many things, it’s right to question whether this is a priority we can afford.

Throughout the 1960s, the U.S. raced to perfect a system that would get us to the surface of the moon. Those were years during which we spent enormous sums to fight a war in Vietnam. It was also a time when so many knew that we needed to spend even more in a fight against poverty. The debate raged about how to justify a trip to the moon or a war in Asia when too many in our own cities barely had enough to survive.

So, here we are more than a half century later with the same debate. How should we spend our money? How do we put a value on space exploration? How do we choose between machines like Webb that seek to solve mysteries billions of light years away, we should be able to solve the problems of everyday life. I think that’s what Browning had in mind.

For an exhaustive overview of the Webb Space Telescope go to swt. nasa.gov

WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

The next set of cabin names I’ll be exploring are those north of the Sonoita crossroads heading towards Tucson. Roskruge’s 1893 map of Pima County lists only Smith and Gardiner Canhons. The 1905 USGS Patagonia Quadrangle adds Fish and Enzenberg Canyons to the list. This article tells the story of the Enzenberg family who mined in the Greaterville area and ranched in the canyon that bears their name just north of Greaterville.

Maximilian (Max) Enzenberg was born in German in 1844. He emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1860s. In 1864 he enlisted in the 7th New York Infantry Regiment which fought for the Union in the Civil War and received a disability discharge in 1865. The 7th was comprised of mostly German immigrants and was also known as the Steuben Regiment or Guard.

Max arrived in Arizona “from Santa Fe, N.M. in 1875, driving through in a buggy, and was never molested by Fe. N. M. in 1875, driving through in overland parties had been murdered.” [The Border Vidette, 8/7/1915]. He began mining in the Greaterville area. In 1887 Max, age 47, married 25-year-old Margery Fleming, a native of Ontario, Canada. The first of their four children, Carl, was born in 1890. Daughter Winnifred was born in 1894, followed by son Orion, born in 1897, and daughter Brunhilde, born in 1899.

Max died in 1926, age 82, and is buried with Max. Winnifred Enzenberg married Elmer Robert Smith in 1916 and they had five children: Verna, Eleanor, Barbara, Robert and Russell. Verna was born in Arizona, the rest in California. Elmer and Winnifred both died in Los Angeles, he in 1949 and she in 1970. Brunhilde Enzenberg was married three times to William Dunham, Albert Davis, and Harry Taylor. She had no children. She returned to Tucson from California around 1930 where she died in 1949. Orion Enzenberg was working for the Army for a few months in 1918. He married Oscea Greenlee in 1919; they had no children. He was a Southern Pacific Railroad fireman, operated a dairy farm in Tucson, and in 1926 purchased and operated a ranch, which included an apple orchard, about four miles north of Sonoita. [Tucson Citizen, 2/2/1984]. Orion died in 1984, age 87, and Oscea died in 1989, age 96. Both are buried in the Black Oak Cemetery in Canelo.

Efforts to Save the Pool Gaining Momentum

By Clare Bonelli

So much work has been done! In the last couple of months, a yard/bake sale was held that raised over $1,000, relationships have been built with the town and the schools, and reassurances received that both entities want to see the pool stay open. Many thanks to Abbie Zeltzer for creating an outstanding strategic plan with support from Erin Botz, Terri Schindel and Laurie Monte. And many thanks to Samantha Carlson and Anne Townsend for their diligence in getting a P.O. Box set up, procuring a tax identification number, filing for corporate status, and filing the forms for the creation of a non-profit. This is a huge amount of work done in a very short time and they are owed a debt of gratitude.

The Sept 24 meeting was very encouraging, as people showed up. The pool has been renamed the Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center (PRAC) and Erin Botz has stepped up as president. Fundraising has been divided into two sections: grants and local fundraising. If you want to be involved with grant writing or management, please contact clarebonelli@gmail.com.

Susan Abagnale is taking on the local fundraising. If you want to help out with that, please contact her at sabagnale@msn.com or 520.260.8139.

I can’t tell you how supportive it was to have people show up at the meeting. When just four people showed up, it was discouraging. I can’t imagine how frustrating it was for Karen Riggis and Mary Spicer who hung on for over a year with little outside support. So please come! We won’t (necessarily) put you to work. If you’re not getting pool emails and want to, contact clarebonelli@gmail.com.

To donate, please send checks to Patagonia Sonoita Rotary Foundation. (The current fiscal agent for PRAC), PO Box 424, Sonoita 85637 with POOL DONATION or POOL on the memo line. Looking forward to a great summer in the pool!
For These Kids, 4-H is a Family Affair

The Allen Family

The brother sister duo of Cash and Ivy Allen showed a total of six heifers and steers at the livestock show at the Santa Cruz County Fair. Not surprisingly, five out of six of the animals were Hereford cattle, as the kids’ grandparents, Grace and Michael Wystrach, are owners of Mountain View Herefords in Elgin, known for its purebred bulls and cows.

11-year-old Cash won Grand Champion Market steer with Bilby, a Maine Simmental cross purchased from Iowa. He won Reserve Grand champion Market Steer and Grand Champion Breed n’ Fed with Tank, who was raised on Mountain View Ranch. “I was kind of in shock,” Cash said after winning both Grand and Reserve in the market steer division. “It’s never been done before.” He also showed Sweetie Ty, a Hereford heifer, whom he referred to as “the problem child.”

13-year-old Ivy, who won the Junior Beef Grand Showmanship award, showed heifers. "I like showmanship a lot," she said. Her 18-month-old heifer Ramona was named Grand Champion Breeding Heifer. Ramona’s mom died shortly after giving birth and Ramona was raised as a ‘bottle baby.’ "She’s been my baby ever since," Ivy said. Ramona is due to calve in January, and Ivy would like to show the cow calf pair. Ivy also showed two younger heifers, Peaches and Strawberry, whom Ivy referred to as “kind of a brat.” Ivy does not want to show steers, because she does not want to sell them for butchering. "I get too attached," she said.

The Keith Family

Everywhere you walked in the 4-H/FFA show barns at the Santa Cruz County Fair, held Sept. 17 – 19 at the Sonora Fairgrounds, you were likely to see one of the four Keith siblings with his or her livestock project. These industrious kids, who live in Elgin, spent this past year working with animals in steer, dairy cow, chicken, turkey, dog, horse, and goat projects.

15-year-old Cash Keith bought his market steer Harvey at an online auction held in Nebraska. “I Picked him for his conformity and size,” Cash said. Harvey, an angus cross steer, weighed 1540 lbs. by the time of the livestock show, at only 10 months old.

The pair earned a blue ribbon in the market steer class, and Cash finished third in market steer showmanship. Cash also won the Beef Herdsmanship Award. Cash, who spent 4+ hours each day working with Harvey over the past several months, reported that the most challenging part of raising Harvey was having to walk his steer after breaking his wrist this spring. “He used to be a real jerk and he got worse when I broke my wrist.” Next year, he plans to show a hog. Cash, who, like his siblings, is homeschooled, is planning to join the Junior ROTC program in Vail, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Green Beret.

Ivy Keith relaxes with her goat, Tex, in the livestock barn

12-year-old Laura Keith won the Senior Grand Champion Market Goat Award with her Boer goat, Tex. Tex was her first goat, as she had shown a steer last year. “He’s fun to be around,” she said describing Tex. “I’ll miss him. I love him so much.” For many 4-H and FFA kids, the hardest part of the livestock show and sale is auctioning off the animals in the junior livestock sale. Laura also won the title of Grand Champion Horse, with her mare Lena, Reserve Champion Dog with Bonnie, Reserve Champion Dairy Cow Showmanship with her Jersey cow Peaches, finished 4th in Showmanship with her chicken Becky and was reserve champion in the baking division. She won the Herdsmanship Award for both goats and for chickens. Laura would like to be an ag teacher or a large animal veterinarian.

Faith Keith, who is 10 years-old, got a blue ribbon in showmanship and a red ribbon in the chicken class with her chicken, Moo. Moo is a 5-month-old silkie, with fluffy white feathers. “I like silkie,” Faith said. “They are the best mothers, very protective of their babies.” Faith also won Grand Champion Dog and Grand Champion Showmanship with her pet Nala, a blue ribbon for her turkey, Peaches, and grand champion in the baking division. Next year, Faith plans to show a steer. Her goal in life is to be a wrestler. 8-year-old Cole, who is not yet in 4-H, showed his chicken Sasha in the open division. Cole, who was the state champion mutton buster, rides with the Southern Arizona Bull Riding Association and aspires to be a wrestler, like his older sister.

Cash Keith preps Harvey for the Junior Livestock Auction.

Cash Keith preps Harvey for the Junior Livestock Auction.

Faith and Cole Keith show off their chickens in the small stock tent at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

Photos by Marion Vendituoli

Ivy and Cash Allen with their prize winning cattle, Ramona, Bilby and Tank

Photos by Marion Vendituoli

For These Kids, 4-H is a Family Affair

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Santa Cruz County Fair
4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Show Champions

Grand Champion Turkey  
   Calvin King

Grand Champion Dairy Cow  
   Easton Meier

Grand Champion Dog  
   Faith Keith

Grand Champion Jr. High Point Horse  
   Addison Tomlinson

Grand Champion Rookie High Point Horse  
   Laura Keith

Grand Champion Bred 'N Fed Market Goat  
   Stephanie Paz

Grand Champion Bred 'N Fed Market Steer  
   Cash Allen

Grand Champion Breeding Goat  
   Gabriella Dickey

Grand Champion Market Goat  
   Laura Keith

Grand Champion Breeding Goat  
   Gabryella Dickey

Grand Champion Market Swine  
   Hailey Mihai

Grand Champion Market Lamb  
   Tyler Young

Grand Champion Breeding Lamb  
   Tyler Young

Grand Champion Market Steer  
   Cash Allen

Grand Champion Heifer  
   Ivy Allen

Grand Champion Market Rabbit  
   Connor Sauser-Hasel

Grand Champion Rabbit Breed  
   Connor Sauser-Hasel

Grand Champion Sr. Beef Showmanship  
   Gabryella Dickey

Grand Champion Jr. Beef Showmanship  
   Ivy Allen

Grand Champion Sr. Lamb Showmanship  
   Tyler Young

Grand Champion Jr. Lamb Showmanship  
   Ellissa Bird

Grand Champion Sr. Swine Showmanship  
   Dixie Meier

Grand Champion Jr. Swine Showmanship  
   Easton Meier

Grand Champion Novice Swine Showmanship  
   Tucker Robbs

Grand Champion Sr. Goat Showmanship  
   Jair Corona

Grand Champion Jr. Goat Showmanship  
   Rori Prentice

Grand Champion Sr. Chicken Showmanship  
   Jair Corona

Grand Champion Jr. Chicken Showmanship  
   Calvin King

Grand Champion Sr. Rabbit Showmanship  
   Connor Sauser-Hasel

Grand Champion Jr. Rabbit Showmanship  
   Sandy Fajardo

Grand Champion Sr. Turkey Showmanship  
   Jenna Gamble

Grand Champion Jr. Turkey Showmanship  
   Calvin King

Grand Champion Dairy Showmanship  
   Ellissa Bird

Grand Champion Dog Showmanship  
   Faith Keith

Grand Champion Non-Market Sr. Round Robin  
   Jair Corona

Grand Champion Non-Market Jr. Round Robin  
   Ellissa Bird

Grand Champion Market Sr. Round Robin  
   Tyler Young

Grand Champion Market Jr. Round Robin  
   Ellissa Bird

Herdsmanship Award - Beef  
   Cash Keith

Herdsmanship Award - Swine  
   Ryan Anderson

Herdsmanship Award - Goat  
   Laura Keith

Herdsmanship Award - Rabbit  
   Chloe Dimmerling

Herdsmanship Award - Turkey  
   Jenna Gamble

Herdsmanship Award - Chicken  
   Laura Keith
Schedule Announced for Patagonia ‘Big Read’ Events

The Patagonia Public Library and Patagonia Creative Arts Association (PCAAA) have been selected to receive a 2021-2022 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read grant. The $5,350.00 grant awarded to Patagonia supports a host of programs and events planned over the next few months, all inspired by “An American Sunrise” by Joy Harjo. Harjo, who serves as Poet Laureate for the United States, is a Native American poet, writer, musician, singer, and activist. Local programs include a youth poetry slam, a student poetry contest, book discussions, art and ecology workshops, an Arizona Humanities speaker series, local artist showcases, films and more, which will be taking place at venues all around Patagonia. Project partners include the Patagonia Regional Times, Borderlands Restoration Network, Friends of the Patagonia Library, PCAA, Patagonia Public Schools, the Patagonia Museum, KPUP and the Town of Patagonia.

“We’re really excited about these events,” Cassina Farley, Director of the Patagonia Creative Arts Association, said, “and we hope, by offering these programs, we are able to remind our friends and neighbors of all the great nonprofit resources available to them in our community.” Since 2006, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,700 NEA Big Read programs. More than 5.7 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read event, 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, and videos, visit arts.gov/neabigread.

*All events are in-person unless otherwise specified. Event dates, times, and locations may change due to COVID-19 protocols.

October / November Calendar of Big Read Events

December Events will be listed in the December issue of the PRT

October

NEA Big Read Kickoff: Art and Poetry Walk
October 2: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Patagonia Town Park
Join us for a walk in the park! Using the library’s StoryWalk panels, view original artwork inspired by Joy Harjo’s “An American Sunrise” created by local artists. The walk begins at Town Hall (Patagonia’s historic Train Depot).

NEA Big Read Book Discussion: “An American Sunrise”
October 13: 4:00 pm
Patagonia Public Library
In the first of three adult book discussions, Deb Goff will facilitate a meeting about Joy Harjo’s “An American Sunrise.” Discuss favorite poems from the book, ask questions, and delve deeper into the themes of the book.

NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: Barking Water
October 15: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Patagonia Public Library
Join Zarco Guerrero for a series of discussions and fry bread demonstrations at the Patagonia Creative Arts Association.

NEA Big Read Keynote Speaker: An Evening with Joy Harjo
October 2: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Patagonia Town Park
Laura and Cassina will lead participating elementary school classes on a walk through the park reading “Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story” by Kevin Noble Maillard. The event will culminate with a book discussion and fry bread demonstration at the Patagonia Creative Arts Association.

NEA Big Read AZ Speaks: Our River Stories: The Gila and the Salt
November 10: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Patagonia Town Park
Laura and Cassina will lead participating elementary school classes on a walk through the park reading “Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story” by Kevin Noble Maillard. The event will culminate with a book discussion and fry bread demonstration at the Patagonia Creative Arts Association.

NEA Big Read Author Reading and Documentary with Brian Jabas Smith
November 13: 7:00 pm
Tin Shed Theater
Tucson author and journalist Brian Jabas Smith will read selections from his new book of Tucson Salvage columns, accompanied by a new documentary directed by his wife Maggie Smith. Formerly a singer/songwriter, Smith is an award-winning journalist, first as a staff writer and columnist at Phoenix New Times and then as an editor at Detroit’s Metro Times, with work appearing in magazines, alt-weeklies, and literary journals. Books will be available for purchase and signing. www.briansmithwriter.com

NEA Big Read Book Discussion: “Crazy Brave”
November 17: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Patagonia Library
The second of three adult book discussions, Deb Goff will facilitate a discussion of Joy Harjo’s 2012 coming-of-age memoir, “Crazy Brave.”

NEA Big Read Music and Storytelling with Randy Granger
November 20: 7:00 pm
Tin Shed Theater
Native American flute player and storyteller, Randy Granger, will present a program of flute music and storytelling. Granger is a native of New Mexico, a professional musician and specializes in Native American tales and creation stories often interweaving flute and drum within the stories. He is an award-winning recording artist, instructor, spiritual teacher, actor who performs and headlines around the country in concerts and at festivals. His music is heard on NPR, Hearts of Space, PBS, Pandora, Spotify, and radio stations around the world. He is of Mayan/Apache ancestry.

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Sat. - By Appointment
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www.lopezhousecalls.com
October 15: 6p.m. NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: “Barking Water” A uniquely delicate and moving story of a proud Native American attempting to reconnect with his estranged family. Directed by Sterlin Harjo FREE. Donation Accepted

October 20: 6p.m. BORDER FILM LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION: “Healing the US/Mexico Border: Voces Indigenas de la Frontera.” In 2020, individuals of Native American, Mexican, Anglo and Arab descent came together for “ceremonial activism” to heal the spiritual, cultural and ecological damage being done by the construction of the border wall and related policy changes affecting both native and immigrant peoples. The Healing the Border Project produced a documentary that not only highlights damage associated with wall construction but proposes lasting solutions that can be crafted by trilateral collaboration by the U.S., Mexico, and Indigenous Nations. Following a viewing of the documentary, a discussion will follow. The film was co-produced by Patagonia resident Dr. Laurie Monti, a Senior Fellow with Borderlands Restoration Network. FREE Donations accepted

October 24: 2p.m. Exhibition on Screen: “Matisse” From MOMA and Take Modern. Audiences are invited to enjoy a documentary about this acclaimed exhibition with contributions from people who knew Matisse and experts such as curators, historians and Tate director Nicholas Serota and MoMA director Glenn D. Lowry, along with breathtaking, specially commissioned performances by Royal Ballet principal dancer Zenaida Yanowsky and jazz musician Courtney Pine. Acclaimed British actor Simon Russell Beale brings insight and emotion to the words of Henri Matisse himself, while actor Rupert Young (Merlin) narrates. $5 Suggested Donation

November 1: 10a.m. and 7p.m. LIVE THEATER: Club Theater presents: “Frog and Toad” FREE. Donations Accepted

November 13: 6p.m. NEA Big Read Author Reading and Documentary: An Evening with Brian Jabas Smith. Smith is a Tucson Weekly columnist, award-winning journalist, editor and the author of “Spent Saints & Other Stories” and “Tucson Salvage: Tales And Recollections From La Frontera.” Brian will be reading from his latest book and giving a sneak peak of Maggie Smith’s newest documentary. FREE. Donations Accepted

November 20: 6p.m. NEA Big Read Music and Storytelling. Performing Artist Randy Granger, Native American flute player and storyteller. Randy Granger will present a program of flute music and storytelling. Granger is a native of New Mexico, a professional musician and specializes in Native American tales and creation stories often interweaving flute and drum within the stories. He is an award-winning recording artist, instructor, spiritual teacher, actor who performs and headlines around the country in concerts and at festivals. www.randygranger.net FREE. Donations Accepted

*Dates and Times Subject to Change* If you would be interested in sponsoring upcoming events, please contact Cassina Farley at 520-394-9369. Visit www.patagoniacreativarts.org or 394-9369

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**Garden Guides**

**Fall Gardening is Fun!**

By Mary McKay

Fall is my absolute favorite time of year here in Southern Arizona and fall gardening is fun! There are so many plants to try out that will just thrive in the cool nights and warm days. Now that most summer veggie crops are coming to an end, don’t be sad and certainly don’t give up on your garden! Pull out your old summer crops and compost them (unless you have a known pathogen or insect infestation in which case throw them in the trash.) Mix some fresh compost into your soil before you plant, and this will be sufficient to carry you through the fall and winter months.

Fall is the perfect time of year to plant perennials like trees, shrubs, flowering plants, spring blooming bulbs, and herbs. Remember, perennials to our area should be hardy to zone 8. Warm days and cool nights are perfect for new plants to develop a good root system before the first killing frost arrives (end of October to mid-November for us). They may die all the way back to ground level in some cases, but by the time spring comes around their roots and crown will be primed and ready to grow. Some perennials when sewn from seed, actually require a period of cold (called vernalization) after germination for flowering in the following spring or summer.

Fall is also a great time to take note of how everything did this summer and think about how you can improve. Do you have a spot in your garden that looks bare and could really benefit from a tree or perhaps a flowering vine or shrub? While plants are still alive and growing, you can really visualize where, and if, any new plants can fit into your landscape. Take photos of your garden while it is still growing to keep as a reference this winter when the itch for spring planting starts.

What to plant in in October: Directly plant from seed into the ground root crops such as beets, carrots, radish and turnips. Direct seed or transplant from starters leafy greens such as lettuce, spinach, kales, Asian greens, mustard greens. Direct seed or transplant green onions, cilantro, parsley, chives. Lettuce needs light to germinate so do not bury it with soil. A very, very light dusting of soil over top of the lettuce seed can help hold the seed down.

Cilantro and parsley will not germinate until they have had a period of moist and cold temperatures (called stratification). To speed this process along, fold cilantro and parsley seed into a damp, not soggy paper towel, and put in a sealed container into to the fridge for 2 weeks before planting.

Plant hard or soft neck garlic. Hardneck garlic has a stiff central stem or scape and is the most cold tolerant and flavorful. Soft neck garlic is the typical grocery store type garlic with a long storage life. Garlic takes around six months to mature before harvest.

All of these plants can take a freeze but what they won’t do is grow much once it gets really cold. To remedy this, use a hoop house or floating row covers to protect them. This is especially true for things (lettuces and such) that you want to continually harvest throughout the coldest months.

And don’t forget to mulch! Mulching will keep those plants protected from cold temperatures.
### EVENTS

- **Oct. 2:** NEA Big Read Kickoff: Art and Poetry Walk 11a.m.-12p.m. at Patagonia Town Park
- **Oct. 7:** Live music at The Cafe. Sonoita 5-7p.m. Call 520-455-5044 for more info.
- **Oct. 7:** Sonoita Quarter Horse Show 8:3a.m. at Sonoita Fairgrounds.
- **Oct. 8-10:** PCUMC Thrift Shop Fall Festival. Fri. & Sat. - 10a.m.-4p.m., Sun. 11a.m. - 2p.m. For more info email jbquirin@msn.com
- **Oct. 9:** Borderlands Fall Plant Sale 8-4p.m. www.borderlandsplants.org
- **Oct. 9-10:** Friends of the Library Book Sale 10a.m.-5p.m. held in the Town Park, Patagonia.
- **Oct. 7:** Live music at The Cafe. Sonoita 5-7p.m. Call 520-455-5044 for more info.
- **Oct. 8:** PCUMC Thrift Shop Fall Festival. Fri. & Sat. - 10a.m.-4p.m., Sun. 11a.m. - 2p.m. For more info email jbquirin@msn.com
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- **Oct. 9-10:** Friends of the Library Book Sale 10a.m.-5p.m. held in the Town Park, Patagonia.
- **Oct. 13:** NEA Big Read Book Discussion: “An American Sunrise” 4p.m. Patagonia Library
- **Oct. 15:** NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: Barking Water 6:00 - 7:30p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Oct. 21:** Border Film Launch and panel discussion. 6p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Oct. 24:** Exhibition on Screen: “Matisse” FROM MOMA and Take Modern. 2p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Oct. 29:** NEA Big Read Keynote Speaker: An Evening with Joy Harjo *Tentative* 6p.m. - 7:30p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater *Tentative date/time*
- **Oct. 29:** Community Halloween Party 6-8p.m. at the Sonoita Fairgrounds
- **Oct. 31:** Blood Drive at Our Lady of the Angels. 10a.m. - 3p.m. 22 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita. For more info call 1-800-RED CROSS
- **Oct. 31:** Benderly Hall Kendall Opera House-SCFPA 5p.m. playing outside in the courtyard
- **Nov. 3:** NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: “Gather” 6p.m. - 7:30p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Nov. 6-7:** Annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival 10a.m.-4p.m. at the Empire Ranch Headquarters, Sonoita HWY 83. $20 parking donation per vehicle is requested. (888) 364-2829
- **Nov. 8-10:** PCUMC Thrift Shop Fall Festival. Fri. & Sat. - 10a.m.-4p.m., Sun. 11a.m. - 2p.m. For more info email jbquirin@msn.com
- **Nov. 9:** Borderlands Fall Plant Sale 8-4p.m. www.borderlandsplants.org
- **Nov. 10:** Friends of the Library Book Sale 10a.m.-5p.m. held in the Town Park, Patagonia.
- **Nov. 13:** NEA Big Read Book Discussion: “An American Sunrise” 4p.m. Patagonia Library
- **Nov. 15:** NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: Barking Water 6:00 - 7:30p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Nov. 21:** Border Film Launch and panel discussion. 6p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Nov. 25:** NEA Big Read Keynote Speaker: An Evening with Joy Harjo *Tentative* 6p.m. - 7:30p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater *Tentative date/time*
- **Nov. 29:** Community Halloween Party 6-8p.m. at the Sonoita Fairgrounds
- **Nov. 30:** Blood Drive at Our Lady of the Angels. 10a.m. - 3p.m. 22 Los Encinos Rd., Sonoita. For more info call 1-800-RED CROSS
- **Dec. 1:** Benderly Hall Kendall Opera House-SCFPA 5p.m. playing outside in the courtyard
- **Dec. 7:** NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: “Gather” 6p.m. - 7:30p.m. at the Tin Shed Theater
- **Dec. 8-10:** PCUMC Thrift Shop Fall Festival. Fri. & Sat. - 10a.m.-4p.m., Sun. 11a.m. - 2p.m. For more info email jbquirin@msn.com
- **Dec. 9:** Borderlands Fall Plant Sale 8-4p.m. www.borderlandsplants.org
- **Dec. 10:** Friends of the Library Book Sale 10a.m.-5p.m. held in the Town Park, Patagonia.

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

- **Lunch for Seniors:** Fresh-cooked meals. Take out @ 11:30-12:15p.m. In-house dining 12:15 to 1:30p.m. Must be vaccinated for dine in. Patagonia Senior Center.
- **Patagonia Museum:** Open hours 2p.m.-4p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. www.thepatagoniamuseum.org for more info.
- **Patagonia Library:** Now OPEN without appts. Mon-Fri 10a.m.-5p.m., Sat. 10a.m. - 2p.m. Call for more info 520.394.2010

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

- **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
  - **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 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.sascantacrzdems.org/meetings
  - **Community Youth Bible Hang Out:**
    - at the Sonoita Bible Church. 2nd and 4th Wed. April Anderson at andea@msn.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey at 520-552-0155.
  - **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**
  - 223 Third Ave., Patagonia In Person Service resumed. Call for time & schedule 520-394-2954
- **Patagonia 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.

### Email

ptasted@gmail.com with any event or updates you would like listed.
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KPUP Broadcast Schedule - 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.

Appointments: 281-1550 • 101 Taylor Street • mariposasbc.net
PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
SONOITA: Corner of Hwys 82 & 83, next to Post Office  520-455-5235
www.buysonoita.com

Jean Miller
Co-Owner, General Manager
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Carol Ford
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