**New Public Art in Patagonia**

Isaac Caruso finishes up his mural on the side of the Patagonia Market. He has now completed 26 out of 50 murals that illustrate his children’s book, “Sam and Sara.”

*By Sarah Klingenstein*

Isaac Caruso, an accomplished young Arizona muralist, stopped in Patagonia for just two days in mid-October, but he left his mark in the form of a 10 x 20-foot mural on the side of the Patagonia Market. The bright image, primarily in pinks and blues, and framed in sparkling metallic paints, will become Page 9 of a 50-page children’s book Caruso has fully sketched out and copyrighted. He is now in the process of representing each page in mural and rhyming text in public places around the state.

Before arriving in Patagonia, Isaac had painted 25 of the 50 planned works, in locations including a wall of the Tubac Center for the Arts and the children’s room at the Sierra Vista Public Library.

Sam and Sara are the title characters of the upcoming book. Sara is a young girl whose mother, imaginative and unappreciated for her talents and style, has left the world we know to live in another reality. She becomes a “figment,” takes the form of a sunflower and lives there with her daughter Sara. In “Sam and Sara,” we travel with Sara as she discovers the world of her mother’s past with her new friend Sam. Isaac’s own youth, during which he felt his unique way of communicating and learning were not nurtured, inspired the story.

Caruso is a prolific muralist who began as a graffiti artist as a teenager, tagging buildings and other public places. In his twenties he studied graphic arts, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in visual communication from Northern Arizona University.

His murals can be found on prominent buildings and in private settings around Arizona. Locals may have seen some of his work in Tucson, such as the gigantic cluster of oranges painted on a 50’ by 50’ wall at 9 N. Scott Ave.

Brenda Somoza and Irma Sang, manager and owner of the Patagonia Market, were excited when Linda Shore approached them with the idea of a mural. “We are first of all so grateful to Linda for having brought an artist of his skill to town to contribute,” Somoza said. “The artwork is beautiful, and Isaac was wonderful to work with. He was always happy to stop his work to chat with people who wanted to know more. We couldn’t be more pleased.”

Shore was introduced to Isaac’s work by Evan Kory, whom locals know for his music and leadership at the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts. Kory said, “I met Isaac a few years ago when I was exploring muralists from Arizona on Instagram. We started chatting and became friends quickly. When I started working at the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office as Arts Director, we planned a summer mural camp for high school students. Isaac and Nogales artist Tony Lucero were the teachers. The large Arizona/Sonora Wildlife mural in Patagonia was organized by Fairground’s manager Lacy Beyer, who thanked all the volunteers for helping with the event. “It doesn’t happen without the volunteers,” she said, “and it’s a nice way for the Fairgrounds to give back to the community.”

There was a photo booth, face painting, a DJ on the ramada and a costume class to round out the evening.

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See Halloween p. 14

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Morgan Hayes sports a floral decorated cow skull mask.

By Marion Vendituoli and Nisa Talavera

**Sonora Fairgrounds Halloween Party**

Sherlock Holmes, a giant dragon, unicorns, superheroes and even a chef were all part of the fun at the Sonora Fairgrounds Halloween party, held Oct. 29. An estimated 250 adults and kids showed up to show off their costumes and to party. The Mustang 4-H Club hosted a haunted house, hot dogs, nachos, and drinks were served, donated by the Vera Earl Ranch, and piles of candy were given out. Volunteers decorated tractors that literally had buckets full of candy. Sonora Elgin Fire District staff handed out candy in front of a fire truck, and the Elgin Sonota Cowbelles gave out cupcakes, candy, and cookies as prizes at their cake walk game.

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See Halloween p. 14

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Luna Raley is dressed as an elephant at the Sonota Fairgrounds party.

By Chuck Klingenstein

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

WHO WE ARE

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Please Join Us To Honor the Winners of the PRT Student Poetry Contest
2:00p.m., Saturday Nov. 27
at the Tin Shed Theater

Double your impact.
Support trusted journalism today.
GIVE NONPROFIT. GIVE NOW.
NewsMatch

By Marion Vendituoli and Nisa Talavera

If we’ve learned anything from this past year, it is that we need each other, our families, our friends, our neighbors, our communities. And of course, our local news.

The PRT wouldn’t exist if it were not for our network of volunteer writers, hardworking board of directors, loyal advertisers, generous donors and this amazing community in Eastern Santa County.

A case in point is the local post office in Patagonia. Recently we needed stamps for our annual appeal. Our Assistant Editor drove up to get 600 stamps for our appeal letters. Initially, she was afraid that the small office wouldn’t have enough stamps for this project.

She was astounded by the level of service and welcome she received. The postal workers there were really interested in what she was mailing and got involved in helping her customize the stamps to be the perfect complement for our letters. Ultimately, they chose stamps that said “thank you,” with beautiful gold lettering. It was important for the two employees, who worked together choosing and counting stamps, that what was on the outside of the envelope reflected positively on the letter inside.

These personal relationships form the core of, and enrich, our small-town life. As a nonprofit news organization, the PRT, likewise, works to be a positive force in our community by informing and creating a common ground based on factual, impartial reporting.

One thing is certain: the hunger for local news is stronger than ever before. In the last year, the PRT reported on the pandemic, providing local information and graphs not available anywhere else, as well as stories about our local news.

This year, we are once again excited to share an opportunity to double your donation. For the third year in a row, the PRT has been selected to participate in NewsMatch, a national matching-gift campaign that drives donations to nonprofit newsrooms (like ours) around the U.S.

Here’s how NewsMatch works: We can earn up to $10,000 in matching funds from NewsMatch. For donations received between Nov.1 and Dec 31, NewsMatch will match your first monthly donation $x2 or double your one-time gift, all up to $1,000. The PRT needs to raise at least $26,000 from our donor base in order to continue producing the high-quality, independent, and local journalism you’ve come to rely on.

As a reader of the PRT, you’ve come to depend on our reporting to bring you the stories and information you can’t find anywhere else. And, as a nonprofit, we depend on readers like you to make this work possible. We are a lean machine, we have four part-time staff members, our columnists and reporters are volunteers, and we have no office, save a donated storage shed.

Your investment in the PRT goes a long way. Will you consider making a donation to the PRT? Just think of the impact that could have - not just in our newsroom, but in our community.

The time is now. Trusted journalism like ours has never mattered more. Give today and NewsMatch will double the impact of your donation. Send us a check to: P.O Box 1073 Patagonia, AZ 85624.

Or donate online at: www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/contribute

THE PRT NEEDS YOUR HELP
Abundant sunshine and seasonable fall temperatures welcomed 14,000 people who came out to the Patagonia Town Park the weekend of Oct. 9 - 10 for this year’s Sky Island Fall Artisan Market, known locally as the Fall Festival.

Free admission, spectacular arts and crafts, live music, and a variety of food offerings brought out visitors from all over Southern Arizona. Smiling faces, laughter, children’s happy voices, people of all ages and dogs, dogs, dogs filled the park at this 32nd year of the Festival. And the dogs, many small ones in strollers and most larger canines on leashes, were quite well-behaved.

SAACA, Southern Arizona Arts and Culture Alliance, managed the event structuring the space in the park so that crowds could easily stroll and browse the beautiful offerings. Wide avenues running the length of the park provided convenient access to the 100 or so booths featuring paintings, pottery, ceramics, metal work, jewelry, stained glass, leather work, horticulture, home furnishings, and much more.

Pleased vendors reported strong sales and promises of repeat business in the future. A popular feature of the Festival, the traditional Patagonia Library’s book sale raised $4,000.

Live music from local and area entertainers serenaded the crowds both days with blue grass, rock, jazz, and classical offerings. One of the bands, Jam Pak, featured musicians from ages 5 to 80. Chairs and tables placed in front of and around the bandstand invited people to sit, enjoy the music and maybe celebrate the day with a picnic or a glass of wine.

Ten food trucks offered snacks, lunch and dinner, and local restaurants reported being very busy throughout the festivities. The Patagonia Fire Dept. grillers served around 1300 hamburgers over the two days, along with hot dogs and fixings. Bright red and yellow fire and rescue trucks flanked the grills, while the volunteer firefighters chatted with friends and visitors as they flipped burgers and dogs. Chairs and tables were set under the trees so people could eat comfortably, rest a while, and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

By two o’clock on Sunday afternoon the event was winding down. Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, it was a successful weekend. People agreed that the number of vendors and attendees was “just right” so that everyone had a wonderful, fun time. The goal of showcasing local artists and craftspeople while supporting local small businesses was met.
Century-old Grave Gets TLC

The Mustang Clover Buds paint the marker for Albert Hall’s gravesite in Sonoita. The group also placed a new grave stone on the grave.

By Cami Schlappy

On Oct. 21, the Mustangs 4-H Clover Buds met at an abandoned grave near the Sonoita Crossroads. Their goal was to restore the identity of the grave’s occupant which had been nearly lost for decades. Using rakes, paint brushes, shovels, and trowels, the Clover Buds started cleaning up the gravesite. A new coat of white paint was added to the marker post, weeds were cleared away, new reflectors were added, and 50 iris bulbs were planted around a new, donated cement headstone.

As we were working, community members stopped by to see what we were doing. Ted White, who lives the closest to the grave, told us about his years of wondering and researching about who was buried there. White volunteered to add mulch and a rock border to the site. Plus, he volunteered to water the bulbs and keep watch over of the grave. A Clover Bud family volunteered to look into creating a metal fence around the grave. I was beyond touched by the hard work of the Clover Buds and the community support. It was one of those moments when your faith in humanity is restored.

As their 4-H leader, I wanted the Clover Buds to have a community service project that meant something and that they would remember. After the work was done, I told them about my search for the grave’s occupant. In 2005, a friend mentioned the abandoned gravesite in downtown Sonoita. After a few trial and errors, I found the grave, but nothing was written on the wooden marker. That bothered me. I tried doing a rubbing with paper and chalk to bring up the letters, but nothing appeared. I took photos from different angles, but I still could not make out the name on the marker. On and off over the next 15 years, I would ask various historians and old timers about it. I never got a satisfactory answer. The identity of the grave owner seemed lost to time.

I did stumble across a local book with some information, but further internet sleuthing was a dead end. In 2021, I hit gold when a book about Southern Arizona railroads provided a photo of the grave marker. His information was legible in the photo. Finally, I knew his name and date of death!

Draft Redistricting Maps Released

The AZ Independent Redistricting Commission approved draft maps of nine congressional and 30 state legislative districts on Oct. 28. In the draft map for legislative districts (LD), Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin have all been placed in LD 19, which includes the northern and eastern part of Santa Cruz County, the southeastern corner of Pima County, and all of Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties. Since 2011, all of Santa Cruz County has been in LD 2, which also includes a portion of Pima County.

In the draft map for congressional districts (CD), all of Santa Cruz County has been placed in CD 7 along with parts of Pima, Pinal, Maricopa and Yuma Counties. This draft map is similar to the current CD 3 map.

The public has 30 days to comment on the draft maps, 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. The PRT will post the time and place for public meetings, as well as contact information for submitting comments, as this information becomes available.
By Valerie Neale

In the early morning hours of October 7, 2021, I lost my dearly beloved husband and partner of over 40 years to esophageal cancer.

The outpouring of emotion across social media platforms has been truly overwhelming. Many people in their 50s and 60s write that he was their “co-parent” because of his presence on children’s TV in the 1960s and early 70s. It seems that everyone who met him was touched by his presence.

Rick was born in London, Ontario, in 1937, of English parents. In 1957, he moved to England, where he trained as an actor at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. His acting career included three years in repertory theater at Manchester Library Theater and a London West End debut in “Fiorello!” at the Piccadilly Theater in 1962.

He was appearing at the Royal Court Theatre in Edgar Lee Masters’ “Spoon River Anthology” when he was asked by a BBC producer to be part of “Play School,” a new children’s TV program. From 1964 -1973, for 447 episodes, he sang and told stories that brought him into the homes and hearts of a whole generation of English children. He married Marina (Min) Ayles in 1960, and his two daughters, Leafllyn (Flea) and Chrysta, born 1960 and 1963, grew up with their Dad on daily television. In 1972, he became “Yoffy” on “Fingerbobs,” the presenter of a cast of paper finger puppets. There was only one series of 13 episodes, but it was repeated so many times over the years that he became known as Mr Fingerbobs. The series is still available on YouTube. His fame was such that when he walked into a pub with Dustin Hoffman, it was only Rick who was asked for an autograph.

He recorded two solo albums of original folk songs for Decca in the early 70s, “Twist You and Me” and “Haya Maya.” In the late 70s, he became keyboards player and lead vocalist, along with Willy Finlayson, of a much beloved country-rock band Meal Ticket. He also wrote most of the band’s songs with his writing partner Dave Pierce. The band released three albums, “Code of the Road” (1977), “Three Times a Day” (1977) and “Take Away” (1978).

I met Rick in the late 1970s. In February 1981, we left England for Los Angeles, where a musical written by Rick and Dave, “Captain Crash vs the Zorg Women, Chapters 5 and 6,” ran for six weeks in a small theater, with Rick playing one of the starring roles. When the show closed after its run, we stayed on, first in L.A., where we got married in 1986, then in the San Francisco Bay Area. We moved to Patagonia in January 2017, where we both felt we had found our real home.

He decided long ago that acting was no longer for him when he walked off a stage in L.A., an event that he has written about in a one-act play, “Let’s Pretend,” which Eva Wright is working on staging in Fort Collins in 2022. But he never stopped writing, playing music and painting. He bought me my first guitar in 2003, and we started to play and sing together. In 2008, we produced our first CD, “Life Drawing,” with eight songs written by Rick, three by me and one by Leonard Cohen!

In June 2021, when Rick was about to undergo cancer surgery, we set out to record some previously unrecorded songs that were dear to our hearts. He was not strong enough to go into a studio, so we recorded them at home, in increasingly difficult circumstances. Rick came through the surgery, but it turned out that the cancer had already spread. We sent the raw tracks to a recording engineer in California who mixed and mastered them. Rick recorded the last vocal on October 3, and we received that mix back on October 6. His daughters, Flea and Chrysta, arrived from England and we listened to the album together. Rick gave the project his thumbs up and died a few hours later in my arms, in the early hours of October 7, 2021.

He has three granddaughters in England, Jaime, Marnie and Aja. We will all miss him terribly.

Sonny McCuistion passed away peacefully in his sleep in hospice care in Patagonia.

He was born in Wimberley, TX to Beatrice George McCuistion and Neal Day McCuistion. After high school, he left for the navy and served during WWII. He returned and married Peg Orem McCuistion in 1949. He worked as a brand inspector for Southwest Cattle Raisers Association in Paris, TX before moving to Pasadena, TX to work for the Harris County Sheriff’s Dept. After his divorce from his first wife, he moved to Arizona where he remained for the rest of his life doing what he loved, cattle ranching. He loved his cattle, his horses and his dogs and he always took good care of his land.

He met his second wife, Ann (Nancy) Hunt McCuistion, in Southern Arizona. They were married for over 35 years. Sonny worked as a cowboy for the Vail family on the Empire Ranch and on their ranch on Santa Rosa Island in California. He also worked on the San Antonio Ranch in Patagonia, before taking on the job of ranch manager for Kerr McGee Mining in the Red Mountain area, eventually gaining ownership of some of the Kerr McGee land. He and Nancy named their ranch the Brush Hill Ranch.

“He was loved so dearly,” Chris Peterson, his close friend and fellow rancher, said. “He was one of the kindest, most passionate people I’ve ever known. He and JPS Brown were dear friends. They called themselves men ‘of a different breed.’ They were both true to their work and loved the lifestyle of a cattleman.” Sonny was a caring person. “He was a real gentleman,” Peterson said.

“Though in hospice for 4 1/2 years, it was often said he did more for the hospice group than they did for him!” Sonny is predeceased by his wife Nancy McCuistion; his parents; his Uncle Luis McCuistion, (Lizzie); his Aunt Maude McCuistion Hunt; and his cousin Pam Harris (Tim). He is survived by daughter, Lee McCuistion.

His ashes are interred next to his mother in the Wimberley Cemetery. Any donation in his name may be made to Chapel in the Hills, 14601 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley, TX 78676.

God Hears Cowboy Prayers

By Chris Peterson

There’s always a chance to pray
As one rides with the herd
Smiling at what the cows will say
As one listens for the words
In the silence of the ride
Grows the beauty of what he’s sown
Knowing God is at his side
Reaffirming what he’s known

Sitting in his saddle tall
Proud of the work he’d done
Letting out his cattle call
Now’s the time to have some fun
This cowboy rode his land
Till the time he was to rest
Then God held out his hand
For a cowboy who’s done his best
Students Treated to Opera House Mini-Concert

The Opera House hosted 6th and 7th grade music students from Patagonia School at a recent concert.

By Sarah Klingenstein

Christina Wilhelm, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA), was named a 2021 Santa Cruz Ambassador for the Arts in October at a ceremony held in Nogales. And she was right back to bringing music into the lives of local residents the following week, when she hosted the first of four mini-concerts for youth at the Opera House, which has been a dream of Wilhelm’s, at least ten years in the making.

The students of Scott Connuck’s 6th and 7th grade music class at Patagonia Middle School were treated to chamber music played by The Sky Islanders Piano Trio, who were preparing for a concert at the Benderly- Kendall Opera House on Oct. 31. They played Ludwig von Beethoven’s Piano Trio, Opus 1, Number 1, after introducing students to the instruments and the concept of chamber music as a conversation between the instruments. Evan Kory, piano; Emily Chao, violin; and Juan Mejia, cello, met four years ago while teaching a class about chamber music to adult musicians. They soon learned how much they enjoyed playing together and have been together since. Kory is well-known to local music fans, as a member of the SCFPA Board, former artist-in-residence, and frequent performer and accompanist at the Opera House. Chao and Mejia are this year’s artists-in-residence. All three hold doctoral degrees.

Both Wilhelm and Kory have been active in the arts this year. Kory has recently been appointed Director of Arts for Learning at the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s office.

Under a banner stating that “Art is the Highest Form of Hope,” Superintendent Alfredo Velaquez recognized October as Arts Month and honored Wilhelm, as well as almost a dozen other community members whose “contributions have had an extraordinary impact on the Arts throughout the County,” especially those whose work continued or even increased during the pandemic.

Wilhelm embodies the spirit of hope. When public events shut down due to COVID19, she searched for ways to continue bringing music into people’s lives, presenting live-stream concerts from the Opera House, and began an outdoor movement and music program called which she named Zoombachs. Knowing what a financial and emotional hardship the pandemic brought to musicians no longer able to perform, she urged local music lovers to continue to support their work through the Foundation.

On the way back to the Patagonia School’s campus after the concert, Connuck praised the musicians’ skills and said the students really enjoyed the performance.

“They played with such elegance and passion that one student remarked on the way back to campus, ‘I wish we could go back and see more concerts like that!’”

Red Mt. Foods Celebrates 40 Years in Business

By Patra Kelly and Marion Vendituoli

When Barry Muehe and Annie Sager came to Patagonia in 1981 to visit friends, they could not have known that they would end up spending the next 40 years owning and running the successful Red Mountain Foods Store. “We fell in ‘love at first sight’ with Patagonia and the local lifestyle,” Sager reminisced last year. “I was a craft fair artist, doing shows around the state, so I didn’t need a local job. I asked Barry, ‘Why are we leaving here?’ After several months the couple took over a food coop, launching their business on October 15, 1981, which they named Red Mountain Foods, in a small space on Naugle Ave.

“I became the bookkeeper and helper, continuing to travel and sell crafts. Mainly Barry worked the daily chores in the store. Slowly, people discovered our dedication to quality food at reasonable prices and our inventory grew,” Sager wrote. “Our cash register was an adding machine for many years. At first, we had to do $175 a day to pay our bills. Profit in the early years basically was eating well... We had no freezer and very little refrigerated space. Before we could meet any minimum orders for deliveries, for many years Barry and Frank Pole grew organic produce in a large garden at the Circle 2.”

“We would be there for 30 years, finally constructing our new store because the building was falling down around us, and our machines were very old. The health department was also changing their requirements and we didn’t own the building, so it was either invest in the landlord’s property, close or expand.”

The couple bought an empty lot on McKeeon Ave., with plans to build a new, larger store. They hired local architect Jeff Latham to design the building and set about to raise the funds needed for construction. “It was a huge investment of time, research, decision making, life savings and faith,” Sager wrote. “Angels watched over us.”

Plans were stalled, however, in 2008 when they were turned down for a loan, due to the crash in the real estate market. In 2011 they decided to go ahead with the construction, using their own savings.
A Veterans Day Story

By Marion Vendituoli

The Patagonia Mountains can boast of at least one Civil War veteran. Corporal William Moran, of the NY 134th Infantry, worked as a miner and prospector in and around Harshaw for at least 20 years. His government-issued gravestone can be found in the Harshaw South Cemetery on a hill overlooking what was once the bustling town of Harshaw. A decaying metal fence surrounds what looks to be his burial site, but it is not certain that he is buried there. His gravestone bears no birth or death dates. and if he is buried there. His gravestone...
LEG DAY

By Cassina Farley

As I sit here on this hard, wooden chair I have lots of regrets. I regret going to leg day at the gym. I regret agreeing to add lunges to my work out and I most certainly regret the 20 minutes on the stair climbing machine. The people that do this for fun are insane. I respectfully withdraw

LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Martin Levowitz

I don’t like being suspicious or mistrustful, but there’s a level of credulity which seems more appropriate to children than to adults. All that glitters is not gold - or manganese - we’re told; and it is so. When the nice, friendly man in the pretty blue car offers your seven-year-old candy, you need to be careful of strangers, instructing him to say no. If he does not give his name, and is unknown to you, he may not be genuine, of course. A billion is a million at least, to us. If you go up to the mine site on a tour, you’ll be impressed by how well-run it is. There’s nothing messy; nothing out of place. And, except for the somewhat trampled intersection of their drive-way with Mowry Road, and twice-daily parade of white trucks, you’d really never know that they were there - a large-scale industrial operation discreetly tucked away and out of sight, at least for now. Even their big parking lot in town, on Harshaw Road, with its large fleet of trucks, is much neater which makes it seem quite out of place in this small quirky town. Whether you trust the mines or not, one thing is sure. Their P.R. staff are geniuses; large ads in all the local rags, very human photos of working moms in hardhats, and reassuring messages to help us outgrow our mistrust. I genuinely hope that South32 sincerely means, as it proclaims, to breach the horrid history of mining everywhere - i.e., just taking what they want - Big Bucks - and then declaring bankruptcy or simply walking off the job, leaving an awful, toxic mess for you and me, the taxpayer, to fix. Some clever predatory bugs inject their eggs quite painlessly into a living host, where they will incubate for weeks or months. Then, later, when the larvae hatch, they eat their unsuspecting host alive from the inside. How impolite! A note to you, South32: Please play it straight and do what’s right, instead of emulating your greedy brethren of the oil industry, who rape the land and walk away, mumbling pious platitudes all the while.

Gracias

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.
Art Walk Returns to Patagonia

News Release

The 19th Annual Patagonia ART WALK will return the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 - 27, from 10 am until dusk. It will showcase work of 40 local artists from Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin.

Due to pandemic precautions, artists will display their work in open air “courtyards” created in existing vacant lots on McKeown Ave., the Patagonia Community Church (UMC), and the Patagonia Creative Arts Center (PCAC). (A big thank you to John Shelton and Ted Piper for donating use of their vacant lots on McKeown Avenue.)

Most Mainstreet businesses are participating. This year’s ART WALK includes amazing fiber artists, children’s art at Gathering Grounds, a Fine Arts Pavilion with oil paintings, watercolors, and more. Three additional Artisan Courtyards will showcase jewelry, acrylic paintings, photography and eclectic offerings. Find sculptures, ceramics, homegrown instruments, children’s art and more at PCAC. The Farmer’s Market will be on Friday only.

Don’t miss four special venues off main street. Look for local favorite potter Martha Kelly in the Tin Shed Theater courtyard, Judith H. Andrew’s artist studio at 305 Smelter Ave; Barbara Kuhns’ Textile Artists Courtyard on 3rd & Sonoita Ave; and a special exhibit of migrant children’s art incorporated into quilts in Cadly Hall (Patagonia Public Library) curated by VOICES from the Border.

Children’s Programs in the Doc Mock Memorial Gazebo include storytelling by Christine Schlenker, Music and Movement (singalong) with Kathi Gordon for “ littles” (and their grownups) and chalk art on the sidewalks. Coloring at the PCAC too.

Live music featured in the Central Park Gazebo includes participatory Drumming, and Americana Folk by Brett and Janet Dodd. The Hog Canyon Band will get you dancing on Saturday afternoon. Look for Maria-chis too!

This all-volunteer ART WALK is organized by Mary Sky Schoolcraft, who gratefully acknowledges the help of many people. Regina Medley, Martha Kelly and Cassina Farley for advising; Mary Tolena for the website, email, and coordinating the music; Keith Spooner for excellent graphic design; Gisa Kroeger, an invaluable help in contacting businesses and artists; Heather Dodge on admin and press, and Don Borham, who installed the banners at both entrances to town.

Come stretch your legs, walk off Thanksgiving dinner, and be nourished in body-mind-and-soul by the wonderful original, quirky, elegant, homegrown and heartfelt ART of our local talented artists.

Visit www.patagoniaARTWALK.com to read Artists’ bios, email patagoniaArtWalk@gmail.com if you have questions, ideas, suggestions, or if you want to volunteer.

Living in Gratitude

Given the chaos of the times, there is no other place nor any other group of people that I want to be with as we transition through these multiple crises. Our CommUNITY members living in Patagonia, Sonoita, and Elgin have every skill set needed to co-create a better world. This isn’t an easy process and it is important to hear each other’s perspectives so that we can:

REFLECT ON THE PAST TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT TO CREATE THE FUTURE for the GREATER GOOD and not for personal agendas

Rick Jones

I am devastated to learn that one of my oldest and dearest music associates, Rick Jones, has passed away in Patagonia. He was a brilliant lyricist, librettist, singer, composer, performer, poet, philosopher, philanthropist, and friend.

I was introduced to Rick by my publisher in London, England, in about 1970. I had arrived in London pretty much broke, wanting to continue my efforts as a composer. Rick and his lovely wife Min graciously opened their home to me, gave me lodging, fed me and put up with this Texan as a guest for a full month. It was the most magical of times.

Rick had meanwhile come up with the idea of ‘Play School,’ which would eventually make it to America and PBS. It started when he offered the idea to BBC, which immediately saw its brilliance and seized upon it, putting Rick in charge of developing the program and making him its host. We all watched in amazement as he grabbed his guitar, jumped in his car, and took off to the BBC studios each day, completely unprepared and unrehearsed, seemingly without an idea in the world what he was going to do before the camera and a live audience that day, and yet invariablyable to come up with a riveting live performance which over the years would delight kids around the world. Rick was a boundless source of energy, talent and information. He was always giving, never one to ask for anything.

I lost touch with Rick when he moved to California, stumbling upon him in Patagonia, Arizona, about five years ago, where he had resettled. He was eager to take on an idea for an animated film I had in mind. It was a wonderful rekindling of our former collaboration. More recently, he was in the process of putting together a last CD of his individual works with his second wife Val, a beautiful singer/songwriter, when he succumbed to the illness he had been battling.

To list Rick’s many accomplishments would be just another long list that touches upon the brilliance of that special, small handful of individuals who grace our world with the arts, falling short of what really mattered about him most, his huge and loving heart. I am honored to have been a friend, a partner in creating art with Rick. I will forever cherish our many endless fun email communications.

You’ll be sorely missed, dear Rick.

Rick Jones

Patagonia

Water

Our various uses of water for mining and food production cannot continue. The vast amounts of water being presently used for mining is rendered unfit for consumption by human, plant and animal. Compared to non-chemical growing methods, chemically treated earth used for conventional farming requires up to three times the water usage for food production. The land and water used for growing food for commercial feed lot animals exceeds the land used to feed humans. It takes 5,214 gallons of water to produce a single pound of commercial beef. Two-thirds of the grain grown in the US is used to feed livestock: Grass-fed cattle is a more reasonable use of marginal land.

I, like you, have an intimate relationship with water. In addition, my mental health is enhanced by seeing and hearing water flow while it brings life to birds, flowers, trees, and other wild-life. The depleting supply of water here in Patagonia can be seen in the dying century trees whose roots can no longer reach enough water to support their magnitude. Local wells are needing to be dug hundreds of feet deeper. Our streams have dried up.

Our problem with water is not the lack of water itself. It is the use of water which lacks human consciousness. We are not living without water.

David Krest

Patagonia

My Beautiful Canyon

By Leslie Schupp

I have been trying to write about my beautiful Flux Canyon, but it’s hard. Last month South 32 told Flux Canyon residents that they plan to run 80 trucks every day on our little dirt road, full of acid ore from their mine. I never thought it would happen to me. You hear about disasters, of course. Every day there are fires and tornados, hurricanes and earthquakes, people lose their homes and their lives. You feel sad for them, remotely, while feeling schadenfreude that it isn’t happening to you. I thought I had it all planned out. I would build my dream home of adobe and wood. It would be sustainable, in an out-of-the-way canyon of oak and mesquite. I would die someday in that home, happy that, like the Spider Tree who fell and shot her rhizomes into the earth for her surrounding oak children, I would have something worthwhile to leave behind me.

But life was happening while I was making other plans. Big Money was coming for us. Big Money doesn’t care about the people who live in this canyon, this town, Big Money doesn’t care that they will have to bulldoze down our red cliffs, the Skull Rock, the Lady, the Cochise Head, the CCC Bunkhouse, the Bobcat Cave, and the Mother Tree. We are in the way.

Could South 32 take their ore out of the mountains another way? Of course. They had 13 different options, including the disastrous Cross Creek exit. But now Flux Canyon is their preferred route because it will cost less money than any other way out.

There is no way out for us in the canyon. We will lose our homes and our property values. The Mother Tree will be murdered and, unlike the Spider Tree, she will not leave anything behind for her children. Neither will I.

Water

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David Krest

Patagonia
The Mayor and Council approved resolution 21-15, to accept an amended version of the One Arizona Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding, which allows the town to participate in a national settlement action that could bring the town money that would be used for drug education and related programs. The potential settlement would be $53-56,000.

Responding to a citizen question, Manager Robinson confirmed the existence of a declared opioid emergency and that that there had been opioid-related deaths in the town.

**October 27, 2021**

This meeting, was preceded by a meeting of the Planning and Development Committee (P&D) which was divided into a hearing for two use permits, then a closed Committee meeting which approved both permit applications for forwarding to the town for its final decision.

In the Town Council meeting, P&D presented its recommendations for the two use permits. The two permit approvals are approved by P&D, one for David King and Patty Barraza who requested a permit to hold a swap meet on their property at 132 Naugle Ave, and one for Kayla Lewis-Simpson and partners, for “The Queen of Cups,” a small-scale restaurant offering food and wine, as well as having a small-scale winemaking operation, in a tenant facility at the Doles/Wood warehouse were discussed in the Council meeting.

The swap meet proposal was questioned about the frequency of meet (monthly) and the possible problems with parking, as well as whether they’d allow sales of firearms and various food supplements and medicines. King said they would prohibit firearms sales, and he’d investigate regulations for supplements and medicines and follow them. The Queen of Cups partners were questioned about parking, as well as business hours. Both use permits were granted.

A joint Study Session with the Flood and Flow Committee was set up for Nov. 9 at 6 p.m., to continue the discussion of their draft ordinance which outlines the committee’s duties to the Council.

The interview process for a new Town Attorney/prosecutor is beginning, and interviews are scheduled for Nov. 1, in executive session.

Council and Mayor have scheduled Wednesday council meetings for both Nov. and Dec., condensing the normal two meetings a month, due to holidays. The dates are November 17 and December 15, both at 6 p.m.

The Town approved paying off the USDA Rural Development loan for water system improvements from 2014, improving the Town’s cash flow by $21,828 per year.

The new ordinance is not only a step in eliminating the litter that is polluting our town.

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.
Neighbors Engage

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

To sign up to receive electronic versions of our quarterly newsletter, Hermosa Project News, just email us at hermosacommunity@south32.net or text the word HERMOSA to 42828.

Our public tours remain suspended as a COVID-19 precaution, but we invite you to drop by our Patagonia office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a masked/outdoor visit with Hermosa President Pat Risner on the first Friday of any month.
Since reopening the doors at the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center (PYEC) in May, PYEC has been a hub for activities and events.

Upon receiving a grant from the Patagonia Regional Community Fdn., and working with Borderlands Restoration and Deep Dirt Farm, the Youth Center has built a vegetable garden in the front yard. Currently, there are lettuces, arugula, cabbage, sweet snap peas and carrots being grown in the freshly tilled dirt.

BECY interns from Borderlands installed a 2,500 gallon cistern (with funds from an anonymous donor). PYEC also installed gutters that collect rainwater and feed into the cistern, which is hooked up to the irrigation system in the garden. The produce harvested in the garden will be used in the Youth Center’s nightly dinners and shared with the families and community.

PYEC has also received donations for an additional scholarship program. The Pathways Scholarship is granted to youth who have participated in the Youth Center’s activities throughout high school. The scholarship will go to young adults who have completed their first year of higher education or trade school or are beginning their own business.

PYEC appreciates all the support received for these events and activities.

November Calendar of ‘Big Read’ Events
More Events will be Listed in the Dec. issue of the PRT

November 5: 6:00p.m.  Art Opening and Photography Exhibit with Kayla Lewis-simpson and Gooch Godwin  - At the Patagonia Museum

This will be a three-week exhibition held at The Patagonia Museum and will be open for public viewing during museum open hours.

November 9: 10:00a.m.  StoryWalk and Book Discussion for Elementary Students: Fry Bread - At the 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.

November 10: 6:30 pm – 7:30p.m.  Our River Stories: The Gila and the Salt - At Patagonia Public Library

Join Zarco Guerrero for a series of stories that share the vibrant and tragic history of water and the River People, over a 2,000-year period.

November 13: 7:00p.m  Author Reading and Discussion with Brian Jabas Smith - At 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.

November 17: 4:00p.m.  Book Discussion: “Crazy Brave” At Patagonia Library

November 20: 7:00p.m.  Music and Storytelling with Randy Granger - At Tin Shed Theater

Native American flute player and storyteller, Randy Granger, will present a program of flute music and storytelling.

December 3: 6p.m.  Indigenous Film Series “Rumble, The Indians Who Rocked the World” - At Tin Shed Theater

Contributed Photo

Caleb Weaver, of Borderlands Restoration, supervises the planting of a new vegetable garden at the Youth Center.
Children’s ‘Welcome’ Quilt Exhibit Coming to Cady Hall
By India Aubry

Many in the community may remember the ‘Leaving Home: Migration Through the Eyes of Children’ event sponsored by Voices from the Border in March 2020. The centerpiece of the ten-day series of events was an exhibit in Cady Hall called “The Art of Asylum,” featuring the artwork of children of asylum seekers staying at Casa Alitas Welcome Center in Tucson. The artwork, created both on paper and fabric, was collected over a period of months by then arts and activities director, Valarie Lee James, and ultimately curated into the exhibit.

Drawings on fabric were sewn into original quilts by Oracle’s Esperanza Quilters for the exhibit. Gale Hall, one of the quilters, as well as an early childhood educator, developed a curriculum that centered around lessons in empathy and belonging to enhance the exhibit.

Patagonia became the pilot program that paired the curriculum with the viewing of the exhibit by 100 local children aged 4-18. As part of the curriculum, Hall invited the children to create messages of welcome on fabric squares. Using their artwork, Hall assembled eight beautiful ‘Welcome’ Quilts intended to be returned to Patagonia so the children could decide on their placement for long-term display.

The quilts will be exhibited at Cady Hall during the Patagonia Art Walk on November 26 – 27 (10-4), where local students, their families and the public can see some of the fruits of this project.

A quilt is an apt symbol for what the project represents, having historically been used as a way of storytelling that holds love and memories, provides physical comfort and represents stability and family or community. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a representation of cultural identity and faith, rich in maternal symbolism, also appears on each quilt to invite people from Mexico and Central America to see these messages of welcome intended for them. Voices from the Border, in partnership with Gale Hall, is excited to present these works of art to the community along with quilts from the original exhibit. We hope to see you there.

MURAL (cont.)

downtown Nogales was completed in June. When I learned about Isaac’s “Sam and Sara” project I immediately thought it would be wonderful to have a mural in all of the different areas of the county. We are very grateful to the Patagonia Market for donating a space for this new vibrant mural. The colors are colorful, and I hope the community enjoys it!”

After just ten hours of work, Caruso completed his mural and spent a night camping at Patagonia Lake with his Bull Terrier, Gustavo. Then he headed off to continue his paid work and to fit in “Sam and Sara” murals where he can.

He has more walls lined up but is looking for additional sites to complete the book. All he requires is a wall in the public view with a large landscape-oriented (wider than tall) space and permission to paint. He’s open to having more than one “Sam and Sara” mural in a given locale. Anyone interested in hosting Caruso’s work can contact him at www.samandsara.org.

The book will be published in “its own time,” according to Caruso. When it becomes available, he hopes that people will go on a “mural hunt” and end up discovering new places around Arizona, spend a little time there, maybe buying lunch or visiting local shops.

Elgin Artist Carries on Old Tradition
By Pat McNamara

After forty-five years in the corporate world as a program manager, taking her from the east coast, to Colorado then to Mesa, Arizona, Massachusetts native Linda Borbone Anderson has found her “little bit of heaven” in Elgin.

Retirement in Elgin has afforded her an opportunity to pursue her passion for horses and given her the time and inspiration to hone her talents as a stained glass artist.

Anderson’s stained glass skills were developed while in Colorado as a way to decorate her Victorian home she and her husband, Jewell, owned there. After just one class, she was off and running, even eventually teaching a few classes in this intricate art. She also undertook commissions from organizations and private individuals for her work. Now, mostly working on pieces for gifts or donations, Anderson enjoys the freedom to express her artistry at her leisure.

When not creating her colorful and detailed works at her in-home studio, Anderson finds time to explore the grasslands and mountains on one of her two horses as well as helping her husband finish their home they started in 2017.

Anderson will have a booth at the Christmas in Elgin event at the Elgin Community Club, Dec. 4, as well as the Christmas Celebration at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Dec. 11. There the public will have an opportunity to meet her and view her works she has available for purchase.

Patagonia Receives ARP Funds
By Kat Crockett

The September PRT reported on how the American Rescue Plan funds were benefiting local schools and communities. Patagonia Town Manager Ron Robinson recently provided the following update for the Town. Patagonia was allocated $291,000 in relief funds. The first half was received this summer and has been placed in a reserve account. The second half will be received in August 2022.

According to Robinson, the town is looking to use the funds to repair the town’s water main and upgrade water lines.
HALLOWEEN (cont.)

Patagonia Trunk or Treat
A fun evening was had by all at the annual Halloween Trunk or Trunk event held in and along Doc Mock Park. Festively decorated parked cars lined up along the edge of the park offering candy and games to the trick or treaters passing by.

Inside the park near the gazebo, the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center set up a table with hot dogs along with a pumpkin decorating station for the kids.

Some of the costumes included aliens, lizards, witches, a fully lit up robot, and a giant taco. Even Mrs. Claus made an appearance handing out candy canes “to all the little good boys.”

Local businesses also took part in the event. South32 handed out goody bags, while the Patagonia Market was a favorite with kids, as they were offering regular sized candy bars. The event was well attended and has become a Halloween tradition in Patagonia over the past five years.
Red Dots Near Us

By Robert Gay

The multinational season of the dead is underway, a traditional time of honoring those who have gone before us. The All-Souls’ Procession in Tucson always includes honoring the crossing of migrants from life to death, after they’ve crossed a border from one nation to another.

Red dots have been getting placed for years to mark the deaths of migrants in Arizona, first on maps, and then on artist Álvaro Enciso’s hand-grants in Arizona, first on maps, and – nation to another.

they’ve crossed a border from one of migrants from life to death, after us. The All-Souls’ Procession in Tucson honoring those who have gone before dead is underway, a traditional time of in San Rafael Valley. GPS location of versions of his crosses, as wall pieces, PRT. Enciso has also made smaller Sonoita, as reported in the April 2020 wreck, was placed along SR 82 east of crosses is a remembrance making and placing - or southern Mexico.

The first placement site was on a slope below Parker Canyon Lake, an open, treeless spot beyond a cattle tank. It was for a 45-year-old man named Jose Carrasco Popocatl, discov- ered in August of last year, cause of death being “probable hyperthermia,” i.e., heat exhaustion. The remains had been found within about a day and were not decomposed. His surname comes from the Nahua language, almost certainly placing his origin in central or southern Mexico.

The second site was about a half mile north of the border, west of Lochiel. This was a replacement for an original cross that had fallen and separated. Because of recent erosion, the new cross was placed a bit further from the stream bank. This cross was for 33-year-old Jose Adrian Montenegro-Mendez, who’d been shot in the leg and was assumed to have bled to death on the spot. Enciso was not dismayed at the damage to his original cross – “if the cows don’t ‘knock ‘em over – you know they love to scratch on things’ – then the termites will chew the base.”

Enciso prefers to not be called an activist but sees himself as an artist and human being, an individual reacting viscerally to these unacknowl- edged deaths, driven home even further by his first direct encounter with a body in the desert. At 75, he knows he will not finish commemorat- ing every red dot in his lifetime, but still feels called to continue. Checking off every possible site is not his goal; nor is organization-building. Instead, making and placing crosses is a remembrance process for him, each step honoring the life of the one who passed. Asked if he’d transition the work to a successor, he said “no,” that the project should evolve according to the vision of the person doing it.

Over the last several years, the migrant death toll and Enciso’s work have both been reported on by national and international media. Broadening awareness is the real goal of the work, and he appreciates the media who’ve contacted him. For us in Santa Cruz County, the red-dot death maps make the invisible deaths visible. Enciso’s project makes it vividly clear that we move around in a growing, yet highly scattered 1238-square mile graveyard.

Volunteer Terry Stanford places rocks around the base of a cross in the San Rafael Valley.

Photo by Robert Gay

By Harold Meckler

The one constant throughout the ages has been our desire to make sense of, and exert as much control as possible over, the inherent chaos. Laws, religions, customs, and routines have been created to provide form where none existed before. We have learned to trust that each season of the year will deliver its regular sign-post. Holidays and special events are engraved into our psyche from a young age. Like every child who knows that breakfast will follow each day’s awaken- ing, we find solace in knowing what to expect throughout the cycle of life. Of course, there is no absolute control. On a sparkling clear night recently, I looked through my telescope at Jupiter, well up in the southern sky. As I’ve seen during numerous other observations, the giant planet’s Galilean moons - Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto - were extended diagonally from it, just as Galileo must have initially seen them four centuries ago. And, I thought to myself, somehow, in the chaos that flowed from the Big Bang to the formation of our galaxy, to the birth of the sun, and to the structuring of the solar system, it all led to the whims of planetary gravity that gave rise to the way the moons were appearing in my view finder. And yet, I just had to put order into what it was I was seeing. I guess it’s just the way our brains work. Organizing drives understanding and comprehension. I get it. Certainly, in our daily lives, it’s a necessity. And, in the sky? Well, we have star charts and catalogs of every known object. We know their locations, their orbits and their approximate life spans. We have names and definitions, and descriptions of countless types of stars and galaxies and radio sources. From the beginning of mankind, people have drawn lines between totally disparate things to give us a full complement of constellations that have assisted seafaring navigators and delighted every finder of the Big Dipper.

We also have discovered the laws of nature, of physics, that existed well before we evolved on our tiny planet. Even in the apparent chaos, we know that subatomic particles have distinct characteristics, and are the building blocks to everything there is. This month, in the northwestern sky, three bright stars - Deneb, Lyra and Altair - form the summer triangle. They belong to three different constel- lations. Organizing and categorizing to the max! Now, with a good set of bin- oculars, look about midway between Lyra, to the north, and Altair, to the west. You’ll find a grouping of dimmer stars that looks like a coat hanger. Again, these stars have nothing in common, but from our viewpoint they have taken the shape of a very familiar object.

But, going back to that night when I was looking at Jupiter, I began thinking about chaos and form and patterns. What is true for the biggest planet in our solar system is true for every- thing in the sky. With all the laws that govern so much, it is still pure chance - chaos - that gives us four and not five Galilean moons. It’s still chance that gives us a coat hanger, a summer trian- gle, and dozens of constellations.

We can’t improve upon it. We can’t mess it up like we’ve done with our climate. There is a perfection in the chaos of the universe. We can try to make sense of it, but in the end all of our efforts to organize the chaos cannot hide the fact that it is still chaotic. I watched and listened to William Shatner describe his feelings after his brief flight to space last month. He seemed most struck by the thin line between the darkness and lifelessness he’d just flown to and the illuminat- ed, life-preserving atmosphere just below him.

Thankfully, we have no responsi- bility or control for the chaos and chance of space. There’s much peace in that. But here, on Earth, we are fully respon- sible. Let’s use all the tools we’ve created to bring structure and order into our lives to also repair the climate damage we’ve done to what was, before we began degrading it, the perfec- tion of the same natural laws - indeed, the chaos - that is the universe.
Sky Island Shams

Perhaps the mysterious and ever-novel realm we dub “nature” holds no more magical aspect than that of mimicry. Select species have evolved various aspects that imitate looks, sounds, or behaviors found in their environments. We often call the most common form of mimicry “camouflage.” When an animal matches some aspect of its physical environment, such as a soil color, rock texture or a plant background we tend not to think of it as overt mimicry. We generally reserve that distinction for animal species that imitate other animals. This is understandable, as looking like one’s background is common. Still, we find many fascinating local examples of such “static or environmental mimicry.”

Witness a western screech owl stretched upwards near the trunk of a tree. It appears like one more broken branch top. Accentuating the russet are the so-called ear tufts of the owl, which are, in reality, mere points of feathers that look like a jagged branch end.

Two many species to recount here mirror their environments in an effort to eat and yet not be eaten. Snakes that look like rocks, lizards that match a bark background, poor wills - birds that when perched on the ground look like a pile of dung. The list goes on...

The richest place to troll for local mimics is in the invertebrate world. Hardly a day goes by when I fail to encounter a Sky Island invertebrate mimic, Monarch butterflies and their close cousins, queens, are both toxic and are quite similar in appearance, rendering them Mullerian mimics - “two or more well-defended species, often foul-tasting and that share common predators, have come to mimic each other’s honest warning signals, to their mutual benefit.” If a predator tries to eat one species it will likely avoid consuming the other species as well in the future. Birds, lizards, and other would-be predators swiftly become neurally imprinted with the toxicity of such species.

Velvet ants are, despite their name, wingless wasps, the females of which pack a potent sting. They serve as a template for many an invertebrate mimic hoping to come across as a painful meal. Some spiders, including the animated jumping spiders, which have their own venomous bite, have evolved to look and act like a velvet ant. Their combination of a black and red dorsal pattern and jerky movements apparently is enough to fool most predators. Even one fly species gets in on the act, sporting the same color combo, as well as the hesitant movements of the real deal. All are cases of Batesian mimicry - “a form of mimicry where a harmless species has evolved to imitate the warning signals of a harmful species directed at a predator of them both.” The bottom line? Live to eat and mate another day.

Among my favorite local fakes is the zone-tailed hawk. This large buteo plies our skies looking like a slightly downsized turkey vulture, which poses little or no threat to healthy prey. Thus, the black and gray plumage of the zone-tailed hawk and its vulture-like flight lull prey into thinking “the coast is clear”, sometimes resulting in a fatal error in judgement. A classic case of aggressive mimicry “where a predator or parasite mimics a harmless species, avoiding detection and improving its foraging success.”

A strange case of auditory mimicry comes from our local burrowing owls. The chicks of this species are small and quite vulnerable to predation in their ground dens. When alarmed, however, they do an unnerving imitation of a western diamondback rattles! Case like closed; look elsewhere for a meal! Why do birds mimic each other’s songs/calls, as well as environmental sounds? Greater roadrunners occasionally do a call that is very similar to that of a Cooper’s hawk - an emphatic “kek-kek-kek-kek”. As the hawks are a key local predator of roadrunners, are these strange cuckoos aping their sounds in an attempt to dissuade dangerous aerial predators from setting up shop in the roadrunner’s backyard? Similarly, Steller’s jays in our mountains do convincing imitations of both hawk and owl vocalizations.

We end with mimicking, well, “the end” itself. Several Sky Island denizens have evolved to mimic or feign death. Famously, our Virginia opossum when pressed by a would-be predator sometimes flops on the ground, ceases movement, allows its tongue to loll out of its mouth, and may emit a foul smell from its anal scent glands. As many predators have evolved to hunt active prey, the lack of signals required to incite an attack may well save this marsupial’s life. Western hog-nosed snakes and Ring-necked snakes employ a death stupor as well. It seems that simply “being yourself” is not enough for some species. Next time you go for a stroll outside look for these dupes, as nature’s astounding “con men” abound!

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

Several animals mimic the velvet ant’s coloring and jerky movement.
Home on the Range in Patagonia

By Pat McNamara

The American Bison is an iconic image of the early west. Native Americans depended on these massive and unpredictable bovines for their meat, their hides for their clothing and shelter, bones for weapons and tools, sinew for thread and bow strings, hair for pillows, ribs for sleds and the hooves for ra...
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

Fish Canyon lies just north of, and runs parallel to, Gardner Canyon. Vehicular access is via Gardner Canyon Rd. Familiar landmarks along Fish Canyon Rd. include Santa Rita Abbey and Kentucky Camp. The canyon bears the name of Edward Nye Fish, a southern Arizona entrepreneur and businessman who arrived in Arizona Territory in 1865.

Edward Nye (E.N.) Fish was born in Barnstable, Massachusetts August 12, 1827. Trained as a wheelwright and tinsmith, he responded to the lure of the California Gold Rush, not in search of gold, but rather to make his fortune through business ventures in support of the growing population and economy. Fish and partners arrived in San Francisco via ship in 1849 with “frame houses cut and ready to assemble. There was plenty of money, but housing was nonexistent. The men purchased lots on Mason Street at the corner of Market and assembled their houses. While still under construction, the houses were sold for a fabulous sum.” [Lyons, Bettina. A History of the Edward Nye Fish House and Edward Nye Fish Family. Tucson: Tucson Museum of Art, June 1980: 9].

Between 1849 and 1865 Fish owned and operated hardware stores in Sacramento, on the American River, and in San Francisco. He married Barbara Jamison in 1861 and they had two children: Jane Elizabeth and Edward Nye Jr.

Fish arrived in Tucson in 1865 and was first associated with the firm of Garrison and Fish, post traders in Calabasas. He next partnered with a San Francisco associate, Simon Silverberg, to establish the E.N. Fish & Co. store in Tucson. He built a fine home for his family in the center of Tucson. His wife Barbara lived only a few years in Tucson before returning to San Francisco where she died in 1872 of tuberculosis. In 1874 Fish married Maria Wakefield, the first public school teacher in Tucson; Maria was born in Bombay, New York on February 9, 1845. The couple had four children: Franklin, Clara, Emma, and Florence. [Lyons: 12].

Throughout his life Fish was involved in many business enterprises and made and lost several fortunes. He often provided the financing and left the operational details to others. For example, his brother-in-law, William Wakefield, proved up the 160-acre homestead that Walter Vail and Herbert Hislop purchased in 1876 to establish the Empire Ranch. In June 1876 Wakefield sold the land for $500 to Fish and Silverberg who in turn sold it to Vail & Hislop for $2,000.

Fish owned a sawmill in the Santa Rita Mountains, and hired others to run it and supply lumber for sale at E.N. Fish & Co. He later sold the sawmill to Thomas Gardner and partnered with Gardner to raise horses. Fish eventually purchased is own horse ranch in Fish Canyon where, according to his granddaughter Virginia Flaccus, “he took on a herd of wild horses. They were beautiful animals. I think they were the remains of the Spanish herd that was brought over here, because, really, they looked like Arabian stock.” [Flaccus, Virginia, Oral history, Empire Ranch Foundation, July 3, 2002:4].

Maria Wakefield Fish, age 64, died on September 22, 1909. Edward Nye Fish, age 87, died at his home in Tucson on December 18, 1914. The home still stands and is part of the Tucson Museum of Art complex at 140 N. Main Street.
Prairie Dogs Trapped, Counted, Chipped in Sonoita

By Cami Schlappy

One hundred twenty-three black-tailed prairie dogs (Cynomys ludovicianus) were trapped and evaluated during the 2021 Arizona Game and Fish Department’s (AZGF) Fall Prairie Dog Census which took place Sept. 17, 18, and 19 at four locations in the Sonoita area.

This annual event helps monitor the re-introduction of the species into its historic natural habitat. Black-tailed prairie dogs were once widely distributed over western North America. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, they were seen as pests, and control programs were put into action. Over the last century, their distribution within their range has dwindled to 2% of what it had been. By 1960, the species was extirpated in Arizona.

Later research found that the black-tailed prairie dog was a keystone species in grassland environments. It provided a unique, significant service, disproportionate to its numbers that no other species could fill in the absence of the prairie dogs. It was found that many different species relied on prairie dogs. According to AZGF, “Many species utilize prairie dog burrows such as burrowing owls, black-footed ferrets, swift foxes and rattlesnakes. Prairie dogs are a common prey for ravens, coyotes, and badgers, and they are the primary diet for black-footed ferrets. When prairie dogs are removed from the landscape, many of these animals decline as well.”

Research also established that there were at least five major benefits to prairie dogs’ presence. They provided rich soil which produced rich vegetation for grazers. Their excavated burrows provided dwellings for other animals, such as burrowing owls. Prairie dogs served as a food source for many carnivores and predatory birds. The maintenance of their colonies prevented woody encroachment, adding to biodiversity, and created natural fire breaks.

Reintroduction efforts were instituted in 2008 on the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (Las Cienegas). A reintroduction site in Road Canyon was chosen based on factors such as historic locations, grass cover, forb cover, bare ground, lack of visual obstruction, shrub density, tree density, gravel, sand, silt/clay, grass species richness, and distance from private property. Invasive mesquite trees were removed, the grass was mowed, and 25 artificial burrows were installed to give the new arrivals a head start. In October of that year, 74 prairie dogs were trapped at the Ladder Ranch in New Mexico and released at the reintroduction site. “Since then, additional translocations in 2009 and 2010 have occurred to create two additional black-tailed prairie colonies at Las Cienegas,” according to AZGF. Additionally, in 2017, a colony was established on Pima County land at Sands Ranch. The local prairie dog population is now estimated conservatively to be between 200 – 250 animals.

Annual censuses allow researchers to monitor black-tailed prairie dog populations. Humane wire cage traps are set. Once the animal is inside the closed trap, AZGF personnel and volunteers move the trap to a processing location slightly away from the colony. There the animal is weighed, key measurements taken (i.e. body length, tail length, ear size, hind foot length), and gender and age class are established. Individuals are scanned to see if they have a microchip from a previous census. Those without one are given a microchip. Individuals are marked with a black dye on the rump so that researchers have a visual indicator of which prairie dogs have already been assessed. The animal is quickly returned to the same burrow location from which it came.

AZGF biologists analyze the data collected at the trapping. This year’s trend showed that productivity was low due to last year’s dryness and this year’s low rain fall in winter and spring. However, some pups did survive. The forecast for this coming year is that current colony residents will go into the winter well fed, leading to a larger crop of pups in the spring.

Volunteers interested in helping AZGF conduct the Fall 2022 census are welcome to participate. Check for details at https://volunteer.azgfd.gov/. People from around the state traveled to the Las Cienegas to be a part of the activities this past Sept. Volunteers aid in nearly every aspect of the census and walk away with a new insight on the prairie dog program.

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November 13: 7p.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. Books will be available for purchase and signing. www.briansmithwriter.com FREE. Donations Accepted.

November 20: 7p.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 intertwining 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.randycranger.net FREE. Donations Accepted

December 3: 6 - 7:30p.m. NEA Big Read Indigenous Film Series: “RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World” This revelatory documentary brings to light the profound and overlooked influence of Indigenous people on popular music in North America. Focusing on music icons like Link Wray, Jimi Hendrix, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Taboo (The Black Eyed Peas), Charley Patton, Mildred Bailey, Jesse Ed Davis, Robbie Robertson, and Randy Castillo, shows how these pioneering Native American musicians helped shape the soundtracks of our lives. All ages welcome. FREE. Donations Accepted

December 10: 6p.m. A Celtic Winter Live Concert The Celtic/Folk/World music duo Four Shillings Short present a special Celtic Winter Concert featuring music, poetry, folklore and stories from the Celtic Lands in celebration of the Winter Season. Doors open at 5:30 $10 per person

*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.patagoniacreativearts.org or 394-9369 for more information.

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**December 4th - 4:00pm**

**Christmas in Elgin**

A Fine Arts and Crafts Festival
Come spend some time in beautiful Sonoita & Elgin
Great artisans and wonderful gifts for your Holiday Giving!

**Saturday, December 4th • 10:00am - 4:00pm**

The Elgin Community Club is filling their clubhouse with festive decorations, seasonal music, raffles and unique gifts. No lunch will be served.

Elgin Community Club • 475 Elgin Road, Elgin
From I-10 take Hwy 83 south through Sonoita, turn left on Elgin Road, go past Elgin school and follow road to Elgin. From Whetstone area take Elgin Road south off Highway 82 to Elgin CC at top of the hill.

Christmas in Elgin, a fine Arts and Crafts Holiday Festival takes place on Dec. 4 from 10a.m. to 4p.m. at The Historical Elgin Community Club, 475 Elgin Road. Many local vendors will have beautiful gifts for sale. There will be a raffle, music, and a roaring fire in the fireplace. Come join us for a great holiday start.

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**Fall Gardening Do’s and Don’ts**

By Mary McKay

Fall is my favorite time of year. A time to hopefully rest and reset from the summer garden chores. But one chore left undone is raking and bagging fallen leaves. Are you a leaf raker, bagger and tosser? Don’t do that! Resist the urge to clear out and clean up all dead plant debris including leaves from your yards and gardens. I know, it’s going to look messy, right? But if you really want a sustainable, healthy landscape and garden, you need to let nature take its course. By leaving dead debris and fallen leaves in your garden beds and tree wells, you are providing habitat for beneficial insects, fungi and other microbes in the soil. All of this lovely organic material will insulate the roots of your plants from the winter cold and hold in the soil moisture. At my house, we rake up our leaves and let the kiddo jump and play in them. Then after they have broken up a bit, I use the leaves to mulch my trees wells, vegetable and flower beds. Composted leaves, also known as leaf mold, is what you’ll end up with after a few months. Leaf mold is transformative for hard and compacted garden soil. This is such a great, free resource. Even if you don’t break them up in some way, please spread leaves about your yard and garden beds anyway. A sprink with the hose will help hold them in place.

Don’t toss out your leaves or other beneficial garden debris. Do dispose or burn any dead debris or leaves if you’ve had a known pathogen in those plants.

Don’t chop down or pull every dead plant after the first killing frost. Leave those that have dried seed heads as a food source for birds or serve as habitat or visual winter interest. If you must cut them back, lay them on the ground around the bases of trees or shrubs as mulch and habitat.

Do collect and store dried seeds to replant in spring.

Do get a head start on your spring garden. Weed your future garden beds as much as you can, add compost and manures, top off with leaves or other mulch at a depth of 4 to 6 inches, then let the mulch and soil amendments settle over the winter. You will be glad to not have to work as hard digging very hard and dry soil come spring.

Do bring in your frost sensitive tender plants and try them as a houseplant in a sunny window sill. Experiment with any annual. You never know what you can get to survive and actually thrive indoors. I am trying coleus as a houseplant this winter.

What to plant now: Edibles: Lettuce, spinach, chard, arugula, mustards, cilantro, parsley, garlic, onions (by seed). Growing under some type of light penetrating crop cover or cold frame will help increase yields as night temperatures begin to drop below freezing.

In your landscape: spring blooming bulbs, perennial plants or shrubs, potted trees or shrubs. Broadcast wildflower seeds that flower in spring or summer. The seeds will sprout during fall and overwinter (in your lovely leaf covered, insulated flower bed) and begin rapidly growing in spring.

Follow me @patagoniaplants on Facebook and Instagram and message me with questions or comments. Or email me at kmckmckay810@gmail.com.

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**The Lending Shed**

a non-profit community project by Family Health Care Amigos

Provides wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, shower benches, mobile commodes and much more, free of charge to residents of Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita.

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**LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!**
Lobo player Santiny Aguilar fights for the ball at the homecoming soccer game against Benson on October 25. Patagonia was ahead at the end of the first half, but ultimately fell to Benson, 5-1. “We fought really hard,” Coach Caleb Weaver said. “Winning the first half was a big milestone for us. I’m just really impressed with how the players handled adversity this season and the amount of growth that I, as the coach, witnessed since the start of the season.”
**EVENTS**

Nov. 5: COVID Vaccines at Sonoita Fairgrounds 9-4:30p.m. No appt. needed. All vaccines available. Bring ID and vaccine card.

Nov. 5: NEA Art Opening and Photography Exhibit 6p.m. at the Patagonia Museum

Nov. 6: Pre-Veterans Day Clean Up Meet Sat. at 8a.m. To help clean up gravesites of Veterans. Patagonia Cemetery. Contact Murphy for more info 520-604-7673.

Nov. 6-7: Annual Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival 10a.m.-4p.m. at the Empire Ranch Headquarters, Sonoita. Contact Murphy for more info 520-261-5390.


Nov. 9: NEA Story Walk and Book discussion, 10a.m. Fry bread. In Town Park, Patagonia.

Nov. 10: Veterans Day Celebration 9a.m. Open to the public. At Elgin School.

Nov. 10: NEA Our River Stories: The Gila and the Salt. 6:30p.m. Patagonia Library.

Nov. 13: Rabies Clinic 1p.m.-3p.m. At the Fairgrounds

Nov. 17: Book Discussion: “Crazy Brave” 4p.m. at the Patagonia Library.

Nov. 17: Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway 9a.m. At the Food Bank 222 Third Ave N. Patagonia. First come, first serve.

Nov. 20: Music and Storytelling with Randy Granger 7p.m. Tin Shed Theater.

Nov. 26-27: The Patagonia Art Walk: Sat. 10a.m.-5p.m., Sun. 10a.m.-4p.m. Located in various areas throughout downtown Patagonia. www.patagoniaartwalk.com

Nov. 26-27: Voices From the Border Quilt Exhibit. 10a.m.-4p.m. Cady Hall

Nov. 28: Ryan Chen-Classical Guitarist: 3p.m. Benderly Hall Kendall Opera House-SCCPA

Dec. 3: Indigenous Film Series "Rumble, The Indians Who Rocked the World" 6p.m. Tin Shed Theater

Dec. 4: Christmas In Elgin: 10a.m.-4p.m. Fine Arts and Crafts Holiday event at the Elgin Community Club. Call 520-559-4835 for more info.

Dec. 4: SCCFRA Membership Dinner: 6-7p.m. at the Fairgrounds Sonora Hills Community Church


**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.


Santa Cruz County Native Plant Society (SCCPNPS) Meetings held on the third Thurs. of the month. 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m. Meeting ID is: 874 9175 9629. Questions contact int60@gmail.com

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

Patagonia Farmers Market: Wednesdays Summer hrs 7:30a.m. -12p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods.

Nogales Little Mercado: Fridays 4-7p.m. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. email cdavid@mariposachc.net for more info.

Flea Market at Heart of Gold Antiques: First Sat. of every month. 10a.m. - 2p.m. Free to set up. Call 520-394-0199 for any additional information. Open from Tues.-Sat.:10 - 6p.m.

Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop: New location: 22 Los Encinos Rd., Patagonia

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

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

**SPECIAL INTERESTS**

Sonoita Produce on Wheels: 3rd Sat. of the month. 8-11a.m. VINE Church. Contact Gardena for more info 602-292-1616.

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

**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: Nov. 17 6p.m. in Town Council Room. Public invited. CDC Guidelines will be followed.

Rotary Club: 2nd & 4th Thurs. 5:30p.m. has moved online. Info: Sue 520-990-4648.

Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors: 2nd Mon. 3p.m. at the Senior Center.

The Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30p.m. every 1st 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.asantacruzdemocrats.org/meetings

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

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

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Canelo Cowboy Church 14 McCarty 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 KUPU 100.5 as well. Several other services are being offered throughout the week. Call/email church office for info. 520-394-2274 patagoniaumc@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

St. Andrews Episcopal Church 969 W. County Club Rd. 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.

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KPUP Broadcast Schedule -

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

Daily Shows: Swing Hour: 5:00pm to 6:00pm / Best of the Oldies: 1:00pm to 2:00am/ Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8 am., 12pm and 6pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm, Sun. at 8am / Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.
PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
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