Hermosa Project Pre-Feasibility Report Released

By Kat Crockett

On January 17, 2022, South32 announced the completion of the Prefeasibility Study (PFS) on the Taylor deposit, one of several exploration deposits on their privately owned land in the Patagonia Mountains collectively known as the Hermosa Project. The PFS is an early-stage analysis of a potential mining project, designed to give company stakeholders the basic information they need before deciding to invest in a project.

As the Hermosa Project design continues to develop, the timeframes, plans, and processes are subject to change depending upon the complexity, public, capacity, and other factors outside of the mine’s control, according to Pat Risner, Hermosa Project President, in an interview with the PRT on January 18, 2022. During the next phase of the studies, the mine will generate a full picture of what the mining and processing operations will look like at Hermosa. According to Risner, they intend to engage the community for feedback on their intended approach to minimize impacts.

PFS STUDY RESULTS

The study estimates yearly average production of 111,000 tons of zinc, 138,000 tons of lead, and 7.3 million ounces of silver, with a resource life of 22 years, a capital expenditure of $1.23 billion in direct costs and $470 million in indirect cost to develop the Taylor deposit. The study suggests the deposit could be potentially developed as a large scale, highly productive orebody dewatering, beginning the second half of this year.

South32 expects to complete a full feasibility study in mid-2023 before making a final investment decision outside of the mine’s control, according to Pat Risner, Hermosa Project President, in an interview with the PRT on January 18, 2022. During the next phase of the studies, the mine will generate a full picture of what the mining and processing operations will look like at Hermosa. According to Risner, they intend to engage the community for feedback on their intended approach to minimize impacts.

NEXT STEPS

Risner identifies the next step as the construction and installation of infrastructure to support additional orebody dewatering, beginning the second half of this year.

Donor Gifts Building to PCAA

By Dottie Farrar

Molly Phinny, who has owned the Patagonia Community Arts Center building at 304 Naugle Ave. since the 1990s, recently gifted the home of the Arts Center to the Patagonia Community Arts Association, a nonprofit organization which she founded with her friend Gail Jacobson in 1999.

Phinny, who at that time was living in Michigan, spent a week at the Circle Z Ranch and fell in love with the Patagonia area. She decided to live part-time in Patagonia and combine her passion for volunteerism and the arts, founding the Patagonia Community Arts Association (PCAA) to provide classes, workshops and open studios for children and adults, with a focus on children.

The Naugle Ave. building she bought to house the new PCAA was originally the East Side Garage, a gas station, back in the early 1900s. Over the years, the building has been used as a beauty salon and a bank. During its time as a bank, “burglar proof” windows and doors were installed. According to Director Cassina Farley, a few years ago a wannabe thief tried to break in, using every tool and device he could find to break down the door. He failed, leaving behind a pile of useless tools and trash.

The Arts Center is centrally located and spacious. In addition to the studio spaces, the Tin Shed theater with 99 comfortable seats is the venue for performances by local theater groups, and youth club theater, the longest running program at the Center.

A 23’ movie screen was added in 2015, which has enabled the Center to offer classic films, locally made documentaries, mainstream indie films and documentaries, and to partner with the Royal Opera House in London to show recorded operas and ballets, thanks to local sponsors.

New challenges and opportunities lie ahead. Farley noted that now the financial responsibilities of maintenance, insurance, utility bills etc. will increase. “We have lived a charmed life for the last 20 years with Molly handling the brunt of the building costs,” she said. Farley is confident the challenge will be met with the help of the greater community. “Our needs change, but the mission will stay the same.”

Currently, 200 or more children are involved in programs as diverse as ‘Art Makers’ for kids ages 5 - 12, and the summer art camp offering drama, music, and visual arts. Classes are taught by working artists.

Board President Martha Kelly has been teaching pottery and ceramics at the Center since its inception. She has been involved in the Center for so long that she is now teaching the grandchildren of some of her original students.

The art curriculum for both the Patagonia School District and the Montessori School is contracted to PCAA. Other collaborations include the Patagonia Library, Patagonia Regional Times, Borderlands Restoration, the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts. See PFS, p. 4

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ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRES TRANSPARENCY

By Marion Vendituoli

We face some big issues here in eastern Santa Cruz County, and it’s more important than ever that we have access to the documents we need in order to make informed decisions. Twice in this past month, however, the PRT and the public have been denied this access.

This issue of the PRT has two articles referencing the pre feasibility report released by South32 mid-January, one by Kat Crockett, who interviewed Pat Risner, President of the Hermosa Project, and the other an opinion piece written by a group of concerned citizens.

The most obvious takeaway from both these articles is not what we have learned about the company’s plans, but what hasn’t been made available. Instead of South32 releasing the report, which we are told, is thousands of pages long, we have been given merely a 40 page synopsis. “The full report won’t be released,” wrote Melanie Lawson, Communities Manager for South32, in a recent email. “We’re working on a more public-friendly version that can be more easily digestible [sic] by the public and is shorter.” Perhaps it should be left up to the public to decide what we can and cannot “digest.”

In another example of lack of transparency, the PRT has been unable to acquire a copy of a proposed draft agreement between the mining company and the County to give South32 an easement connecting Harshaw Rd. to the proposed Cross Creek Connector.

South32 declined to release the draft agreement, stating that they deferred to the County. After public outcry caused the County Supervisors to remove an executive session to discuss this agreement from their Jan 4 agenda, the PRT asked for a copy of the draft agreement from the County. The County refused, stating confidentiality issues. We were not looking for notes from the executive session, which, of course, never even took place, only the agreement that was to be discussed.

After receiving a letter from the County denying our request, we have asked the state to intervene on our behalf. As the PRT goes to press this month, the state has assured us that they are still looking into this issue.

The lives of residents of eastern Santa Cruz County will be greatly impacted by these discussions being held behind closed doors. It shouldn’t be this difficult to obtain any of this information. South32 and our County officials might consider that providing these documents would be viewed as a much more “public friendly” action than the present course.

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New Cell Tower Approved in Elgin

By Kat Crockett

On December 16, 2021, Santa Cruz County’s Planning and Zoning Commissioners approved a conditional use permit for a communication tower at 286 Elgin Canelo Road, on a lot adjacent to Sonota Vineyards. The property, which is zoned General Rural, is owned by Vina Sonoita, LTD, a Dutt family business.

The structure, to be built by Pinnacle Consulting, will consist of a 100-foot wireless steel monopole tower (which does not require lighting) placed within a 30 x 30-foot fenced area. It will initially provide service for Verizon, but there is space on the tower for the equipment shelter for two additional service providers. The tower will fill gaps and enhance coverage to residents and businesses, plus travelers using SR 83.

“I am really excited ... for all of us to not drop calls all the time,” said Lori Reynolds of Sonoita Vineyards, adding that cell phone reception in her area is horrible. “I have so many customers who come out to the vineyard and I have to provide them hard copy maps for all the other vineyards,” pointing out that many visitors rely on Google Maps which drop in the area. She also said that during the pandemic when Elgin School was closed, she had to drive her children to the school parking lot so they could connect on Zoom for classroom assignments and research.

According to Frank Dillon, SCC Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Director, there were three letters in opposition and four letters in support of the project. P&Z Commissioners Gutfahr, Padilla, Campana, Bell, and Heiss voted in favor of conditional approval. Commissioner Pottinger voted in opposition.

A cell tower that has been erected in Rain Valley was a subject of much more controversy than the tower at Sonota Vineyards. Clear Talk, a company from California, submitted a request in 2016 in the Rain Valley area which became highly contentious. The original request for a 195-foot tower was denied in August 2016. Clear Talk resubmitted the request to the County in December 2016, stating T-Mobile would be providing service, with hopes of renting tower space to other carriers.

Several residents spoke against the proposal claiming the tower would be an eyesore, lower property values, block their views, and some voiced objections to tower lighting. The Commission tabled the vote pending a third meeting in January 2017 to give Clear Talk time to consider alternate sites.

At the January meeting, Clear Talk briefed that they had located three sites, but ruled out all three as non-viable. After two and one-half hours of debate and an Executive Session for legal advice, the Commission voted two to one in favor of the tower.

Within a month, an appeal was filed by a resident claiming the commission violated Open Meeting Law in their deliberations. The appeal was heard in Superior Court who issued a decision in October 2018, affirming the conditional use permit for the tower and stating that the plaintiffs failed to meet the burden of proof necessary to prove the alleged violation. The Court also stated that the benefits to the community at large of having cellular coverage trumped the aesthetic objections raised by the neighboring property owners.

Eventually, the tower was built, and electricity wired to the site. At some point, Clear Talk sold the tower to Florida based Vertical Bridge. To date (over five years later), no provider has added equipment and activated the site. Residents, and travelers still face problems with internet and cell phone coverage in that area.

T-Mobile is moving forward to activate the Rain Valley tower. Mike Fulton, T-Mobile Phoenix Market Director, commented that T-Mobile will be spending hundreds of millions of dollars over the next three years to supply rural areas in Arizona with 5G coverage. “We merged with Sprint a little over a year ago and part of the conditions of that merger was to provide decent rural broadband signal. It’s about closing the digital divide for people in the States that have not had access to the high-speed internet;” said Fulton. “The problem we face is that people want the coverage, but they don’t want to see a tower,” he added.

Although Fulton was hesitant to specify a date of completion, when asked if this could be completed this year, his response was, “Absolutely.”

Balancing the aesthetics of having a tower within sight of one’s home with the benefits of cellular coverage and data services remains a challenge in rural America. Although many people think a tower will devalue their property, prospective buyers may lose interest in properties that lack quality services. The pandemic has increased the need for coverage as more people work from home. Some people believe that the 5G production of electromagnetic radiation is harmful for people and animals. According to the World Health Organization, there is limited research on the frequencies used in 5G.

As federal, state, and local governments focus on deploying better communication to rural areas, these issues are polarizing small communities as they weigh the pros and cons of advanced communication towers. Do the benefits outweigh the risks or do the risks outweigh the benefits?

ATV Groups Topic of Concern

By Sarah Klingenstein

For a while now, visitors have traveled throughout eastern Santa Cruz County on recreational vehicles (also known as four-wheelers, UTVs and ATVs), whether hunting or just out for a day’s ride. It has been common to see pickups with trailers unloading in Patagonia near Doc Mock Park, and groups of several to a dozen vehicles riding through town streets. Often they are headed to Harshaw Road or Blue Haven Road to recreate on the many dirt roads in the area.

In the past year or so, their presence in the town of Patagonia appears to be on the rise, and some residents find the noise and dust to be bothersome. And when a throng of some 50 to 60 recreational vehicles converged on Patagonia one day last summer, some local people really sat up and took notice. They brought the issue to the Town Council’s attention.

On January 6, the Town Council held the most recent of several study sessions to consider ways to address the concerns. According to Town Manager Ron Robinson, the Council believes that recreational vehicles have their place for transportation around town, and for travel and enjoyment away from town. But “we don’t want to be overrun,” he said. “We are a pedestrian- and bicycle-oriented town, and it is a safety issue.”

Council member Francesca Claverie is concerned that the presence of recreational vehicles, especially in groups, is disturbing to the town and people who value nature. “I’d like to see people parking and unloading the vehicles outside of town, enjoying their ride, then loading up and coming in to dine and shop and enjoy the town,” she said. She added that many small towns in the West are trying to address similar concerns. “So we are looking at what other places have done.”

The steps the Town can take are limited, as recreational vehicles can be operated on streets, as long as they follow noise ordinances and speed limits. Council considered the licensing of vehicles, before realizing that might place a burden on local residents who regularly use recreational vehicles to move around town.

A possible solution would be to create permitted parking areas or to prohibit off-loading in certain areas, “while always keeping fairness to local residents in mind in whatever we do,” Claverie said. Because the Town has no power to limit parking along State Highway 82, Naugle Avenue would not be affected by any action.

Ultimately, the Council tabled the topic to be revisited once a project to pave and stripe parking on McKeown Ave. along the length of Doc Mock Park is completed this summer. Robinson said, “We are continuing to research options and consult with our legal counsel on what solutions are possible. Then we will decide the best course of action.”

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PFS (Cont.)

Approximately $55 million is committed for 2022 with further investment in FY 23. Next would be the dewatering operations. Risner stated, “The dewatering shifts water from one part of the environment to the other. It is treated after discharge and then re-enters the environment further downstream.” Subject to the final investment decision and receipt of required permits, sinking shafts to get down to the orebody is expected to commence in fiscal year 2024.

THE PROCESS

According to Risner, “No chemicals are involved in mining underground. It’s pretty conventional; we blast the rock, we load and haul it into underground crushers, then hoist it to the surface and feed it into a processing plant on-site.” The ore is then ground into finer particle size and fed to enclosed flotation tanks which use air, water, and chemicals to separate rock from ore.

This process creates metal concentrates which are transported in sealed containers on trucks to a transport hub, and then most likely via railroad and/or ships to smelters for melting into metals. South32 will bear the mining and transportation costs. The smelters purchase the concentrates and sell the metals for refining. Risner, the company will identify a range of smelters and transportation methods in the feasibility study and firm up who they will sell to. “The vast majority of the smelting capacity is in Europe and Asia, but there is smelting capacity in North America as well,” Risner said, and identified Mexico as a possibility. There are no active smelters in the United States and no guarantee any of the metals will end up in the U.S. With the Clark deposit, South32 would aim to produce battery grade manganese to be sold in the U.S.

TRANSPORTING THE ORE CONCENTRATE: THE SHORT-TERM ROUTE

As the trucks begin to roll out of the mine in FY 2027, they will travel from Harshaw Road to the Cross Creek Connector (CCC) where South32 purchased private land to construct the road to connect to SR282. Trucks will travel east on SR282 then north on SR83 to Interstate 10 to the Port of Tucson for transportation by rail to the next destination. That route has access to SR282,” Risner said, “but we talked to the community about that being only a short-term route for the early years of operation, essentially the way we get to SR282.” Risner commented that the mine does not need any new permits to construct the CCC; however, the mine will need to work with ADOT on the intersection with SR82. The CCC will be a cement-treat ed base to reduce dust and will take 18 to 24 months to complete. The start date is yet to be determined.

THE LONG-TERM ROUTE

Although the pre-feasibility study makes no mention of building a road through Flux Canyon, Risner stated that the County is looking at the possibility of constructing a railroad facility near Rio Rico and looking beyond the Cross Creek Connector for the long-term. He believes that Flux Canyon, to SR282, to a railroad in Rio Rico would be their first preference and it would keep all the economic activity in Santa Cruz County. “If we go out Flux Canyon, we avoid Patagonia completely, we avoid SR82 and SR83 out toward Sonotia completely and it gets us to a railroad so that we can go to multiple ports. We also have the option, if we go out Flux Canyon to SR282, to transport all the way to Guaymas, Mexico,” he added. The road through Flux Canyon would be within the county right of way, require federal permitting, and would be fully funded by South32.

HOW LONG IS SHORT TERM?

Risner, unable to provide a ball-park number, stated, “I have been asked that a lot and it’s a difficult one to answer because the reason is we have to build a road. Any route out Flux Canyon requires a federal permitting approval, we have to do a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) with the Forest Service and we wouldn’t be able to construct anything through Flux Canyon until we have worked our way through that process.” NEPA requires environmental reviews to consider potential impacts. “The timing to get through that process is highly variable,” Risner said. It is safe to say that the transportation in the early production would need to go CCC (and SR82 and SR83) and once federal approvals are in place, we would seek to build out Flux Canyon.

ABOUT THE TRUCKS

Risner estimated that initial ore hauling would start at 30 trucks per day, ramping up to a peak of 85 trucks a day departing the mine, for a total of 170 trucks roundtrip each day at projected capacity. Trucks will haul one container at a time, weighing 22 tons loaded. According to Risner, the gross vehicle weight on each loaded truck will be less than 80,000 pounds and within ADOT requirements. The mine seeks to become a carbon free operation with a target date of 2050 and is proposing the use of electric trucks. It is unclear at what time the electric trucks might be available to deploy during the production period.

IMPACT ON TOURISM IN EASTERN SCC

Risner was asked what he would say to people engaged in tourism and hospitality related businesses who are concerned that the trucks on SR82 and SR83, the only two major access roads to eastern SCC, will result in a decline of visitors to scenic roads as much as the destination. Risner responded, “Part of that is why we looked at other routes to try to minimize the time we go that route and the advantage of Flux Canyon to the railroad minimizing the time the trucks are on public roads.

TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Risner was asked if he would be willing to share a copy of the mine’s proposed agreement that was submitted to the County recently, resulting in a public outcry over transparency and potential impacts on the community. The agenda item was ultimately removed from the Board of Supervisor’s Agenda. The proposal concerns a donation of land to the County from the mine as well as a proposal to grant the mine a temporary easement through a county owned parcel. Risner declined to share a copy of the proposal stating, “The County is still considering that agreement, and so from our perspective it would be premature to not honor something that the County is still reviewing.”

HOW WILL THE MINE IMPACT EVERYDAY LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN SCC AND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CHARACTER OF OUR COMMUNITY?

Risner responded, “The fact that the PFS has been released, we are in a much better position than we have been to engage in conversations and dialog with local stakeholders on what this means.” (As of 2/1, the full PFS has not been released, but merely a 40 page synopsis.) “We hear concerns about traffic and water loud and clear,” he continued, “it gives us more information to engage in conversations and we are very committed to that. We have the community advisory panel up and running that meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month and those meetings are open to anybody. We are going to have another round of community open houses maybe sometime in March, all dependent on what happens with COVID. We are also looking to fund the economic study that is being done now in Patagonia to look at the impacts of eco-tourist.”

PCAC (Cont.)

PCAC also partners with the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation, and the Hilltop Art Gallery. When the pandemic hit, the Art Center faced new challenges. Farley spent most of the school lockdown learning about and designing an on-line art curriculum. Last June’s summer camp was so popular that they had to turn kids away. Plans for this year’s camp are underway. Getting kids away from their computer screens and back to hands-on participation and expression is the newest goal.

Farley expressed her gratitude for the enormous gift Phinnny has bestowed upon PCAA and feels honored that she feels enough confidence in the organization to let it go. When Phinnny was asked why she had decided this is a good time to give the building to PCAA, she replied, “Founding an organization is like giving birth to a child. You nurture it, take care of it, and watch it grow. Then when it becomes strong and independent, it is time to let it go its own way, spread its wings and fly.”
Elgin Grape Growers Cope with Microclimate Challenges

By Kat Crockett

Changes in weather have impacted vineyards and wine throughout the world, creating an element of uncertainty and an abundance of challenges, but also superior wines. “Wine grapes are extremely sensitive to climate, and this is much of what makes wine so exquisite. But it also means wine grapes are extremely sensitive to climate change,” says Elizabeth M. Wolkovich, associate professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

As you travel east on Elgin Rd. for three miles on a gradual, downward slope you will encounter Autumn Sage, Deep Sky, KG Vines (my vineyard), Callaghan’s, Pronghorn, and Flying Leap, all sharing similar micro-climates. These are but a few of the many vineyards in the area. Elgin-Sonoita has been designated as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) because of its unique geographic and climate features that distinguish it from surrounding regions and affect how grapes are grown. French, Italian, and Spanish varietals are common in this area and often produce award winning wines.

Elgin wine grape growers can produce terrific fruit, but not without an abundance of resiliency, know-how, courage, and coping skills because of the challenging micro-climate and changing weather patterns. Hailstorm micro-bursts just before the harvest in 2020 is a great example of how nature can wreak havoc in a few short miles.

The storm moved swiftly from east to west in a straight line with strong winds, hail gusting sideways, and ominous dark clouds rolling above. Days later when a second hailstorm slammed, we knew this would not be a very good year for grapes in Elgin.

Brooke Ide, a new winemaker just north of Lower Elgin Road commented, “Hail is no joke. It not only pierces the skin of the berries, but it also shreds the canopy.”

Both Autumn Sage and Deep Sky luckily escaped hail damage. KG Vines lost about 3.6 tons of fruit, Callaghan’s was basically shredded, Pronghorn was trashed, and Mark Beres of Flying Leap said he was able to harvest only enough grapes ahead of the second storm to make two small barrels of “2020 Monsoon Brandy.” He pointed out that distilled spirits are far less profitable than wine sales.

The drama for the season wasn’t over just yet. In October 2020, a polar vortex caused sustained freezing temperatures in the teens to creep into the area before the vines became dormant, but the damage from this weather event was not to become evident until the spring of 2021. In March and April 2021, the vines in the area wake up and buds begin to swell, turn a bit pink and then burst in small, tender leaves, but something was terribly wrong. There were so few live buds. It was a cool spring, and we were hoping it was just a delay, but we came to find out that a great many of the buds were killed in last October’s freeze. No buds = no fruit. The season was already off to a bad start and as time passed, evidence of the damage was jaw-dropping.

The cool spring turned quickly to a heat wave and the few buds that survived had just developed pea-sized grapes, with the canopy lagging. The extreme heat caused the vines to shut down and without the cover of fully developed leaves many of the small grapes got sunburned. This made the fruit shrivel and dry, reducing the already limited harvest.

Then the rains came. Growth picked up, the canopies grew in some cases like a jungle, and the grass and weeds flourished causing bugs to move in and thrive. Skeletonizers, a black, yellow, and blue striped caterpillar which matures into a blue-black moth, rapidly devoured grape leaves leaving only the veins behind. One week before harvesting an acre of promising white grapes, KG Vines developed an infestation of fruit flies that love buzzing under the canopy. They deposited a bacterium that totally wiped out the crop. If only we had picked those a few days earlier! Two less dramatic hailstorms also came in with the rains.

Finally, harvest time rolled around. Overall, Autumn Sage and Deep Sky enjoyed a pretty good yield at higher ground. The rest of us did not. During the 2020 early deep freeze, the cold air mass dropped to ground level and meandered down Elgin Road, freezing out buds in its path with the worst destruction occurring at the lower vineyards. KG Vines lost over 12 tons of grapes, leaving our customers struggling to source additional fruit. Callaghan’s and Pronghorn fared even worse and began ripping out whole rows of dead and dying vines.

Flying Leap had absolutely no fruit to harvest in contrast to their normal seven to 12 tons. Reflecting on a not-so-good year in Elgin, Beres commented “Thankfully, we have a geographically diversified vineyard portfolio. The small vineyard at our winery estate is expensive to maintain, and inconsistent yields make it anything but commercially viable, but we also have vineyards in Willcox which provided a record harvest. I believe that Sonoita and Elgin are less than ideal places to grow wine grapes. Yields are much lower than Willcox. At 5,000 feet, the risk is high, the weather is variable and at times extreme, and vines suffer from freezing.” He added that with many years of oak aging and bottle conditioning, the minerality of the wines made here can produce some very interesting and, in some cases, extraordinary wines.

Todd Bostock of Pronghorn Vineyard optimistically pointed out that he prefers to talk about the positive side of things and to find the silver lining. “We started planting in 2004 and I would like to think we have learned a little bit from our experience growing there,” he said. “The bright side is the opportunity to start redeveloping the vineyard and apply some of the things we learned.” Bostock is planning to replant 15 acres this coming year to complement their sparkling wine, reduce the spacing of the rows and vines, move to submerged irrigation lines, and modify strategies for the next planting.

Callaghan’s will also stagger their replanting, and KG Vines has 600 of 1,800 replacement plants on order, including a new varietal, for planting this spring.

According to Kent Callaghan, “Our AVA is a great place to grow if you want to produce distinctive, concentrated wines, but it does not come without difficulty. All four of our wines served at the White House were estate Sonoita AVA wines. We have certainly been forced to reevaluate our vineyard in light of the damage from 2020, but we are absolutely committed to growing in the Sonoita AVA.”

When my husband, George, and I decided to plant our 10-acre vineyard, we focused on having something to do outdoors every day, enjoying the beautiful panoramic views, making enough to pay our county taxes, driving John Deere tractors, and getting our hands in the dirt. We have learned over the years that any type of farming is always risky, but we were both surprised about all the variables that impact grape growing and the amount of research and hard work it takes to overcome the many, many challenges.

New vineyards are popping up in regions that have never grown grapes, new or different varietals are being grafted or grown in warmer regions. Growers are moving to higher altitudes and deploying new canopy, trellising, and spacing strategies to mitigate sunburn and intense heat. Growers in Elgin are also modifying strategies to align with changing climate. Wine has been around for over 8,000 years and grape growers and wine makers will apply their resiliency, know-how and courage to guarantee our wine cellars will not run dry.
By Cassina Farley

Up until recently, I’d only bought one thing from a buy/sell ad online. It was a table, and it was from someone I knew. This was a big deal for me because I mostly view people who sell items online to be suspect. This is more than likely due to my fascination with true crime podcasts and old episodes of Forensic Files. Nine times out of ten the girl gets out and walks over to say, “I’m sorry, it’s going to be a minute, he’s having a hard time with this.” We both looked over to see the man sitting in the car crying. When he composed himself, he and the dog joined us in the dirt parking lot. For the next 30 minutes the young couple told us all about their boy Diesel. She petted Dolly and smiled as the two dogs got acquainted. They were happy to see that they got along. The young man went to their car and brought out a box of Diesel’s toys, his crate and a bag of his favorite food.

By Martin Levowitz

64 years ago, in high school, I wrote a story for English class - an allegory, far from subtle - about a commercial airliner that develops serious engine trouble. The pilot informs his passengers, allowing them to disconnect / and jettison their seats. The seatless will just have to squat or sprawl down on the floor, without seat belts, cushions or emergency oxygen.

When fear, mistrust, and hatred of “the other side” - no matter which side - routinely override concern with balance, fairness, and community, you’re on the very final skids, not least because the impolite and scathing rhetoric of either side unfailingly prompts bad behavior on the other side. This country, which should change its name today to Serbia, or P.S.A. (Polarized States of America), including lots of politicians in the D. of C., has sunk down to the level of a nasty schoolyard fight where nyaanyaanya meets nyaanyaanya.

Both day and night we are assured by the polarized hyperbole and group-support of internet allies that our likes and disdiles are well served, without the slightest shred of concrete proof. No need, now, to rely on those you know - your neighbors or family and actual friends - you’ve got a bunch of kindred zealots on the internet, no matter what your point of view. Now, virtual displaces real, and mob-mental erupts in fertile cyberspace. Human nature prevails and will always prevail. (OMG, Primate Flaws!)

A bunch of folks with firearms yearn for a civil war, and terrorists regard themselves as fervent patriots. We thank thee, Lord, for Q-anon. The world is getting pretty bleeping weird, and actual surpasses fantasy. Sam Beckett hides his face and slinks away. Whenever I swing like that, some friend of mine will shake his head, insisting that the world has always been completely nuts. But here, now, in “The Information Age,” the reporting is better and word travels fast.

A mere one hundred years ago, in many obscure corners of the world, entire cultures rose and fell. They clashed and perished, disappeared, and no one on the outside even knew. But, in the current, manic metaverse, some minor pol in Georgia passes gas, and the Japanese stock market tanks.
On January 17, South32 released a marketing summary of its long-awaited Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) for the Hermosa Mine. However, it did not release the promised full PFS. South 32 must release the full prefeasibility study now, no matter the length. We urge the general public and all stakeholders to contact Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, the Pima County Board of Supervisors, key state and federal elected officials, relevant state agencies like ADEQ, and South32 leadership to release the full PFS and assure full public discussion on its findings. The authors of this column, and many other concerned citizens, have been watching with dismay the disconnect between Souths22’s professed desire to be transparent in its plans for impacts on the local community and the reality of its actions. The release of its “Hermosa Project Update,” a Powerpoint presentation and 40-page report that “summarizes” the findings of its Pre-Feasibility Study with no detail regarding the multiple impacts of the mine on the land, water, wildlife, people, and the restorative nature-based economies of Santa Cruz and Pima Counties is just the latest example of this disconnect.

The following are just a few of the issues that South32 must have addressed in their PFS but that they are not sharing publicly.

Regarding exit routes for mine concentrate, South32 states “the expected trucking route in the PFS includes the construction of a connecting road to a state highway and other upgrades to road infrastructure.” In presentations to community groups in the last half of 2021, South32 has mentioned that their preferred route is through the Fluor Canyon and then South to Nogales, but that they intend to build a “temporary route” through the Cross Creek Corridor to serve as a construction road and exit route for mine concentrate to head north to Tucson until the permits have been obtained for the Fluor Canyon route. The released summary report has no information regarding either transport routes. For example, there is no information on the where the roads will be, how big they are, how they will be surfaced, how many trucks are expected to travel the roads daily, how long they will be in service. There is no discussion of traffic congestion, noise mitigation, dust management, or the potential impacts on property values in nearby neighborhoods along the route(s).

South32 makes general statements about “initial work programs and studies with respect to our communities, cultural heritage, environment and water” done for the pre-feasibility study. However, there is absolutely no information provided on the scope and results of this work. They tout their investment in the local communities, although frankly that investment is miniscule in comparison to the negative impacts on those same communities and significant profit that will be reaped by people who do not live in this region nor even in this country. Are they concerned about sharing the specific findings with the communities most impacted? With their investors? Where are the results of the water studies including for the massive dewatering plan that holds huge risks for the Town of Patagonia and its watershed?

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By Lynn Davison, Ann Gosline, Chuck Klingenstein Valerie Neale, Ron Pulliam and Linda Shore

By Aisha Sander

I first arrived to Patagonia in 2015. I was eight months pregnant with my first child, married to a man that had grown up in Denver, whose parents lived in the Mesa. Even though Brad and I both grew up in cities, my home city, mega-metropolis Karachi, in a turbulent country, Pakistan, is far from anything most people in America can imagine without physically visiting.

For five years I grew my family in the idyllic setting of Patagonia with yearly visits to see my parents, friends and family. It was always hard for me to return to Patagonia because, on the surface, there was nothing for me to complain about.

I had planned that 2020, like so many of us, would be different. I had hoped to have my third baby in Patagonia and then enjoy the infancy stage with my family and friends in Karachi. The summer of our long first pandemic lockdown I felt cornered and trapped, unable to buy a ticket and visit Pakistan. I am sure now that I was also suffering from postpartum depression.

All I could fixate on was that things would be better if we moved. All I could do was get riled up every night by the polarizing news of the 2020 elections. All I could imagine was my children being excluded because they had Muslim names and an immigrant mother. I felt sure that moving to Pakistan was the absolute right decision for me and my family.

We sold or gave away all our belongings, save seven suitcases. After six years of marriage I finally was getting what I wanted: to live in Karachi again.

My story is too long for all the things that made 2021 one of the most intense beautiful years of my life to fit in this one essay. What I can tell you is that in 2021 I committed myself to writing and the craft of it. What I can tell you is that leaving America gave me the perspective that I needed to be able to return. What I can tell you is that I was right. I needed this last year to recover myself from the ravages of motherhood and alienation. What I can tell you is that I saw clearly that my children are not Pakistani and they are definitely not urban. What I can tell you is that in 2021 I committed myself to writing and the craft of it. What I can tell you is that I was right. I needed this last year to recover myself from the ravages of motherhood and alienation. What I can tell you is that I saw clearly that my children are not Pakistani and they are definitely not urban.

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The Mayor and Council approved a repeat lunch gathering on March 7, 2022 from 11-1 p.m., of the PAC group, in the park by the restrooms, as they have successfully done in prior years. Melissa Murietta’s resignation from the Planning and Development Committee was accepted, along with her sadness that she can no longer be involved after 11 years. Mayor Robinson explained a waterline replacement project along Sheard Drive and Rothrock Alley from 3rd to 4th Avenues, which would replace galvanized and steel service lines. It would use about $200,000 of American Rescue Act Funds. It was approved. He said that the Town’s water-sewer contingency funds were at $10,000 and they’d like to build toward a more comfortable reserve of $50,000. Similarly, there are now $138,000 of landfill closure funds at hand, and the desired level would be $300,000.

January 19, 2022 Special Study Session on Town’s Truck Ordinance

The intent of the meeting was to see if any changes were needed to the Town’s current draft revision of its heavy truck ordinance. Melanie Lawson representing South32, explained that the company was keeping spreadsheets of its truck traffic, with about 30 trucks this week, which is expected to increase somewhat in the future. They will track overweight trucks and pay charges as needed.

The discussion included enforcement in the event of violations of town ordinance; clearer definitions of overweight vehicles; simplifying the criteria involving numbers of axles, steering and non-steering axles; the state Dept. of Transportation weight limit enforcement process; requirements for submitting a manifest of truck activity; civil penalties for overweight vehicles; the role of County Sheriff in issuing citations; and the process of reporting both truck traffic and incidents.

Mayor Wood reminded the group that the intention of the ordinance is to help preserve tranquility and safety within the town as important parts of its quality of life. At the end, no significant changes were adopted, and the draft was approved.

January 26, 2022

The Mayor and Council approved a Valentine’s Day Market event organized by Aisha Lurry of Patagonia Flower Farm, to be held Monday Feb. 14 from 12-5 p.m., near the original gazebo. There will be no fees for vendors.

Mayor and Council approved the granting of the town by Wildlife Corridors LLC and by Gerald and Cynthia Jenkins, of a conservation easement under the Forest Legacy Program. Either Town Manager or Mayor is approved to review and execute necessary documents, with minor corrections if needed.

The Mayor and Council then went into Executive Session concerning the Town Manager’s compensation.
Rhonda's 'Detour'

By Patra Kelly

Rhonda Brew, well known in Patagonia and Sonoita for her sign painting and art, is recovering in a rehabilitation center from a stroke, the result of a blood clot in the right side of the brain which paralyzed the left side of her body.

She has received support from more than 150 people, including family, friends, and acquaintances, through a GoFundMe account organized by Hal Arnest which has raised over $18,000.

Rhonda is being assured by health care staff and physical therapists that she is steadily improving and becoming stronger. She reports that she is learning a lot about the process of recovery. Rhonda writes, “I am going to do my best to describe what happens when a person has a stroke. Imagine going to work each day, using the usual route to get there. One day, there is an accident or something obstructing your route, like a rockslide or something that causes you to have to find another way to get to your destination. It’s a slow process learning a detour, but the more you use the detour, the quicker it becomes easier to get through the roadblock.

The same thing is happening to a stroke victim. The brain has to find another route to communicate with the body. Eventually connections start being made and with practice it will get easier. The legs and feet are usually the first to establish connections. The hands and arms are last in most cases. Small baby steps. It is a very careful journey so as not to cause any more damage to the parts of the body that are not responding yet. Large doses of faith and patience are required. It’s a slow journey re-routing the connections to the body and brain.”

What Rhonda is experiencing recalls the art project she recently completed - a series of symbolic images about connection and reconnection. In one painting, a person is pictured with right and left hemispheres of the brain working together, while the hands are pouring fire (energy, will) and water (feeling, intuition) together in the right proportions.

Donations through GoFundMe are about done, but the site will stay open for a few more weeks. Rhonda’s son, Johnny Feldmann, will manage the account for the donations.

As Rhonda continues her recovery, there will be many expenses, including interim care, temporary assisted living, and remodeling her Patagonia home with ramps, safety bars etc., ongoing physical & occupational therapy, shopping, and transportation. Johnny resides in Mayfair, AZ, and will be caring for Rhonda in the interim, with the help of his partner, Kassie. He can be reached at jfeldmann@rocketmail.com.

Youth Center Has Much to Be Thankful For

By Anna Coleman

The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center (PYEC) ended 2021 with several celebrations.

There was a holiday feast on December 20 where the youth came together to eat and celebrate the upcoming holiday break. Each young person attending received a warm, cozy blanket with the Youth Center’s logo, graciously sponsored by the Mountain Empire Rotary Club. There were happy faces as the packaging was opened and several young people promptly cozied up on the couch and rested.

New Year’s Eve brought the youth together again to celebrate the upcoming fresh start of 2022. Dinner consisted of grilled steaks, burgers, chicken and hotdogs, much to the delight of the young people. Sparkling cider was poured and toasts were made at the stroke of midnight. The celebration gravitated to the front yard and sidewalk as the kids happily brought in the new year together.

The Youth Center had much to be thankful for in 2021. The garden was installed, along with the cistern, and winter vegetables are growing rapidly, with much thanks to the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation, Caleb Weaver, Kate Tirion and Borderlands Restoration.

Additionally, thanks to a few generous donors, the Youth Center established the Pathways Scholarship and four young adults were the first recipients. One recipient was able to purchase professional equipment to assist him in his business, another recipient was able to pay for her certification in a program of choice. Two other young adults were able to use their scholarships for tuition to college.

Pathways Scholarship accompanies the already established Michael Martin “Pay It Forward” Scholarship in helping the active PYEC youth further their opportunities as they transition out of high school and on their young adult path.

PYEC Looks forward to another successful, safe year in 2022. The PYEC board members, director, staff, and youth are full of gratitude for the support we have received.

LET’S COOK... WITH THE Elgin/Sonoita CowbelleS

On-The-Go Beef Tacos

Recipe by Tiffany Selchow, Ranchwoman and Cowbelle.

“This recipe is a busy ranch woman’s dream. If you are really strapped for time and your hardworking folks have to keep moving while eating or you are sending folks down the road after a long day in the dust and dirt, the recipe is portable, delicious and easy to prepare. It’s also great for tailgate parties, backyard picnics and birthday parties.”

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Ground Beef
- ¾ cup water
- 1 package (1.25 oz) taco seasoning mix
- 4 bags (1 oz each) nacho cheese-flavored tortilla chips or your flavor choice

Topping Suggestions:

- Shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, salsa, sliced jalapeno, shredded cheese, chopped avocado, sour cream, chopped onion, fresh cilantro.

Cooking:

In a large skillet, cook ground beef 8-10 minutes, breaking into small crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove drippings and stir in taco seasoning mix and water. Simmer, uncovered, 3-5 minutes, until sauce thickens, stir occasionally.

To Serve:

Cut chip bags open along one long side, allowing enough of an opening to fill. Crush chips slightly. Place forks and napkins beside the chip bags. Fill bags with ground beef and toppings of choice and enjoy.
A 2020 graduate of Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in Tennessee, Jessica Rubin, DVM has come west to open her veterinary practice here in the Elgin, Sonoita, Patagonia area. A California native and graduate of San Diego State, Rubin has decided to join her family who recently moved here from California and to offer her services to the animal owners of the Sky Islands.

Having grown up with all types of animals, Rubin has always felt a calling to become a veterinarian, focusing mainly on large animals with an emphasis on equine medicine. After a year’s postgraduate internship at Tennessee Equine Hospital in Thompson, TN, where she was offered a permanent position, she chose to instead become more versed in other species and enjoys working on ruminants and small animals, as well. After briefly considering hanging her shingle in Texas, Rubin found that it just didn’t “feel right” so she headed to Arizona to join her family here.

She especially loves the large animal portion of her practice and feels that large animal veterinarians are a dying breed. Most veterinarians in these modern times find it much more lucrative to go into small animal specialty practice.

Her mother, Cheryl Rubin, after having moved to this area, was having a hard time finding a veterinarian to work on their animals so Rubin decided to stay here and start her own practice. When asked how her mother found this area, Cheryl Rubin stated that when she just typed in, “Beautiful Places in Arizona,” Sonoita/Elgin popped up, so here she came.

With just six weeks in practice here, Rubin already has a well equipped truck to handle most emergencies, as well as routine visits for vaccinations and wellness checks. She is set up for both large and small animal care with an ultrasound and a digital x-ray machine, as well as equipment for basic in-house bloodwork. Anything that requires specialty care or labs she can refer to other clinics in the surrounding area.

She also is available for emergencies, which is rare in this day and age of veterinary specialty practices. Though not able to perform major surgeries at this time due to lack of a surgical suite, she hopes to possibly be able to buy or rent a facility in the future.

When asked why she became a veterinarian, Rubin stated, “I always felt a calling and that I was meant to be doing what I am doing. I feel blessed to be here and am thankful that it all seemed to fall into place. As a Christian, my goal is to serve the community doing good medicine at a reasonable price.”

The name of her practice is ‘The Lion and the Lamb Veterinary.’ She chose that name from a piece of art that her mother purchased. It seemed to fit her Christian faith to “serve the greater good” and Rubin is eager to share her knowledge and expertise. She stated she is not “here to gouge with high prices” for her services. She also stated that she “loves this community and has found everyone so welcoming” and hopes to be a real asset to the animal owners here. She has a website in the works and can be reached by phone at: 520-334-0155.
Recycling Returns To Sonoita Landfill

By PRT Staff Reporters

After a two-year hiatus, recycling returned to the Sonoita landfill on February 3, according to Jerry Montoya who oversees Santa Cruz County’s landfill operations. Montoya emphasized that recycling this time around will eliminate the problem of trash contaminating the recyclables. The new operation will use receptacles designed to make it difficult for inappropriate materials to fit into the recycling containers and the recycling activity itself will be monitored to ensure compliance with proper recycling procedures and rules.

Initially, only aluminum cans, tin cans, plastic bottles and clean flattened cardboard will be accepted at the landfill. Glass, paper and plastic bags will not be accepted. There will be no landfill. Glass, paper and plastic bags will not be accepted. There will be no charge for depositing recyclable materials 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Unlike the cost for disposing of trash, there is no charge to drop off recyclables at the landfill.

While this is good news for Sonoita-Elgin residents, the county has not yet restarted recycling in Patagonia and has no plans to do so until a facility there can be operated in a supervised and secure manner. In the meantime, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force continues to sponsor recycling events on the fourth Saturday of the month behind the post office, alternating between glass and cardboard.

Likely because of the holiday gift-giving season and the continuing Covid pandemic, the task force received its largest volume to date of cardboard on January 22 despite the start of curbside recycling offered by Recyclops. Task force volunteers loaded two pickup trucks, a trailer and a van and delivered the cardboard to Green Planet in Nogales.

According to Eric Holeman, who is heading up the Recyclops’ Patagonia rollout, 86 Patagonia area households and two businesses have subscribed to the service and he anticipates no problem in reaching the 100 subscribers the company needs to make it profitable. Task force chairman Bob Brandt said Recyclops could easily surpass that target if it carries out its stated mission “to provide access to affordable recycling to all, regardless of where people live.” Recyclops has begun discussions with Sonoita-Elgin residents to explore options for serving that area.

The Recyclops implementation has not been without some glitches. The company has had difficulty finding a transport company to deliver storage containers to its leased site off San Antonio Road where the collected materials are aggregated until they are transported to a materials recovery facility in Tucson. Some subscribers have reported confusion about when their service would start and exactly where they should place their recyclables for pick up, and some have reported that the company has not responded to inquiries in a timely manner.

Brandt said some problems can be expected during the rollout of a new service, but Recyclops managers have been cooperative and open to feedback, as was the case when a key staff member was reassigned after Brandt informed the company of his failure to follow through with commitments. Brandt encourages subscribers to use the Recyclops.com/Patagonia website or call their support number (801) 709-1509 to get information or resolve issues.

Brandt can be reached for information or suggestions about recycling at brandtweb@gmail.com.

Deciphering Your Tax Bill

By Kat Crockett

Probably most of us dread opening our tax bill from the county, and immediately drop down to the bottom line – what do I owe this year? Most of the time, it will be more than we owed last year, and the years before that. So why do our tax bills keep getting higher and higher?

A good start to answering that question is to look carefully at where your tax dollars go. There are several taxing districts. All county property owners pay Santa Cruz County (SSC) tax and SSC Flood Control District (FCD) tax. Two additional county-wide taxing districts are SCC Community College and the Joint Technical Education District, both of which provide higher education for students in the county. Property owners also pay into the Fire District Assistance Fund which is county-wide and then distributed from the county to existing fire districts.

There are several localized tax districts. Patagonia tax district 6 includes the Patagonia Union High School and Elementary School. Patagonia has a volunteer fire department, so residents in that district do not pay property tax for fire protection. Sonoita, Elgin and Canelo tax district 25 includes Sonoita School District 25, Patagonia Union High School 25, and the Sonoita Elgin Fire Department. The tax rates for all the localized districts are determined by the governing boards of the schools and fire department and approved by the county annually.

We looked at two random properties to compare tax district payments. The first is a single-family residence, one story, 1134 square feet built in 2013 and sitting on 1.92 acres in Patagonia with a full cash value of $205,466. For this property, the total tax for 2021 is $2,133 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amt</th>
<th>% of total tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>$1,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC County</td>
<td>$371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Control</td>
<td>$141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cmty College/JTED</td>
<td>$104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The property valuation of the Patagonia tax district rose 13.6% over the course of four years, and the property example in Sonoita rose 14.1% in four years.

The County Assessor’s office is responsible for determining the Full Cash Value of your property by comparing your property to similar properties which have been sold in the same market area. Generally, a computer program is used to generate these calculations annually. The County mails out notices near the beginning of March.

The March issue of the PRT will contain an article describing how to petition the county for a review of your property value. And don’t forget, the second half of your property taxes is due March 1st.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

The town of Crittenden was created about 1882 when the New Mexico & Arizona (NM&A) railroad established a stop to serve the mines at Harshaw, Lochiel, and Washington Camp and the Crittenden Land & Cattle Company owned by Rollin R. Richardson. For almost 20 years Crittenden thrived until the railroad station was moved to Patagonia, a few miles south. This is the first in a series of articles about the community and its most prominent area residents. Two individuals mentioned below, John Smith and Rollin R Richardson were the topic of the Glimpses article in August 2021 and February 2019 respectively.

Information about Crittenden residents between 1882 and 1900 can only be gleaned from newspaper accounts. The 1890 census data are not available because the census records were damaged in a 1920 fire in the Commerce Department building. Tucson newspapers received periodic reports from Crittenden: "From Captain John Smith, of Crittenden...the following items were gathered... The railroad company have sixty-five men at work constructing a hundred-foot bridge across the Sonora River fourteen miles below Crittenden. Richardson & Co. are doing well in agricultural matters. Crittenden gives promise of becoming a town. At present it has a store and post office, two restaurants, one blacksmith shop, two saloons, one section house, depot, two residences and nearby a Mexican camp. It is a distributing point for Harshaw, Red Rock, La Noria, Washington Camp, San Rafael, Santa Rita and Gringonia. There is about 150 people in and around the place at present and are all busy." [Arizona Weekly Citizen, 7/28/1883].

An 1885 article notes: "the town of Crittenden is not a very extensive place...but it is a very busy little town... More ore is shipped from Crittenden than from any other railroad station in Southern Arizona. Crittenden has an excellent school taught by Mr. A. P. Wright." The businesses mentioned include John Smith's general store; blacksmith and miner A.J. Stockton, meat market owners Vanderlip & Stevens, railroad agent R.J. Zeimet, and a restaurant "kept by the two ladies who formerly conducted the German restaurant on Church Plaza in this city." [Tucson Citizen, 9/23/1885].

Though the community was thriving, living in the area in the 1880s was dangerous. Apaches were still raiding in Arizona and Mexico and the closest military installation, Fort Crittenden, had closed in 1873. On July 22, 1885, a Crittenden resident, Frank Peterson, was killed while carrying the mail. His route began when the mail arrived by train at 7 pm. He was required to deliver the mail to Harshaw that same evening [ca. 6 miles]. His route the next day went from Harshaw to Lochiel and Washington Camp [ca. 10 miles], and returning to Crittenden via Harshaw. When he did not return on July 23rd his wife of 18 days drove to Harshaw to learn that local citizens were alarmed that Peterson had not passed through town that day. A search party began to look for him and “Early on the morning of the 24th... the body of Mr. Peterson was found near the road not far from the old Mowry mines. His lifeless body must have lain in the sun and in the night since the previous afternoon. The mail wagon was also found the remains of the mail pouch and the trail of four horses two having shoes and two without the former being those of those of the mail carrier. Murder and robbery had been committed." [Tucson Citizen, 7/27/1885].

A subsequent account provided by Emil Sydow, Lochiel postmaster noted: “When Petersen left Lochiel...he felt somewhat nervous, as news had come from the authorities of Santa Cruz that the Indians had killed Andres Lopez and E. Ruiz two miles beyond San Lazo, about 18 miles from Lochiel, and that the Indians...would likely cross the Patagonia mountains through San Antonio pass. Peterson left about 11 am and Mr. Sydow left about an hour and a half later and heard the shots that killed Peterson while he was going up the long hill about seven miles from Lochell. He passed the place of the murder...but did not notice anything, as the Indians had obliterated all tracks and traces. [Arizona Weekly Citizen, 8/1/1885]. Captain Henry Lawton, U.S. Army, pursued the alleged murderers but there are no reports of their capture. [Arizona Weekly Citizen, 8/1/1885].

Peterson was buried in Crittenden on July 25th, “on the rising ground back of the town.” [Tucson Citizen, 7/27/1885]. “He was one of our best citizens and was respected by all who knew him.” [St. Johns Herald, 7/30/1885].

SCCFRA Board Elects 2022 Officers

The 2022 SCCFRA Board of Directors: From left: Aaron Thomas, Dave Shaffer, Bryce Wright, Lori Johnson, Ed Gaines, Paul Brosselt, Harry Dotson, Doug Van Epps. Missing from the photo - Nick Robbs

The 2022 Board of Directors met on January 18 to welcome new members Aaron Thomas, Bryce Wright and Dave Shaffer to the Board and to elect officers. Harry Dotson was re-elected as President, Ed Gaines and Doug Van Epps will chair the Sonora Races, Aaron Thomas will chair the Labor Day Rodeo, Stacy Scouten will chair the Junior Rodeo, Lori Johnson will chair the County Fair, and Dave Shaffer will chair the Horse Show.

Event chairmen were also selected at the meeting. Ed Gaines and Doug Van Epps will chair the Sonora Races, Aaron Thomas will chair the Labor Day Rodeo, Stacy Scouten will chair the Junior Rodeo, Lori Johnson will chair the County Fair, and Dave Shaffer will chair the Horse Show.

Local Rancher Honored

Ian Tomlinson pauses while working in the corrals at the Vera Earl Ranch

In September 2021, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies awarded Ian Tomlinson and the Vera Earl Ranch its Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award “for their proactive conservation and environmental practices and for continuing to exhibit outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.”

In addition, in January 2022, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission awarded its Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year to the Vera Earl Ranch, Inc.

For the past 13 years Ian Tomlinson of the Vera Earl Ranch, Inc. has continued the ranching operations of the Empire Ranch in Sonora, starting with a grazing lease on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area from the Bureau of Land Management in 2009.
Check It Out At The Library

By Laura Wenzel

Borderlands Restoration Network, Sky Island Alliance, and the Patagonia Library have teamed up to present FotoFauna kits, now available for checkout.

Each kit is outfitted with a wildlife camera, strap, cables, and an instruction manual so that anyone may monitor their yard or property for wildlife.

It’s easy to get started—and you can do it all from the comfort of your home. Just set up a wildlife camera and submit an online monthly FotoFauna checklist of the species you observe. This data will help Sky Island Alliance and its partners study when and where wildlife is present so we can better protect their habitats and pathways.

The library now has seven portable WiFi hotspots circulating for checkout. Rather than search for a hotspot location, the portable WiFi hotspot brings the internet to you. The device has a mobile router within it and can be used to connect several devices at once without downloading any additional software to the devices.

Patagonia Library hotspots are perfect for students without internet at home, job seekers applying for jobs and uploading resumes, or patrons completing online courses at home. This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Library is pleased to announce that we are once again offering the Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions discussion program this spring. This year’s topics cover a range of issues: outer space, climate change, Russia and the U.S., Myanmar and ASEAN, Quad Alliance, drug policy in Latin America, industrial policy, and Biden’s agenda. Discussions are held via Zoom every other Wednesday at 4 p.m. beginning on February 16. Every discussion follows a different topic and article from the free “Great Discussions” booklet, written and edited by U.S. foreign policy experts. Space is limited; attendees must register in advance at the library.

To check out FotoFauna kits and hotspots, or to register for the Great Decisions program, visit the library, call us at 520-394-2010, or email info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org.

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STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

By now, the James Webb Space Telescope has reached its destination one million miles from Earth. It’s in an orbit around the sun, protected from solar radiation by a tennis court-sized shield. In about four months, after all the fine tuning is completed, it will start to send its images and data to us. It's not always best to put too much faith in any one thing; but this is what I'm doing with the Webb. I'm desperate for something to wipe clean the disillusionment that keeps growing within me.

I hope Webb gives us a clearer picture about the early universe. I hope it finds ingredients for life in the atmospheres of far distant planets. I hope it shows us that science can be trusted to reveal truth and that truth, rather than being twisted and defiled by so many for so many selfish reasons, can be used to bring us together in a way that benefits all. I hope it illuminates our human potential with a vivid display of what nations can achieve through a shared purpose. I hope it points the way to an undiscoverable commonality of origin.

For, after all, try as we might to imagine, create and foster our differences, those differences pale in comparison to our commonalities.

And what was that struck me when I took another look at the Beehive Cluster in the constellation of Cancer. Cancer, or the Crab, is faint and hard to find. It looks more like a lopsided "Y" than a crab, but I'm in no position to argue about its name. It’s important, of course, because it falls within the ecliptic, the apparent path of the sun as seen from Earth and, such, is one of the signs of the Zodiac.

Much more importantly, for me at least, it is home to the Beehive, an open cluster of hundreds of stars near 600 light years away. Throughout February and for several months that follow, it is a good target for backyard astronomers observing under very dark skies or with the help of binoculars.

Open star clusters may consist of up to about 1000 relatively young stars. They arc in contrast to globular clusters that hold possibly hundreds of thousands of much older stars. The Beehive's members appear to have been born within the same star-forming cloud of gas and are quite close in age. In short, they're celestial brothers and sisters.

Stargazers of all stripes have marveled at the sight for thousands of years. Galileo wrote about the Beehive in 1609 and Charles Messier added it (#44) to his famous catalog of deep sky objects in the late 1700s.

So, here are some directions. Go outside around 8:00p.m. Look to the south to find Betelgeuse, the Red Giant that serves as Orion’s shoulder. Look northeast and locate the twins of Gemini, Castor and Pollux. Look further northeast to Regulus, the brightest star in the sickle, or backwards question mark, that forms the head of Leo, the Lion. The Beehive is almost midway between the twins and Regulus. If you're using binoculars, the fuzziness will give way to a wondrous view of countless stars.

A casual glance at the sky or, for that matter, at ourselves, reveals an unending array of diversity. Like every generation of stars, every generation of people brings something just a bit different to the table, a new dish to the traditional meal. But, all those stars in the Beehive, no matter their unique sizes and colors, emerged from the same source. Just imagine if the Webb Telescope can provide more proof of commonality, will we even be able to argue about its name?

If we can come to accept that, maybe we've found faith in, and appreciation of, commonality will redirect us from these insane efforts to drive us apart and will, I hope, finally be a salve to the disillusionment that threatens to destroy so much.

LET'S GO GET STONES

By Keith Krizan

"We are stardust," wrote the singer songwriter Joni Mitchell in her ode to the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival of 1969. That lyric from her song intrigued me. What does it mean that "we are stardust’’? Was it a poet’s reach to the ethereal? Was it the pliant of a generation wondering where we really stood in the cosmos after watching first Yuri Gagarin, the first human to journey to outer space in 1961, then Neil Armstrong, the first human to walk on the satellite of this planet?

The answer, it turns out, is more amazing and more prosaic at the same time. We are stardust because all the elements on the earth, from the carbon that we are made of, to the aluminum tray that held last night’s tamale and cornbread pie, to the gold rings that mark marriages, all these elements were formed from the lighter elements of hydrogen and helium in the nuclear furnaces at the heart of stars. As they consumed their fuel, through fusion, heavier elements were produced at the core. When the outer shell of a star can no longer resist the gravitational pull of the dense center, the star at first collapses then expands in a super nova explosion that sends matter woving across the universe in chunks that later coalesce to form planets.

Getting and collecting stones, for me anyway, is a chance to marvel at the way that this stardust has come to settle for the time being.

Every rockhounding experience for me begins with an excursion to a fault.
Size and Shine of the Sexes

The complex process of evolution via natural selection has led to a vast and dazzling array of physical and behavioral differences between males and females. Those individuals with traits that engender better survival are able to breed - among species that sexually reproduce - and pass their genes, and hence these traits, on to their offspring.

What this translates to amidst both local and far-flung wildlife can range from the subtle to the admittedly bizarre. Among the former are more uniform species lacking any or much sexual dimorphism - i.e. “distinct differences in size or appearance between the sexes of an animal.” The males and females of these species appear virtually indistinguishable.

For example, male and female white-crowned sparrows, common wintering birds in the Sky Islands, look alike to us. Another species that seems to lack sexual dimorphism is the familiar mourning doves that have exploded in numbers following our banner monsoon. Look at a group of, for instance, male and female oriole weaver spiders show similar size trends.

However, consider the well-known spotted hyena. While on safari in Africa years ago I observed several hyena clans, though the details of their genitalia eluded me. Females, it seems, sport large fake male genitalia that serve as not-so-subtle reminders that they and not the males are dominant within the clan.

What about some examples of sexual dimorphism in the Sky Islands? In many of our local mammal species males are larger than females. This is particularly true among the order Carnivora, which includes felines (cats), canines (dogs), ursines (bears), mustelids (weasels), procyonids (raccoons), and mephitis (skunks). Here, the males, which nonetheless are brightly colored and larger than females, male rattlesnakes average larger than females, who have to allocate more energy to reproduction than the males. By growing larger, the males might have access to more prey items, while also making them a more implausible meal to would-be predators. Gaudy male butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and grasshoppers seem to lack sexual dimorphism.

The list goes on with many examples of how sexual reproduction has led to a dazzling array of gender differences. Next time you spot local wildlife consider how evolution may have shaped their size, color, and behavior. It will add yet another dimension to enjoying the wilds of the Sky Islands.

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. RWWJ offers a wide variety of private, custom-made courses, birding & biodiversity tours. Visit: www.ravensnatureschool.org

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The bull elk is an example of sexual dimorphism, his larger size and antlers distinguishing him for the cow elk.
Choral Group Starts Up Again

The Santa Cruz Singers perform "Legends of Christmas," their first concert in 18 months.

By Sarah Klingenstein

After an 18-month hiatus due to COVID-19, the Santa Cruz Singers reunited in September, masked and vaccinated, to prepare for a holiday concert they were unsure they would be able to perform. But on January 6, 2022, the 22 choristers sang joyfully at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House under the direction of Christina Wilhelm. Evan Kory accompanied the group, which is a part of the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts.

The choir sang a concert version of the opera "Legends of Christmas" by the late Virginia Benderly. Benderly was a local resident who actively supported the arts and culture in the area and provided the seed money to build the Opera House, which opened in 2017. According to Foundation Director Christina Wilhelm, "Virginia was a woman of many talents but music was her greatest passion. Her mother was a concert pianist and Gini learned her skill at the keyboard from her. In later years she developed an interest in the harp and studied with Carol McLaughlin, Professor of Music at U of A. She wrote poems which turned into beautiful songs, and stories that became mini operas - like "Legends of Christmas," a novel approach to the traditional Christmas tales of the Christ child.”

The Singers plan to start rehearsals in February for a spring concert. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to visit scfpapresents.org/the-santa-cruz-singers.

Polar Plunge Makes a Big Splash

Three children jump into the Patagonia Pool during the Polar Plunge fundraiser held January 8.

By Clare Bonelli

On January 8, at least ten adults and five kids took the plunge – the Polar Plunge – into the Patagonia Pool. While the actual school pool temperature was not available, a neighbor reported her pool temperature to be 48°. The oldest plunger was 77 and the youngest plungers, a pair of 5-year-olds. As little kids will, they stayed in the pool as long as they were allowed. Some intrepid adults even went in more than once.

Those who didn’t go in the pool still had a good time. There was dancing to Chubby Checker and other water-aerobics-type music, hula hoop participation, and a splash pool for the kids who just hadn’t had enough water time. Hot chocolate and donuts were included in the admission fee, tee shirts were available for purchase, and lots of baked goods for sale.

Party attendees included Elizabeth Chevola who said that 91 (and proud of it) was too old to go in an outdoor pool in January. Chevola was the one who started the water aerobics program that has been going for well over 20 years - and she still gets in a pool every chance she gets, just not 48° ones. A huge THANK YOU to School Superintendent Kenny Hayes and his staff who made this possible, the lifeguards, the wonderful team who organized the event, all the attendees and bakers – including the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center – who baked so many delicious goodies. We raised well over $2,000 and had a great, high energy (if short) party. The Plunge was successful as a party and successful as a fundraiser. THANK YOU ALL!

Recycling Event Raises $900

Volunteers help stack boxes that had been filled with paper from the Elgin School to be shredded at the Rotary Club event.

News Release

At 8:55a.m., January 15, about eight vehicles were lined up and ready to go at the Fairgrounds in Sonoita when the Suburban Miners truck started loading electronics, scrap metal, appliances and batteries for recycling. After a pretty steady morning, by noon, the truck and trailer were full. All that kept out of the landfill!

At the same time, same place, a Shred-it truck was taking boxes of paper. An estimated 4,000 pounds of paper were shredded.

We want to thank the Fairgrounds for letting us use their parking lot for these events and a big thank you to the Mountain Empire Rotary for providing much needed services. In addition to providing shredding, keeping a bunch of stuff out of the landfill, and raising enough money to pay the companies, the Rotary Club raised over $900 for their programs. Those programs include scholarships, dictionaries for third graders, birthday books for kids in the local elementary schools, and books of their very own for pre-schoolers. Thank you to all who participated!

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The mission of Arizona Humanities is to build a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection
Elgin Student Places 4th in State Essay Contest

Congratulations to 8th grade Elgin School student Ben Baez for his winning essay in the VFW’s “Patriot’s Pen” essay contest. Ben, along with other participating students, had to answer the question “How can I be a Good American?” Ben’s essay was selected as the southern Arizona district winner and was sent on to the state level competition where he placed 4th.

Over $2 Million in Scholarships Now Available to Students

A single online application matches students with 150+ scholarship opportunities.

News Release

The Arizona Community Foundation’s online scholarship portal is now accepting applications for scholarship funding opportunities. These scholarships are available to students attending postsecondary schools during the 2022-23 academic year.

As Arizona’s largest independent provider of scholarship funding, ACF offers access to more than 150 scholarships through a single online application. Applicants complete one general application that instantly matches them with scholarship opportunities for which they may be eligible.

Scholarships are available for high school seniors, current college students, graduate students, or adult re-entry students attending accredited two-year and four-year colleges and universities, as well as career and technical schools anywhere in the United States. Each award has its own deadline, with some closing as early as March or as late as May. Students are encouraged to apply early to maximize their opportunities.

Scholarships can be awarded based on merit or financial need and may be restricted to students from a particular geographic region or with specific demographic characteristics. Visit azfoundation.org/scholarships to access over $2 million in scholarship awards and learn more about scholarships available through ACF.

The Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise was established in 1998 as a permanent philanthropic endowment for the enduring benefit of the Cochise-area community. This family of charitable funds is guided by a local Board of Advisors and benefits from cost-efficient, centralized professional services provided by ACF.

Established in 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation is a statewide family of charitable funds supported by thousands of Arizonans. With five regional offices serving communities across Arizona, ACF is among the top 25 community foundations in the nation with more than $1.1 billion in trust and endowment assets and is certified under the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. Since inception, ACF and its affiliates have awarded more than $1.1 billion in grants, scholarships, and loans to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies. More information is available at azfoundation.org.

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The Patagonia Regional Community Fund is now accepting scholarship applications! Scholarships are available for high school seniors or adults returning to school at community colleges, four-year universities and career or technical schools. Apply by March 15. Through one application, you will also be matched to any of the other 90 ACF scholarships for which you qualify.

We’re here to help you make a difference. Call or click: 520.439.0595 or azfoundation.org/scholarships
PRT contributor Robert Gay is working on trail maps of Patagonia and surrounding areas. This month we are including his walking map of Patagonia featuring historic sites.

**Historic Points of Interest**

1. Railroad Depot: The two-story wooden depot was built in 1900. In 1962 the railroad line was abandoned. The depot building was purchased by E.B. Thurber and donated to the town. The rails were sold to Gillette Company for razor materials. In 1964 the depot was moved 45 feet away from the expanded Highway 82.

2. Original Commercial District: Currently the original district runs from the Stage Stop Inn to the Long Realty Office. From 1960 to 1983, the center building was home to Anne Stradling’s Museum of the Horse. In the 1930s the Patagonia Mercantile, Soda Fountain, Post Office, Bolinger Rentals, Evans Mercantile, Dawson Scoggins Saloon, Charley May Texaco Station, a pool hall, shoemaker and a barbershop occupied the district.

3. Monument: Patagonia Council members Raymond Bergier and Henrietta Taylor convinced railroad executives to gift the abandoned railroad bed to the Town of Patagonia.

4. La Mision de San Miguel: A 1915 adobe building, previously the Big Steer Bar.

5. Mesquite Grove Gallery: The former adobe home of Patagonia founder, Rollin Rice Richardson.

6. Patagonia Community Church: Built in 1922 by volunteers using hand-poured concrete.

7. Richardson Park: In 1926 the RRR estate donated this land to the town. The Community Garden was established in 1999 from a portion of the park.

8. 366 Duquesne: A two-story wooden structure built next to the railroad line in 1904, the Railroad Section Foreman Residence, was moved to its present location in 1964.

9. The Duquesne Bed and Breakfast: An adobe row house built in 1898 to house the railroad workers and miners.

10. Cady Hall: Formerly the Patagonia Hotel, this adobe was built between 1901 and 1912 by John H. Cady. It served as a hotel, restaurant, dance hall and skating rink. It is home to the Patagonia Library, established in 1957 by the Patagonia Women’s Club.


12. 309 Duquesne: These adobe and wood frame metal structures served as the Patagonia Union High School Campus from 1926 to 1948, Doctor Mock’s Clinic was established thereafter until 1983.

13. 289 Duquesne: 2-story adobe built around 1901 for Valentin Valenzuela, a stage coach driver and US Mail courier from Critten-den to Lochiel, a home-steadner, rancher, farmer and businessman in the community.

14. Patagonia Elementary School: Built in 1914 after the previous school building succumbed to fire in 1912. Nogales architect and builder, O. J. Omstead selected the site, designed and built this brick schoolhouse which is the longest continuously utilized elementary school facility in Arizona.

15. 234 Duquesne: Built from adobe in 1925. A few additions have followed the original structure. The residence of Woody Gatlin, Postmaster of Patagonia from 1935 to 1962.

16. 299 McKeown: This is the former home of Hugh Schumake, the original owner of the Wagon Wheel Bar.

17. Patagonia Lumber: In 1913 the Patagonia Lumber Company was established in this wooden structure, which is now a bar.

18. Grayce’s Gift Shop: Built of wood in 1905. The original residents were Dora and Neil McDonald, a miner.

19. 278 Naugle: A Sears and Roebuck prefabricated, mail-order home was erected in 1928.

20. Northeast end of Smelter Alley: Site of original homestead of James Ashburn and later the location of a smelter built in 1897.

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**Map by Robert Gay**
Garden Guides
Success With Succulents

By Mary McKay

I have heard this time and time again: “I love succulents but I can’t keep them alive.” Below are the answers to some of the most common succulent questions I have been asked.

1. How often do I water a succulent? A succulent is any plant that can store water in its fleshy leaves or stems. Because of this anatomical wonder, succulents do not require as much water as other plants. Over watering is the number one killer of succulents, in my opinion.

That being said, they do require water to live. So how do you know when and how much water to give your succulents? Water only when soil is completely dry. Once completely dry, drench the plant to the point water runs out of the drainage hole. Water the soil directly and try not to get the leaves wet. Allow the plant to drain completely and do not let the plant sit in the water that drains from the pot.

Never use a spray bottle to water a succulent. Water sitting in the drainage dish or settling down into the leaves can, and definitely will, cause rot and disease. Water sitting in the drainage hole will also attract ants. To avoid this, use a small, clean, plastic spoon to hand water your succulents, or use a spray bottle filled with rubbing alcohol and lightly spritz the soil to keep the plant moist. Avoid spraying the leaves.

2. What type of soil does a succulent need? Succulents require a faster draining soil than other houseplants. You can purchase a potting mix for succulents, in my opinion. You can purchase a potting mix for succulents directly from the Santa Cruz Foundation or Amazon.

Note: I will be offering a free fruit tree pruning demonstration at the Patagonia Community Garden, on Feb 26, 10a.m. to noon. Please join me if you are interested.

3. How much light? Place indoor succulents in bright light. Some don’t tolerate direct light well. A few examples include some aloes, haworthia and “string of something” senecio. I have had these plants on my east-facing window sill, where they received a few hours of direct morning sun, then watched as in a few days they turned pale or grey in color. After I moved them a just a foot away to a place where the sun never touched their leaves, they returned to their healthy color. Other succulents such as jade don’t mind direct sun. Just pay attention to their coloring. Some direct sun can make succulent’s coloring more vivid.

4. What temperature is best? Most succulents thrive in cool temperatures, but not freezing. The ideal temperature is around 40 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Some (Sempervivum) are very hardy and can be left outside all year. Your indoor succulents can live outside if the temperatures stay in the 40-to-80-degree range. Be sure to bring them back in when the outdoor temperatures reach above 90 degrees.

5. What is that bug? The main pests I have encountered on succulents are mealy bugs and scale insects. They are common and very easily spread from plant to plant. Isolate the infected plant. Use a Q-tip dipped in 70 % rubbing alcohol to wipe the visible ones away. Alternatively use a spray bottle filled with rubbing alcohol and lightly spray the crevices between leaves, undersides of leaves and the stems, then allow to dry. Repeat as needed. (This is the only time a spray bottle is useful for succulents!)

Note: I will be offering a free fruit tree pruning demonstration at the Patagonia Community Garden, on Feb 26, 10a.m. to noon. Please join me if you are interested.

Patagonia Plants

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@patagoniaplants

Growing roots in Patagonia

The Santa Cruz Foundation For The Performing Arts
Benderly-Kendall Opera House, 344 Naugle Ave., Patagonia, AZ

February - March Schedule

All audience members will be required to show proof of vaccination against Covid19 the first time they attend a concert. We also ask that face masks covering the mouth and nose are worn during the performance.

February 20: 3 p.m. Voice and Piano - Amanda Zory, soprano and Walter Aparicio, piano $25 Prepay / $30 At The Door

March 13: 3 p.m. Violin, Cello and Harp Trio - Emily Chao, Juan David Mejia and Carla Fabris $25 Prepay / $30 At The Door

Visit www.scfpapresents.org for more information
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Mark Woods
Brandon Wright
Christine Wright
Eva Wright
Mollie Wright
Terra Wright
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Megan Yourgules
Martha Zyblo
### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Painted Paper Collage Class: 9a.m.-12p.m. at the PCAA. $15 per person. To register call 520-394-9369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11, 25</td>
<td>Free Produce Boxes: 9:30a.m. In front of Sonoita Post Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Patagonia Valentine’s Day Market - In the park at the Gazebo 12-5p.m. Chocolates, flowers, baked goods, and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Great Decisions Discussion Program Offered by the Patagonia Library: Discussions held via Zoom every other Wednesday at 4p.m. The Library is once again offering the Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions Discussion Program. To register, call 520-394-2010, or email <a href="mailto:info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org">info@patagoniapubliclibrary.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Sonoita Produce on wheels: 8a.m. - 11a.m. <strong>Vine Church</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>SCFPA Presents: 3 p.m. Voice and Piano - Amanda Zory, soprano and Walter Aparicio, piano $25 Prepay / $30 At the Door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Recycling Glass Event - Behind the Patagonia Post office 10a.m. - 12p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration: 10a.m. at the Patagonia Community Garden. Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPECIAL INTERESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Lunch for Seniors: Fresh-cooked meals. Take out @ 11:30-12:15p.m. In-house dining 12:15 to 1:30p.m. Must be vaccinaited for dine in. Patagonia Senior Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>The Natures Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve: Re-Opening Feb. 5th 7:30a.m. - 4p.m. Masks required in Restrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Sonoita Farmers Market: Saturdays 9a.m.-12p.m. Located at post office parking lot, NW corner Hwy 82 &amp; 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Patagonia Farmers Market: Thursday - 10a.m. - 1p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Noblells Mercado: Fridays 4-7p.m. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. Email <a href="mailto:cdavid@mariposasach.net">cdavid@mariposasach.net</a> for more info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Purple Elephant Thrift Store: 325 - 327 McKeown Ave, Patagonia. Open 10a.m. - 3p.m. Thurs. - Sun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>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 Thurbler Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Sonoita Produce on wheels: 3rd Sat. of the month. 8-11a.m. <strong>VINE Church</strong> Contact Gardenia for more info 602-292-1616.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Patagonia Museum: Open hours 2p.m.-4p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. <a href="http://www.thepatagoniamuseum.org">www.thepatagoniamuseum.org</a> for more info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Patagonia Library: Now open without appts. Mon-Fri 10a.m. - 5p.m., Sat. 10a.m. - 2p.m. Call for more info. 520.394.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Free Produce Boxes: 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. 9:30a.m. in front of the Sonoita Post Office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous: to find a meeting go to <a href="http://www.oasouthernaz.org">www.oasouthernaz.org</a>. Contact Adrienne H. for more info 520-404-3490.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Patagonia Town Council: Nov. 17 6p.m. in Town Council Room. Public invited. CDC Guidelines will be followed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Rotary Club: 2nd &amp; 4th Thurs. 5:30p.m. has moved online. Info: Sue 520-990-4648.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors: 2nd Mon. 3p.m. at the Senior Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>The Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month, Sonoita Bible Church. All are welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>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 <a href="http://www.azsantacruzdems.org/meetings">www.azsantacruzdems.org/meetings</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Community Youth Group: 2nd &amp; 4th Weds. April Anderson at <a href="mailto:andeap@msn.com">andeap@msn.com</a>, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-0155.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Canelo Cowboy Church 14 McCarthy Lane, Elgin 520-604-6990 Sunday Service: 8:30a.m. Sunday School: 10a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:patagoniaumc@gmail.com">patagoniaumc@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church 222 Third Ave., Patagonia. In-Person Service resumed. Call for time &amp; schedule 520-394-2954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin Sunday Service: 10a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>VINE Christian Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd &amp; 4th Wed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales Services are weekly, however times change frequently. Visit standrewsaz.org for additional info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Quaker Worship Group Meets via Zoom. Contact Janice Pulliam if interested 706-614-6959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Tubac Buddhist Meditation Center 2247 Frontage Rd #2, Tubac Sunday: 8:30 - 10a.m. <a href="mailto:tubacbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com">tubacbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com</a> for zoom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Email

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

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

WANTED: PERSON OF QUALITY, INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY
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Call: 520-975-9920.

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KPUP Broadcast Schedule - Winter 2022

Mon: 5pm to 6pm: Swing Hour
7pm to 8pm: eTown repeat of Saturday’s show

Tues: 10am to 12pm: World Jazz with Mark Berg
7pm to 9pm: Jazz and Blues with Fred Hansen

Wed: 5pm to 6pm: Swing Hour
7pm to 10pm: Sean Alexander show

Thurs: 7pm to 10pm: Possibility Explorers.
“Celebrating the Evening of Mushkil Gusha, the Remover of All Difficulties.” Hosted by Graves

Fri: 7pm to 9pm: Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse

Sat: 12pm to 1pm: eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire listeners through music and conversation”

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

Daily Shows: Best of the Oldies: 1pm to 2am/ Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8am, 12pm and 6pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm, Sun. at 8am / Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.
$500,000

OMEGA LANE
MLS # 22027324
50 ACRES OF ELGIN GRASSLAND
Close to Coronado National Forest. Solar well with 2 holding tanks. Micro climate. Gently sloped with fantastic mountain views. CHERYL VOLK 520 979-7271

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

$85,000

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MLS # 22201664
.62 ACRES
North Avenue & 1st Avenue. 6 town lots, out of the flood plain. Room for home and outbuildings. Gas, water, electricity & phone available. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$79,000

MLS # 22025368
PANORAMIC VIEWS —LAKE PATAGONIA
14.7 ACRES
262 Circulo Montana. Bring your horses! Lovely mountain views. Building site already in place. Private Well, electricity at lot line. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$34,000

ML S # 22107278
LAKE PATAGONIA RANCH ESTATES
5.74 ACRES
Build your dream home tucked into the hillside and out of the wind. Lovely mountain views, paved roads, electricity and phone at the lot line. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$79,000

MLS # 22116228
2 HOMES ON SALEJO ROAD
APPROX 20 ACRES
Gorgeous mountain views and just 15 minutes from Patagonia. 2 secluded homes. Live in one & rent the other. Well is shared by both. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$600,000

MLS # 22117902
TOP OF THE WORLD VIEWS ON 18 ACRES
APPROX 20 ACRES
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MLS # 22117902
220 & 222 HARSHAW ROAD
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SONOITA: Corner of Hwys 82 & 83, next to Post Office 520-455-5235
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