S32 Meeting Covers Study Release, Traffic Predictions

By Marion Vendituoli

At the meeting of the Santa Cruz County Advisory Panel on the South32 Hermosa Project, held February 16 in Patagonia, Hermosa Project President Pat Risner addressed some of the concerns raised in the community surrounding the announcement of the completion of the Hermosa Project pre-feasibility study (PFS).

Commenting on the outcry that ensued after the Australian mining company released only a 40-page summary of the PFS, rather than making public the entire document, which is reported to run over 1000 pages, Risner explained that it had never been the company’s intention to release the entire report. It was only meant to be an “internal document,” he said, to “provide information to an internal review board and senior leaders” of South32.

This clearly had not been the understanding in the community, as Risner several times over the past three years had responded to questions about the project by saying that the answers would not be available until the completion of the pre-feasibility report. “I certainly was looking forward to the release of the pre-feasibility study because I was led to believe that it would be full of a lot of information to answer many questions that I had,” Chuck Klingenstein, of Patagonia, said. “I wish South32 had made it clear up-front that we would only see an edited summary.”

The presentation included some of the findings in the pre-feasibility report. South32 describes the Taylor deposit at the Hermosa Project, as “one of the largest undeveloped zinc-lead resources in the world and the largest in America.” The company estimates that it will cost “an additional $1.7 billion in capital investment to construct the operation.”

The company is also “reviewing integrated development” of the Clark deposit, which lies above the Taylor deposit. The Clark deposit contains manganese, zinc and silver. Still in the exploratory stage are the Flux and Silver deposit. The Clark deposit contains manganese, zinc, and silver. Still in the exploratory stage are the Flux and Silver deposit.

Risner discussed the study’s findings on traffic in Patagonia and Sonoita, an area of concern for many members of the community. He stated that initially there would be less than 30 “loaded concentrate trucks leaving Hermosa” daily. That number would rise to 65 ore trucks daily after three years, and peak at 80 trucks.

This number, however, represents only one-way trips and does not include the number of empty ore trucks returning to the mine. In a subsequent email, Risner wrote that “some of our trucks will be staged at port, and others will be staged at site, so not every truck will make a round trip.”

AZ Trail’s First mile - Open or Closed?

By Robert Gay

The first mile of the Arizona Trail (AZT), the much loved and well-trodden 800-mile path from Mexico to Utah, was closed in July 2020 when Border Wall construction began within the Coronado National Memorial at the Eastern edge of the San Rafael Valley. In that first mile of the Trail, starting at the Mexican border, hikers gain several hundred feet to the parking lot at Montezuma Pass. This first mile sets the stage for Passage 1’s ascent from 6,575 feet to 9,456 feet at Miller Peak, one of the most dramatic climbs of the entire trail.

During the Trump Era, the 30-foot “tall wall” picked up at the west end of the 18-foot wall previously built across the San Pedro River Valley and had started up the steep slope in the Coronado Memorial when construction was paused by incoming President Biden’s “stop-work order” of January 20, 2021. The tall-wall construction within the Memorial had also included a freestanding stretch of about 420 feet going west from Boundary Marker 102, the exact starting point of the AZT. Going further west across the San Rafael Valley to the Patagonia Mountains, no tall walls have been built. The valley border remains as the same six- or seven-strand barbed wire and RR-rail “vehicle barrier” it’s been for about 50 years.

The AZT’s first mile remained closed to the public for almost another year, for a total closure of 18 months, while the Dept. of Homeland Security, Interior Department, US Forest Service and the National Park Service assessed conditions after the construction stoppage and discussed remediation strategies.

In April 2021, NBC reported on the environmental legacy of the wall’s construction in an article titled “Why the Environmental Crisis Sparked by Trump’s Border Wall May Be Irreparable.” Nationally, opposition to the border wall on ecological grounds has been coming continuously from scientists and activists since President Trump’s inauguration of the project in 2017. Sources of resistance included The Center for Biological Diversity, National Geographic, and articles in the journal ‘Bioscience.’

One ‘Bioscience’ article published in 2018, included ecologists Paul Ehrlich and E O Wilson, and was titled “Nature Divided, Scientists United: US-Mexico Border Wall Threatens Biodiversity and Binational Conservation.” Jennifer Miller, one of the authors of the article, wrote “This would be the only wall on earth that would split a continent.”

Besides Miller’s co-authors, the report had been signed onto by 2,700 other scientists from 50 countries, but it did not modify or stop the wall. It took replacing the President to accomplish that, resulting in a shift to remediation of damage done, with at least Arizona details now being worked out.

The first mile was reopened on Jan 1, 2022. On January 4, the Customs and Border Protection agency (CBP) posted an Arizona Border Barrier Remediation Plan for Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties, with a request for citizen comment by February 3. The remediation work is likely to take 12-18 months and may result in re-closure of AZT’s first mile.

Among the southern Arizona groups commenting on the Federal Remediation Plan, Tucson-based Sky Island Alliance helped citizens comment via an online workshop, with possible comments, created by Wildlands Network, a national group working against extinction by strengthening the conservation of wildlife corridors and habitat. In its local work, Sky Island Alliance is informed by years of study and advocacy in the Arizona Borderlands.
**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**WHO WE ARE**

We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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By Marion Vendituoli

Did you know that Arizona tax law provides a tax credit for contributions made to public schools and to certain qualified charities? The Arizona tax law allows a tax credit, up to $200 per individual or $400 per married couple when filing their Arizona income tax, for contributions made or fees paid to a public school for support of extracurricular activities, such as field trips, high school sports, middle school sports, or fine and performing arts. You do not have to live in the school district that you are donating to.

Or, if you prefer, you can get a tax credit for donating to certain local charities. I found four non-profits in our area on the list of qualifying charities – the Eastern Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank, Family Health Care Amigos, the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, and Senior Citizens of Patagonia.

Under the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program, individuals can receive a tax credit for up to $400 and taxpayers filing jointly can receive up to $800. You make a donation to the qualified charity of your choice, and you can include your tax credit amount on your state income tax return.

Contributions made up to April 15, 2022, can be deducted from your 2021 state tax bill. Form 322 (Credit For Contributions made or Fees Paid to Public Schools) and Form 321 (Credit for Contributions to Qualifying Charitable Organizations) can be found online at www.azdor.gov/tax-credits.

If you have any questions, please contact the school or charity that you would like to donate to, and they will be glad to assist you. These programs cost the taxpayer nothing, keep our tax dollars working locally and can make a real difference in our communities.

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The Patagonia Regional Times has an opening for an Advertisement Manager who can lead us to increased advertising sales and revenue. If you love sales, meeting people, newspapers and media, and making a commission, this is a great opportunity. You’ll also be making a difference in the Eastern Santa Cruz community by helping the PRT maintain its role as the unique source for local news in our area.

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Go to https://patagoniaregionaltimes.org/job-opening-prt-advertising-manager/ to read the full job description. Email resume and cover letter to prteditor@gmail.com.

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**Administrative Assistant**

The PRT has a part-time position available for an administrative assistant. Flexible hours. Potential for full time employment. The position reports to the Managing Editor and is paid at an hourly rate. The ideal candidate would be a self-starter with strong communications skills who is also well organized, computer savvy, and detail oriented.

The applicant must demonstrate good attention to detail, must be proficient in MS Word and Excel, Knowledge of InDesign, Mail Chimp, Photoshop, Word Press, donor software a plus.

The ideal candidate would have strong social media experience and be able to work independently. Interested applicants can visit www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/admin-assistant to read the detailed job description. Email resume and cover letter to prteditor@gmail.com.
Meeting (Cont.)

round trip each day.” Even though a truck might not return to the mine on the same day, it still has to return at some point, so it seems reasonable to assume that the number of trucks may be less on a given day, but on other days could be greater.

More importantly, this number of trucks does not include other vehicle traffic going to and departing from the mine, such as large mining trucks, mining shovels, dozers, drilling rigs, graders, loaders, water trucks, commut3er buses, reagent chemical trucks, construction supplies, service vehicles, employee vehicles and others. “Our intention is to have all of our heavy-duty traffic use the Cross Creek Connector,” Risner responded in the email exchange, referring to the planned route that would avoid trucks having to travel on Patagonia town roads, but would send these vehicles either north through Sonora up to Tucson or south on SR82 through Patagonia.

Risner stated that there were 100 “direct employees” presently working at the mine. From 2023 - 2025, they predict that there will be 400 employees, from 2025 – 2026 (the construction stage of developing the mine) there would be 600 employees, and, as the mine becomes operational in 2027, there would be 500 – 600 employees. If these employees all drove to the mine, that could add up to 857 commuter vehicles travelling along SR 82 and SR83. (600 employees x 2(round trip) x 5 days/wk / 857 vehicles / day). In the email, Risner assured that “Our future workforce would not be driving to site but would instead use park-and-rides at yet-to-be-determined locations around the county.” If every one of the employees was transported by bus, that would add approximately 20 buses travelling to and from the mine daily. TOne would assume that they would not be spread out evenly over the day but would be concentrat3ed at the beginning and end of shifts, having a greater impact on traffic during those times.

South32 has stated that the Cross Creek Connector (CCC) route would be the “short term” route until they can develop the Flux Canyon route south of Patagonia. The CCC route would send much of the mine traffic through Sonora and up SR 83. Any traffic headed south would travel on SR82 through Patagonia. The Flux Canyon route would potentially send ore trucks south to Nogales, possibly to a proposed railhead in Rio Rico, or to the port in Guaymas. Because the Flux Canyon route will require NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) approval, this process could take a decade to complete.

Both these routes raise issues of concern for commuters, first respondents, Border Patrol, school bus drivers, tourists, local businesses, hunters and visitors to the area. When asked what the company was doing to allay these fears, Risner wrote, “For some time now, we have been engaging with the local community about our route selection process through publicized open houses - two in Patagonia, and one in Sonora - and through public meetings with elected officials...This engagement process is ongoing and will extend to farther reaches as we gain more clarity about things like port selection and off-site infrastructure needs. Our next open house is taking place on March 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Patagonia High School courtyard.”

All stakeholders, including residents and business owners, are encouraged to attend this event to learn more about South32’s plans and to express their concerns.
N.C. Preserve Reopens

By Sarah Klingenstein

The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve has reopened to visitors, after having been closed for almost two years due to concerns over COVID19 safety. Preserve Manager Marty Lawrence is pleased that the public is back because, while he enjoyed the solitude for a bit, he soon realized he missed the interactions with the public and the opportunity to introduce them to the beauty of the Preserve.

Lawrence, and Preserve hosts Sooney and Nick Viani, here until early April, are enjoying the coming of spring. They are watching the decrease in winter birds, such as the western bluebird and white-crowned sparrows, as other migratory birds arrive. Anna’s and violet-crowned hummingbirds, who often take winter refuge at the Paton Center, are expanding their range to the Preserve, with the males staking out territory and preparing for the arrival of the females. Lazuli buntings are another favorite that have started on their way north, where they will summer in the northern Rockies. And, as always, visitors can see Coue’s white-tail deer and hope to catch a glimpse of the white-faced Coati mundi, especially down by Sonoita Creek.

Thirty-four new directional signs have been installed by the nonprofit Volunteers of Arizona. Lawrence said the group came to him and asked what was needed at the site, then sent a team to determine the best signage plan and, later, to install the metal signs on 14 signposts.

The Preserve is open Wednesday-Sunday, 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. In April, the Preserve will open one hour earlier. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

New safety measures require masks to be worn in the restrooms due to limited space and ventilation. Social distancing is required around the Visitor Center and only staff and volunteers are allowed in the office. The gift shop is closed until further notice.

Collaborating to Control Invasive Species

By Kurt Vaughn and Francesca Claverie

This year Borderlands Restoration Network’s (BRN) native plant program has secured two different grants to help control invasive species in our region.

Grasslands are among the world’s most endangered ecosystems. Unfortunately, they are also among the most unappreciated, partially because of what we can’t see, since up to 80% of the biomass of a grassland is underground! Grasses have deep fibrous roots which store carbon and help make these ecosystems resilient to fire and grazing. Here in the Sky Islands our grasslands support hundreds of species, from endemic plants and migratory birds to threatened mammals like pronghorn and black-tailed prairie dogs. Invasive plants pose one of the biggest threats to our Sky Island grasslands and the species that call them home.

Invasive species are introduced non-native species that can take over ecosystems, reducing the diversity of native plant and animal species. A particularly aggressive species of invasive grass called Yellow bluestem has started spreading throughout Southeastern AZ along roadsides and across rangelands, converting diverse grasslands to invasive monocultures. This species has been documented in small populations in the Sonoita-Elgin grasslands.

With support from the Arizona Department of Forest and Fire Management, BRN will lead an effort in collaboration with the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch, the Babacomari Ranch and the Tucson Audubon Society. This cooperative effort is aimed at controlling this invasive grass on 21,000 acres of mixed grassland habitat directly adjacent to the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and Coronado National Forest.

While this species has been found in small, relatively controllable patches for over a decade, it has recently begun to spread to new places and can be seen along many roads and within the grasslands. With our partners we will monitor and map the extent of invasive grass species across the 21,000 acres, repeatedly treat invaded areas and facilitate the establishment of native species in treated areas.

Another, smaller project BRN is working on over the next two years is located at the Wild Chile Botanical Area (WCBA) in the Tumacacori Highlands. The Forest Service surveyed the area and found multiple areas of buffelgrass, an invasive weed more commonly found invading the lower deserts. BRN will partner with the Tucson Audubon Society to eradicate the invasive buffelgrass and will revegetate with native species.

The WCBA is a 2,836-acre area under management of the Forest Service. It was designated in 1999 to protect the northernmost natural population of the chiletepin pepper (Capsicum anuum), the wild ancestor of many cultivated peppers. This special area was also created to provide protection and research opportunities for both the wild chile and other plants of economic importance or conservation concern.

At least 45 species of crop wild relatives (CWR) occur in the watershed containing the WCBA within the east side of the Tumacacori Mountains on the Nogales Ranger District. Many of these CWR species have proven or potential uses as crop genetic resources for improvement of domesticated crops already being grown commercially in Arizona and the rest of the U.S. and the world. The WCBA is also one of the most botanically interesting areas in southern Arizona, providing a fantastic snapshot of the unique biotic community of the Tumacacori Highlands, which is home to numerous plant species that are at the northern extent of their range and grow in few other locations in the United States.

For this reason in and of itself, the WCBA deserves protective measures.

Revegetating treated areas with native plants helps keep invasive species from returning and speeds the recovery of the grassland. To improve the success of the reseeding efforts we will use pelleted seeds, seeds added to a mixture of clay, high-nutrient soil or compost and water. Seed pellets are formed mechanically, in the cement mixer and by hand, and dried. Because seeds embedded in pellets have high soil contact and are protected from seed predation by insects and rodents, they require minimal soil disturbance. Also, these seeds remain on site until heavy rains arrive with the monsoon, which wets up the clay and allows seeds to germinate while the soil is moist.

We are grateful for the support of AZ Forest and Fire Management as well as support from Title II Special Projects of the Secure Rural Schools grant and look forward to working with our nonprofit and private partners to control these invasive grasses and restore diverse native species to our local Sky Island grasslands. You can find out more about what BRN is up to at www.borderlandsrestoration.org.
Cullen Held “Cuffy” Crabbe, 77, husband of Suellen Raymaley Crabbe, passed away peacefully on the 20th of December 2021 at their home in Patagonia, Arizona.

Cuffy was born in Santa Monica, California on September 4, 1944, the son of the late Adah Virginia Held Crabbe and the late Clarence Linden “Buster” Crabbe. Cuffy graduated from Northwood School in Lake Placid, NY, and attended Arizona State University.

Cuffy was preceded in death by his sister Caren Lynn “Sande” Crabbe. Cuffy is survived by his sister Susan Ann Crabbe Fletcher (William C.), two daughters Sandra Crabbe Pul- len (Tony) and Lindsay Crabbe Sims (Dustin), son Cullen Crabbe, stepson Clay Linn, and eight grandchildren.

Cuffy lived a full life. As a young actor with his father, Buster Crabbe, in “Captain Gallant of the Foreign Legion,” he lived in Italy. “The French Foreign Legion” starred Buster Crabbe in the title role, and Cuffy played his adopted son and the Legion mascot. There were 65 episodes released from 1955 through December 1957.

From an early age he enjoyed sports of all kinds from hockey and football to water sports. As an adult, Cuffy loved to race anything with an engine, particularly motorcycles and vintage race cars. Over the years he worked in real estate, and owned the Luxury Wheel Company in Tempe as well as a car transport business.

In retirement, he continued to be an avid motorcycle and car enthusiast. He never lost his zest for life and was loved by many. Cuffy was well known for his dance moves, great story telling, kind heart, sharp wit and bear hugs!

Cuffy’s body was cremated, and there will be a celebration of life at a future date.

Lori Mendez-Ahlers was born in Tucson on February 7, 1939 to Rosa and Alfredo Mendez. Her passing was in Phoenix on February 3, 2022 unexpected and devastating to her surviving five children - Lori (Kurt), Lisa (Tom), Charlene (Ken), Chris (Deanna), Teresa (Joe); 11 grandchildren, Michael, Nikki (Justin), Leigh Anne, Chris (Joanna), John (Nicole), Amber (Emmanuel), Charmaine (Keif), Matthew (Ashley), Seth, Mason Layla, Phillip (Nicole); 6 great-grandchildren Mia, Brody, Liliana, Kruz, Donovan and Kortez; siblings, Sylvia, Junior (Andrea), Ofelia (Billy) and George (Becky); as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends too many to list.

Preceding her in death were sons, Chucky and Michael Jude Loustaunau; brothers, Fernando and Ronnie; sister, Jessie; husbands, Dick Ahlers and Earl Niichel, both gave her so much love and joy.

Lori studied many religions with a passion and became an ordained Priest in the Antioch Church. She lived in Patagonia for 30+ years on her beloved small ranch in Mowry. Husband Earl built her a beautiful Chapel wherein she performed numerous marriages and baptisms.

She loved the 4th of July celebrations, the park, the Senior Center and meeting friends at the Wagon Wheel. She missed it all when she left to live in Phoenix - a difficult decision for her to make.

Our mother is now free to explore the universe and see for herself what there is out there, a topic she was very interested in. If you look up at night, perhaps you’ll see her flying amongst the stars. Have fun, Mama! We will see you in time, con el favor de Dios.

Condolences may be expressed at www.whitneymurphyfuneralhome.com

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ANNA LUISA ACUÑA MATUS
AUGUST 17, 1940 - JANUARY 15, 2022

Anna Luisa Acuña Matus, 81, born on August 17, 1940 passed into the light on January 15, 2022. She was born in Nogales, AZ to Mercedes Rivera Matus and Manuel Cruz Matus. Anna was raised in the Lochoel area and attended the Lochoel school, Little Red Schoolhouse and the Tubac School. Anna was an avid reader and excelled academically from a young age. She represented Santa Cruz County in the Arizona Spelling Bee.

She graduated from Nogales High School in 1959 and married her high school sweetheart, Ignacio Acuña and they had four children. After 25 years of marriage, they divorced but remained close friends, looking after one another until Ignacio’s death in 2020.

Anna worked at the Santa Cruz County Health Department, and Nogales USD as a career education counselor. In 1980 Anna co-founded a grassroots organization, which was named Living Is For Everyone (LIFE) to bring education, attention and assistance to those from Ambos Nogales affected by cancer. In 1982, she was diagnosed with Lupus, an autoimmune inflammatory disease, and she took up her LIFE work with even more intensity. She lobbied and spoke before Congress for the transparency of disease-causing toxic dumping by corporations into the local water tables. Her efforts brought awareness of health and environmental issues of this area to a national and international level.

Anna taught Spanish classes to U.S. Customs inspectors and patrol officers with the federal agency. At the time, she was one of only three such instructors with the service.

Anna served with the Foreign Service in Mexico City where she was assigned to the American Embassy as an administrative officer. She attended many high-level meetings as an interpreter for U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, John Gavin. During this time, Anna lived through the 1985 Mexico City earthquake.

Upon her retirement from U.S. Customs, Anna opened a retail store in Tubac, AZ, and hosted a live talk show Radio KLCR from the Americana Hotel interviewing guests on relevant topics to Ambos Nogales. The name of the show was “La Cucaracha” (cockroach) because it just wouldn’t go away!

Later in life, Anna served as the Children’s Librarian at the Nogales City Library, sharing her passion for storytelling and culture with local children and their families. As to her work at the children’s library, she couldn’t be happier. Life changed and she felt great hope for the future because of the children.

Anna lived a celebrated life as an advocate for women, the environment, arts and the underrepresented. Some of her recognitions were Woman of the Year awards from both the American Business Women’s Assn. and the Zonta Club as well as for her work with the U.S. Senate Hispanic Issues Task Force and the Bi-National Border Health Task Force. In 2013 she was inducted into the Nogales Hall of Fame.

Anna is preceded in death by her parents and sister, Mercedes Matus Pesqueira. She is survived by her brother Manuel “Manny” Matus and her brother William “Yemo” Y. Matus, her children, Patricia Barraza Preciado (Luis); Ignacio Jr. (Toni); Robert and David (Rachel); grand-children Giovana, Andres, Amanda, Paloma, Zachary, Alyssa, Alejandra and Anais and five great-grandchildren.

A Mass will be held on March 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Nogales, AZ with burial to follow at the Patagonia Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a donation to a children’s library in her name.

JUDITH UNDERWOOD STARBUCK
MARCH 9, 1925 - FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Musician, Outdoorswoman, Athlete

Judith Underwood Starbuck passed away in Tucson on February 11 after a brief illness. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Ward Starbuck, her sister, Denise Underwood Martin and her brother, The Hon. Wynn Underwood.

A longtime resident of Patagonia, Arizona and Pomfret, Vermont, she was born March 9,1925 to Hillary and Kenneth Underwood. Raised in Sudbury Vermont, Judy learned to ride and drive horses at an early age. During World War II she and her team were in demand to hay the neighbors’ fields. She was an avid downhill skier, training for the 1940 Olympics when the games were cancelled.

When she was 16 she saw Martha Graham perform in Bennington, Vermont. Inspired, she left home to dance with her company in New York. There she also acted and modeled, appearing in national fashion magazines including Vogue. She never went to college.

Judy pursued a wide range of interests. She wrangled horses on a ranch in New Mexico. She met the musicians Woody Guthrie and Jenny Vincent which started a life-long interest in folk music and the traditional Spanish music unique to the Southwest. She learned to play the recorder and guitar.

Back in Vermont she taught dance at the Woodstock Country School. She was on the Ski Patrol and taught first aid. She opened a bakery. She played the accordion, entertaining her nieces and nephews with “The Teddy Bears’ Picnic”.

In 1961 she married Ward Starbuck. At their farm in North Pomfret they raised ducks and beef cows and boarded dogs. Their shared love was hunting and fishing. Judy was an excellent shot and took great pride in her hunting dogs, Lucky and Star.

In the winter she and Ward camped and hunted in Mexico. New Mexico and Patagonia. She recalled being alone one day and coming upon a female mountain lion. “I just faced her down. There wasn’t time to load my gun and besides I was only carrying bird shot,” she said. They moved to San Cristobal, New Mexico where they lived in a cabin they designed and built near the Rio Grande. Judy learned Spanish and converted to Catholicism. She organized and accompanied a children’s choir and composed songs for them to sing at Mass.

After Ward died in 1999, Judy moved to Patagonia where she loved her neighbors and devoted her time to St. Therese of Lisieux Roman Catholic Church. She came alive for festivities and feasts but especially loved teaching songs to the youngsters learning their Catechism. She was an essential presence at the Saturday evening Mass singing and accompanying services. Some of her favorite songs were “Una Paloma Blanca”, “Pescador de Hombres,” “Samos El Barco,” and “The Old Rugged Cross.”

On several occasions she was going to retire, but the next day she would find a new tune and would be back practicing for Saturday night.

She raised funds by selling her pies at charity auctions. She supported local musicians by hiring them for church celebrations.

Her later life was simple (she cut her own hair), athletic (she swam every chance she got), generous (she gave away much of what she owned and created) and faithful. She died at peace.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Hillary Martin Kanfer, Jay Hart Martin and Timothy Underwood Martin; Sky Underwood Cardile, Joel Traver Underwood, Andrea Underwood Jones, Darcy Underwood Carter and Margot Hillary Underwood.

The family is planning a memorial gathering later in the year. Donations in her name may be made on behalf of the Patagonia Pool in care of the mountain Empire Rotary Club or to St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church.
The youngest of five children, Frederikke Larsen, and Elna Theodora Koester were married in 1931 to Svend Koester in Viborg, Denmark in January 30, 2022. He was born in Patagonia which will be posted on the PRT website https://patagoniaregional-times.org/.

You can hire a professional appraiser to provide the strongest evidence of your property's worth; however, you may still need to determine if this expense is worth it. Lastly, you could check with a realtor in your market area and see if they are willing to help you pull five or more comparable and recent sales to help evaluate what your property is worth. Some agents may charge for this service and some not, but a realtor can provide helpful insight into deciding if an appeal is worth the effort.

If you decide to move ahead, you will need to file a Petition for Review of Valuation, DOR Form 82130 with the Assessor’s office no later than April 29, 2022. The form can be found on the County’s website at: https://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov/Document-Center/View/3112/Form-82130--Petition-for-Review-of-Valuation?bidtld=

You will need to select the method(s) of valuation your appeal is based on, (1) Market Sales Approach – full cash value of comparable properties in the same area; (2) The Cost Approach – all costs (materials, labor, architectural fees, construction finance costs builder profit) to build or rebuild the home plus land value; (3) The Income Approach – (for income producing property) which estimates the value based on income capitalization; or (4) Other. You will also need to check the box if you would like to meet with the assessor (recommended).

The Assessor must rule on all appeals no later than August 15. If a request has been denied, you may file an appeal with the County Board of Equalization. Last year, the county received 86 appeals - 15 residential and 71 commercial properties. A total of 76 appeals were approved and 10 denied. A successful appeal does not mean the County cannot increase the assessed value of your home the following year. While it often pays to file for a review, be aware that it is a process you may need to deal with more than once.
A STEM and creativity program that began several years ago at Patagonia Elementary School is expanding, as teachers develop and pilot a second module this year. ‘The Universe Within’ is homegrown, developed by the nonprofit Mat Bevel Company and the University of Arizona School of Mathematical Sciences.

It is being tested first in the Patagonia schools. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math are taught through a creative process in which students in third, fourth and fifth grades develop their own characters and build unique worlds for them to inhabit.

The creativity that the teachers inspire in their students is matched by their own enthusiasm and innovation, as the staff works with the original designers to develop the second, and soon, a third module, Electrical Energy. Catherine Parker, Middle School Math teacher, and Elvia Gallaher and David Clovesko-Wharton (Mr. CW), fourth- and fifth-grade teachers, have contributed their expertise along the way.

In Module 1, students develop superhero characters who solve important social and environmental issues, as they learn about the basic sciences, two- and three-dimensional shape attributes, area, circumference, patterns, and surface area.

Analucia, a fourth-grader, said, “I liked that in The Universe Within we worked together and imagined how we could fix what’s happening in the world. I liked that we made creations with our hands, especially the headaddresses made from cardboard.”

In Module 2, hand-on projects teaching concepts such as principles of matter, energy, time, space, forces, and Newton’s Laws of Motion continues the students’ exploration of the unique world they create for their character.

Parker likes the way the program taps into different learning styles. “With a strong emphasis on test scores and achievement, often we find we don’t have time for more engaging programs. This program blends the standards we are teaching with exploratory and creative tasks.”

Mr. CW observed, “I have great memories from teaching Module 2, including making a human sundial, the creation of the solar system, and engaging multiple pulley systems as part of the time-space machines. Taking the kids outside and making a sundial with the students’ shadows various times during the day created a physical manifestation of their learning about time. Additionally, the kinesthetic modeling of the planets (students) rotating and revolving around a stationary sun in the middle embedded the applied scientific principles of rotation and revolution. The real engineering work involved in the time-space machine utilized important skills that the students will take away with them forever, such as creating smoothly turning axles, finding the perfect tension of the pulley systems, and designing the entire operational system.”

Patagonia Schools Superintendent Kenny Hayes has observed that students in the Stem Club are very engaged. “They are having fun and they don’t realize all that they are learning” he commented. According to Nancy McCoy, Patagonia Elementary School Board Member, there is a lot of research showing that creativity developed early on pays off in a child’s later educational endeavors. “It’s a wonderful program that we are lucky to be piloting. It aligns with the state standards but introduces and develops concepts that are part of the CORE in higher grades.”

The program has been supported by an A for Arizona Expansion and Innovation grant and grants from the Patagonia Regional Fund, among others. Hayes appreciates the assistance from these organizations. “We could never have begun or continued this project without their support, as well as the collaboration the University of Arizona,” he said.

More information at matbevelcompany.org

Local School Program Expanding

By Sarah Klingenstein

A STEM and creativity program that began several years ago at Patagonia Elementary School is expanding, as teachers develop and pilot a second module this year. ‘The Universe Within’ is homegrown, developed by the nonprofit Mat Bevel Company and the University of Arizona School of Mathematical Sciences.

It is being tested first in the Patagonia schools. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math are taught through a creative process in which students in third, fourth and fifth grades develop their own characters and build unique worlds for them to inhabit.

The creativity that the teachers inspire in their students is matched by their own enthusiasm and innovation, as the staff works with the original designers to develop the second, and soon, a third module, Electrical Energy. Catherine Parker, Middle School Math teacher, and Elvia Gallaher and David Clovesko-Wharton (Mr. CW), fourth- and fifth-grade teachers, have contributed their expertise along the way.

In Module 1, students develop superhero characters who solve important social and environmental issues, as they learn about the basic sciences, two- and three-dimensional shape attributes, area, circumference, patterns, and surface area.

Analucia, a fourth-grader, said, “I liked that in The Universe Within we worked together and imagined how we could fix what’s happening in the world. I liked that we made creations with our hands, especially the headaddresses made from cardboard.”

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Parker likes the way the program taps into different learning styles. “With a strong emphasis on test scores and achievement, often we find we don’t have time for more engaging programs. This program blends the standards we are teaching with exploratory and creative tasks.”

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More information at matbevelcompany.org
When I was a kid, I was fortunate to have spent lots of time in the outdoors. Sometimes by force, thanks to my grandma and her need to watch "Days of Our Lives" uninterrupted, and other times by luck. My father was an avid hunter, so often when he was drawn to hunt deer in the valley, we were left at the house of a dear family friend in Lochiel.

The modest house was less than a half mile from the border and home to the mother of a close family friend. Nana Crucita (Cruz De la Ossa) didn’t speak much English and her house smelled like mesquite smoke from the woodburning stove in the kitchen that she kept constantly stoked for cooking. In the winter the giant potbellied stove in the center of the house glowed red at night and it lit up the hallway just enough to put an eerie glow on the Virgin Mary statue on a nearby table.

Upon reaching the outdoors the first goal was to outrun the peacocks. If we were quiet, we could sneak past the males roosting on the roof of the work shed, but usually the dog would bark, alerting them to our presence and out would come the females from their nests looking to draw blood.

Once the business of running for our lives was over, we would set out on an adventure which usually involved bikes and fire. We would cross the road and look for abandoned wells and throw rocks or whatever we could find down the hole listening for a splash. On one occasion we went back to the house for a rope that we tied around a rock with our presence and out come the females from their nests looking to draw blood.

When we got into a tire at the top of a very steep hill you won’t sit upright the entire time but instead, for most of your ride, you’ll be upside down banging your head and trying not to throw up.

It was also in Lochiel that I nearly killed my sister with a rock to the temple. Somewhere away from all adults, and very far from the house, I threw a rock at my sister as she was running away from me. Until that day I never hit anything I aimed at but, of course, I hit her in the head, about an inch from her temple and down she went. After all the "Ooooh you’re in trouble" from the other kids I walked over to find my sister screaming bloody murder and bleeding a lot. Every time she screamed her head wound would pump out more.

The other kids and I picked her up and carried her back to Nana Crucita’s.

When we arrived, she and I were covered in blood and the rest of the kids scattered. Nana Crucita took my sister to the bathroom and cleaned her up while my sister told her all about my perfect headshot. I stood in the hallway outside the bathroom waiting, and when Nana Crucita emerged she said the only thing in English she ever said to me, “I’m going to tell your Daddy.” I never threw a rock again.

We went on to have many more adventures in Lochiel. We wrecked motorcycles, built rafts that sunk in old cow ponds, ate pomegranates the size of softballs and tied old spring mattresses to giant oak trees and tried to kill someone else’s younger sibling. We were wild and unsupervised and so damn lucky.

Recently I’ve found myself spending a lot of time in Lochiel. As we work at the schoolhouse my sister and I reminisce about our time there and can’t help but think of our dad and his Cherry Chap stick-scented kisses.

Its never lost on me, the beauty of arriving on the valley and the drive down the dirt road to what I believe is sacred ground. It’s probably why I stayed here and why I’ll probably die here. Most importantly it’s why I will always keep one eye on the peacocks at the zoo.
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Martin Levowitz

Congratulations, we have won! We’re champs! The USA is #1 among the modern nations of the world for COVID cases/COVID deaths, figured per capita. How did we pull this triumph off? It all comes down to one droll fact. Two major blocs of citizens, one Left, one Right, have access to, but say ‘No’ to vaccines. Those who refuse, in general, mistrust the doctors/scientists whom they regard as simply wrong, or stooges for a lying government.

The Right Wing thinks that COVID has been hyped, largely to keep the public scared. Their wizards claim that the vaccines are not vaccines at all, but chemicals to change our DNA, strategically designed for mind-control, to turn us into unprotesting sheep. The Leftists think they’re pure and strong. “If I eat my asparagus no virus stands a chance with me.”

Along with that, there’s this refrain: “Don’t %$#@% tell me what to do!” Of course, the politicians don’t say anything so crude, they blather about Freedom and our rights as citizens. “This body’s mine! Keep your laws off!” (The very words some cannot hear when spoken for abortion rights.)

Per C.D.C., in the last year, 98% of Americans dying of COVID were unvaccinated. (What a coincidence!) Allow me to suggest, for real, that anyone of legal age who has said ‘No’ to the vaccine should be barred from all hospitals. Why let them in the ICU while others more deserving - who’ve been more responsible - are turned away? Those who refuse and then fall ill increase the danger to us all. If they come out among the rest of us, they should be charged as terrorists or for reckless endangerment.

With spiteful stubbornness, lots of these folks thumb their nose at medicine. And that’s only the half of it. My friends are more the Froot Loop type who spend their extra money on organic everything and worship at the throne of exercise. It’s nature this and nature that among the fair-trade socialists. (They’re not as gonzo as the Nudist Yoga coterie, whose most important nutrients are A: Concern with self, and B: Fear of conspiracy.)

Because this is a time of stress, there’s lunacy on both the sides of the line. The only viewpoints fiercely cherished by both left and right feature mistrust. Though I resent and fear the folks who won’t take the vaccine, which clearly works, their doubt and paranoia are not hard to understand.

We live in an era of amplified lies - misled both day and night by bogus claims, seductive innuendoes, and rank fraud. I’m sorry to inform you that most politicians lie!

There’s nothing you can’t lie about, and, if you do it with enough panache, you’ll be a magnet / hero to most clueless nincompoops. Deep down inside, we’re hungry to believe. Yep, all of us. The lion’s share of what we know, these days, or think we know, comes to us via “media” more than direct experience. The boundary-line twit fact and fiction’s never been more vague.

The Constitution guarantees your right to be a dunce, and to deny. Take Sandy Hook, the Holocaust or famous Voter Fraud: Which is a hoax? How do you know? Your inbox fills with shameless phishing scams: “About your recent order!” (There was none.) “Your Pending Refund” (There is none.) “Congratulations, You have won!” (Unh Unh!)

The average U.S. citizen sits, with his brain turned down, in front of some infernal screen for seven hours a day. You think that watching crap makes us astute? You think your fellow citizens (each gets one vote, like you!) know what is real? Well, if you do, one thing is clear: you haven’t watched the news. Have a nice day.

VOTE PARANOID, SUSTAIN DEMOCRACY!

By Leslie Schupp

I was just reading an article today about happiness, that as we get older it isn’t about acquiring more things, but about paring down and sharing. Since I am an admitted Old Stuff Hoarder, I have started to beg anyone who comes into my house to take something away with them. Recently I have given away Day of the Dead Catrinas and an old pitchfork to a Sun Devils fan.

If you have ever had a yard sale in Patagonia or Sonoita that I have attended, I have something that used to be yours. Things that no one has any use for, but are vintage and cool. I especially like old rusted tools. I like things that were used and still contain the spirit of the last person to touch them, like old pottery shards with the fingerprints of the potter from 500 years ago at the village that was here on the very hill where the Patagonia Museum now stands.

OLD STUFF

I take these things to my house in Flux Canyon, mix them around and most of them eventually end up in the Patagonia Museum. There is a 1913 calendar from Henderson’s General Merchant and a Tetley’s Tea tin I acquired from Louise Esley’s sale just below the museum. Thank goodness for the Museum, otherwise you couldn’t walk through my house.

I find myself utterly unable to throw away a book. I can recycle most of them in the Little Free Libraries around town. However, my mother-in-law, Susie Kane, left behind dozens of Reader’s Digest Condensed Books, and no one wants them. They are stacked in every available corner of my home, including the bathrooms. I CANNOT THROW THEM AWAY. I need help. Probably mental help.

If you have something that relates to our local history that you would like to share, come up to the museum. Everything in here has a soul. One woman came out of the bathroom and said, “Those creepy dolls were staring at me.” I was so proud.

By Chuck Klingenstein

In the Spring of 2017, when my wife, Sarah, and I were deciding to look for a home in the Patagonia area, we sat down with some members of Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) to learn about the potential for mining in the area. Based on that meeting, we believed it was worth taking the plunge and buying a home here. It wasn’t that we thought mining would never happen. It was because there was a citizen group we knew would work hard to hold mining up to the highest standards of mining and perhaps more.

So here we are, five years later, and it appears South32 is on the edge of pulling off a mine, according to their recently released Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) summary.

We should have all realized it when they plucked down $1.3 billion in August 2018 for full ownership of the mine. And now we see in their PFS they have been spending around $40 million a year, possibly more, to continue their work to understand the mining potential. Further, the PFS shows that, beginning last month, they have begun spending what might eventually be $1.7 billion if the Board of South32 decides to go ahead with the project. That decision will come in mid-2023.

Patagonia region’s residents have about 18 months to make an impact on this project and influence how it affects our lives.

WHY I SUPPORT PARA

While this is important information for all of us to understand, it is also important to know that the only organized group that is dedicated to holding mining to the highest standards is PARA. After a 30-plus year as land use planning professional working both with government and industry, I have learned that having a well-organized, well-educated and educated local advocacy group pays huge dividends that the general public typically does not see.

I want to recognize PARA for all of its incredible work. And, I am asking you to consider how you can afford to support the group financially and, conversely, how you can afford not to. Their work to protect the habitats, watersheds, air quality and quality of life is often done behind the scenes but is extremely important.

PARA is just wrapping up an over-two-week administrative hearing in Phoenix appealing an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) Issued by AZ Dept of Environmental Quality to South32. A visit to the PARA website or a careful read of their newsletter tells volumes about what they are doing. Will they or any one of us stop this mine? That I cannot answer. But I can assure you that if any mining is to take place, it will be better because PARA is there, questioning their actions, information or promises.

PARA deserves our recognition, thanks and generous financial support.
TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

By PRT Staff Reporters

February 9

The Mayor and Council approved a proposal from NextGen Engineering to update and design water service line plans for Sheard Drive and Rothrock Alley, as well as manage the construction of the project, in the amount of $21,500.00.

Mayor and Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Tombstone for the emergency reseeding of the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. “Reseeding” means a restoration of bacteria needed in the treatment process.

The third approval by Mayor and Council was for Riddle Painting & Coatings contract to prep and paint the newly installed caboose in Doc Mock Park. It will be the same orange and brown color as the original, with a historical Southern Pacific stencil and original serial number. Funds are being provided by South32, to cover $14,168.11.

February 23

Town Resolution no 22-01 was approved, providing Kevin and Mary McKay a Use Permit for the operation of a plant nursery and outdoor gift shop at 308 Naugle Ave in Patagonia, roughly across from the Town Hall.

Mayor and Council approved to repeat, this year, the use of portions of the town’s Doc Mock and Central parks by Trail Riders of Southern Arizona during their November 19 motorcycle ride called “There will be Dust 2022,” a fundraiser for the Food Bank. Chapter president, George Wysoopal confirmed the participants would have sensitivity to new park uses this year, particularly the memorial tree grove.

The proposal of the Mountain Empire Rotary Club, presented by Reba Webber, to install a Peace Pole, at no expense to the town, was accepted. A location in Doc Mock Park, probably near the caboose, will be worked out. Webber explained that the pole was about seven feet high, and had already been purchased. It’s part of a national movement and will display a message of peace on each of its four sides, in Spanish, Latin and Lakota. The Town thanked the group for the donation and will work with the group on finalizing the location.

A Study Session with the Flood and Flow Committee was planned for 6p.m. on March 2, to finalize the draft document of powers and duties of the Committee, as refined in prior Study Sessions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Questions Report

The 1-19-2022 South32 Pre-Feasibility-Study (PFS) contains information that, in my opinion, may be incorrect.

Two quotations from the South32 PFS aroused my curiosity. As a retired Ph.D. engineer, I’ve followed the renewable energy production and storage industry for more than eight years. It is easy for me to find up-to-date information on these topics.

1. “Lead demand is expected to increase because of demand for renewable energy storage”.

Lead-acid batteries in cars and trucks have a lifespan of less than eight years. Compared with modern Lithium-Ion batteries, it is my understanding that lead-acid batteries are not suitable for use in homes or Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV).

2. “We are undertaking a Pre-Project-Study for Clark to increase our confidence in the mining and processing assumptions of preferred development opportunities in the rapidly growing battery-grade manganese markets”.

It is my understanding that all BEV manufacturers have chosen Lithium Iron Phosphate (LIP0) as their favored battery chemistry. This is based on manufacturing cost, safety, and humanitarian issues. No manganese is used in LIP0 batteries.

Dave Ellis
Patagonia

POWER OF YOU.

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund is now accepting scholarship applications! Scholarships are available for high school seniors and 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.

The Patagonia Regional Times encourages everyone to comment publicly on the events and times in which we live. Letters must be signed by the author and include town of residence. Letters are limited to 200 words. PRT reserves the right to edit all letters for language, length, and content.

Please send your letter, in MS Word, to prteditor@gmail.com.

OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS

In the February issue of the PRT we incorrectly stated that Jessica Rubin, DVM graduated from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, located in Auburn TN. Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine is located in Auburn, AL. We apologize for this error.

Patagonia High School
Football Field
Thursday, March 24, 2022
Drop in between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Technical staff from South32 will be on hand to answer questions and to discuss topics related to the Hermosa Project, such as water, routes, mining method, and employment. For everyone’s safety, COVID-19 protocols including social distancing will be in place. Face masks will be required. The event will be outdoors and, as a result, is subject to cancellation due to weather or if the COVID-19 situation worsens.

For more information, email hermosacommunity@south32.net.
The lot at Empire Auto Repair, newly opened in Sonoita, has proven to be a popular addition to the community, as evidenced by this full lot of cars.

Steven Wright has opened his auto repair business, Empire Tire and Auto Repair, just south of the fairgrounds at 02 Papago Springs Rd. In addition to auto repair, Empire also services diesel engines, RVs and trailers.

Wright, who grew up in Vail, stated that he spent a lot of time in the Elgin Sonoita area taking advantage of the recreational opportunities that the area has to offer. He and his wife were married at the Empire Ranch, so his ties to the area are long-standing and strong.

Having owned his own auto repair business in Sierra Vista and then working in Vail, Wright has developed a successful relationship over the years with many residents of southeastern Arizona. His reputation has made the transition to Sonoita seamless as his many clients have followed him to his new location. He credits his success to his philosophy of, “If you do people right, be truthful and honest, the business grows itself”.

The father of, and sole provider for, his wife and eight children, ages 1 to 15, Wright works long hours with the help of fellow mechanic, Tarence Brown to service the needs of his many customers. Many mornings he finds his already full lot and schedule added to with vehicles in need of repair having been dropped off by an overnight towing company.

An additional service that Wright offers is his membership in a national network which offers a three-year guarantee on all parts and labor for the services he performs. This gives his customers peace of mind to know that they are covered no matter where they are in the United States. If they break down from a previous repair, parts and labor are provided free.

Wright stated that the people in the Sky Islands are very ‘real and good’ and he is happy to have his business here. His hours are Mon – Friday 7:30 – 5:30, Saturdays from 7:30-1. Phone 520-455-3111 and email: Empireautosonoita@gmail.com.

New Winery Opens in Elgin

By Dottie Farrar

Vino Stache Winery is a new boutique winery located at 60 Lone Mesquite Court in Elgin. The family farm winery, open by appointment only, is owned by Brooke Lowry Ide and her husband David Ide. Set atop a hill on 54 acres of rolling grassland with 360-degree views of the Sky Islands, the Ides built a 40 by 60 steel building which houses two spacious rooms, one the work, storage and bottling room and the other a tasting room with a bar, a comfortable seating area and floor to ceiling windows showcasing the magnificent views.

Brooke Ide is the winemaker with help from the family some weekends. Her two school age daughters have fun operating the bottling machine and the two older sons sometimes help, too. Currently Ide commutes one day a week from Phoenix where the family lives and accomplishes several days worth of work in one long day before driving home. Weekends are spent either working at the vineyard or promoting her wines at wine festivals around the state. Ide is full of the requisite energy, enthusiasm and passion for winemaking and thrives on devoting long days to her work. She is not a person who likes to sit still.

The grapes are sourced from three local vineyards, Caretto Vineyards, owned by Mark and Gail Caretto, Whitmill Vineyards, owned by Kat Crockett and George Whitmill, both Elgin-Sonoita vineyards, and Rhumbline Vineyards of Willcox, owned by Michelle and Todd Meyers, provide the varieties of grapes. Ide considers these vineyard owners to be close friends and mentors who have shared invaluable local knowledge and assistance through the extreme weather challenges of the past three years. Before settling in Elgin, Ide graduated Magna Cum Laude from an Arizona-specific viticulture program in Clarkdale which included many hours of practicum, including internships in intense harvest and cellar work. During this time, she met Kent Callaghan, of Callaghan Vineyard in Elgin, and with his encouragement did two harvest internships, one in Willcox and the Verde Valley and the other with Callaghan and his wife Lisa.

According to Ide, she would not be here now if not for Callaghan who has been extremely generous and who personifies what it is to be a mentor. “These are my people, my tribe” said Ide, referring to her grape suppliers and the Callaghans. She credits her success in producing her high-quality wines to them.

Vino Stache’s business plan involves selling half the annual production via distribution to wine shops and restaurants, primarily in Phoenix and Tucson, and the other half through her wine club, wine festivals, and wine tastings. Interested people can make an appointment for a tasting by phone, email or the Vino Stache website.

Locally, the Lumberyard in Patagonia is offering Ide’s wine. Because the Ides feel it is important to give back to the community, one dollar of every bottle sold is committed to a charity they choose, which changes each year. This year, Chrysalis of NW Phoenix, benefitting victims of domestic violence, is the designated charity. Ide intends to choose next year’s recipient from the Elgin Sonoita community.

Ide said that she and her husband’s shared dream is to one day, when he retires, build a farmhouse on the hill, become farmers, and continue to happily make wine.

For more information about Vino Stache Winery, visit their website www.vinostache.com or email brooke@vinostache.com.

Brooke Lowry Ide’s passion for winemaking has led to her to open Vino Stache Winery in Elgin.
Elgin Wineries Wins Awards
By Kat Crockett

Kent Callaghan of Callaghan Vineyards in Elgin won seven awards from the premiere panel of wine judges this year, all of them 2019 vintages, at the 2022 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (SFCWC), which was completed on March 5. There were over 50 judges, reviewing approximately 5,800 wines from over 1,000 North American wineries. Since its inception over 22 years ago, the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (SFCWC) has grown to become one of the world’s most highly publicized and well-respected wine competitions, offering both large-scale and boutique wineries the opportunity to showcase their wines on a larger level.

Callaghan earned ‘Double Gold’ for Sonoita Back Lot, ‘Gold’ for Wilcoxx Red Dessert Wine, Arizona Waverly’s, and Arizona Lisa’s; ‘Silver’ for Sonoita Cabernet Franc and Sonoita Back Lot; and ‘Bronze’ for Sonoita M Block. Callaghan also received excellent reviews from the Purely Domestic Wine Report who recently rated 18 of his wines, with the majority receiving scores from 91 to 93 points. The independent wine review focuses primarily California, Oregon, and Washington wines but Arizona wines are now making the cut.

Also, raise a glass to sisters Megan Stranik and Shannon Zouozoulas at Hops and Vines in Sonoita. They were awarded ‘Silver’ for their 2018 Sonoita Zinfandel (fortified) and Sonoita Red Blend, and ‘Bronze’ for the 2018 Sonoita Grenache (Unfiltered).

A Village of Elgin winemaker Dr. Garrison Elam earned a silver medal and 91 points from the American Wine Society for his Arizona Bourbon Barrel Rested Cabernet. The American Wine Society competition for commercial wine, now including spirits, has been held annually for 36 years.

Join the PRT in a well-deserved shout-out to Kent, Megan, Shannon, and Gary for their dedication and success in receiving such honored awards.

Trail (Cont.)
including maintaining a wildlife cam program that’s identified 106 species along the border.

Patagonia’s Borderlands Restoration Network’s Executive Director Kurt Vaughn explained his organization’s response to the Remediation Plan in detail: “We essentially requested that in the short term they prioritize working with Indigenous partners to protect and stabilize cultural sites, permanently weld open all flood gates, remove all lighting from non-urban areas, stabilize disturbed construction sites and revitalize native species, and in the longer term they dismantle portions of the barriers at strategic locations to allow for wildlife crossings.” Other issues pertinent to the AZT southern terminus include erosion control, remediation of staging areas, and stormwater regulation.

The Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties’ portion of the AZ-MX border is well documented as a north-south wildlife corridor, the southern end of the Huachuca Mountains designated as jaguar habitat, so wildlife crossings are a particular hotspot in the complex remediation discussion. Revegetation is another hotspot in the debate. It’s been pointed out that re-establishing vegetation on damaged lands in our current period of sustained drought is difficult and there’s the danger of invasive species taking over instead of the native species. Invasive species generally don’t interest grazing cattle and they often provide more fuel for wildfires.

An Arizona Daily Star article by Danyelle Khmara on January 9, 2022 quoted a borderlands rancher from further east, Kelly Glenn-Kimbro, of the Glenn ranch. Referring to the Federal government, she said “Instead of creating a proposal and asking for feedback, the administration should put together a taskforce to ask every single rancher, farmer, landowner and small border community about what’s truly needed.”

It’s not known if Glenn-Kimbro’s suggestion - or conservation groups’ suggestions for more wildlife monitoring before closing floodgates and other gaps in the wall - will be heard by Federal agencies. After finalizing the plan and seeking bids, it’s possible that work on the Tucson Sector remediation projects could begin within a few months, so it remains an open question whether the traditional spring surge of AZT through-hikers will get a chance to include that first iconic mile in the trip of a lifetime for many.

Study (Cont.)
The study was envisioned by a small planning group interested in establishing a definition of the nature based restorative economy and a baseline of its impacts in Santa Cruz County. The group included individuals from the Town of Patagonia, Tucson Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Sky Island Tourism Association, Borderlands Restoration Network, and Patagonia Area Resource Alliance. This group raised $48,000 from 21 individu- als, organizations, and businesses. The Town of Patagonia administered the fund and held the contract with the University of Arizona.

Chuck Klingenstein and Linda Shore were the leads for the planning group in the consultant selection process, the consultant scope of work, and ongoing communications with the Town and the University of Arizona team. Klingenstein commented how smooth-ly the process went and how satisfied the planning group was with the quality and rigor of the product. He said the information included in the study could be useful for local government planning and policy making, for private business development, for nonprofit fundraising, and for general information to the public.

Shore added that the study not only has a wealth of excellent information but also identifies areas for further research that could give a more robust picture of value of the nature based restorative economy in Santa Cruz County going forward.

In the near future, the Santa Cruz County Supervisors will host a public meeting for the University of Arizona to present its findings to the public. The entire study (157 pages) and two short summary documents are available on the University of Arizona’s website https://economics.arizona.edu/nature-based-restorative-econo-my-santa-cruz-county-arizona

Book Review: “Burning The Breeze”
By Alison Bunting


Imagine having the courage to travel to New York City, in the midst of the Great Depression, to persuade wealthy easterners to spend the summer at your guest ranch in Montana. That is exactly what Julia Bennett did in 1931. “Burning the Breeze” is the story of Julia (grandmother of former Sonoita resident Sherry Pepper), her mother, Luly Martin-Bembrick, and her grandmother, Lizzie Nave Martin - three generations of strong women who successfully braved the hardships of life in Montana.

The book engagingly documents the lives of widowed Lizzie Martin and her seven-year-old daughter Luly who left war-torn Missouri in 1863 to establish a new life in Montana. Lizzie supported herself as a seamstress and managed to pay off her late husband’s debts. At age 15 Luly married 43-year-old, Benjamin “Doc” Bembrick, a Montana pioneer, rancher, and big game hunter.

Their marriage proved to be an excellent partnership. Luly raised the children and managed the home ranch, and Doc managed the cattle at distant grazing grounds and hunted. Doc taught Julia to ride, shoot and hunt.

Julia married Anson Bennett and they had two children. It was a loveless marriage and they eventually separated. To support herself, Julia borrowed money to establish the Diamond J guest ranch near Bozeman. She succeeded despite all odds and in 1936 established the Diamond W guest ranch in Tucson which she operated in winter.

Author Lisa Hendrickson does a masterful job of incorporating information from the rich trove of primary material - guest books, diaries, photographs - into the narrative. We learn about the many celebrities that Julia knew, including Charlie Russell, Myrna Loy, Charlie McCarthy, and George Westinghouse. Newspaper accounts provide important historical context. All in all, “Burning The Breeze” is a great read for anyone interested in Western guest ranches and the contributions of strong women to the development of the West.
**Rotary Club 'Serves to Change Lives'**

**News Release**

The Mountain Empire Rotary (MER) started 2022 with a bang, hosting a recycling and shredding event Jan. 15 in Sonoita. Many thanks to all residents who turned out for the event and their generous donations to the Club! Although this was not a fundraiser, your donations make it possible for the Club to continue to hold these events. RE-MEMBER that any donations you make to the Club go directly back into the community through the many projects the club provides throughout the year.

Members of the Club have now completed the distribution of the annual gift of dictionary/atlas books to students in Elgin, Patagonia, and the Patagonia Montessori Elementary Schools. On Valentine’s Day the Club distributed books to the pre-school students at the Patagonia School. The students were so thrilled to take home their new books! The Club continues to sponsor the Birthday Book project, and Regional competitions as well.

Club members are also beginning to plan for the annual fundraising Golf Tournament, the event we hold with the Benson Rotary Club. Stay tuned for more information on that event and save the date, May 21, 2022. Club members are also working on partnering with the Nogales Industrial Rotary Club on school projects currently being implemented across the border.

The Club is active and excited about what we can contribute to the community this year. We love supporting the community and our youth and invite anyone from the community to attend our meetings and learn more about Rotary, love for you to join us in that effort! If that’s what we strive to do. We would like to see more people helping out! See you at the pool!

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**Patagonia Regional Aquatic Ctr. News**

**News Release**

The Elgin/Sonoita/Patagonia public pool is alive and well. We have, unfortunately, lost two notable pool participants, Cuffy Crabbe, who regularly cannon-balled into water aerobics and Judy Starbuck, 96, noted for swimming laps in her bright pink swimsuit top. Role models. We’ll miss them both.

Judy’s family is asking that donations in her memory be made to the pool or to St Therese Church. They also are holding an estate sale at her home at 341 Pennsylvania Ave in Patagonia on March 5 with proceeds going to the pool. There will be a Pool group yard sale out front at the same location, same time. See the PRT weekly email for more info.

The Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center (PRAC), formerly Friends of the Patagonia Pool, finished out the year strong. We fell just short of our target of raising $50,000 in eight months, but now are on our way toward the next 50K. It takes about that much just to maintain the pool and have it open for a season. Terri Schindel is vigorously working on grants for improvements and to build an endowment, so we won’t have to be fundraising constantly. In the meantime, we’re planning fundraisers. Do you have a coin jar dedicated to the pool? Every bit helps. Jan Herron held a spontaneous fundraiser selling sun catchers on Feb 14 at the Valentine’s Day market in Patagonia. She sold out in two hours and raised over $600. Look for frequent fundraisers at various events and venues and watch for possible dances, cake walk, online auctions.

PRAC is currently working with the schools on opening dates, extended season, lifeguards, and swim lessons and activities. If you could become a lifeguard, or want to be involved in the pool, please contactclarebonelli@gmail.com (no i in clare). We need a few lifeguards that are not students if we are to extend the season, and we can always use more people helping out!

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**PRT contributor Robert Gay is working on trail maps of Patagonia and surrounding areas.**

*This month we are featuring his map of trails near Patagonia Lake*

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**TEN TRAILS NEAR PATAGONIA LAKE**

Featuring three Sonotia Creek segments & one in the hills.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

Crittenden merited its own enumeration district in the 1900 U.S. Census that recorded eleven households and 52 residents. Valentin Valenzuela, who operated a stage line to the nearby mining communities, and his family led the list (see May 2018 PRT issue for a Glimpses article on Valenzuela). William Powers owned the blacksmith and wagon shop, and W. K. Sprecher was the New Mexico & Arizona Railway and Wells Fargo agent.

“Crittenden is the center also of a great grazing country and many valuable herds are owned in the vicinity.” [The Oasis, 5/13/1899]. Harry Barnett was one of the ranchers who took advantage of the rich grasslands. He was described as “one of the cattle barons of the area.” [Arizona Weekly Citizen, 6/27/1891].

Blacksmith William Powell was born in Ireland in 1856. He arrived in Harshaw about 1879 and “was the owner of many valuable mining properties in the Patagonia and Santa Rita mountains and a part owner of the noted Trench mine” [Arizona Daily Star, 9/11/1927]. A life-long bachelor, he lived in the Crittenden area until relocating to Patagonia by 1920, where he was fondly known as the “Mayor.” Powell died in 1927 and is buried in the Patagonia Cemetery.

William Richard Sprecher came to Crittenden in 1893. “W. R. Sprecher...has been promoted to station agent at Crittenden. Dick is a splendid businessman and the promotion can only be accepted as an acknowledgement of his merit.” [Arizona Weekly Citizen, 6/10/1893]. Sprecher married Anna Maria Parker from Illinois in 1898. The couple moved to Nogales about 1901 where they owned and operated the Hotel Arizona. Their only child, a son named Luman, was born the same year. Dick also worked as a telegraph operator. The family remained in Nogales until about 1914.

William Henry “Harry” Barnett moved to Arizona from Pennsylvania in 1882. He married Lucy Pearl Perrett in Washington Camp in 1887 and was the proprietor of the Railroad Hotel in Crittenden in 1888. Harry and Lucy had six children born between 1893 and 1903.

In 1895 Sprecher and Barnett were involved a serious altercation. The dispute began when Sprecher bought some land at a tax sale. Barnett had been the agent for the land’s original owner but had not paid the taxes. [The Oasis, 4/9/1895]. When Sprecher tried to take possession of the land he encountered a locked gate, which he broke down, and placed some of his horses on the property. Sprecher was arrested for trespassing and tried in Tucson, where he was acquitted. [Arizona Daily Star, 4/30/1895]. Returning to Crittenden, Sprecher demanded that Barnett remove the horses he was grazing on the property. Barnett refused and shot Sprecher. At a subsequent trial, Barnett was held on a $1,000 bond on a charge of assault with intent to kill. [The Oasis, 5/11/1895]. In October the charge against Barnett was “ignored.” [Arizona Weekly Star, 10/17/1895]. In 1896 Harry Barnett homesteaded 160 acres in Crittenden area, which he used for raising cattle. His primary occupation, as documented in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 census, was mining. He was the superintendent of the Happy Jack Mine: “Ore is being taken out in the shaft ore averaging one hundred dollars a ton is being found in good paying qualities.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/16/1901]. Barnett served a few months as Santa Cruz County sheriff in 1899 and was the Patagonia postmaster in 1910. Harry and Lucy divorced around 1919 and he was residing in Patagonia in 1920. He was operating a butcher shop in Patagonia at the time of his death in 1923. Harry is buried at the Patagonia Cemetery. Lucy relocated to Texas and remarried. She died in 1935 and is buried in El Paso.

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

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STARSTRUCK

By Harold Meckler

Orion Rules The Sky

Favorite food? Pizza. Apple pie is a close second. Favorite movie? Very probably “A Night at the Opera.” The lessons, as well as the antics, are nonstop features of the Marx Brothers’ classic. Favorite football team? hands down, the Packers’ classic. Favorite football team?ers’ classic. Favorite football team? hands down, the Packers’ classic.

Between Bellatrix and Rigil is Orion’s belt, comprised of three bright stars that are moving together through space. The middle star is quite a distance from its bookends, but for us, all align wondrously. To the south of the belt is the real gem of Orion, the most remarkable nebula in the sky. You can see its haziness with binoculars, but its beauty is truly unveiled with the help of a telescope.

From end to end, the nebula stretches about 24 light years across and lies well over 1300 light years from Earth. It’s huge and distant and contains all the ingredients for the emergence of new stars within its veil.

So, in this relatively narrow section of the sky, we find our brightest star, an outragously enormous red giant; it’s smaller, yet brighter, blue sister and a magnificent gas cloud, or nebula, serving as a star incubator. If you’re thinking of a place to delve into the cosmos, this is it.

For me, Orion is a melting pot. It’s Greek, it’s Arabic, it’s red, it’s blue. It’s masculine, yet one of its shoulders is named for a woman. Its most striking and well-known stars are closer to their deaths than their births. And yet, new, unnamed stars are forming within its nebula, a generational passing of the baton playing out before our eyes.

And, finally, right next to it is a reminder of the endless admiration we give to man’s best friend, shining brightest of all.

Orion is an egalitarian wonder. It’s an equal opportunity constellation. Whether by accident or by design, like my favorite movie, its many themes are there to be revealed, if we choose to see them.

Even in the sky, we sometimes run the risk of over analyzing. But, certainly, there is an equal risk of not looking deep enough. With Orion, whatever assumptions one may have simply fall away. As we discover its many facets, we see the value of turning away from generalizations and preconceived notions.

Orion begs not to be stereotyped. And it’s not alone. We can find throughout the night sky an infinite number of subtle messages, many of which we can apply here on the ground. Real beauty, as well as the truth, often lies within, sometimes needing just a little more perspective, a willingness to let go, and a desire to consider all possibilities.

LET’S GO GET STONES

By Keith Krizan

One last bad joke regarding rock hounding. Sometimes people will list for you all the rocks that they have found. When they mention leaverite do not fall for it as I once did. They mean leaverite as in “Leave her right now,” or don’t bother to pick it up.

Of all the leaverites that I have hiked up hillsides for, that I have found myself surrounded by cat claw with no way out for, none is more satisfying to collect than iron pyrite.

When embedded in milky white quartz the pyrite can feel pretty weighty. If it’s a type of quartz that casts a yellowish hue, because of the presence of sulfur, and the pyrite is giving a sparkle because of its faceted surface, it can give rise to fanciful dreams of sugar plums and riches dancing in one’s head.

In my wonderings over these southeast Arizona hills I have come across two different types of pyrite so far. The most common has been iron pyrite, FeS2, also known as fool’s gold, Alpine diamond, Inca stone, katzengold and, my favorite, brass balls.

The other pyrite is also an iron sulfide but with - no surprise here, this being Arizona - some copper thrown in. Chalcopyrite has the chemical formula CuFeS2 and is also known as fool’s gold, copper pyrite, gelfzer and yellow copper ore.

Copper pyrite is softer than iron pyrite having a hardness of 3.5 to 4.0 on the Mohs Scale, compared to 6 to 6.5 for the brass balls.

Where a mineral falls on the relative hardness of the Mohs Scale is one of the ways by which minerals are identified. The scale was developed in 1812 by Friedrich Mohs, a German mineralogist. He chose as benchmarks ten different minerals of lesser and greater resistance to scratching. At the soft end of the scale, he placed talc, with a hardness of one, followed by gypsum, calcite and fluorite, two, three and four respectively. In the middle are apatite and orthoclase feldspar at five and six. The hard end of the scale finishes out with quartz, topaz, corundum (better known as ruby and sapphire) and diamond at seven, eight, nine and ten.

Every mineral on the scale can be visually scratched by the mineral above it on the scale. While not as precise as later methods developed to determine absolute hardness, the Mohs Scale is very handy to field geologists.

That both copper pyrite and iron pyrite are called fool’s gold is something that I find interesting. As someone who has spent many hours panning for gold or, as I like to call it, washing sand, the hunt for the real thing can really fire the imagination. The glint in the black sand at the bottom of a pan can give momentum rise to an elevated feeling of Eureka! Only to be followed by the feeling of anti-Eureka, whatever the name for that is.

What exactly is it about gold that has for so long so enjoyed people? Gold is rare and corrosion resistant. It is long lasting and very malleable. A gram of gold, about the size of a grain of rice can be hammered into a sheet one meter square. For me I think it’s the hunt for authenticity. I don’t want the fool’s version. I want to pursue the real thing. The thing that has the shine of truth.

A few weeks ago, my wife and I took a ride over to the west side of the Patagonia Mountains. We entered Duquesne Road from Arizona SR82 next to The Little Red Schoolhouse in Beyerville, just before you cross over the Santa Cruz River. The road is hard surfaced for the first couple of miles and then turns deep dirt for the last 700’. The road is steeper and is still passable except for the final 700’.

Less than a mile in on this road is the Big Lead Mine, a copper, lead, silver and gold mine. The ores once mined here include chalcopyrite, a copper ore, galena, and silver. There is a vertical shaft that is recorded as being 75’ deep. The earliest reference that I can find to this digging is a USGS Bulletin from 1915 with no record as to the amount or value of the minerals extracted.

What has been left behind at the Big Lead is a tailings pile of eye candy. Chunks of quartz, stained yellow by what I believe is sulfur, embedded with fool’s gold, glints and sparkles at every turn of the head. Where the pyrite crystals have weathered out of the host rock the ground itself glitters like the floor of some long ago outdoor disco. But don’t be tempted into picking up the dense chunks. It is best if you “leaverite” there.

Let’s Go Get Stones
Gray Hawk - Ghostly Grim Reaper

As we enter March, spring is slowly unfolding in the Sky Islands. Wildflowers are in their prime, warmer temperatures rule the roost, and the forefront of bird migration is upon us. Among the winged wanderers returning to our local haunts are gray hawks. I look forward to their spring return perhaps more than any other migrant. For me they embody the transition from cold to warm, from winter to spring, and from austere to fecund. Though our Raven’s Nest Nature Sanctuary hosts many raptors, including golden eagles, osprey, and zone-tailed hawks, it is gray hawks that capture my imagination the most.

Gray hawks range from southeast Arizona, southern New Mexico, and southern Texas through both coasts of Mexico deep into Central America, terminating in northern Costa Rica. Thus, they are best described as a neotropical buteo or soaring hawk. In our region, gray hawks are top predators. All the more reason to savor this tropical terror as it plies the skies amidst our forested 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

Gray Hawks

In terms of size, gray hawks are smaller than the more familiar red-tailed hawk and appear to be about the same size as the similar-looking and ubiquitous Cooper’s hawk, though they weigh considerably less. Their nickname south of the border is “Mexican goshawk.” They weigh about 18 ounces on average and have short wings, that help them outmaneuver prey in tight spaces.

The sexes look alike in their steel-gray, barred plumage. Other features that stand out are their bright yellow feet, the yellow base of their hooked beak, and yellow and white striped tail. These traits make misidentification unlikely.

The gray hawk has a characteristic call, which I describe as a lilting, haunting whistle. It is often repeated in a series, which helps to pinpoint their whereabouts. This is not always an easy task since gray hawks not only have to be stealthy in order to detect and dispatch their keen-eyed prey - many lizards readily recognize the flying silhouette of a raptor - but also to avoid being predated themselves. To this end they will mob larger raptors that pose a threat to them.

In turn I’ve witnessed smaller American kestrels returning the favor with their own aerial assault. Either way, the smaller bird, the mobber, sends a message of vigilance to its potential prey indicating his fitness to be a parent in doing so.

Once secured, the bond is monogamous. The average clutch size is two to three pale blue eggs, which take slightly over a month for the female to incubate. During this time, the male delivers various prey items for her incubation. He will also lay the foundation of a stick nest, aimed at winning the female. He will attempt to grasp the female during courtship.

The hatched chicks take about six weeks to fledge, with both parents furnishing food for them. The immatures are heavily barred below and brown overall, lending them a degree of camouflage beyond even the adults.

Gray hawks seem to be slowly expanding their range in the U.S., where they have increased their numbers from about 80 nesting pairs to around 200 within the last few decades. Still, they are vulnerable to a variety of threats. Foremost is habitat degradation and destruction. Livestock overgrazing lowers prey abundance and cover. Land clearing for housing and industry often levels riparian zones and mesquite woodlands. Climate change proffers more fire, altering their habitat. Any chemical used on the land may bioaccumulate in their flesh, as gray hawks are top predators. All the more reason to savor this tropical terror as it plies the skies amidst our forested islands.

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Garden Guides

Dividing Perennials

By Mary McKay

As the temperatures and weather continue on this wacky roller coaster, it is still not safe to plant any frost sensitive plants outdoors. Really, don’t you dare plant any tomatoes just yet! But underground, your perennial plants are growing and getting ready to show themselves. A perennial is a plant that dies back in winter and regrows in spring, and it lives for more than two years. Plants that live for only two years are called biennials.

As perennials start to grow in spring, it’s the perfect time to divide them and transfer them around your garden whether to a pot or the ground, or give some to a friend. I like to divide perennials to rejuvenate the “mother” plant. Sometimes after a few years of growing, the original parent plant can start to lose some vigor due to crowding and competition for water, nutrients, and light. The flowers may be smaller or fewer in number, or it’s growth may become spindly in nature. These are signs that the plant needs division. Dividing will reinvigorate new root and shoot growth. Another reason to divide a perennial is to control the size or spread of a plant. And of course, we divide to make more plants to fill in bare spots or give some to a friend.

The process is quite simple and you don’t have to be too gentle about it. A day or two before dividing, water the plant well to ensure the ground is moist. Do the dividing on a day that is not blazing hot to help prevent stress on the plants. Simply stab the blade of a spade or large garden fork down through the crown of the plant and dig up a piece with roots and some soil. This chunk should then be transferred to a new hole in the garden or into a pot to grow on.

Another method of division is to completely dig up the mother plant (size permitting) and tease apart the mass of roots and new shoots with your hands or a hand-held garden fork. Then split the clump up by pulling it apart, cutting with scissors or a knife or a garden spade. Repot or replant the divisions into the ground immediately or store them a few days in a cool place in something to keep the roots moist. Water the freshly planted divisions well and keep them moist until you see their new growth. Mulch and feed the new plants and the original with your favorite balanced fertilizer.

Note: Some perennial plants do not like to be divided at all. A quick internet search will help you find out if you have one of these. Lavender is one that comes to mind.

What to plant in March: From seed, plant things like lettuce, chard, beets, cilantro, carrots, radish, peas, kale and spinach. From starter plants, things like oregano, mint, thyme, sage, parsley (a biennial!), chives, onion slips, broccoli (spring type) and cauliflower (spring type).

Note: “Spring type” refers to the plant’s ability to create a crop very quickly, where as a fall type takes longer. “Hardy” refers to the plant’s ability to withstand frost.

The Santa Cruz Foundation For The Performing Arts

Benderly-Kendall Opera House, 344 Naugle Ave., Patagonia, AZ

March - April 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.

March 13: 3 p.m. Violin, Cello and Harp Trio - Emily Chao, Juan David Mejia and Carla Fabris

$25 Prepay/$30 At the Door

April 3: 3 p.m. A String Affair - A Benderley Concert Event. Music for two violins, viola and two cellos performed on instruments handcrafted by master luthier Zoran Stilin. Included in the program is the first movement of the extraordinary Schubert String Quintet in C. It was Schubert’s final chamber work, composed two months before his death.

$30 Prepay/$35 At the Door

Visit www.scfpapresents.org for more information

Banned Book Movies

Come watch what they said we can’t read

March 6, 2p.m. Film: “Beloved” Based on the book by Toni Morrison banned in 2007

$5 suggested donation

March 27, 2p.m. Film: “Of Mice ad Men” Based on the book by John Steinbeck banned most recently in 2021

$5 suggested donation

April 3, 2p.m. Film: ‘The Pilgrimage to Magdalena’ a documentary by Border Community Alliance (rescheduled)

$30 Prepay/$35 At the Door

Visit www.scfpapresents.org for more information

March 13: 3 p.m. Two Punch - The Art of Music and Dance

$25 Prepay/$30 At the Door

Easter Concert with Canada’s St. Andrew’s Choir

April 14: 2p.m. Easter Concert with Canada’s St. Andrew’s Choir

$25 Prepay/$30 At the Door

Visit www.scfpapresents.org for more information

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Patagonia Plants

Mary McKay
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@patagoniaplants

Growing roots in Patagonia

The Art of Potter

Martha Kelly

ART+HISTORY @ THE PATAGONIA MUSEUM
100 SCHOOL STREET PATAGONIA, AZ

MARCH 2022
We are all excited for a new year of growth, knowledge, and fun! The Mustangs 4H Club has so much planned for this year, so stay tuned for future articles written by your local 4H officers.

Each January we elect new club officers. Potential candidates apply for a position, campaign at the first club meeting of the year, then each member gets to cast their vote for who they believe will be the best choice for the position. Congratulations to our new officers!

Cash Keith, Mustangs Club President: “I am 15 years old and a sophomore in high school. I have been a member of the Mustangs club for six years and this is my second year as an officer. I have raised steer, swine and participated in shooting sports. Outside of 4H I enjoy hunting, reading, riding horses, caving, and working for the Vera Earl Ranch. This year I will raise a pig for the fair.”

Addison Tomlinson, Mustangs Club Vice President: “This is my sixth year in 4H showing steer and horses. I am currently a freshman honors student at Salpointe Catholic High School. Outside of 4H I compete in AQHA and NRCHA reined cow horse events. I am looking forward to competing in my first world championships in February 2022.”

Laura Keith, Mustangs Club Secretary: “This is my fourth year with the Mustangs 4H club. I am 12 years old and currently in 7th grade. I have shown steer, goat, dairy cow, dog, lamb, horse, and chickens. This is my second year as an officer. Last year I held the Friendship Officer position. Outside of 4H I enjoy barrel racing, pole bending, and western pleasure events. I plan to attend Texas A & M to become a large animal veterinarian.”

Ellissa Bird, Mustangs Treasurer: “This is my first year as an officer and I am looking for helping my fellow 4Hers as well as gaining leadership experience in this role. This is my fifth year in 4H, also my fifth year showing cattle. In addition to cattle I show goats, lambs, hogs, dairy cattle and pygmy goats. I also participate in veterinary science, cooking and crafts projects through 4H. When not attending 4H meetings or SAILA Livestock shows I am an honor student at Acellus Academy where my favorite subject is history.”

Faith Keith, Mustangs Club Sergeant at Arms: “I am 10 years old and this is my second year in 4H. I plan to show chickens, turkey, and my dog this year at fair. I enjoy riding horses, playing with friends, soccer, and baking. When I grow up I would like to be a large animal veterinarian. I signed up for our 4H Veterinary Science project and at our first meeting we dissected cow eyeballs and I learned so much! My favorite animals are chickens, horses and cattle.”

Everett Prentice, Mustangs Friendship Officer: “Last year was my first year in 4H and I found success showing my pig to Reserve Champion Market Hog. I’m excited about my gilt, expecting a litter next month, so I will have a few piglets to choose from for this year’s fair. I am also part of the cooking and dog projects and enjoy parkour, axe throwing, archery and swordsmanship.”
Senior Spotlights

This month the PRT kicks off a series of profiles of the PUHS senior class of 2022.
Look for more profiles of these talented and interesting young people in upcoming issues of the PRT.

Madison Vines

Participation in school clubs and sports: I have participated in Volleyball all four years, Basketball for three years, and FFA for all four years.
Extra-curricular activities outside of school: I have participated in 4-H since 4th grade.
Plans for next year: My plans for next year are to attend the University of Arizona to become a nurse.
Favorite teachers: My favorite teachers are Mrs. Hayes and Mr. Porter.
Favorite subjects: My favorite subjects are English and Ag.
Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here? I will always remember bus rides for volleyball and basketball games my freshman year, singing and team bonding.
What has been the highlight of your high school years? A highlight from high school was getting to play sports and become a family with my teammates.
Where do you imagine yourself in ten years? In ten years I imagine myself being happy and working as a nurse.

Savannah Woods

Participation in school clubs and sports: In school, I participated in volleyball, basketball, softball, Student Government, National Honors Society, and yearbook.
Extra-curricular activities outside of school: Outside of school, I like to ride horses and go hunting.
Plans for next year: My plans for next year are to either go to college or become a U.S. Customs Agent.
Favorite teachers: My favorite teacher is Mrs. Hayes because she is very kind, sweet, and she is a great teacher!
Favorite subjects: My favorite subject is English.
Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here? One memory I will remember forever would be the fun I have had with some of my classmates and my teammates.
What has been the highlight of your high school years? The highlight of my high school years would have to be my senior year homecoming 2021 when I won homecoming queen!
Where do you imagine yourself in ten years? In ten years, I see myself with a career that I enjoy and having my own family.

Tavania Padilla

Participation in school clubs and sports: I participated in FFA and managed Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and was a member of Student Government.
Extra-curricular activities outside of school: Babysitting.
Plans for next year: Next year I plan to attend New Mexico State University’s Pre-Med program to pursue a career in the medical field.
Favorite teachers: Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Best, Ms. Posada, and Mrs. Alyson.
Favorite subjects: Poetry and Ag.
Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here? My senior year in volleyball when the team went to Cibecue.
What has been the highlight of your high school years? Sports.
Where do you imagine yourself in ten years? I imagine myself with my dream job living my life.
Senior Spotlights

Ivan Carranza

**Participation in school clubs and sports:** I have participated in the FFA club and participated in basketball, soccer, and baseball.

**Extra-curricular activities outside of school:** I rodeo, ranch, and help hoof horses.

**Plans for next year:** To go to college and continue with my business of buying and selling horses.

**Favorite teachers:** Every teacher is my favorite, they have helped me in my four years of high school to improve and be ready for life.

**Favorite subjects:** Rodeo, ranching, and baseball.

**Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here?** When we did something as a whole school before COVID.

**What has been the highlight of your high school years?** I would say going to nationals for FFA to represent Patagonia.

**Where do you imagine yourself in ten years?** Hopefully be the owner of my own ranch and have a livestock running.

---

Sergio Carranza

**Participation in school clubs and sports:** Soccer and baseball

**Extra-curricular activities outside of school:** Ranching and roping

**Plans for next year:** Go to college in Casa Grande and study to be a farrier.

**Favorite teachers:** Mrs. Hayes and Ms. Best.

**Favorite subjects:** Roping.

**Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here?** When I started roping.

**What has been the highlight of your high school years?** Soccer season.

**Where do you imagine yourself in ten years?** In ten years I will have earned my livestock company and roped in the big rodeos.

---

Santiny Aguilar

**Participation in school clubs and sports:** I have played Soccer and Basketball all 4 years of high school, Baseball for two years, my sophomore and Junior year. I was my class representative for my Freshman and Junior year.

**Extra-curricular activities outside of school:** I do some yard cleaning jobs here and there.

**Plans for next year:** My plans for next year are going to Mesa Community College and playing basketball for their basketball program.

**Favorite teachers:** Mr. Porter, Mrs. Hayes, and Mr. Hayes

**Favorite subjects:** Poetry and writing.

**Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here?** My freshman year in High School, I was elected Prince for Homecoming. That was the most memorable night of my High School Career.

**What has been the highlight of your high school years?** All of the away basketball games, all the trips to state, all the laughs and jokes we would have during class, learning more about myself as a person. High School is just a highlight in itself. Yeah there are some ups and downs, but that is life, and these were the easy ups and downs.

**Where do you imagine yourself in ten years?** I imagine me being content with my life, having a little family, not really depending on my own family anymore. Yes I will have their support, but I hope I will be set and able to help them with what they need.
### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Banned Book Series Film: “Beloved”: 2 p.m. Based on the book by Toni Morrison banned in 2007 $5 suggested donation at the Tin Shed Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>SCFPA Presents: 3 - 4 p.m. Harp, Violin and Cello - Emily Chao, Juan David Mejia and Carla Fabris return to the Opera House. $25 Prepay /$30 At the Door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>CHOP Annual Membership Meeting: 5-6 p.m. at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>Art + History Opening: 6 p.m. at the Patagonia Museum pottery of artist Martha Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>Sonoita Produce on Wheels: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. (and every 3rd Sat. of the month) at the Vine Church in Sonoita Call/Text Gardenia for more info-602-292-1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>Hermosa Project Open House: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Patagonia HS football field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>“Los Adioses” presented by the Mexican Consulate. 6 p.m. Tin Shed Theater. Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>Banned Book Series Film: “Of Mice ad Men”: 2 p.m. Based on a John Steinbeck book banned most recently in 2021 At the Tin Shed Theatre $5 suggested donation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 3</td>
<td>Film: ‘The Pilgrimage to Magdalena’: a documentary by Border Community Alliance (re-scheduled) a film festival winner. 20-min. intro. followed by a Q/A with film makers. At the Tin Shed Theatre. $5 suggested donation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Mata Ortiz Pottery Show and Sale: At Rune Wines 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Firing 10 a.m. Info: call/text 520-237-3284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SPECIAL INTERESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunch for Seniors:</td>
<td>Fresh-cooked meals. Take out @ 11:30-12:15p.m. In-house dining 12:15 to 1:30p.m. Must be vaccinated for dine in. Patagonia Senior Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Preserve: Wed. - Sun. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. for Mar. and 6:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. for April. Masks required in Restrooms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoita Farmers Market: Saturdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Located at post office parking lot, NW corner Hwy 82 &amp; 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Farmers Market: Thursday - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nogales Little Mercado: Fridays 4-7 p.m. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. Email <a href="mailto:cdavid@mariposachc.net">cdavid@mariposachc.net</a> for more info</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Elephant Thrift Store: 325 - 327 McKeown Ave, Patagonia. Open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Thurs - Sun.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop: New location: 22 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita. Thurs - Sat. 10-2 p.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Thrift Shop: Located at 387 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia. Open Fri and Sat from 10:00 a.m.-12:00. Look for the OPEN flag.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East SCC Community Food Bank: Every Monday from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Distribution of fresh vegetables at the senior Center in Patagonia through vegetable season.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CrossRoads Tutoring Foundation: Sonoita Hills Comm. Church Thurs. 3:30 - 5 p.m. No cost to students. Call Jim for more info 720-252-2517</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Library: Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-5p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call for more info. 520.394.2010</td>
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### SPECIAL INTERESTS

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<tr>
<td>Free Produce Boxes: 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. 9:30 a.m. in front of the Sonoita Post Office.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Produce on Wheels: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Every 3rd Sat. of the month at the Vine Church in Sonoita Call/Text Gardenia for more info-602-292-1616</td>
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</table>

### MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA: Alcoholics Anonymous</td>
<td>In person meetings weekly Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at The Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous</td>
<td>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>Patagonia Town Council</td>
<td>Nov. 17 6 p.m. in Town Council Room. Public invited. CDC Guidelines will be followed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Club</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Thurs. 5:30 p.m. has moved online. Info: Sue 520-990-4648.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens of Patagonia’s Board of Directors</td>
<td>2nd Mon. 3 p.m. at the Senior Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30 p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month, Sonoita Bible Church. All are welcome.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Santa Cruz County Democrat 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.azsantanacruzdem.org/meetings">www.azsantanacruzdem.org/meetings</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Youth Bible Hang Out:</td>
<td>At the Sonoita Bible Church. 2nd and 4th Wed. April Anderson at <a href="mailto:andeap@msn.com">andeap@msn.com</a>, 520-508-9702 or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-0155.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CrossRoads Quilters: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month 9a.m. at the Sonoita Bible Church. Contact 520-860-0173 for more info.</td>
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### CHURCH SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canelo Cowboy Church</td>
<td>14 McCarthy Lane, Elgin 520-604-6990 Sunday Service: 8:30a.m. Sunday School: 10a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Sunday service 10a.m Call/email church office for info. 520-394-2274 <a href="mailto:patagoniaumc@gmail.com">patagoniaumc@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church: Patagonia 222 Third Ave. - T, Th, Fri 9 a.m. (Oct - March, 8 a.m. April - Sept.), Sat 5:30p.m., Sun 10:30a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Bible Church</td>
<td>N. Hwy 83, Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd &amp; 4th Wed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VINE Christian Church</td>
<td>3107 N. Hwy 83, Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</td>
<td>969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales Services are weekly, however times change frequently. Visit standrewszaz.org for additional info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker Worship Group</td>
<td>Meets via Zoom. Contact Janice Pulliam if interested 706-614-6959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubac Buddhist Meditation</td>
<td>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>

### GET THE PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME OR MAILBOX $50/ YEAR (10 ISSUES).
To sign up for home delivery Or for more information, Contact prtasted@gmail.com with any event or updates you would like listed.
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Couple with RV preferred. 520-455-9246. Start date negotiable.

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

BAAN HELP WANTED
Fri. Sat. Sun: Feed hay, water, pick up manure for two horses. Approx. 1 hr/day $20/day. Located in Sonoita 1 mi. south of Fairgrounds.
Call: 520-975-9920.

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Incentives Include: Health Insurance, Paid Vacation, Paid Sick Leave, Shift Differential Pay, Double Time Holiday Pay, $52,181.00
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MISCELLANEOUS

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

RETIRRED GENTLEMAN IS SEEKING A PROPERTY MANAGER, CARETAKER
Or similar position in area. Clean, quiet, reliable. 406-521-0288

KPUP Broadcast Schedule - Spring 2022

Mon: 5pm to 6pm: Swing Hour
5pm to 6pm: eTown repeat of Saturday’s show
7pm to 8pm: eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire listeners through music and conversation”

Tues: 10am to 12pm: World Jazz with Mark Berg
5pm to 6pm: Swing Hour
7pm to 9pm: Jazz and Blues with Fred Hansen

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

Thurs: 7pm to 9pm: Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse
“Celebrating the Evening of Mushkil Gusha, the Remover of All Difficulties.” Hosted by Graves
7pm to 9pm: Possibility Explorers.

Fri: 7pm to 9pm: Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse
12pm to 1pm: eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire listeners through music and conversation”
7pm to 9pm: Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse
8pm to 10pm: Folk Alley “Folk Music Radio from WKSU-FM in Kent, OH”

Sat: 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: Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.

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 Regional Times

What is The Press Core? Press Core is the Patagonia Regional Times monthly giving program that helps sustain the PAT’s operations throughout the year. Join for as little as $5/mo to support LOCAL news! Our readers are the CORE of our community newspaper. Sign up today: Go to patagoniaregionaltimes.org/press-core.

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Or similar position in area. Clean, quiet, reliable. 406-521-0288
PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Ave., next to Gathering Grounds  520-394-2120
SONOITA: Corner of Hwys 82 & 83, next to Post Office  520-455-5235
www.buysonoita.com

Jean Miller, Owner, Designated Broker
Long Realty Sonoita/Patagonia
Direct 520-508-3335
jeanmiller@longrealty.com

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