Elgin Fire Burns 2149 Acres

By Marion Vendituoli

"You may be about to become a poster child for the value of water!" local environmental activist Tricia Gerrodette wrote to Sonoita resident Molly Anderson recently. Anderson and more than 70 of her neighbors who get their water from the Sonoita Valley Water Company (SVW) may be about to see their water bills dramatically increase due to a depleted well and the high cost of hauling water.

In papers filed with the Arizona Corporations Commission (ACC), Gary Wene, owner of SVW, testified that the well servicing the Papago Springs/ Los Encinos area of Sonoita has been drawn down significantly. By May 2021 it was producing less than ten gallons per minute. To address the problem, the company installed a 10,000-gallon storage tank at the site, and made repairs to the well, at a cost of $19,320.

On May 18, 2022, SVW was granted permission by the ACC to add a surcharge of $11.03/month for 24 months to their users' bills to recoup the cost of these repairs.

To meet the water demands of its customers, the company hauled water from a second well located in the center of Sonoita from May to November 2021, which cost the company $156,000. According to documents filed with the ACC, Southwestern Utility Management paid for the water hauling, as Sonoita Valley Water Company was unable to pay this bill. This debt is being carried on SVW's books, according to Attorney Steve Wene, who represents Southwestern Utility Management, which manages SVW. Steve Wene is also the brother of SVW's owner.

If SVW were to be sold to a private company, Southwestern Utility would want to be repaid for the hauling expense, according to Wene. If the residents were to form a water improvement district and take over the company, "everybody would be more lenient" about forgiving the debt, Wene said.

SVW did not seek permission from the ACC to add a surcharge to their customers' bills to recover the $156,000 water hauling expense. But even with the well now repaired and producing 20 – 30 gallons/minute, water hauling is still needed, due to the depleted aquifer, according to Gary Wene's testimony. He stated that the solution would be to drill a new well, and that the company is trying to locate a suitable site to drill.

SVW asked for, and received, permission to pass hauling costs on to their customers going forward. The company "loses money right now, but we are hoping to break even with the surcharges," Steve Wene said. Although, according to Steve Wene, the well improvements helped to alleviate the water shortage, last month the company had to resume hauling water to the Papago Springs well. He does not anticipate that the hauling charges will be as high this year as last, but, based on the $156,000 it cost for hauling water in the last half of 2021, the hauling surcharge could cost SVW customers $2000 or more annually for their water going forward. "Southwestern Utility just wants to recover its costs," Steve Wene said.

This water crisis has had a ripple effect in downtown Sonoita, as well, where several businesses along SR82 are customers of Sonoita Valley Water Company. Todd Bostock, of Dos Cabezas WineWorks sees water trucks filling up at the water company's well located behind the building that was formerly Sonoita Auto. "Recently it's been all day, every day," he said. "We know when they are pumping because our water pressure goes down to just a drip." He reported that the winery has
MISSION STATEMENT
To be a reliable and engaging source of news for the communities of Eastern Santa Cruz County - open to all views, focused on local issues, written and edited by local people, and providing a platform for community education and involvement.

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Join us for an in-person Q & A session with County government representatives and loan program personnel who will explain the application process, conditions and reporting requirements.

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News Release

The 4th of July Committee is pleased to announce that Bill Bergier has been chosen as Grand Marshal for this year’s 4th of July parade in Patagonia.

The Committee encourages local organizations to participate in the parade. Call Andrea Sanchez at the Patagonia Town Hall to sign up. Her contact number is 520-394-2229.

The parade starts at 11a.m. Participants should meet at the high school between 10 and 10:30. No water balloons or cannons are permitted at the parade.

Bring the family and line the streets of Patagonia, have a picnic in the park or eat at a local restaurant and support local businesses. No open fires are permitted, due to current fire restrictions.

Fireworks will take place if there is rain by July 4th. If not, the fireworks will be postponed to a later date. Look for updates on the fireworks and festivities in the CB and PRT e-newsletter.

PATAGONIA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
San Rafael Fire - A Firsthand Account

By Zay Hartigan, PVFR Fire Chief

The San Rafael Fire was started by a tree knocking down a powerline in Lochiel on May 7 at 6:05p.m. It burned for about 40 minutes before a resident of the area called it in. The crews responding from Patagonia were 60 minutes away, and Sonoita and Coronado National Forest crews were 90 minutes away. I live in the fire’s path and drove down to give crews a report on the fire, as well as routing to it, coordinating the initial attack. Arriving just over an hour after ignition, I quickly sized up the 20 acre fire with the first homeowners in its path, as well as their house’s probability of surviving the fire.

We watched as the fire, which had been burning slowly downhill in heavily grazed pasture, pushed by strong winds, changed before our eyes when it crossed the drainage. The slight slope it now climbed aligned with the winds. Having traveled 1/4 mile in its first hour, it now covered the second 1/4 mile in about eight minutes. In the first 24 hours of the fire, it traveled 12 1/4 mile in about eight minutes. In the first 24 hours of the fire, it traveled 12 miles and burned 11,620 acres. That’s over 18 square miles, and included multiple ranches, triggering enforced evacuations of over 80 people.

At 7:26p.m. the fire entered the State Park’s ungrazed pasture, and morphed again. Two-to-six-foot flames now grew to six-twelve feet, and then to 15 feet or more as it gained steam. In the 14 minutes between the time it entered the State Park, it traveled 3/4 mile and reached the historic ranch headquarters.

I was continually updating the responding crews, as well as contacting the Park Ranger to get the front gate unlocked and their water system activated. I arrived at the compound to find an adequate to substantial firebreak and defensible space around the south and east sides of the buildings, and an alarmingly inadequate preparation around the corrals which span the entire west side of the compound, and were built right up to the barn, shop, and a couple other structures. Half of the corrals were overexposed to the approaching flame front. At 7:36 I began burning along the good firebreak by the barn and corrals, hoping to extend the burn along the weaker section when the first engine arrived. At 7:39, the truck arrived, and at 7:40, the flame front hit, forcing us back to the safety zone in front of the ranch house. Six minutes later, when the flames had died enough that we could return, we found the outer layer of corral fence burning so hot and fast that it collapsed when hit with water from our hoses. The howling 20-30mph wind was spreading and fanning thousands of embers among the dried corral boards and against the barn and shop.

We extinguished the flames, and wet down the embers that we could easily reach in the maze-like complex of pens. There were now two flame fronts, rushing around two sides of the complex, while super-heated air pushed embers through the corrals and into the adjoining structures, igniting patches of grass in the pens, and setting the stage for multiple time-delayed ignitions among the pens. Short-handed, we rushed around between buildings extinguishing and wetting what we could reach.

The initial attack crews worked for 22 hours, well beyond a normal operating period of 16 hours, due to the extreme fire situation. Even with that, and more ground forces joining them overnight, as well as air support the next day, the fire continued to advance through and past multiple ranches until it was stopped the following day.

When it came barreling towards our ranch complexes, all resources were devoted to containing the fire, and they managed to keep it across the county road, one mile from our buildings.

It’s probable that, had the fire jumped the road, some resources would have been diverted to structure protection. If this had been a more populated area there would have been nowhere near enough resources. In all, five properties with multiple structures were burned over. The only structures lost were half of the corrals at the State Park, which had inadequate firebreak/defensible space, a piece of our county and our country’s history gone forever.

Zay Hartigan advises incoming resources by radio as flame front approaches the State Natural Area in San Rafael Valley.

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Janet Wynans passed away at home in the company of her loving family on Mother’s Day. Very fitting for the poet that we all knew and loved.

Born in her beloved San Francisco, she grew to have a natural yearning for knowledge and community involvement. She attended Lowell High School in San Francisco, and then moved on to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Outdoor Education. Eventually, she made her way to Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC where she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Poetry.

After spending much of her life in California, when it came time for retirement, she and her husband “Woodie” chose beautiful Patagonia, AZ in 2003. Prior to arriving in Patagonia, Janet had been an Artist in Residence with the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and once here she also took part in Young Audiences of Santa Cruz County. Then, settled into Patagonia she enjoyed serving on the PUHS School Board, Friends of the Library, and the Community Garden Board. Unknown to many, she was even made an Honorary Deputy with the Patagonia Marshals Office!

At all their stops along the way, Janet and Woodie were always deeply involved in community, and Patagonia would be no different. They both loved this town and the time they got to spend here. Janet also enjoyed many of the less formal gatherings that she was a part of…poetry and book groups as well as her lunch, dinner and coffee groups.

Perhaps Janet’s greatest joy in Patagonia was the library. She was a staple at the check-out desk and always looked forward to taking part in the 4th of July book sale. Janet is survived by her children: Jennifer, Stephan, Jessica; her stepchildren: Mark, Jill, Scott; her grandchildren: Emily, Richard, Jessica, Jackson, Tekla, and Yorick. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donating to either the Patagonia Library or the Patagonia Community Garden.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce our mother Lea passed quietly from this life on May 15, 2022 in Tucson, AZ at the age of 89.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Oscar G. Ward, Jr., her parents Gaudencio and Isabel Ramirez, and brother Nathaniel Ramirez. She is survived by her children Oscar G. Ward III (Jennifer) of Draper, UT and Anne E. Bullock (Vic) of Danville, CA; “Ti-Ters” Elvira Liebelt (Warren) and Hagar Benitez (Frank); granddaughters Baily, Ryley, Reagan and Brenyn Ward and Brittany Wasilefsky (Brian); great-grandchildren, Johnny, Charlotte and Max Wasilefsky, and many nieces, nephews and cousins, in both the US and Mexico, all of whom will miss her dearly.

She was one of four children and was born in Marfa, TX. Her family moved to AZ, living in Douglas and Ajo before settling in Tucson in 1946. She graduated from Tucson High School in 1952 where she made lifelong friends. After graduating in 1955 from St. Mary’s School of Nursing she married her husband Oscar, affectionately known as “Dien or Dino” in July of that same year.

She worked at St. Mary’s, St. Joseph’s and Kino Hospitals as a surgical nurse and served on one of the first open-heart teams. Later she became a life long advocate of the people and traditions of AZ and served in a variety of organizations dedicated to the history, art and culture of Southwestern AZ and Northern Sonora.

She was a founder of the Spanish Language Theatre Teatro Carmen, and numerous Hispanic arts and educational organizations. Just to mention a few: The Southern Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society, The Tucson Arts District Planning Committee, Tucson Pima Arts Council, Arizona Commission of the Arts (appointed by Governor Bruce Babbitt), The Tucson Community Foundation Funding Committee, Tucson Festival Society, Arizona Theatre Company, Arizona Media Arts Center, The University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni, Southwestern Mission Research Center, Los Descendientes Del Presidio de Tucson, and the Santa Cruz County Cowbelles, and Empire Ranch Foundation in Sonoita, AZ where she and Dien began their retired lives together in 1995.

An ardent student of history, she was a founder of the popular Kino Mission Tours with which she conducted educational tours into Mexico. She combined her holy places with active participation in organizations devoted to the preservation and conservation of AZ wildlife, its habitants and environs. She was a devoted Christian of the Presbyterian faith which she miraculously allotted equal time to in all of the communities she resided. She loved her family, the desert and its wildlife, all things southwestern with an emphasis on Spanish missions; traveling to Mexico and other worldly places with our Dad and dancing corridas with him. She loved speaking Spanish, taking road trips, hiking, birdwatching, touring new places, going to the theatre, and the Tucson Symphony. She loved listening to all music including classical, gospel, Mexican ballads and Los Mariachis, pos su puesto! She also loved her tequila Reposado, was an avid UofA Wildcats basketball fan and was a very feisty and gregarious woman, con muchas ganas, as they say in Spanish.

A private urn committal service to be held at East Lawn Palms Cemetery, Tucson, Az.

Memorial contributions may be made to Southwestern Mission Research Center (SMRC) 501(c)3 or Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson 501(c), both nonprofit educational organizations which have benefited from her dedication.
JUDY MILLS
MAY 14, 1953 - APRIL 20, 2022

Judy Mills passed on from this world on April 20, 2022, in Denver, CO after a life of grace, passion and creativity, much loved by her family and friends.

She was born on May 14, 1953 in Beloit, WI to Jack Mills and Anna Butke Mills, the fourth child preceded by her siblings Marissa, Liz and Joe. Judy moved at age seven with her family to the burgeoning suburbs of Washington, D.C. in Fairfax County, VA for father Jack to pursue his career in Republican Party politics. He led the Republican Congressional Campaign in 1966 and subsequently worked as a lobbyist for the Tobacco Institute. Judy’s family socialized with Republican leaders of the time such as George Bush, Bob Dole and Barry Goldwater, but Judy traveled in a different direction.

After graduating from Bishop O’Connell High School in 1971, Judy joined an activist community led by Daniel and Philip Berrigan in Baltimore. Judy was an early member of the Community for Creative Non-Violence in Washington, D.C., which operated a homeless shelter and food pantry/soup kitchen. She was arrested in the Nixon White House protesting expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia and served 30 days in D.C. Municipal Jail.

Judy graduated from Millersville (PA) College and moved to Albany, NY to work for the New York State Department of Social Services and later the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, working on homeless programs and as a project director for child welfare services.


While in Albany, Judy obtained a master’s degree in special education from Russell Sage College. She learned, and publicly performed, the cello. Judy found time to explore her talents as a visual artist. She also joined a dragon boat racing team of cancer survivors that trained on the Hudson River and competed in the region.

Judy survived breast cancer and battled head and neck cancer for decades, including her last seven years as a Stage 4 cancer patient. Casual acquaintances may not have known of her illness as she did not complain or dwell on her cancer. Her bravery and strength were remarkable and an inspiration to those who knew her.

Judy loved Patagonia, where she and Joe moved in 2012. She continued her pursuits in visual arts and became a talented sewer and fabric artist. She sewed a large fabric banner for protests in May 2017 at the border in Nogales over restrictive Trump administration border policies. Judy was on the board of directors of the Patagonia Creative Arts Association and taught art there and at Patagonia High School. She worked to help start the annual spring ritual of a Hawaiian shirt sale to benefit KPUP and served on the Patagonia Community Garden board. She and Joe moved to Colorado in 2019 to be closer to their son Lucas and his family.

The Patagonia Creative Arts Association has created the Judy Mills Memorial Scholarship to be granted to a graduating senior from Patagonia High School who will be pursuing the study of art. Donations to the Scholarship may be sent to the Patagonia Creative Arts Association, PO Box 1248, Patagonia, AZ 85624. Indicate that the donation is to the scholarship fund.

Judy’s family socialized with Republican leaders of the time such as George Bush, Bob Dole and Barry Goldwater, but Judy traveled in a different direction.

Lee was an ordinary man who did incredible things and lived the life of his dreams, which was to build his home and learn to live sustainably. He was a craftsman, gardener, and toolmaker at the end of his life.

When diagnosed (July, 2021) with grade 4 brain cancer, Lee had two ongoing projects making significant contributions to our hummingbird conservation work. He invented and produced many precision tools for hummingbird researchers worldwide. He also was developing gardens and identifying a suite of native plants that would provide a continuous source of flowers with nectar for hummingbird use in our area.

He was an engineer who helped develop computer products for IBM during midlife. During the Vietnam War era, he served in the Navy for six years and the National Guard for his three. He enjoyed downhill skiing, scuba diving, river running, photography, backpacking, bird watching, dancing, and cooking. His wife, Susan Wethington, his mother, sister, and two brothers survive him.

His friends and family remember him for his smile, sense of humor, hearty laughter, kind and gentle spirit, and listening with his entire being when interacting with others. Please also visit www.savehummingbirds.org for a fuller memorial to Lee.
Recent Legal Decisions a Mixed Bag for Copper Mining

By Robert Gay

Opponents to copper mining in the Santa Rita Mountains have had both reasons to celebrate and cause for disappointment this month.

Hudbay Minerals, owner of the Rosemont Mine, suffered a major legal setback on May 12, 2022, when the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the company’s appeal of a prior permit denial, effectively preventing digging the Rosemont pit.

The original lawsuit was filed in 2017 by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR), the Center for Biological Diversity, the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition and the Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter. They argued that the Forest Service had illegally granted approval to Hudbay to use 2,447 acres of federal land for the dumping of 1.9 billion tons of rock tailings from the proposed open pit mine.

In 2019 U.S. District Court Judge James Soto ruled in favor of Hudbay, saying that “without valid mining claims, the public land can’t be used for mining activities,” as reported by tucson.com. Hudbay and the U.S. Justice Department appealed, but the May 12 ruling by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Soto’s decision.

During this time, Hudbay has been acquiring land and developing a second mining project in the Santa Ritas. Named after one of about 20 mines in the historic Helvetia Mining District, the Copper World project straddles the ridge from Gunsight Pass down to the historic Helvetia Mining District, and is expected to reflect an approximate 15-year mine life. The second phase of the mine plan is expected to require only state and local permits, and is expected to reflect an approximate 15-year mine life. The second phase of the mine plan is expected to extend the mine life and incorporate an expansion onto Federal lands to mine the entire Rosemont and Copper World deposits.

But the May 12 ruling by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the company’s appeal of a prior permit denial, effectively preventing digging the Rosemont pit. The environmental groups, saying that “without valid mining claims, the public land can’t be used for mining activities,” as reported by tucson.com.

Hudbay agreed with Soto’s ruling, stating that the Army Corps of Engineers does not have an obligation to include Copper World as part of its NEPA review of Rosemont.

The judge also dismissed the preliminary injunction request filed by the plaintiffs in the two lawsuits challenging the Clean Water Act permit for Rosemont on the basis that the lawsuits are moot after the company surrendered its Section 404 Clean Water Act permit in April 2022. Hudbay had argued that there are no “jurisdictional waters” of the US in the Copper World project area, and thus that an Army Corps of Engineers permit is unnecessary.

In a phone interview with the PRT, SSSR Executive Director Stu Williams disagreed with Soto’s ruling, stating that the private-property approach to avoiding the Environmental Impact Study normally required by NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) for a project of this scale “is an abomination.”

Hudbay’s May 12, 2022 press release promised a Preliminary Economic Assessment by the end of June, which will present an alternative mine plan for Rosemont Mine along with a two-phase mining operation for Copper World. “The first phase is expected to require only state and local permits, and is expected to reflect an approximate 15-year mine life. The second phase of the mine plan is expected to extend the mine life and incorporate an expansion onto Federal lands to mine the entire Rosemont and Copper World deposits.”

Aloha Spirit in Patagonia

By Robert Gay

Early May saw the return of a playful Patagonia tradition, the KPUP aloha shirt sale and community luau. Shirts, both donated and collected, lined the sidewalk at Global Arts, curated and enthusiastically hawked by Jan Herron. A twist this year was opening the sale, nine days before the luau, with a choice selection of higher-end shirts with the Tommy Bahama label at $25, compared to the regular $10 price of the others.

The first few days of the sale were “a feeding frenzy,” according to Herron, who felt the throngs of customers were a result of the easing of COVID-19 requirements, with people coming out of confinement and eager to shop and interact again.

Stock got depleted, so they closed the sale for a few days to rebuild inventory for a second round of selling, also very successful. On Luau day, the temperature and lightest of breezes were perfect for outdoor partying under the Library’s canopy of mesquites. Aloha wear, plastic leis and other tropical ornaments helped set a relaxed and festive mood for the 80 or so partiers. The band, a group called Atmosphere from Tucson, blended quiet rock and funk with a rhythmic drive that moved people from toe-tapping to dancing.

In Patagonia’s version of aloha style, the grassy dance floor was graced with both cowboy boots and bare feet. Masterfully cooked meat was served by Michael Moreno of Mor-Q Barbecue and Smokehouse, joined by side dishes and cake by the Stage Stop Inn’s Wildhorse Restaurant.

KPUP, the Town’s radio station was the beneficiary of this event. The shirt sale brought in more than $6000, according to Herron, the most it has ever made. Mark Nicholson, who runs KPUP, reported that the event raised a total of $7000, which will cover most of KPUP’s operating expenses for the year.

“We are very fortunate to have Jan Herron do this for us each year. Her efforts have taken the pressure off of us to raise funds and allowed us to focus on running the station,” Nicholson said. “We’re also very appreciative of how generous people are at the luau.”

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Two long-Time Educators Retire From Elgin School

Kindergarten teacher Tami Cubillas and 4th grade teacher Angela Brown, are recognized for their contributions to the Elgin School at the Community Open House on May 6.

By Pat McNamara

Two teachers who have made a difference in the lives of their students over the years are leaving at the Elgin School. Tami Cubillas and Angela Brown will both be missed by the students and fellow educators.

Tami Cubillas

Although her childhood career choice was to be a ‘cowboy,’ Elgin Elementary kindergarten teacher, Tami Cubillas found her passion as a teacher. A native of California, Cubillas was discouraged from ‘cowboy ing’ as a life choice after graduating from high school and worked in drafting for an architectural firm who designed skyscrapers, as well as other structures, for the city of San Diego.

Working inside an office began to wear on her, so she moved on to help her mother at her preschool daycare center. She worked horses on the side for extra money. At 25, Cubillas became the manager of the family restaurant. There, she met her future husband Rudy, a Border Patrol agent and fellow horseman as well as a rodeo enthusiast.

After marriage, her husband was transferred to New Mexico where they started a family. Cubillas became active with the Girl Scouts and 4-H as a leader and mentor.

While living in New Mexico, competing in rodeos took them to Arizona and on one of those trips, Rudy took Tami through the Elgin/Sonoita area. That was when she first saw, and fell in love with, the Sky Islands. After Rudy’s retirement in 2004, they settled in Sonoita.

Cubillas started at the Elgin School as a para-professional and then taught in the computer lab. From there she managed the school library while getting her business administration degree online through the University of Phoenix. She then finished her master’s degree in early childhood education at Grand Canyon University.

She became an emergency substitute teacher and finally a full-time kindergarten teacher. Cubillas is retiring after 18 years of teaching. Missing the children will be the hardest part of leaving the Elgin School. When asked what pursuing a career in teaching requires, she said that you must “make sure kids are your passion. Nothing else matters if you want a career in teaching”. She also stressed that “If you don’t have the base of a pyramid, you can’t build on your educational journey.”

Angela Brown

“Some of the best time of my life was spent teaching at the Elgin School” said educator, Angela Brown. Fighting cancer for the past five years caused her career to come to a halt in 2021 while she continues treatment, but the mother of two boys is grateful for her years in Elgin.

Getting her BS at the U of A, then a Masters at Grand Canyon University, Brown first considered a career as an environmental engineer. However, circumstances dictated another path, and she is grateful for that directional change.

Spending her first eight years teaching in Huachuca City, she then became Elgin School’s fourth grade teacher and for another seven years she found joy in her students, the staff and the community.

Upon the discovery of her disease, Brown was overwhelmed by the support of those around her asking, “What can we do? How can we help?”

Now putting her career on hold to concentrate on healing, Angela Brown finds comfort in the love and support of the community and prefers to call her voice at a student. She focuses on what she expects.

“Once an Eagle, always an Eagle” and on one of those trips, Rudy took Tami through the Elgin/Sonoita area. That was when she first saw, and fell in love with, the Sky Islands. After Rudy’s retirement in 2004, they settled in Sonoita.

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Beloved Patagonia School Teacher Will Be Missed

Elvia Gallagher, who is retiring this year, is considered an Educational Leader at the Patagonia School

By Sarah Klingenstein

“Elvia Gallagher is a model educator,” Patagonia Schools superintendent Kenny Hayes said. “When you look up a great teacher in the dictionary, there should be a picture of Elvia.”

The much-respected teacher is retiring this spring after over 30 years in education, with 26 of those spent in the Patagonia Schools. She has taught children in all subjects in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, with her last several years spent teaching 4th grade.

Gallagher holds a bachelor’s degree from Northern Arizona University in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Bilingual Multicultural Education and an Elementary Spanish endorsement. Her master’s degree, also from NAU, is in Educational Leadership. She holds numerous endorsements and certificates.

Gallagher was born and raised in Santa Cruz County. English was her second language, and, like many of the students she has taught over the years, she received ESL and free lunch assistance. She proudly shares with her students that her dad was a migrant worker who later became a landscaper and that her mom was a school custodian who also cleaned houses.

Gallagher was inspired to become a teacher after seeing the 1986 movie, “Stand and Deliver.” “The impact that teacher Jaime Escalante had on his students is what planted the seed,” she said. The movie portrayed people who looked like her, who had families that spoke the same language as her, and a teacher who created a sense of family at school. A spark was lit.

“I believe that all children are capable learners. A master teacher must be proficient in his/her content area, have the technical skills to deliver instruction, and know how to artfully interweave those skills to meet the learner where they are,” Gallagher said. “I have always strived to create a safe and positive environment, and develop healthy relationships with students.”

“Teachers in rural schools wear many hats,” Hayes said. “Elvia has not only had every job possible here but is known for bringing creative and innovative ideas to each. When I came to Patagonia, she was the lead teacher of the Elementary School, meaning she was basically the principal of the PreK-5th grade classes. I and other school leaders are still learning from Elvia about educational leadership.”

Eva Acevedo, a paraprofessional who has worked with Gallagher for years, admires much about her mentor, including her energy to engage even reluctant students in creative projects and daily work. “Her positive outlook brings everyone along,” Acevedo said. “By observing her over the years, I developed my own mantra for classroom management. ‘Calm is control’. I have never heard her raise her voice at a student. She focuses on the positive, and the students know what she expects.”

“The best teachers leave memories that live on forever,” former student Carina Douglas said. “Mrs. Gallagher left quite the impression. Some of my favorite memories are playing basketball with her. And she made the classroom fun. She made a classroom store where we could make purchases and practice writing checks. She was the type of teacher I adored. I wish her the very best as she embarks on this next chapter of her life.”
WAR at the Table

By Cassina Farley

Growing up I always associated Texas sheet cake with funerals. An old timer died, the family got together and someone on the family tree made a Texas sheet cake. It could be counted on and, for the most part, it was taken for granted.

For those of you that don’t know, a Texas sheet cake is a simple chocolate cake baked in a sheet pan and covered in a heavenly, cooked chocolate frosting. Sometimes the distant relative would add toasted pecans if the price was right.

No one ever told me it was just for funerals. My 10-year-old brain assumed, and I never questioned it.

Years went by and unbeknownst to me the “funeral cake” became my little brother’s favorite. I was flooded when he asked for it for his birthday. I didn’t think it was possible to have a funeral cake as a birthday cake, but my mom obliged and made the boy his cake and many more “funeral cake” birthday cakes thereafter. It was she who cued me into the fact that anyone at anytime could enjoy a funeral cake.

Aside from my brother’s blasphemous birthday cakes, the next funeral cake came at my grandfather’s funeral. I was an adult at this point and knew all too well that my funeral cake idea was nonsense, but there it was, all laid out in its pecan crusted glory. I felt it was a fine tribute and a much-needed relief.

In the years since my childhood, I have been to many funerals. For those in my family, the funeral cake has always made an appearance and for some reason I felt comfort. Other memorials I’ve attended where cold fried chicken and yellow potato salad were served didn’t quite give me the closure I needed.

When my father died in 2017, I never made my way to the food. I was too shocked to make sure there was a funeral cake and I regret it to this day. I can only hope that some distant relative made the cake with pecans - no matter the price.

Recently a dear friend lost her mother. I sat idly by, hoping that I could help in some way. Then the text came. “Can you make a funeral cake for my mother’s memorial?” Can it? It would be an honor. I made the best Texas sheet cake recipe I had and added the nuts, heedless of the cost. I carefully wrapped it up and showed up early to place it on the table front and center. A fitting tribute to a woman who loved carbs and who felt like family.

If you follow my column, then you know that I like cake and it’s not surprising to know that I also associate cake with closure. I’d like to leave you with the recipe for Funeral Cake (aka Texas Sheet Cake). I hope you never need to use it.

**For the cake**
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- ⅔ teaspoon salt
- 4 TBSP (heaping) cocoa powder
- 2 sticks of butter
- 1 cup boiling water
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 2 whole beaten eggs
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp vanilla

**For the icing**
- ½ cup chopped pecans (even if they cost a lot)
- 1¾ sticks of butter
- 4 TBSP (heaping) cocoa powder
- 6 TBSP milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 lb. powdered sugar

Note: I use an 18x13 sheet cake pan. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, and salt. In a saucepan, melt butter. Add cocoa. Stir together. Add boiling water, allow mixture to boil for 30 seconds, then turn off heat. Pour over flour mixture and stir tightly to cool.

2. In a measuring cup, pour the buttermilk and add beaten eggs, baking soda, and vanilla. Stir buttermilk mixture into butter/chocolate mixture. Pour into sheet cake pan and bake at 350-degrees for 20 minutes.

3. While cake is baking, make the icing. Chop pecans finely. Melt butter in a saucepan. Add cocoa, stir to combine, then turn off heat. Add the milk, vanilla, and powdered sugar. Stir together. Add the pecans, stir together, and pour over warm cake.

4. Take to a funeral service and grind out reports on the economic benefits of an industrial tourism economy, they never specifically say who benefits. He offers that is the deception – just who exactly prospers in the New West?

Stiles states the truth is that these recently urbanized rural economies were rarely intended to benefit the citizens whose families founded small western towns more than a century ago. Generations gave their sweat and blood to make a life in these last remote corners of the West, and now, in the eyes of many, they serve no further useful purposes. For the New West, it is not a matter of helping these rural communities. It is about replacing them.

Stiles boldly states that most urban proponenets ooz nothing but loathing for the rural population. They often attempt to collectively label the Old West as a mob of ignorant, racist rubes. But they ignore the fact that their own solutions create issues that go beyond race. They turn a blind eye to “institutional elitism,” the deliberate planned creation of a culture and an economy that excludes everyone, of any race, who lacks the financial assets to be a part of the newly transformed community.

Are you listening Patagonia? Caravans of ATVs and mountain bikes, and their aficionados, may bring in tax revenues from their visits, but these are paper dollars. They are not the solar dollars that actually feed people and sustain humanity in the long run. It is our farmers and ranchers who produce solar dollars generated from their own land. I recall a truism germane to this topic: “You can’t eat the scenery.”

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

**GENDER ISSUES**

By Martin Levowitz

Your Grace, please let the record show that in the old and wise societies (which we call “primitive” these days) the men and women live apart. I notice here, among the geriatric set today, you go to group events, like parties, and the sexes separate, as in the prepubescent days of yore. How come? What for?

My sister-in-law has a one-frame cartoon on her fridge: A middle-aged couple are lying in bed on their backs, side by side. The guy is a dog and the wife is a cat. They’re both propped up on pillows and each holds an open book. No telling what the topic was that led to their dispute, but she appears completely pissed, and glaring, hisses this: “Because I am a goddam cat! That’s why!” The dog just cowers, mystified.

We complement and agonize Anyone who’s ever been in a coupled relationship will recognize that often it comes down simply to: your mate and you are different. A basic principle of physics - opposites attract - is not without its downside, after all. There’s no free lunch. The very same things that attract you to me (and, of course, me to you) will potentially drive us both nuts. And, it’s part of Odd’s Plan. The universe seeks balance and yet, paradoxically, that balance is attained through stress, collision, and disharmony, resulting, when the storm subsides, in some new equilibrium - until it all begins again next month. The Big Bang never ends, you know. Oh, dear.

On a slightly more local and personal note, I’ve noticed this: Most of my friends are old and married, except those who’ve “lost” their “better halves.” The wives are often younger and more active than their mates, who seem to be declining faster - maybe due to misspent lives including hard work and “success,” and contact sports and motorsports, and drink and drugs and lechery, which clearly take their toll.

The guys are less commanding than they used to be, of course. The wives commendably take up the slack, becoming caretakers as their mates wane; reminding him to comb his hair and take his meds and zip his fly, making appointments for him, then reminding him of them, and sometimes even driving him to town to see the vet. His wife becomes his mommymo, so to speak. We “babies,” in our seventies (or more)! require care. Caretaking an incompetent does not increase respect. (Let’s just leave changing diapers out of this!) As time limps by, the wives display both love and tenderness, devotion and responsibility, but less respect. The guys, who were once alpha males, or at least tried to be, are well aware that they’ve declined. They, feel diminished and infantilized; often ignored. They used to be larger, and stronger; perhaps even buff, and were probably good in the sack, when the going got tough.

Alas, no mas. We cannot hear; can hardly walk. We feel emasculated, and we are. Not by our wives, but Time. It’s no one’s fault. (Part of Odd’s Plan.) Time passes and all things decline, but they decline at different rates. The winner’s simply she who moves more slowly down the drain. And, frankly, who could blame a woman who, throughout her life, was overshadowed (even bullied) by some larger, bossy male and then becomes aware that she now has the upper hand, and consciously or not, inclines to exercise her clout.

Most men die younger than their wives; “Enough!” they whine or shout. “We genuinely thank Thee, Lord. This sucks, please let us out!”

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Thanking First Responders**

We would like to publicly thank the members of the Patagonia Fire Department and Deputy Abellardo Gonzales-Median of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Department who responded to a fire in our camper in Red Rock Acres, east of Patagonia on May 28th.

Their quick response prevented a problem from becoming much worse. While our 5th wheel was a total loss, because of the expertise of the first responders, the fire was contained and did not spread to the dry grasses or homes nearby.

In addition, the firefighters and deputy were incredibly supportive during this visibly traumatic experience. We would also like to thank our neighbor, Brett Dodd, who spotted the fire and notified the fire department.

We are so appreciative for our friends and neighbors who expressed concern for our wellbeing. Add this incident to the list of reasons we live in this wonderful community! Jim Staudacher, Faith Coburn Patagonia

**Living With Fires**

I have been a resident of Arizona for 46 years. This past December, we relocated to Sonoita from “Out Wickenburg Way”.

In the week of 5/3 to 5/10, life here in Sonoita was nothing short of stimulating for all of us. On 5/3 we had a small series of fires start just north of Sonoita on SR83 which were extinguished quickly by our spectacular local Sonoita-Elgin Fire Department. On 5/7 we had a fire start south of Sonoita near Lochiel (San Rafael Fire). On 5/10 we had yet another fire start just west of Sonoita in the Santa Rita Mountains (Josephine Fire) which was extinguished that same day.

I have to extend my gratitude, thanks and commendations for such quick response times to all of the many brave and valiant first responders, volunteer fire departments, the heroic firefighting ground crews, the spectacular aerial spotter, tanker and helicopter crews and the magnificent coordinating management crews involved.

We have sadly been witness to countless numbers of wildfires, some small, and some extremely large, consuming millions of acres of our beautiful desert and mountain landscapes.

An accounting of only the MAJOR devastating wildfires in Arizona, and the causes, since my relocating to Arizona in 1976 thru 2021 totals: 34; Causes: four unknown; 12 by lightning strikes; 18 by Humans. Unfortunately, this is a way of life here and it will continue. The upside though is that to flourish, the land must be replenished from time to time of which FIRE is a means to accomplish this. “Mother Nature” does a great job of this. What She doesn’t need is any help from Irresponsible Humans...and we all know that there are no shortag- es of these! Be extremely ‘fire wise and think twice’ before doing anything that can cause a fire! It only takes one spark. The consequences can be devastating for everyone.  

...Todd Barrick, Sonoita, Az

**Naming the New Park**

As reported in the last PRT, Bracker said, “I don’t understand why they [AMU] went to all this trouble. Nothing aren’t going to get any more development on that property, I’ll take the land.” When asked why he thought that this land with an industrial road bisecting it had any value as a park, he answered, “We don’t even know what kind of park this is going to be.”

How about this kind of park? [AMI] went to all this trouble. Nothing aren’t going to get any more developed, except those who’ve "lost" their "better halves." The wives are often younger and more active than their mates, who seem to be declining faster - maybe due to misspent lives including hard work and "success," and contact sports and motorsports, and drink and drugs and lechery, which clearly take their toll.

The guys are less commanding than they used to be, of course. The wives commendably take up the slack, becoming caretakers as their mates wane; reminding him to comb his hair and take his meds and zip his fly, making appointments for him, then reminding him of them, and sometimes even driving him to town to see the vet.

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**Preventing a Firestorm**

Last month, I wrote about what would happen if a firestorm hit Patagonia, and how to create a better outcome.

I’m pleased to say that the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department has finalized plans and agreements with the Nature Conservancy, Audubon, and the Town, and by the time you read this we should be finished rehabilitating the firebreak between the town and TNC’s nature preserve.

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**Judy’s roses are blooming**

When Judy Starbuck departed this world, she gifted the next tenant in her Patagonia mobile home of 35 years with a cluster of rose bushes and an amaryllis, symbol of determination, beauty and love, all that embodied Judy’s life.

So I was overjoyed watching her ßowers paradise to tend and enjoy. Thank you, Judy. I will do my best to keep the garden growing. Sincerely, Heather Dodge
Racing Returns to Sonoita

By Pat McNamara

May 7 and 8, 2022 saw the return of horse racing at the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Grounds. The community welcomed back this yearly celebration of fast horses, fancy hats, mint juleps, and live streaming of the Kentucky Derby.

Following the Kentucky Derby tradition, the annual Derby Hat contest was held with many contestants of all ages who exhibited their creations to the delight of the crowd. The Kentucky Derby was simulcast and parimutual betting machines were available for the Derby as well as the local races.

Denny Schreffler provided the call to the post on his herald trumpet before each race. Schreffler, a retired professional musician from Sahuarita, AZ, started this aspect of his musical career in 1968 at River Downs Race Track in Ohio. He has worked at various race tracks including Rillito Park Race Track in Tucson.

‘First Call’ is the official name of this practice which originated during the Civil War. Encampments often covered a vast area and more than one bugler was needed to alert the soldiers. The First Call bugler was the one that alerted the other buglers to sound their horns so all of the soldiers were awakened.

The First Call bugle is now a tradition at thoroughbred race tracks. The clarion call of the herald trumpet alerts the crowd and participants of the impending race.

Ed Gaines, Vice President of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association (SCFRA) and chairman of the Sonoita Races, said of the event, “This all works because of the many volunteers and the board. This is the most functional and selfless board I have ever been on in my adult life.”

Gaines credits manager Lacy Beyer for much of the success, as she was instrumental in writing grants for the extra funds that enabled SCFRA to offer incentives to bring more entries to the races. Each entry that ran a horse in the race got a check for $50. The award winning jockey and trainer from the combined Douglas, AZ races and the Sonoita races received $1000 and a buckle.

Grounds keeper Howard Brollier had the track in top condition for the races, helped along by five local pas- tors who came the day before the races to pray for the safety of the horses, the jockeys and all those present for the weekend as they helped Beyer pick rocks off the track surface.

Attendance at the races was nearly the same as the last time the races were held in 2019, according to Gaines and Beyer. However, Gaines stressed, that “making money is not the entire goal of the races.” He sees the SCFRA as “guardians of a tradition to perpetuate the races that have been going on for over 100 years.”

By Pat McNamara

Photos by Sally Reichardt

Charli Thomasson won the Derby Hat Contest for ages 15 and under.

Denny Schreffler provided the call to the post before each race.
Senior Ctr. Ends Take-Out Meal Program

By Patra Kelly

Lunches at the Patagonia Senior Center are now being eaten on the premises. As of May 1, there are no more take-out meals.

When Gov. Ducey terminated the Emergency Covid19 Act recently, the Center was advised by SEAGO (South-eastern Arizona Government Organization) that it must return to the provisions of the Older Americans Act. This act was established in 1965 by the federal government and was reauthorized in 2020, emphasizing not only the need of nutrition-related disease prevention, but also the importance of socialization for older people.

During the pandemic, the Center had been averaging between 65 and 80 lunches per day. The number of take-out, or “grab and go” lunches was increasing, while about 10 to 15 people were eating inside.

Now the total number of lunches, served only on the premises as required, is only between 25 and 35. Many of the people that took lunch-to-go have not been coming to eat at the Center. A few filled out forms to receive a supply of meals for the week from Meals On Wheels, an organization that delivers to homes in our area from Nogales. The Nogales Senior Center, where between 70 and 90 lunches a day were being served before this change, is also experiencing a low turnout.

Why are so many people choosing not to come? Some say they are being cautious, concerned about the safety of a large group indoors, though about six people can eat at the two tables on the porch, which is “on the premises.” There are a few that have physical limitations that keep them from coming. Others prefer to choose their own way of socializing, such as eating in the park or somewhere else outdoors, with a friend or two rather than with a group.

“Before the change, many times generous people came and took five or six lunches to their relatives or friends who were not ambulatory,” Helen Chester said. “Now, they can’t take lunches to them. I feel their loss. Our number of lunches are much lower now. Encouraging socialization and restricting take-out has not been altogether successful.” Laura Gaia agreed. “Though socializing is important, the way of filling that need can vary each day, and I think the option of take-out is important as well.”

Clients of the Senior Center expressed differing views about the value of socialization during lunch. “I socialize all the time with dog rescue, so eating lunch is quiet time for me,” Sue Bergier said. “We need time to socialize away from home, that should be a personal choice and not dictated to us.” Jon Larsen said. “I come because the food is great, and you can keep up with aspects of the local news - and gossip!” Philip Brister said.

A breakfast will be served every six weeks with an added nutrition education component. New vinyl chairs have been purchased recently which can be sanitized against virus transmission. There are new stainless-steel tables for food processing and a new freeze dryer will preserve food indefinitely, to be distributed during emergency situations, should they occur.

Local Vintners Bring Home Awards

By Kat Crockett

Callaghan Vineyards, of Elgin, won the Growers’ Cup award for Best Dessert for its Red Dessert Wine, a port-style wine, at the 2022 azcentral Arizona Wine Competition. The Arizona Republic organizes this competition for the Arizona Wine Growers Association, a nonprofit that works to benefit the state’s growing industry.

The judges represented a cross section of Phoenix’s food and beverage industry: sommeliers, chefs, distributors, and wine shop owners.

Eight local wineries entered the competition. Recognitions and awards included Best in Class, nominations for the top wine of the competition, Best Blends, Double Gold (unanimous vote by all judges), gold, silver, and bronze.

Callaghan Vineyards received 13 awards, Deep Sky Vineyards six awards, Dos Cabezas WineWorks nine awards, Flying Leap Vineyards three, Los Milics Vineyards eight, Rune 16, Twisted Union Wine Company seven, and Vino Stache Winery seven.

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Brooke Ide of Vino Stache bottled her first batch of 2019 vintage last summer and decided to enter the competition just to get a measure of how they ranked with other Arizona wines.

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When a wine has won a medal, it indicates that the wine is a good quality and has been given credibility from the palates of top wine experts. It does not mean the wine will be liked by all because quality and taste preference are totally different measures. For those who enjoy wine, tasting rooms offer a good opportunity to sip quality wine, explore individual palates, buy local, and support the community and the burgeoning local wine industry.
Local Third-Generation Rancher to Be Honored

By Betty Barr

Linda Brooks Vensel, a third-generation rancher in the Sonoita/Patagonia area, will be honored by the Arizona Center for Rural Leadership (CENTRL), a program affiliated with the University of Arizona, at a celebration Saturday June 4, 6:30 at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel in Chandler.

Vensel is a descendent of early settlers, Ira and Lillian Brooks, who homesteaded in Sonoita in 1915. Ira was a rancher, farmer and dairymen and Lillian taught in one-room schools across the county. She rode a horse and buggy with her two youngest to school. The trails were rough and sometimes the three of them would spend the week at school and return to the homestead on weekends.

Vensel grew up in Patagonia and later relocated north of town when her parents, Stayton and Rose Brooks, obtained a section then known as Crittendon. The property included a rock house built in 1885, originally a two-story project called the Smith Hotel, with a mercantile and bar on the first level and rooms to rent upstairs. The second story was removed during later renovations. The building still stands today on SR82, a few miles northeast of Patagonia.

Vensel graduated from Patagonia High School and then the UA Department of Agriculture with a BS in both Home Economics and General Agriculture as well as a MS in education. She taught school for several years in Marana before going into agriculture finance in the banking industry and later retired from the AZ Department of Agriculture.

After the death of her parents, she and her husband, George, moved back to a portion of the Stayton Brooks Ranch where they resumed raising cattle and volunteering in many activities supporting cattle ranching.

Her numerous accomplishments furthering the agricultural economy include serving as Trustee for the Arizona 4-H Foundation and President of both the UA Department of Agriculture Alumni Board and the Arizona State Cowbelles. She was named UA Alumni Distinguished Citizen in 1998, Life Member of the AZ National Livestock Show and AZ Cattlemans Woman of the Year in 2009. She is also a member of the AZ Cattlegrowers Association and has served in many capacities for the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation.

The event is open to the public with registration required at $55 per person for the 2022 Centrl Celebration. To register, visit https://centrl.org/event-4789122.

Linda Brooks Vensel

Contributed Photo

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By PRT Staff Reporters

May 11, 2022

Bob Olillerton reported on the participation of the Patagonia fire Dept. in the San Rafael Fire the previous week. He confirmed that the fire had been started by a wind-downed large cottonwood branch landing on a powerline.

Because of increasing fire danger, the mayor announced an Emergency Proclamation, effective immediately. The town will also be encouraging residents to clear combustibles on their property, and put ‘Firewise’ practices into effect about grass, deadwood, firewood piles, propane tanks, and the availability of a hose fifty or more feet in length.

A liquor license was approved for the Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department’s annual steak fry fundraiser on Saturday June 25, to be held in the town’s park. Asked about the menu, Olillerton said there would be the regular burgers but also an experimental offering, hemp tamales.

The town will also be encouraging residents to participate in the Patagonia fire Department’s 2022-23 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Recruitment Team (CERT) had opened a temporary shelter at the Patagonia Methodist Church’s parish hall, in coordination with the American Red Cross.

No evacuees had appeared to use the service.

The town’s Fire Emergency Declaration went into effect May 21. It includes restrictions on outdoor open fires for any reason, as well as shooting. Residents are strongly encouraged to cut and trim grasses and otherwise remove fuels from around their homes. If grass and brush trimming is not done, the town has the authority to do it and charge an owner $50 per incident, applicable to both residents and absentee owners. Residents were encouraged to be extra-vigilant and be ready to protect their own and neighbors’ property.

For the Flood and Flow Committee, Chair Carolyn Shafer reported on the Committee’s three current projects. 1) working with the County to write scope of work for a Patagonia regional flood control project feasibility study. 2) Working with the County on requirements for the Flood Plain Use Permit that would be required for South32’s desired Cross Creek Connector road. 3) The committee’s acceptance of a no-cost offer from the U of A’s Water Resources Research Center for a one -two year project, a Drought Preparedness Plan for a Water resilient Community.

The town contract with PVFRD was announced. The mayor said the ongoing downtown paving project would be meeting soon with the contractor, Hunter Construction, about the final budget for FY 2022-23, and it was adopted by the council and mayor.

May 25, 2022

Manager Robinson explained he would be meeting soon with the contractor, Hunter Construction, about the ongoing downtown paving project. The expected completion day is around June 17.

In response to the previous day’s evacuation order for the Elgin Bridge Fire, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) had opened a temporary shelter at the Patagonia Methodist Church’s parish hall, in coordination with the American Red Cross.

The event is open to the public with registration required at $55 per person for the 2022 Centrl Celebration. To register, visit https://centrl.org/event-4789122.
Open for Business
New Business News

A Growing Business in Patagonia Takes Root

By Marion Vendituoli

Local gardeners have a new source for seedlings, bedding plants, perennials, succulents, trees, gardening supplies and more right in downtown Patagonia. Mary and Kevin McKay recently opened Patagonia Plants at 308 Naugle Ave. and already have plants, soil, compost, and organic fertilizer available.

Vegetable and herbs, as well as most of the flowering plants, are grown locally by Mary McKay in her greenhouse. The trees for sale are grown in Douglas, AZ, Green Valley, and Sahuarita. “I use as many local sources as I can,” she said.

“This nursery is for the locals, for my community,” she said. “It’s really difficult for people to get plants that are suitable for our climate in this Sky Island area. Often vegetable plants at big box stores are timed for the warmer climates of Tucson or Nogales. By the time we can plant, they are often sold out.”

She makes her own potting mix. The only chemical she uses is a slow-release fertilizer. She uses biological controls such as lacewing larva and ladybugs that she has encouraged to move in to her greenhouse by growing plants that attract them. In an effort to cut down on waste, McKay recycles and reuses plastic pots for her plants and has even made seedlings pots from recycled PRT newspapers.

The couple have plans to build a greenhouse and a shade structure. McKay envisions an inviting space with benches, water features and outdoor art created by local artisans. “I want to fill it with beautiful display gardens,” she said.

McKay will take special orders and will be expanding her inventory to include more houseplants. They are also building a gift shop at the front of the nursery. Patagonia plants will be open year-round. At present the nursery is open Thursday through Saturday, 9a.m. – 2p.m.

During events, such as the Fall Festival, the McKays will also be selling smoked brisket, pork, and chicken at Jackrabbit Barbecue in front of the nursery. They are available for catering at larger events.

McKay has always had a love of gardening. “I’ve had a shovel in my hand since I was three or four,” she said.

Her father, Richard Harris, Santa Cruz County agricultural extension agent for the U of A from 1973 until 1997, was responsible for planting at least 2000 trees in the County.

McKay graduated from the U of A with a degree in plant sciences and studied landscape architecture in graduate school. She is available for garden and landscape consultations.

For more information, call Mary McKay at 520-604-2540. Patagonia Plants is also on facebook, Instagram and google maps.

Mary McKay welcomes a customer to her new nursery in Patagonia.

Volunteers Fill the Gap at the Sheriff’s Office

Ten volunteer deputies, five from Eastern Santa Cruz County, have been sworn in as members of the County’s Law Enforcement Assist Team.

By Kat Crockett

Earlier this year, ten new graduates of the County’s Law Enforcement Assist Team were sworn in by SCC Justice of the Peace Emilio Velasquez at a ceremony in Nogales. Numerous Sheriff’s Office employees trained the volunteers. Special recognition was awarded to Detectives Joe Bunting and Lluvia Garcia who lead the classroom training.

Five of the ten new volunteer deputies are from Eastern SCC: Richard Cardullo, Kevin Wilusz and Robert Munger from Sonoita Douglas Snow from Elgin, and Jeff Buchanan from Patagonia.

The program, established in 2001, was the second of its kind in Arizona. It is administered by Commander Gerald Castillo of the SCC Sheriff’s Office who said there are now a total of 18 active volunteers across the county.

The new graduates completed over 100 hours of hands-on and classroom training, including firearms and tactical qualifications, drug identification, public assistance, community policing, securing a crime scene, liability, preserving evidence and more.

Following graduation, volunteers ride along with county deputies on patrol, sit with 911 operators, and are exposed to the jail and prisoner transportation. A total of 16 volunteer hours per month are required by each participant to remain active in the program. Several were already accruing hours helping with evacuations during the recent San Rafael Fire.

Other assignments include welfare checks, security checks on houses when residents are away and request the free service, community outreach and business visits, traffic control at public events, investigating home and business alarm calls, traffic collisions on private property, and preserving evidence at crime scenes. Many volunteers also serve on the County’s Search and Rescue Team.

Recent graduate, retired Army General Jeff Buchanan said he volunteered because, “Service to others is part of my identity, a way to continue to make a difference and more importantly, serve my own community.” Buchanan learned from Sheriff Hathaway that District 3 is geographically the largest in all of SCC and due to a low density of officers, volunteers are critical to fill the gap. He also noted that his military experience wasa plus, but combat training has a different purpose, so it was useful to learn new techniques like how to deescalate a potentially violent situation.

Richard Cardullo, a new member of the team said, “In the 17 years I have lived in Sonoita, we have never been overly populated with deputies, and responses can take an hour or more,” adding that based on population, there is a higher need for more deputies in western SCC. With a background in civilian and military law enforcement and Border Patrol, Cardullo said, “I felt my experience would add to the program and better serve this part of the county.” He added, “You can’t just take from the community, you have to give back and this is my way of giving back.”

Cardullo hopes to deter criminal activity and give the community a better sense of safety and security.

The most important quality for volunteers is the desire to serve, according to Commander Castillo. “They will also have to pass a background check and polygraph test for a clean record. Everyone who volunteers can contribute regardless of their background,” he added. He explained that it was an eye-opener to have so many dedicated volunteers with a strong desire to serve and coming from so many different walks of life.

“I love this program because it satisfies the volunteers, the communities, and the Sheriff’s Office,” Castillo said. “They will serve as eyes and ears for the officers and the community and visibility is priceless!”

The five new law enforcement assist team members residing in eastern SCC currently share one Sheriff’s Office vehicle. More vehicles will be available as the inventory ramps up. For additional information on this program, contact Commander Castillo with the SCC Sheriff’s Office at 520 761-7869.
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

This article is the final installment of the story of the Elgin Community Club (ECC) begun in the April PRT issue. When the stone fireplace at the ECC clubhouse was completed in 1938, a commemorative bronze plaque was installed bearing the names of five recently deceased members: Mrs. Ferris, Klene, Nally, Bartlett and Johnson. Short biographies of Mrs. Klene, Nally and Johnson were featured in the April & May 2022 PRT issues. Read on for Mrs. Ferris’ and Bartlett’s stories and to learn about the decision to allow men to become club members in 1950.

Edith Hawley Ferris was born in Idaho in 1879. Her father was a rancher. After his death in 1914 she and her mother moved to southern California. In 1917, age 37, she married Robert Ferris, whose family was ranching in the Imperial Valley of California. Robert and Edith, who had no children, moved to Elgin after 1920 to operate the Rain Valley Ranch along with Robert’s brother “Buzz.”

A charter member of the ECC, Edith served as first Vice President (1932-33) and President (1933-34). She was also clerk of the Elgin School Board for six years. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/14/1935]. In 1935 she returned to her mother’s home in California to receive treatment for an unspecified illness. She died on September 14, 1935 and is buried in Idaho.

Nellie Lewis Bartlett was born in Ohio in 1855. In 1891, age 31, she married Marcus Bartlett, a Civil War veteran. They had two daughters, Chopeta and Alice Fern. The couple lived in Ohio until 1912 when they moved to Elgin in search of a better climate for Marcus’ health. Sadly, he died later that year at the Sawtelle Veteran’s Hospital in Los Angeles.

Nellie decided to stay in Elgin with her daughters who were soon to be married to brothers Bill and Stone Collie. Nellie dry farmed on the original homestead she and Marcus claimed and eventually proved-up over 800 acres in her own name.

She was a founding member of the ECC and served as president (1934-35). Just a few months prior to her death in 1938 the ECC members held a “handkerchief shower” in honor of her 82nd birthday. [Arizona Daily Star, 6/19/1938]. Nellie and Marcus are buried in Brecksville, Ohio.

In the 1940s, ECC operations were greatly affected by World War II. Many of the women took on additional responsibilities at home, and rationing and shortages limited activities. In 1940, motion pictures were shown at the clubhouse, a well was dug, and door locks were added. The key to the clubhouse could be obtained at the Elgin Post Office. From 1941 to 1944 the only organized activities were sewing for the Red Cross and occasional potluck dinners.

Dances were resumed in the summer of 1945 and the Men’s Club that met in the clubhouse began to contribute to building expenses and improvements. In 1946 ECC agreed to rent the clubhouse to Monterey Production during filming of Red River for $30. [ECC Minutes, 9/16/1946].

In early 1947 a proposal to change the ECC bylaws to allow men to become members was defeated. [ECC Minutes, 3/19/1947]. In 1949 another vote to expand the membership passed, and by the end of the year the club was incorporated as a non-profit corporation and revised bylaws were adopted. [ECC Minutes, 9/21/1949, 12/28/1949]. Mrs. Esther Schock was president, 1949-1950. Houghton “Bum” Hedgcock succeeded her in July 1950, becoming the first male President of ECC.
Showcasing Our Graduates

PUHS Class of 2022

Elgin School
8th Grade Graduates

Patagonia Elementary
8th Grade Graduates


Contributed Photo

Photo by Marion Vendituoli


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Photo by Marion Vendituoli


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Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Elgin School
8th Grade Graduates

Patagonia Elementary
8th Grade Graduates


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Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Elgin School
8th Grade Graduates

Patagonia Elementary
8th Grade Graduates


Contributed Photo

Photo by Marion Vendituoli


By Marion Vendituoli

Thomas Botz is a soft-spoken man of few words, but he is very clear about his passion for learning and his gratitude to the teachers he has had during his four years at Patagonia Union High School.

The valedictorian of the class of 2022, Thomas graduates with a 4.3905 GPA. He hopes to pursue a career as an animator, and intends to enroll in Huntington University to study digital media arts. But before moving on to college, he is planning to take two years to go on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He doesn’t know where he will be sent, but would like to be in Turkey, he said. Turkey appeals to him because of the language, the culture, and the history of that area of the world. The idea of being away from home makes Thomas feel both “excited and nervous,” he said.

Thomas is the son of Erin and Jason Botz, of Patagonia. He attended the Patagonia Montessori School before enrolling at PUHS. He was a Boy Scout from the age of 8 – 15 and is actively involved in his church’s youth group. In high school, he was on the chess team for two years. He is a member of the National Honor Society. This summer will be the third summer that he has worked as a lifeguard at the Patagonia Pool. “I feel like I’m kind of needed there,” he said.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing board games, watching TV, and reading. His favorite class is English, but he enjoyed his dual credit poetry class, “I like things to be clearly defined,” he said. “I want to recognize my teachers over the years,” he said. “I won’t say names, as that would be a long list.”

“I’m pretty sure that when Thomas Botz first came to PUHS he did not know what to think of the rest of his class,” wrote his English teacher Journee Hayes. “While they were boisterous and often silly, he was quiet both in manner and in voice. Whenever he was asked to share out loud in class, you could visibly see everyone begin to lean toward him to be able to hear what he was saying. Now that Thomas is a senior, we still have to lean in sometimes, but now it is not so much to hear, but more to be sure we do not miss a word of his invaluable and unique insight on life.

Thomas feels that the small class size at PUHS is a plus. “If there is a conflict, it doesn’t last long,” he said. He does wish there had been more electives and would have like to have been able to take more language courses.

“I feel like I’m kind of needed there,” he said. “I won’t say names, as that would be a long list.”

“I’m pretty sure that when Thomas Botz first came to PUHS he did not know what to think of the rest of his class,” wrote his English teacher Journee Hayes. “While they were boisterous and often silly, he was quiet both in manner and in voice. Whenever he was asked to share out loud in class, you could visibly see everyone begin to lean toward him to be able to hear what he was saying. Now that Thomas is a senior, we still have to lean in sometimes, but now it is not so much to hear, but more to be sure we do not miss a word of his invaluable and unique insight on life.

Thomas is clever, intelligent, and dedicated. He cares about his fellow seniors and his education and I am very proud of him.”

PUHS valedictorian Thomas Botz hopes to become an animator.

PUHS salutatorian Madison Vines will be attending the U of A to study nursing.

By Marion Vendituoli

“What do you need to know? Cause I’ve got a lot to say,” Madison Vines said during a recent interview. Madison, salutatorian of the graduating class at Patagonia High School, is graduating with a 4.22 GPA. She is the daughter of Denise and the late Brent Bowdon and Don Vines. She is a self-assured, outgoing young woman who is working towards the goal of becoming a nurse. She has been accepted into the pre-nursing program at the U of A and has received the Wildcat Distinction Award in recognition of her achievements and potential. Her goal is to become a travelling nurse, specializing in either pediatric or labor and delivery nursing. This summer she plans to complete a course to become certified as an EMT.

In high school Madison has played varsity volleyball and basketball and has been in the FFA for all four years. She was a member of 4-H for nine years, showing swine and rabbits, and participating in cooking, photography and sewing projects. Madison has volunteered at town cleanups, the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Dept. steak fries, and Patagonia Cemetery clean-up events. In her free time, she likes to ride ATVS. “I like to go fast and get all dusty,” she said.

She is a member of the National Honor Society and was the winner of this year’s Patagonia Regional Times student poetry contest. English has been her favorite subject. “I always feel safe in English class,” she said.

“She has always illustrated a passion for learning. Seeing her work outside the school in the show ring of 4-H or FFA, to the sports she participated in, she would always drive with dignity and sportsmanship. Madison is one that always wears a smile, and I assure you her dreams will take her to the corners of her smiles and the highest of her hopes.”

By Marion Vendituoli

Patagonia Montessori School
8th Grade Graduate

Ivy Allen

Contributed Photo
Congratulations to our PUHS Graduates!!

Jesus Guzman
Jesus, Congratulations on your first milestone to success. I am proud of you and know you will accomplish great things. Always keep your head up high.

I love you,
Mom

Sydney McKay
Sydney, we love you! Congratulations!
“Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.”

Love,
Your Parents,
Mary and Kevin McKay

Tavania Monet Padilla
From when you were little to this very day, you continue giving us reasons to hold our heads up in pride. Congratulations on your achievement!

Love always,
Mom & Dad

Dahana Hernandez Hermosillo
Congratulations, you made it! We are very proud of your hard work and dedication. We love you and wish all your dreams come true.

Mom and Dad

Ben Luke Anderson
Congratulations on your big day! Know without a doubt that you were made for great things.

Love always,
Mama Kim

Puerto de la Parra School Sports Awards

Contributed Photo
Madison Vines and Ivan Carranza receive the 2022 Babe Ruth Award at the recent sports awards ceremony at PUHS.

Elgin School Community Open House

Kindergarten teacher Tami Cubillas welcomes her former student, Owen Thomas, and his family to ‘Spain’ at the Elgin School Community Open House on May 6. Each classroom in the elementary wing represented a different country and was festooned with colorful banners, paintings, crafts and foods showcasing life in that country. Other activities at the Open House included two bouncing castles, information booths for local organizations, pizza and dessert.

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Monsoonal Machinations

The term monsoon is tricky, scientifically speaking, yet an evocative one full of real and imagined rain-fed delights and potential calamities. Here in southern Arizona, we associate it with our summer rainy season, a time of great anticipation and proverbial boom or bust cycles. What other northern parts of the globe have weather patterns similar to our monsoon and how does our resulting flora and fauna compare to theirs?

Here in Arizona, we experience the North American Southwest, or (my preference) Arizona Monsoon. NOAA defines a monsoon as “the seasonal reversal in atmospheric low-level circulations, particularly the surface winds and associated precipitation, resulting in a pattern of wet summers and dry winters.”

Driven each June by consistent soaring, searing temperatures, moisture is drawn into our region from the Sea of Cortez and the eastern Pacific Ocean. The extreme heat along with high atmospheric pressures over the Four Corners region are both seminal in enacting our monsoon. Monsoonal patterns start earlier as one travels south into Mexico until May, not July, marks the onset of heavy rains and often squalling winds. Summer monsoons are famously fickle and frequently highly localized events. It’s raining in one hand and not the other. Once you’ve lived here long enough you soon realize that the topic of conversation in summer is who got rain, where, when, and how much. Any other topics seem banal, given our unquenchable lust for rain in the Southwest.

When enough rain has infiltrated the soil, it triggers an ecological avalanche of biodiversity, transforming June’s dead-looking moonscapes into miniature versions of Costa Rica. Elsewhere in the northern hemisphere, India famously is frequently deluged by its larger monsoon system, termed the South Asian Monsoon. The precipitation of that monsoon can at times make ours seem like a meager sprinkler hose. This is owing to two key factors. First, the source of the moisture is larger than ours. The Sea of Cortez (our main source) is dwarfed by the Indian Ocean. They have a bigger hose than we do. Second, the Himalayas serve as a barrier to their monsoons spreading further north, effectively trapping it over Southeast Asia. As we share the same hemisphere, both the North American and Southeast Asian Monsoons generally begin at the official onset of summer until its official curtain call, the Autumn Equinox in late September.

Here in the Sky Islands, the monsoon is a critical player in supporting our world class levels of biodiversity. Sonoran toads, elf butterflies, American black bear, varied buntings, a few wandering jaguars, and a formidable array of other fauna and flora owe their lives to the monsoon. Without it, we would rely on our much more fickle winter rains and in essence become an even drier version of California.

In India and other parts of South Asia their monsoons also enable spectacular creatures and a multiplicity of plants. India’s Great Himalayan National Park lies at nearly the identical latitude as the town of Patagonia - both at near 31.5 degrees latitude North. Himalayan brown bear - Ursus arctos, and hence the same species as our exterminated (circa 1935) grizzly bear - roams the park. So does a relative of our Bighorn Sheep, the blue sheep. Its snow leopards are in the same genus, Panthera, as our Jaguar. Pines and spruces grow in the subalpine zones of the park, mimicking, at least prior to the large fires of the last 20 years, the high elevation forests of our Pinaleno and Chirichahua Mountains. "$Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov. In it, the namesake heroine keeps the murderous sultan at bay by artfully weaving stories each night to keep him spellbound, otherwise he will kill her. The music is ominous at times, like a threatening monsoon storm, and calm at others, as with our dry, inter-monsoonal days.

Like the music, we must keep hoping to stay alive for one more day, one more year, one more decade, perhaps, when it comes to precipitation, our aquifers, our water supply, our agriculture. I won’t even venture into the realm of centuries. Let’s just hope the monsoon delivers.

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
After the Eclipse

Lunar eclipses grab the headlines. They're colorful, they're easy and safe to observe and they've given great names. But, for me, there is so much more to the Moon than just those moments when it occasionally falls into the Earth's shadow. Eclipses are in the here and now, but the Moon's history is really its most important story. It's a horror show.

On the Moon, there's a fine line between light and darkness, between serenity and chaos. I suppose, though, to have one without the other would detract from its magic. On a calm night not long ago, the Moon, well up in the southwestern sky, captured my attention. It was shaped like a crescent, the result of its orbital position around its host planet. It was stunningly bright, yet sufficiently dim to allow me to marvel at its features without the use of a filter. There were countless craters with ragged edges, and smooth seas - lunar maria - set in opposition though, too, had been scarred eons ago by rocks of all sizes crashing into them at tremendous speeds. On the Moon, there's evidence of violence everywhere and, from that violence, beautiful shapes and shades have arisen that forever have thrilled the casual observer as well as the astronomer perched on a secluded mountaintop.

Sometimes, it's best to view something in its entirety, as during an eclipse. That's when the sum of the parts overwhelms specific details. I just happen to believe that the Moon's most awe-inspiring and relevant images are not from eclipses, but rather from the orb's terminator and its limb. It is along these lines that the peaks and valleys and the unmistakable unevenness of the lunar surface are best revealed. They provide proof of the endless bombardment, eruption and erosion that the Moon has endured.

The terminator is the line that divides the Moon's day from its night. The limb is the outer edge of the Moon from our point of view. Gaze upon these sights with their contrasts and witness what violence has wrought. In space, it seems, violence is not only natural and expected, but can be a precursor to something that, at least to the eye, is even more spectacular and wondrous.

The nearness of the Moon makes it easy to differentiate it from Earth. Though we admire it for its perseverance and its shape-shifting ways, for all its magnificence, it is just barren and beat up. Like all the other objects in our solar system - other than Earth - it's lifeless. If it ever supported life, did the violence help to strip it away?

Everyone loves a photograph of a galactic collision. We are enthralled by fresh images of black holes and supernovae. We love explosions. As my eyes followed the curve of the Moon's terminator just a few weeks ago, I kept thinking about the violence that had occurred there and the daily violence we experience on Earth.

I think it goes back to those fine lines, to realizing and accepting just how close we are to being just like the Moon. All the points of light in space are certainly not in control of their destiny. They crash together, implode, and seem to be very much like balloons at an arcade game waiting for a dart to pierce them and change them forever. Violence and chaos indeed.

Let's be honest. We're not in complete control here either. We've suffered the blows of meteors and asteroids before. Still, we determine so much of what happens next. Here, we actually draw those lines and, unfortunately, every so often we erase them.

We need to constantly be reminded of that. Sometimes, just looking at the Moon, serves as that reminder. Let violence and darkness and chaos continue to roam the realms of the lifeless. Here, among the living, they should never be welcomed.
Do you feel guilty when you water your garden? I know you do. We are facing a drought here in the southwest and elsewhere in our country.

In my opinion, if you are watering a pollinator garden or feeding yourself or your neighbors from your vegetable garden, then there's nothing to feel guilty about. If you are irrigating a landscape that supports birds, bees, and other creatures, this is a good thing. If you are holding soil moisture and building soil microbial communities, while cooling your yard, this is a good thing.

Non-native ornamental trees and shrubs are all good. Even a lawn is supporting life, creating less dust in the air, cooling and raising humidity while nurturing a microbiome (so long as you are not pumping it full of herbicide and pesticide.) Ditto for the mental health boost you get from the sights and smells of a lovely flower garden. You should feel more guilt about letting the water run while you brush your teeth or flushing the toilet 10,000 times than you should about watering a garden or lawn that supports life.

If you plant a bunch of native and drought tolerant plants so you don’t use too much water, this is great. Remember though, even the toughest native or drought tolerant plants need to become established and acclimated to your yard and garden before they become drought tolerant.

How much should you water your tree, shrub, cactus, etc. etc.? It’s a complex question. I am asked this time and time again. The answer isn’t simple and there is no rule book to follow.

My answer is to ask yourself the following questions: What is our soil like? Is it clay and heavy? Is it sandy or rocky? What kind of plant is it? Where is the garden located? Is it in the ground or raised bed? Is it mulched or bare soil? Clay soil will need less watering as clay holds onto a lot of water. Sandy or rocky soils drain rapidly and require watering more often. Desert plants require water less often (once established) than other species. Gardens in full sun need more than those in semi-shaded locations. Raised beds may need more or less, depending on what type of soil was used to fill them or where in the yard they are located. Plants without mulch definitely need more water (so, mulch everything!). Plant your vegetable and flower garden with the onset of the monsoon, then you will not have to water as much.

What to plant in June and July: Everything but cool weather crops. Stay away from lettuces, spinach, and other greens until September when the nights cool down. As an alternative to spinach, consider trying Malabar spinach. Malabar spinach is a vining spinach-like vegetable and thrives with heat and humidity.

Plant things in succession every two weeks. Reseed beans and summer squash in this way to keep a fresh crop coming in without feeling overwhelmed. Sprinkle zinnia, tithonia, marigold and cosmos seeds out just before the rains come for an explosion of blooms by the end of July.

Kevin and I want to thank everyone who has come over to our new little Patagonia Plants Nursery. It's been fun and the fun is just beginning! I wish everyone a successful summer gardening season.

By Mary McKay

Water Wisely

Garden Guides

Congratulations CLASS of 2022

Enjoy your summer and the journey beyond!

Patagonia Plants

Mary McKay

520-604-2540

kmckay810@gmail.com

@patagoniaplants

Growing roots in Patagonia

YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Enjoy your summer and the journey beyond!

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Growing roots in Patagonia

YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Enjoy your summer and the journey beyond!

Congratulations CLASS of 2022

Enjoy your summer and the journey beyond!
June 9, 6p.m. Free Forgivable Loan Workshop for Local Businesses, Nonprofits and Artists. Hosted by the Patagonia Regional Times. Learn about the Santa Cruz County Forgivable Loan Program. Up to $25,000 in forgivable loans now available for Businesses, Artists and Nonprofits. Join us for an in-person Q & A session with County government representatives and loan program personnel who will explain the application process, conditions and reporting requirements.

June 22, 6p.m. Tucson Weekly writer (“Tucson Salvage”) and poet Brian Jabbas Smith returns to the Tin Shed with guests Cal Freeman - poet, Mari Herreras - poet, Darah Pazur - creative non-fiction, and Maggie Smith, who will be reading from her new book, plus a bonus film clip of her new “Tucson Salvage” documentary.

$10 suggested donation

June 30, 6p.m. join us at the Patagonia Museum for our Art + History Opening Reception and Potluck. Featured Artists - The Kids of Summer Art Camp. The community is invited to bring a dish and join us as we celebrate the art of Patagonia’s youngest artists. (The kids’ art exhibit can be viewed during museum hours through July 30).

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

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

**June - July 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.

**JUNE 11: 5p.m.** An Encore concert. Yasmin Alami, Piano, and Joseph Rousos-Hammond, Violin.
Admission $30 / $35 at the door on the day of the concert (if seats are available)
*Reception in the Courtyard following the concert.

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**Concerts in the Courtyard 2022**
Sunday Evenings at 7p.m.

**JUNE 19** Desert Fever Jazz Combo
**July 24** Heritage Art Songs
**August 21** Cool Breeze Latin Jazz

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**Library Director Selected**

By Marion Vendituoli
Kayla Miller, who is serving as the interim director of the Patagonia Library, has been offered the job of Library Director by the Library Committee, contingent on her passing the course to obtain her AZ State Library Practitioner Certification. Miller anticipates that this will be a semester-long course, after which she would like to earn a masters degree in library science.

Miller, who grew up in Patagonia, recently received her bachelors degree in creative writing from NAU. "I grew up in this library," she said. "That's why I was so excited when I got hired. I would like this to be my long-term career."

She is grateful for the support of Marilyn Miller, Ann Danowitz, and Jade DeForest. "Jade is a huge support. I don't think I could do it without her," she said.

She also credits former directors Abby Zeltzer and Laura Wenzel for having created strong programs. "It's a great place," she said. "I hope I can keep it going strong."

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**AtoZec**

- wildlife and plant surveys
- wildlife camera studies
- biological assessments
- biological monitoring
- free services for local non-profits
- free education programs for kids
- and other flora/fauna requests

www.atozec.com | eric.herman@atozec.com | 602.635.0117

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**LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!**
**June 3**
- 4-H Bingo Night: Fri. 6p.m. - 8p.m. $2 card. Prizes and refreshments at the Sonoita Fairgrounds
- Democratic Party Round Up: Sat. 10a.m. - 1:30p.m. Meet and Great. Refreshments and more. Las Lagunas in Nogales. More info at www.azsantacruzdems.org
- Friends of Sonoita Creek Wet/Dry Mapping Event: Sat. 8a.m. - 2p.m. Harshaw Creek. Sun. 8a.m. - 2p.m. Sonoita Creek. To participate call 602-903-8296

**June 4**
- Last Train From Gun Hill: Sat. 8p.m. - Outdoor screening. $20 preordered dinner. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. More info www.empireprairiefoundation.org
- Friends of Sonoita Creek Wet/Dry Mapping Event: Sat. 8a.m. - 2p.m. Harshaw Creek. Sun. 8a.m. - 2p.m. Sonoita Creek. To participate call 602-903-8296

**June 5 & 6**
- Sonoita Produce on Wheels: 9 - 11:30a.m. Patagonia. Open Fri and Sat from 9a.m. - 12p.m. In front of Patagonia Produce Market. More info 520-394-2954
- Friends of Sonoita Creek Wet/Dry Mapping Event: Sat. 8a.m. - 2p.m. Harshaw Creek. Sun. 8a.m. - 2p.m. Sonoita Creek. To participate call 602-903-8296
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**June 7**
- Sonoita Library: 1p.m. - 3p.m. Reception for incoming/outgoing librarians. Sonoita Library 3147 HWY. 83 520-455-5517

**June 9**
- Prepaid Dinner: Fri. 6p.m. - 8p.m. $2 card. Prizes and refreshments at the Sonoita Fairgrounds
- Last Train From Gun Hill: Sat. 8p.m. - Outdoor screening. $20 preordered dinner. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. More info www.empireprairiefoundation.org
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**July 4**
- 4th of July Celebration: 11a.m. - 1p.m. Patagonia

**Special Interests**
- Lunch for Seniors: Fresh-cooked meals. In-house dining only 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. Patagonia Senior Center.
- Preserve: Wed. - Sun. 6:30a.m. - 4p.m. Masks required in Restrooms.
- Sonoita Farmers Market: Thursday 9a.m. - 12p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods
- Little Mercado: Fridays 4-7p.m. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. email cdavid@mariposachc.net for more info
- Elephant Thrift Store: 325 - 327 McKeown Ave, Nogales. Open 10a.m - 3p.m., Weds-Sun.
- Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop: New location: 22 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita Thurs. - Sat 10-2p.m.Closed for June.
- Community United Methodist Church Thrift Shop: Located at 387 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia. Open Fri and Sat from 10:00a.m. - 12:00. Look for the OPEN flag.
- Crossroads Tutoring Foundation: Sonoita Hills Comm. Church Thurs. 3:30 - 5p.m. No cost to students. Call Jim for more info 720-252-2517
- Patagonia Museum: Open hours 2p.m.-4p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. www.thepatagoniamuseum.org for more info.
- Patagonia Library: Wed - Sat 10a.m.-5p.m. Call for more info. 520.394.2010
- Free Produce Boxes: 2nd and 4th Fri. of the month. 9:30a.m. in front of the Sonoita Post Office.
- Produce on Wheels: June. & Jul. 6-9a.m. Every 3rd Sat. of the month at the Vine Church in Sonoita Call/Text Gardenia for more info 602-292-1616
- AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
- Rotary Club: 2nd & 4th Thurs. 5:30p.m. has moved online. Info Sue 520-990-4648
- Senior Citizens of Patagonia's Board of Directors: 2nd Mon. 3p.m. at the Senior Center.
- The Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month. Sonoita Bible Church. All are welcome.
- The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting: every 3rd Sat. of the month, 9:30a.m. Now hybrid. In person at 32 Morley Ave, Nogales or www.azsantacruzdems.org/meetings
- Community Youth Bible Hang Out: at the Sonoita Bible Church. 2nd and 4th Wed. April Anderson at andeap@msn.com, 520-508-2502 or Steve Lindsey at 520-559-0155.
- Crossroads Quilters: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month 9a.m. at the Sonoita Bible Church. Contact 520-860-0173 for more info.

**Church Services**
- Canelo Cowboy Church 14 McCarthy Lane, Elgin 520-604-6990 Sunday Service: 8:30a.m. Sunday School: 10a.m.
- Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Sunday service 10a.m Call/email church office for info. 520-394-2274 patagoniaumc@gmail.com
- 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.
- Our Lady of The Angels Mission Wed 9:00a.m., Sun 8:00a.m. in Sonoita 520-394-2954
- Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin Sunday Service: 10a.m.
- Patagonia Bible Church 3174 N. Hwy 83, Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Wed.
- VINE Christian Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita Sunday Service: 10a.m Cafe, 10:30a.m. service
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church 969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales Services are weekly, however times change frequently. Visit standrewsaz.org for additional info.
- Quaker Worship Group Meets via Zoom. Contact Janice Pulliam if interested 706-614-6959
- Tubac Buddhist Meditation Center 2247 Frontage Rd #2, Tubac Sunday- 8:30a.m. - 10a.m. tubacbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com for zoom.

**Sign up for the PRT E-Newsletter!**
patagoniaregionaltimes.org

**Contact Information**
- PRRTASTED@gmail.com with any event or updates you would like listed.
**HELP WANTED**

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

BARN 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.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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

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**KPUP Broadcast Schedule - Spring - Summer 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5pm to 6pm</td>
<td>Swing Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7pm to 8pm</td>
<td>eTown repeat of Saturday’s show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10am to 12pm</td>
<td>World Jazz with Mark Berg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7pm to 9pm</td>
<td>Jazz and Blues with Fred Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>5pm to 6pm</td>
<td>Swing Hour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7pm to 10pm</td>
<td>Sean Alexander show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>7pm to 10pm</td>
<td>Possibility Explorers, “Celebrating the Evening of Mushkil Gusha, the Remover of All Difficulties.” Hosted by Graves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>7pm to 9pm</td>
<td>Hook’s Sunken Roadhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>12pm to 1pm</td>
<td>eTown - “Educate, entertain and inspire listeners through music and conversation”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6pm to 8pm</td>
<td>Acoustic Café “Today’s great songwriting talents. A bit of country, rock, blues, folk, pop”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8pm to 10pm</td>
<td>Folk Alley “Folk Music Radio from WKSU-FM in Kent, OH”</td>
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**Daily Shows:** Best of the Oldies: 1pm to 2pm/ BirdNote: 6am and 10am/ Growing Native with Petey Mesquitey: MWF at 7am, Sunday at noon/ Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon. – Fri. 8am, 12pm and 6pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm, Sun. at 8am / Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.
$1,199,500

CUSTOM ADOBE RANCH ESTATE—NOGALES

MLS # 22204620   106 ACRES

Classic adobe home near Kino Springs with authentic Canterra stone accents. 4500 sf, 5bd/5ba, pool, 2 car garage, courtyard, grazing lease. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$198,000

TOP OF THE WORLD VIEWS ON 18 ACRES

MLS # 22100804   18.01 PRISTINE ACRES

Spectacular land with 360 degree views! High on a ridge with several lovely building sites. Private with no HOA, gentle deed restrictions. SAMANTHA SHORE 602 743-7833

$85,000

LARGE PATAGONIA LOT

MLS # 22201664   0.62 ACRES

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

$79,000

PANORAMIC VIEWS—LAKE PATAGONIA

MLS # 22025368   14.7 ACRES

262 Circulo Montana. Bring your horses! Lovely mountain views. Building site already in place. Private Well, electricity at lot line. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$34,000

LAKE PATAGONIA RANCH ESTATES

MLS # 22107278   5.74 ACRES

Build your dream home tucked into the hillside and out of the wind. Lovely mountain views, paved roads, electricity and phone at the lot line. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$670,000

JUST LISTED!       2+ ACRES

MLS # 22212484

JUST LISTED! 3Bd/2Ba, 2072 sf on over 2 acres. 1600 sf workshop/garage w/3 spaces & hydraulic lift. Small Casita ideal for Airbnb or office. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

$569,000

COUNTRY LIVING OVERLOOKING PATAGONIA

MLS # 22212428   10 RED ROCK DR.  4.16 AC

Recently remodeled ranch home on a hill w/great views of Red Mtn. 3567 sf, 4bd/3ba, cook’s kitchen, guest wing. Pool, chicken coop, shed. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

$337,500

2 VACATION RENTALS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

MLS # 22117902   220 & 222 HARSHAW ROAD

2 Houses now used as Airbnb rentals. 3bd/2ba Mfr home & 2bd/1ba site built home. Completely furnished. Walking distance to town. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$609,000

LAKE PATAGONIA RANCH HILLTOP HOME

MLS # 22212428

JUST LISTED! 6.32 ACRES

8 Baca Road. Views of mtns and city lights. Fruit trees, vegetable garden. 48d/58a. Rooms for horses, goats, and chickens. Private well. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

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

Download FREE Long Realty App for instant Arizona real estate active listings, pending sales and recently sold properties. JUNE 2022