State Revokes Grazing Permit Along Sonoita Creek

On July 27, the Arizona State Land Department cancelled a long-held Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) issued to a local rancher at Patagonia Lake. Oro Blanco Ranch, owned by Robert Noon, which held a grazing permit on the state trust land, lost the permit, “for failing to use the lease as authorized under the terms of the lease,” according to Bill Fathauer, State Land Department Policy and Communications Manager. “The cancellation process was initiated in late November 2021 after it was determined the permit holder had unauthorized livestock on the parcel,” he wrote in an email to the PRT.

Local groups and concerned citizens have complained about degradation of land and riparian areas by the cattle legally grazing within Patagonia Lake State Park along Sonoita Creek for the past several years. But the situation came to the attention of many for the first time last December when a hiker on a popular birding trail north of the lake along Sonoita Creek suffered injuries while being attacked by a cow. Lake Patagonia State Park Manager Colt Alford immediately closed the trail, and the cattle were rounded up and removed from the area. The trail was reopened, but cattle have since returned.

In response to growing concern for the safety of birders and hikers, as well as for the environmental protection of Sonoita Creek and the riparian area that surrounds it, a group of residents started a letter writing campaign to state officials to raise the alarm about this situation, calling for increased monitoring of the area, better fencing, and removal of all cattle from the riparian area. That effort seems to be paying off.

“I’m glad [the SLUP cancellation] has finally happened,” said Bob Hernbrode, a retired biologist who served on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and was involved in the letter writing campaign. “I've been trying to get the cows out of there for years.”

Noons' cattle, which are predominantly white Charolais cattle, are not the only ones that have been seen along the creek trail. Other breeds of cattle are prevalent in the area, presumably trespassing cattle owned by other ranchers who run cattle on leased land that abuts the State Park.

Hernbrode said that although there is an existing fence that surrounds the riparian area, it is in disrepair, making it easy for cows to get through. In some areas, there is evidence to suggest that the fence may have been intentionally cut.

Cattle, both legal and trespassing, have caused problems along the creek and lake for the past few decades. Friends of Sonoita Creek, an organization that works to protect and restore the water and natural habitat of Sonoita Creek, stated in a recent call to action that the cattle had “trampled vegetation, compacted soils, broken down stream banks, [caused] erosion, siting of the lake, reducing the size of the lake, all new growth eaten.” There is so much cow manure along the stream-side path that it is referred to locally as the ‘Cow Poop Trail.’
**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.

**WHO WE ARE**
We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. The PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants on the first Friday of the month.

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**Submissions**
Do you have an idea for a story having to do with the Eastern Santa Cruz County region? It could be a person or organization who’s doing something interesting, a concern about possible wrongdoing, or a unique approach to local challenges. Send your ideas to us at prteditor@gmail.com

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**PRT Welcomes New Staff Members**

**PRT Administrative Assistant Jay Babcock**

The PRT is pleased to introduce our two newest staff members. Both Jay Babcock and Patrick O’Neal came on board this spring. Jay Babcock, our new administrative assistant, brings to the PRT his wealth of experience as a writer, editor, and publisher. His first major tasks for the PRT have been the launching of our new website, collaborating on the revamping of the weekly newsletter and our new advertising and sponsorship programs. He has also contributed his editing skills to several of the articles in this issue of the PRT.

Jay and his wife, Stephanie, have moved to the area from Joshua Tree, CA, and have plans to build a house on their property north of Patagonia. Patrick O’Neal has joined the PRT as our ad manager. He is a long-time local resident. He and his partner, Maggie Urgo, ran Patagon Bikes, a successful bike rental business in Patagonia, as well as working in the Patagonia Visitors Center. Both Patrick and Maggie have been actively involved in the community over the years. He was marketing coordinator for the 2018 Nogales Bike Classic and is currently serving as chairman of the Town’s Planning and Development Committee. If you see Patrick and Jay around town, stop and say "Hi." Let them know how you feel about the PRT and what you would like to see us covering.

Patrick and Jay have joined the PRT at an exciting time, as we continue to explore new ways to bring the news and information to our readers and to continue our mission to provide a platform for community education and involvement.
PRT Launches New Student Intern Program

The PRT would like to introduce the newest member of our staff. Rebecca Ford, a senior at Patagonia Union High School, has joined our team as a student intern. Rebecca, who was editor of the yearbook her junior year, has been attending PUHS for three years. Rebecca will be covering school sports, profiles, events, and programs. Her first assignment was to get us a photo of the first day of school. “I am interested in writing and designing. I really like writing, especially school essays,” Rebecca told us recently.

She was selected as a Questbridge College Prep scholar, a highly competitive program that places students at top universities. Rebecca’s top four college choices, so far, are Yale, Duke, Vanderbilt and Colorado College. She plans to study botany, concentrating on plant-based alternatives to traditional medicinal drugs.

Rebecca is excited about writing for the PRT. “I hope it’s fun and I also hope I get to meet a lot of members of the community,” she said, “Get out there, meet new people, ask a lot of questions and earn some money.”

We are excited to partner with PUHS and look forward to Rebecca’s articles and photos in our newsletter, our print issues and on our website.

Cattle (Cont.)

There are economic repercussions to the degradation of Sonoita Creek, as well. Patagonia Lake has an international reputation as a birding area and the thousands of birds who visit the park contribute to the economic health of the county.

“The cows have had a tremendously negative impact on the diversity and density of birds in the riparian zone,” Hernbrode said. “They have taken out a great deal of what is so important to the birds. Less birds equates to less birders.”

“There needs to be no cows in there for at least a decade to allow that riparian zone to recover,” he added. “It would also take some active conservation work to help it recover, to stop the erosion, to allow native plants to come back and to remove the exotic plants that have invaded.”

Patagonia Lake was constructed in the late 1960s. The lake and surrounding land were acquired by the state and opened as a state park on April 1, 1975. The State Park Commission has no jurisdiction over the presence of cattle at the lake, as the land encompassing the lake falls under the jurisdiction of the State Land Trust. The open range law in effect in most of the state gives cattle the legal right to graze wherever they want unless they are fenced out.

Advocates agree that fencing the entire State Park would be an unrealistic goal, but they argue that it should be possible to repair or replace the existing fence surrounding the riparian area. It remains to be seen if funds would be available for the project, or to monitor the fence line to prevent cattle from entering the park.

As recently as July 10 there were still cows along the creek, when local resident John Hughes reported seeing ten cows on the birding trail.

New Fire Chief at SEFD

Marc Meredith was sworn in as the new Fire Chief for the Sonoita Elgin Fire District on June 29. During their May 12 meeting, the Sonoita Elgin Fire District (SEFD) Board had unanimously voted to hire him as the new fire chief for the department.

Meredith, who was one of 16 applicants for the job, feels his familiarity with the department, where he has been a member since 2015, was a factor in the board’s decision. “I’ve done every job here that I’m asking somebody else to do,” he said.

The fire service is a second career for Meredith. He worked as a college administrator in California until retiring in 2013, then worked as an EMS trainer for a private company. He and his wife, who has relatives in Sonoita, moved to Patagonia where Meredith began volunteering with the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Dept in 2014. It was there that he trained in wildland fire fighting.

“Meredith will be overseeing 55 employees and volunteers. His priorities include increased training for his members. He listed rope rescue training and hazardous materials handling as two programs he hopes to develop. “We need to be an all-hazards department,” he said. He also wants to build on the existing collaborations with other fire departments in the county.

He would like to see the district be able to pay its employees better, so that they would not lose so many firefighters and EMTs to other departments. Also on his wish list would be a second water tender.

“The entire board was unanimous that we thought Marc was head and shoulders above any of the other applicants,” Chris Johnson, President of the SEFD Board, said. “We’re very glad he has chosen SEFD to continue working in the Chief’s role.” “I’m so grateful for this opportunity,” Meredith said. “I’m really looking forward to it.”

By Marion Vendituoli

Marc Meredith stands by the sign outside the fire station announcing his appointment as Sonoita Elgin Fire District Fire Chief.

Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Pono Tzintzuntzan

Brandon McCloud/Submitted

BY MARION VENDITIUOLI

Contribution by the National Observer

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Supervisors Approve 2023 Budget

By Kat Crockett

Finance Director Mauricio Chavez presents the 2022-2023 Santa Cruz County budget to the Board of Supervisors.

The SCC Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the 2022-2023 budget at the special meeting to set the fiscal year 2023 primary and secondary tax rates; adopt the budget; and adopt tax rates for county-wide fire and school districts.

Finance Director Mauricio Chavez outlined the impact of unfunded state mandates in the budget. Unfunded state mandates are expenses that the state requires the county to pay, which the county must pay for out of its own budget with no help from the state. In the 2023 budget unfunded mandates include increased cost of health insurance, $155,000; increased cost of Arizona Retirement Plans, $119,000; increased cost of liability insurance, $70,000; and increased cost for Arizona Long Term Care System for residents lacking ability to pay, $532,000. There was a total of approximately $900,000 in increases to unfunded state mandates to the county, according to Chavez.

County staff recommended that both the primary and secondary county tax rates remain the same as last year at 0.4051 and 0.9103. For residents who experienced property assessment increases this year, the rates will increase to 4.0515 and 0.9103. For county tax rates remain the same as Chavez.

For Sonoita and Elgin residents, secondary school and fire district taxes add $5.674 to the tax bill, bringing the total tax rate to $15.5347. For a property valued at $300,000, that translates to a property tax bill of approximately $4660.

After listening to a member of the audience speak about the high tax rate, Supervisor Manuel Ruiz commented that “We’ve been very conservative in taxing and spending the public’s money.” He blamed the tax rate on the secondary taxes. “It’s because of the other tax districts,” he said. Even though the tax rate did not change, higher assessments along with new construction starts will generate about $704,674 more for county than last year, according to County Manager Jennifer St. John.

The approved total budget is $131,767,756, a little over $20,000,000 higher than last year, mostly due to actual and anticipated state and federal grants. A significant increase in the budget for Capital Projects from about $2,500,000 to $14,700,000 are mostly funded by grants for upgrades to the Nogales International Airport and the Ephraim Canyon Flood Project which will develop a retention basin in Nogales between I-19 and the Mariposa Port of Entry to control water flow and protect historic flood damage to the infrastructure.

Staff also recommended a 6% cost of living increase for employees across the board and a minimum wage adjustment, which would total an additional $655,000 of which $501,000 is for salaries and $144,000 is for benefits. Last year, the board adopted a significant change in the county salary structure consisting of a new pay scale with 12 steps in each grade level with a 3% increase between steps. The step increases are guaranteed every three years. They also approved a 3% cost of living increase across the board. The cost to taxpayers last year exceeded $500K and the step increases will cost about $90,000 each year.

Food Insecurity a Pervasive Problem in Eastern SCC

By Patra Kelly

“Our area is commonly known as a food desert,” Jim Staudacher, President of East Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank, said, referring to the lack of easy and affordable access to healthy foods in the county.

Although, according to azfoodbanks.org, Arizona is the third largest producer of vegetables and fruits in the U.S., one in seven Arizonans was struggling with food insecurity (a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life, as defined by USDA) even before the pandemic. Since the beginning of Covid-19, almost one in three households has experienced food insecurity. The rates are highest for single parent households and those with incomes below the poverty line. Children, seniors, and rural Arizonans are at greater risk.

This situation has been exacerbated this spring (and for the past two years) by record high price inflation, pushing food and fuel prices out of reach for many,” Staudacher said. “The East Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank offers emergency food and monthly supplemental food to residents in need, as do other community and church organizations.

“During the fall and winter months it is easier for residents to get fresh produce due to the efforts of community groups, but in summer those supplies largely dry up,” he said.

Staudacher noted that an important factor in food insecurity is a lack of transportation for rural and town residents of Patagonia. Some are having to choose between gasoline to drive to work and food to feed their families.

“During the pandemic, the food bank partnered with other not-for-profit groups to distribute weekly food boxes to residents provided by PPEP (Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.) and the Federal Government,” he said. “These food boxes were a lifeline for many residents during the height of the pandemic. However, they were discontinued in June 2021.”

Staudacher also credited the stimulus payments for shoring up strained budgets, but they have also ended.

Community organizations that feed and support families are desperately trying to fundraise and create strategies to make their budget dollars stretch. It does not appear that there will be help in the form of additional stimulus payments or food boxes in the near future.

The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center is one example of a local nonprofit working to lessen the effects of food insecurity. Anna Coleman works with between 30 to 40 youth, ages 10 to 20 years, who are from families with financial challenges. At the Center they make dinner and socialize between 4 and 8p.m. Coleman explained that the youth are learning nutrition and how to cook healthy food. They enjoy fruits and vegetables, learning how to create a vegetable garden, and plan meals together.

“The community at large has a high number of hard-working families that are facing the challenges of increased food prices,” Coleman said. “We are teaching youth about sustainability so they can go out into the world with a set of skills to obtain healthy food and nourish themselves. They don’t have to be dependent on processed foods.”

Both East Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank and the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center welcome donations during this time of food crisis in our area.
Elgin School Opens with Enrollment Up, School Fully Staffed

Deegan and Emmy Ortiz are among the first students to arrive at the Elgin School on the first day of classes August 1.

By Marion Vendituoli

“I’m looking forward to this year,” Sonoita District Superintendent Mary Faley said. The Elgin School, which kicked off the new school year on August 1, has seen a dramatic increase in enrollment, the school is fully staffed, the art program has been reinstated, and improved internet capabi-

lity and access is being developed. This academic year, the school anticipates that there will be 143 students enrolled, the highest number in recent history. The largest class is 4th grade, with 23 students. The smallest is 3rd grade, with 10 students. The number of enrolled students fell to a low of 107 in the fall of 2020 during the pandemic when several families opted for homeschooling. The numbers started to increase when the Elgin School opened classrooms back up for in-school learning sooner than most of the neighboring districts.

The school made the decision at that time to not allow out of district students to enroll in an effort to maintain adequate social distancing on campus. "We were closed for open enrollment," Faley said. "We haven’t reopened it yet."

Higher enrollment translates to more funding from the state. During the pandemic, the school’s budget was cut significantly, according to Faley. Staffing was also an issue. Anna Coleman, the art teacher, was reassigned to teach 3rd grade the first year of the pandemic, and then moved to 4th grade last year. She is back in her art room this year. “I’m really excited to get the students to engage in hands-on activities. Art is important for children because it opens up their brains and they learn how to problem solve. It combines creativity with mind-

fulness. It’s the cornerstone for young learning,” Coleman said.

Two new teachers have joined the faculty. Kim Crawford will be teaching kindergarten and Kat Greeson will take over 5th grade. “This is the first year since I’ve been here that we are fully staffed,” Faley said.

The school has also upgraded internet capability. The fiber project has been completed. Funded by the FCC’s National E-rate program, fiber-optic cable was run from the center of Sonoita to the Elgin School, providing the school with much higher internet capacity. The school also received grants to upgrade devices.

Still in the works is the state funded Final Mile project, which focuses on providing reliable internet to rural areas. Triad Wireless, who won the bid to provide the service, is currently applying for a building permit to erect an 80-foot tower on school property. The plan is to locate the tower next to the gym.

The goal of the Final Mile project is to provide students with low cost, reliable internet. The cost will be $10 per month and is restricted to educational use only. However, because the infra-

structure will be in place, Faley anticipates that Triad will, in the future, offer it to their internet to the entire community.

Faley is also excited about plans for a new early childhood center. The county has allocated $450,000 of a grant to fund this project. The school is looking at two options, to build a new building, or to remodel two rooms in the school, which would leave funds available for staffing. Although not earmarked for a pre-school specifically, Faley is hoping to include that in these plans. She is a strong proponent of early childhood education. "I’m pretty passionate about that," she said.

Despite all these improvements and the effects of inflation, the school budget, which was finalized the end of June, did not raise the secondary tax rate for property owners in the district. According to Faley it went down slightly, less than 1%. Faley does not anticipate any chang-

effects of the Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center (PRAC) team and the school, the pool will be open for water aerobics and laps until the end of Sept. with limited hours.

"Starting August 8, lap swimming will be from 9a.m. until 10:30a.m. Water Aerobics will be from 10:45a.m. until 12p.m.,” School Supt. Kenny Hayes said. "We will continue that schedule until August 20. Any extension past that date is up to whether we can find lifeguards to work that extended season."

The pool committee is currently working to find lifeguards for that extend-
ed season. Several people have been using the pool for physical therapy, especially water walking, follow-
ging, or in preparation for, surgery, and at least one person makes regular use of the pool lift. Lap swimmers and water aerobics participants from all over eastern Santa Cruz County have been util-
izing the pool, making the PRAC eligible to apply for grants that would not be available if only the Patagonia area were being served. About 20% of users come from the Sonoita/Elgin/Rain Valley area.

Grants are currently being sought to provide a heater for the pool so that it can be open for a longer sea-

son. Hopefully, this will be in place in January 2023, though the pool will probably not be open that early. Ex-

tending the season will increase costs to PRAC considerably.

In addition to free pool entry for kids under 12, veterans, disabled fire-

fighters, etc, sponsorships are available for people who want to swim, but can’t afford the fees. Email Samantha Carlson at patagoniapool1@gmail.com if you need a sponsorship.

Watch the weekly PRT enewsletter and check the pool’s Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Patagonia-Pool

Photo by Clare Bonelli

91-year-old Elizabeth Chevola is lowered into the pool on the handicap lift to participate in water aerobics, a program she started in 1996.

Pool to Remain Open Through September

News Release
The last day for full pool hours will be August 5. However, due to the ef-
forts of the Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center (PRAC) team and the school, the pool will be open for water aerobics and laps until the end of Sept. with limited hours.

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91-year-old Elizabeth Chevola is lowered into the pool on the handicap lift to participate in water aerobics, a program she started in 1996.
4-H Livestock Activity Day

By Cash Keith

There is nothing better to a livestock kid than the smell of the barn at 6 a.m. That is how we all started out preparing for our 2nd annual Mustang 4-H Livestock Activity Day at the Sonoita Fairgrounds.

4-H and FFA members were busily preparing their animals for a day of learning. Eleven coaches from all over Arizona taught showmanship, nutrition, anatomy, and proper care of our livestock projects. This year, 64 kids attended, showing pigs, steer, goats, lambs, and small stock animals. You could see the pride all the 4-H and FFA members had in their animals as they showed them off at the end of the day in the Showmanship Showdown.

Many first year 4-H members were all ears preparing for the Santa Cruz County Fair in September. When asked why they were excited to attend Livestock Activity Day, there was one common theme. “Better showmanship and how to take care of my turkey,” said Xavier Mihai, first year 4-H member.

Emily Leavitt, who is a veteran 4-H member, has shown in Pima County since she was nine. This will be Emily’s last year in 4-H and her first year showing as a Mustang 4-H member raising a market goat. She was asked what life lesson she learned at Livestock Activity Day. “You can always continue to learn more in anything you do in life, no matter what it is,” said Emily.

Participants had the opportunity to be coached by one of the best in the business, Mike Zamudio of SSVSP Showpigs of San Simon, AZ. The Zamudio family is well known in Arizona and the livestock showing community. Zamudio shared a quote with the participants that is invaluable to anyone who steps into the show ring. “The success of your animal project depends on you and the time you invest,” said Zamudio. “Success is not measured by banners, buckles, or ribbons. It is determined by hard work, dedication, and the desire to be great.”

The Mustang 4-H club thanks all the sponsors, volunteers, the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association Board, and Dr. Dusti Prentice for making this day possible and fun for all. Participants are looking forward to next year to expand their knowledge and skill set.

Peep Squeaks Go Birding
Little Birders Raise Big Money in Sonoita

By Cami Schlappy

The Sonoita Peep Squeaks raised over $3,000 during the Tucson Audubon Society’s 2022 Birdathon. The team members were between three and 11 years old and included Celine Schlappy, Anderson Porter, Rosier Peake, Cameron Peake, McKenna Cass, Maximus Stephens, McKenna Cass, Maximus Stephens, Axel Stephens, and Audrey Stephens. Adult leaders were Katherine Cudney and Cami Schlappy.

For 30 days, participants tried to see as many species of birds as possible. Members collected pledges and also set out to achieve the bonus challenges set forth by a generous sponsor, Marcia Grand. Challenges included categories such as $10 per species of snake, $5 per active bird nest, $5 per species of butterfly, $500 for an eagle, $50 for a turtle, and $100 for five species of hummingbird.

Highlights included a viewing of a first in the U.S. sighting of a white-tipped dove, an active golden eagle nest, a bald eagle, and a violet-crowned hummingbird. These sightings were facilitated by expert birders and generous individuals and groups. The organization “Wild About the Grasslands” loaned the team eight pairs of field explorer binoculars. Katherine Cudney provided expert guidance at Paton Center for Hummingbirds. Katherine Cudney, Pat Hedrick, and Cami Schlappy took birders to Patagonia Lake.

The Sonoita Peep Squeaks received the ‘youngest birders’ award, congratulations for their efforts, and were presented with Audubon t-shirts. Team members celebrated with cake, games, and awards. They are already looking forward to Tucson Audubon Birdathon 2023 and adding to their birding skills.

THE 106TH SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

It’s almost here! Come join the fun Sept. 16-18, 2022.

This year, the fair will be dedicated to our veterans, past and present. The entertainment line-up will be packed full of amazing talents from music, magicians, local bands and more.

We are proud to show off our agriculture/livestock raised by 4H/FFA as well as artwork provided by students in our county. The carnival will run all three days with many rides and treats for all.

School day will be Friday, Sept 16, 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m when kids will get in free.

Mutton busting and free mechanical bull riding will return by popular request! Visit sonoitafairgrounds.com/fair for more info.

Photo by Katherine Cudney

Axel Stephens, of Sonoita, searches for birds during the Birdathon.
A TALE OF TWO PSYCHICS

By Cassina Farley

A few years ago, over lunch and a job interview, I met a pet psychic. While chatting with this woman, who at first glance seemed quite normal, I learned of a meaningful conversation the woman once had with a crab.

Come to find out, this gal spoke to horses, cows, dogs and the like and, of a job interview, I met a pet psychic. Sounds a relevant clarion: “Don’t Push Cal, essential historical truths.

Communities is commendable, he for preserving what’s good about our personal life situations - what he would do it. He replied, “He said he wanted to come.”

This is one of those situations where you stuff as much food in your mouth as you can to try to stifle the laughter. My face apparently said plenty because my friend seated across from me abruptly changed the subject.

The interview ended. As we walked her and her dog to her car, she informed us that her dog had gotten car sick on the way in. We stood there as she drove away and all I could think was about to get was why hadn’t the dog warned her that he sick? She wasn’t the weirdest person I had ever met. She never came to work for us. Oddly enough we weren’t a good fit for her. Maybe it was something I said?

Years have passed since I met the pet psychic and frankly, she did nothing to bolster my belief in the ability to speak with animals or to spirits beyond the grave. If anything, she gave me a healthy skepticism that gave me a chuckle from time to time.

Little did I know that one day I would have a chance to meet a psychic whom many people deem the “real deal.” I had an up-close and personal encounter with the Long Island Medium herself, Theresa Caputo. I’ll be honest, when my friend asked me to go with her to this event, I had to go with her. Caputo. In addition to her wildly successful reality show, the Long Island Medium travels the country doing live readings dressed like a mafia boss’s wife.

I went for entertainment purposes only and when she set her sights on me, I still didn’t believe it was happening. Sure, she started with some general questions. My answers led her to more pointed questions that eventually led her to basically jump inside my soul and mix the whole damn thing up.

When I say that she knew things only I or the person she was referencing would know it sounds a little cliché, but that’s exactly what happened. She stood in front of me in her fluorescent yellow dress and hot pink stilettos and made me a believer. She also made me cry.

I wasn’t the same after that. I did, and still do, feel like she reached inside me. So much so that for days afterwards I could barely talk about it. I was so befuddled that I threw my wallet away at a gas station. I have since recovered but was reminded of the encounter the other day. It is still fresh in my mind.

I’ve been thinking about the crab lately and how dismissive I was about her ability. Given what I know now there’s no doubt that the dog talks to her. I’m sure she and the crab had a lovely conversation. It’s for the best however that we didn’t hire her. That’s all we needed, someone who could let us know what horses are actually thinking.

BEYOND LOCALS VS. TOURISTS

By Bob Jacobson

The title of Stephen Williams’ fascinating PRT essay of June 2, 2022, sounds a relevant clarion. “Don’t Push Locals Aside in the Quest for Tourist Money.” It might stop anyone in mid-stripe, especially those looking to develop a resort in Patagonia. But is his an accurate dichotomy?

Williams points to the negative experiences of gentrifying towns throughout the West - places where, in his opinion, locals were pushed aside in the quest for “industrial tourist” dollars to the detriment of their environments, their economies, and their personal life situations - what he would call “holistic” range management, after the work of his hero, the controversial Alan Savory. While Williams’ concern for preserving what’s good about our communities is commendable, he neglects to frame the argument in critical, essential historical truths.

Santa Cruz County is labeled by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) as “a poverty county” - meaning its economy for the last several decades, and even today, lags behind comparable others in the state and the nation - with no remedy in sight. Further, the USDA identifies Patagonia as “a persistent pocket of poverty” within Santa Cruz County.

This means not only that commerce is incidental and incomes low, but that opportunities for residents - especially younger residents and others without resources, good jobs, and experience - to surmount such conditions are slim to none. Except literally moving up and out.

Williams’ solution is to keep out “industrial tourism.” He longs for the return of a regional dreamland, rural communities unpolled and unpopulated by formerly urban newcomers without a regard for the quality of rural life.

But that cow is out of the barn so far as our Borderlands are concerned. Our leaders have largely accepted whatever powerful players proffer and hope (a) no one notices and (b) they work out for the best.

The caboose bestowed on Patagonia by the Hermosa Mine, intended as an historical marker, and the bright, newly paved streets ready for mining truck traffic to remind us that whatever Patagonia was before, it won’t be for long. These tokens arrived with the Supervisors’ blessings and the Town’s obseisance. Before long, the truck traffic will extend via Highways 82 and 83 east to Harshaw, north to Tucson, and west to Rio Rico, so get ready, Canelo, Elgin, Sonota, and Nogales. Meanwhile, do you know the County’s fire-emergency plan? No? You are not alone. It’s not clear that the County itself knows.

New places to dance, chat, and have a beer, or to recreate at a suburban dude ranch, are hardly the problem. This isn’t about chasing “tourist money,” horrid though tourists may seem to some. Our real problem - and here Williams and I agree - is we don’t plan for our future. We don’t keep a list of “Things We Want for Patagonia” and the Borderlands region, nor do we devise ways to achieve them. In many Borderlands locales, “policy discussions” means loud conversations at the Lake or in local watering holes.

This is unfortunate, because collectively we are a smart lot, able and ready to create for ourselves and those who follow a new and brighter future. Harnessing our collective intelligence, creativity, and a missing quality, “fore-sight,” would enable Patagonia and its neighbors to get out ahead of the changes coming and bend them to our favor.

This is where Williams and I wholly agree. It’s called planning. It’s called participation. It’s called putting the commonwealth ahead of individual gain and too-cautious leadership. That’s the real challenge. Holistic government.

Bob Jacobson, a Patagonia resident, has a Ph.D in Development Planning (UCLA) and was a professor and First Entrepreneur in Residence at Malmö Universitet, Sweden.

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LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Martin Levowitz

Among the “higher” living things, both plant and animal, there’s something known as sexuality, which is involved with mating - procreation as they say - not quite the same as recreation, though the two may overlap. Unless the male and female find a way to conjugate, your bloodstream and your line come to naught.

QUOTE: “Male and/or female creat-

Can it be true? I'm pretty sure I read somewhere that - jarring though the thought may be - the human male and female bodies aren't identical. Some folks exult "Vive la difference!" While some do not.

In northerly climates, men mostly wear pants, and though it was unheard of years ago, you’ll often see women in trousers these days. (Historically, the normal female wore a skirt or dress, a dirndl, muumuu, or sarong.)

There are two reasons for this basic gark discrepancy. One goes back to anatomy, or “plumbing,” so to speak. Convenience/practicality is not the only factor, though. Men often like to look at women’s legs, as well you know. Skirts much less compromise the view than denim Levis do. Some women see the skirt or dress as an abusive artifact (recalling burqas and brassieres) inflicted on them by The Patriarch.

Despite the species’ need to breed, a lot of people seem inclined, increasingly, these days, to seek and mate with others who are not of “the opposite sex” (whatever sex you’ve chosen or been chosen to oppose.) In these odd days and changing times, which challenge and reject what used to be in favor of evolving novelty, it seems the line between the sexes has been badly blurred - all but erased. Biology may still be destiny, as Freud proposed, but seemingly, the shortest line between points A and B is no longer straight. In fact, through hormones and/or sur-
gery, A can be B, or Vice V.

Conservatives regard these modern variants as cursed. Most human beans are happiest when things are as they have grown used to them. If something we’ve grown used to is withdrawn, some deep and weary part of us may be inclined to groan, “Why can’t those bleeping morons just leave well enough alone?” Discomfort, anger, and disgust are typical responses to most fundamental change. We normally like normal more than what is new and strange.

Such change leads to high drama and conflict in politics. My guess is that it’s going to increase, and may- be “should.” What sign or symbol should be put on public restroom doors? Which locker room is right for the polite hermaphrodite? Both logic and theology suggest that the true God must be an outright androgyne - comprising male and female parts - if only so that nothing in the universe is alien to Him or Her or It or Them who drummed the whole thing up.

Still, at the local bar on weekends and/or Friday nights, if you are L, B, G, T, Q, or flauting lilac spandex tights, remember that some troglodytes react to the unknown by picking fights.

NOTE: Despite his customary irony, this writer will submit at least one more GENDER article less insensitive to the confusion, discomfort, and genuine pain these issues currently pose.

ADEQ FAILING TO PROTECT OUR AQUIFERS

By Chris Werkhoven

To avoid flooding of mine tunnels at the Hermosa Project, Arizona Mining Inc. (AMI), a subsidiary of South32, plans to “dewater” the Patagonia Mountains at an estimated rate of 4,500 gallons per minute. To protect any downstream aquifers from being loaded with pollutants that exceed Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality’s (ADEQ) Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS), ADEQ granted an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) to discharge treated effluents into Harshaw Creek.

That decision was appealed by me after reviewing the data produced by AMI, where it failed to “demonstrate that pollutants discharged through de-watering would not cause or contrib-
te to a violation of AWQS at the Point of Compliance,” as required by law. I argued that “ADEQ has not shown that the human health and environment downstream of Harshaw Creek would be protected from discharges of treat-
ed water.”

Upon hearing the evidence, the Arizona appeals judge decided that AMI had met the requirements for the permit. The judge ruled that I had “presented evidence that goes beyond what the APP program regulates, e.g., the bio-accumulation of metals in soils and vegetation, which information cannot be a basis to overturn ADEQ’s decision to issue the permit.” ADEQ’s own appeals board then quickly adopt-
ed all of what the judge proposed in his “Decisions.”

Using questionable water infiltra-
tion rates and without any professional sensitivity analysis, AMI estimated that the discharged surface water changed completely into groundwater at the surprisingly exact distance of 9.36 miles from the discharge point. This happens to be shortly before Harshaw Creek reaches the alluvial plains of Sonoita Creek - the relevant Point of Compliance. Therefore, AMI argued, no potentially polluted discharge water would be reaching the impaired waters of Sonoita Creek, which would have been a reason to deny the Permit.

In contrast, I presented flash flood data obtained from public data and our own measurements, done with Patagonia citizen Dave Ellis, showing that flows of similar rate of discharge would reach Sonoita Creek within hours.

Moreover, the judge accepted ADEQ’s “concept” that during the jour-
ney down Harshaw Creek, it is “possi-
ble” but “not likely” that pollutants will be picked up by discharge water and cause an exceedance of AQWS before it has fully infiltrated as groundwater. Consequently, AMI argued that there is no need for an actual Point of Compli-
ance, only a “conceptual” one, i.e., one that does not need any monitoring of pollutants, let alone demonstrate that exceedances are taking place or not.

That concept was disproved by a 2012 University of Arizona thesis study on metal mobilization in the Patagonia Mountains. The Sonoita Creek soil pollution measurements that US Geological Survey (USGS) area specialist Floyd Gray added to this study leave no doubt about the contribution that Harshaw Creek flash flood water added to the pollution of Sonoita Creek. The subsequent bio-availability (not “bio-acumula-
tion,” as erroneously quoted by the judge) of such contaminants to vege-
tation and grazing cattle confirms the earlier (2007) USGS designation of the Patagonia Mountains as a “mineralized ecosystem.”

ADEQ runs its own soil characteriza-
tion programs but, in contrast to USGS, it has not engaged in such activities in the Patagonia Mountains since their joint 2002 pollution assessment report of Harshaw Creek. That report was limited in its scope, and without soil data, few meaningful con-
clusions could be made. This did not escape the attention of the Auditor General who concluded in 2021 that ADEQ has been “limited in its ability to keep waters and soils safe from pollution.”

In short, ADEQ has not shown any data that disproved my claim that the human health and environment downstream of Harshaw Creek would not be protected from dis-
charges of treated water. In fact, ADEQ has shown itself incapable of independently reviewing permit appli-
cations on compliance demonstrations, not opin-
ions, that are clearly required by law. Meanwhile, the Arizona judicial system appears to prefer opinions of a state agency over data from a federal a-
gen-cy, even after a public audit has shown that ADEQ fell short in its duties.

Permits such as these allow for min-
ing activities that cause irreversible soil contamination issues and jeopardize availability of already scarce resourc-
es like water. Mining also results in industrial scale removal of vegeta-
tion, whose presence is badly needed to help combat climate change and reduce mobilization of contaminated soils toward alluvial aquifers. Foreign mining multinationals like South32 should conduct their activities where eco-systems are much less vulnerable.

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OPINION & COMMENT • OPINION & COMMENT • OPINION & COMMENT
**Town Council Notes**

By PRT Staff Reporters

**July 13**

The Mayor and Council approved the final draft of the Flood and Flow Committee’s powers and duties.

Mayor and Council adopted a resolution designating Ron Robinson as the Chief Fiscal Officer for the purpose of submission of the Fiscal Year 2023 Expenditure Limitation Report to the Arizona Auditor General.

Mayor and Council approved a Study Session on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 6 p.m. to finalize an agreement about certain fees for use of the Town Parks.

**July 27**

The Mayor reported there’d been a ribbon cutting at the corner of McKeown and Third Aves. to mark the completion of the McKeown Ave. road improvement project.

It was announced that Ann Danowitz would be mentoring Kayla Miller to help her transition to being a full-time librarian for the Town.

Manager Robinson announced closure of Richardson Park until Aug. 12 because of damage repair projects following the fall on July 18 of a large juniper tree, from the Park into a neighbor’s back yard.

The Mayor & Council thanked South32 for responding to complaints of company-related vehicle speeding on Harshaw Av, with their plans to deploy a second speed readout sign.

South32’s Melanie Lawson stated the company would enforce infractions by their staff or suppliers & subcontractors, in graduated levels if infractions continued beyond the first.

The appointment of the Election Board by the Town of the August 2, 2022, primary election, at $120 per member, was approved.

Town Resolution 2022-10 was approved, committing $323,622 as leverage for a North American Development Bank Community Assistance Program (CAP) grant in the amount of $500,000.

The Mayor and Council approved the Town’s acceptance of a $665,997 bid for the refurbishment of the wastewater treatment plant, contingent on the North American Development Bank’s release of $500,000 of CAP funds.

Aaron Mirotek was appointed to the Town’s Flood and Flow Committee to replace Marty Lawrence, who is leaving his position with The Nature Conservancy at the end of July.

Velvet Elvis restaurant was given a recommendation to the AZ Liquor Board for approval of a liquor license for its new location at 335 McKeown.

Mayor and Council approved the sending of a letter of concern to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the County Planning and Zoning Commission, presenting 4th Ave. and related easements as unsafe, underdeveloped, and in need of legal clarification about rights of way before access use by the proposed eco-lodge on county property at the border of the town. This letter will be accompanied by one from Fire Chief Ike Isaacson on the need for road improvements to facilitate emergency service vehicles, since the Patagonia Fire and Rescue team serves that area.

The Mayor and Council approved a resolution for the Town of the August 2, 2022, primary election, at $120 per member, was approved.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Thanking The Library**

The Patagonia Library sponsored and facilitated the Great Decisions program of the U.S. Foreign Policy Association in the Patagonia area.

As we completed the energetic citizen discussion of important, current foreign policy issues, we all agreed in how grateful we are to the Patagonia Library for making this conversation available.

**Another Source of Wealth**

**Reading Stephen Williams OPINION:**

“DON’T PUSH LOCALS ASIDE IN THE QUEST FOR TOURISM DOLLARS.” Patagonia Regional Times June/July issue.

Well written and homework done. When I take into consideration the “three most basic sources of wealth our dollar represents. They are: mineral dollars, paper dollars, and solar dollars...that solar dollars are the only form of wealth that can actually feed people.”

There is, of course, another source of wealth we have access to when we simply engage with the natural world and each other through activities such as hiking, dancing, bicycle riding, heartfelt conversation and singing, all of which are a source of well-being, something money cannot buy. The quality-of-life that Patagonia provides

**On Relationships**

Though I am not a resident of the delightful hamlet of Patagonia, I count myself lucky to be a regular visitor to the area as I have enjoyed a commitment to activities in the area over time. Whenever possible, I make sure to seek out the latest issue of The Patagonia Regional Times as a means of staying current with what I feel is a uniquely special town.

My last visit found me enjoying Patagonia’s annual 4th of July Parade. All the pageantry of a small-town presentation, and a rare opportunity to stand in a refreshing summer monsoon shower simultaneously.

Don’t know just how you did it, Patagonia, but once again you pulled off something really special for all in attendance.

As mentioned, I departed town with a dry copy of PRT tucked under my arm. Once home I enjoyed a read. I was inspired by Mr. Levowitz’s short column “Life Among the Humans (Gender Issues).” If Mr. Levowitz did not hit the nail directly on the head with his thoughts, he came close enough.

I have shared home and hearth with the same good soul for a great length of time. Don’t ask me just how many anniversaries (we all know guys are for the most part terrible about that).

Over such length of time I, and she, have enjoyed a relationship as partners, lovers, parents and friends. Like any long running relationships, we have come to know it has its peaks and valleys.

So here we are at this point in the game of life (together), and who are we now? I’d say we are now the best roommates we could hope to be. I did say “best” which I like to think is a notch up from just plain roommates. For the “good work” is still there as it always shall be.

Though, as Mr. Levowitz reminds us, many things decline, not all need so. A re-definition of just who we are and our “best” place within it will see us through, and a great roommate is a treasure within itself.

David Krest

Patagonia

**Correction:**

In the June/July issue of the PRT, Zay Hartigan was incorrectly referred to as the PVFRD Fire Chief. Zay Hartigan is the Fire Captain. We apologize for this error.
Recycling Group Weighs Future Options

News Release

Having convinced Recyclops to bring its subscription curbside recycling service to Patagonia and having sponsored monthly collections of cardboard and glass, the Patagonia Recycling Task Force now faces some tough decisions about how best to advance recycling opportunities in Eastern Santa Cruz County.

Chief among these decisions is whether to suspend the glass and cardboard collections to encourage more households to sign up for the Recyclops curbside service. Nine months after its service launch, Recyclops still has not attracted the 100 subscribers it maintains it needs to make the local effort profitable.

The task force was created early in 2020 when it came to light that most of the recyclables going into the county-provided trailers behind the post office were not being recycled because of the high level of trash mixed in with the recyclables. In March 2020, the county yanked its containers, virtually halting all local recycling opportunities from a community with a strong contingent of citizens eager to recycle.

Unable to bring back a full-scale drop-off operation, the group implemented a series of once-a-month collections of glass and cardboard in January 2021. By the end of 2021, the task force had also succeeded in attracting Recyclops to the community.

Commenting on the group’s current challenges, task force chair Bob Brandt said, “Recyclops customers tell us they are pleased with the service, and we hope the number of people who take advantage of it will substantially increase,” Brandt said. “However, we need to figure out if our monthly collections are undermining the curbside pickup subscriptions and what we can do, if anything, to support both curbside and drop-off recycling.”

To determine why those who drop off their glass and cardboard have not subscribed, the task force has started asking those recyclers to complete a short questionnaire. That effort got off to a very slow start at the monthly collection on July 23 when fewer than ten people brought cardboard and the total haul was not enough to fill even a small trailer.

Two of the seven people who filled out the questionnaire said they don’t want to pay for curbside service if they can drop their recyclables off at no cost or for a small donation, two said they don’t generate enough to make it worth the cost of curbside pickup and two reported they would subscribe to the Recyclops service if the service were available where they live.

The task force initially had hoped that Recyclops would serve customers in Sonoita, Elgin and other outlying areas but the company has yet to identify a service area that could be served profitably.

The Recyclops service model seems best-suited for small jurisdictions such as Patagonia. The company pays local drivers to use their own vehicles to collect the recyclables rather than large trucks that have comparatively large carbon footprints. They provide subscribers with a supply of transparent lightweight plastic bags that allow drivers to detect any unacceptable items in the bags and call that to the attention of the customer. The result is that, in comparison with larger operations, significantly less of the material that goes to Republic Services in Tucson, the recycling processing facility, gets landfilled.

According to Recyclops operations chief Eric Holeman, the company accepts plastics 1-7 because the Republic Services facility in Tucson has the capability to process, and has buyers for, the hard-to-recycle plastics. Holeman noted that, in this region, the bags supplied by the company to their customers are recycled after they are emptied and are used by Trex in the manufacturing of composite decking materials.

The task force continues to invite comments from anyone who may have suggestions on how to improve recycling in the region.

Brandt may be contacted at brantownb@gmail.com.

Rotary News

By News Release

As the school year came to a close the Mountain Empire Rotary Club (MER) paid tribute in May to the Patagonia High School Student of the Month, Oscar Gomez (Shop/Automotive), who was also awarded a $100 cash award. MER was then honored to attend the Elgin and Patagonia Middle School 8th grade graduations, recognizing three students from each school, with the winners also receiving a $100 cash award from the Club. The honorees from Patagonia Middle School were Dolores “Lola” Duerkop (Citizenship), Emma Lewton (Scholarship), and Brianna Majalca (Leadership). Elgin School honorees were Lenin Albarran (Citizenship), Riley Campbell (Student Athlete), and Sage Beal (Academics). MER also awarded a two-year Scholarship ($1,000 each year) to graduating Patagonia High School Senior Tavania Padilla, who plans on studying nursing at the University of New Mexico. Congratulations to all the graduates and award winners!

More information regarding Student of the Month winners, Graduations and Scholarships, with photos, can be found on the PUHS, Elgin School, and Mountain Empire Rotary (MER) Facebook pages.

SAVE THE DATES: On Nov. 4, MER will be holding a Casino Night at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent auction, great food, lots of gaming, maybe a few other surprises, and, of course, lots of fun. On January 7, 2023, 9a.m. to 12p.m. MER will have another Recycling/Shredding event at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. Please check out this link for information on the type of recyclables: https://suburbanminers.com/. Watch for future postings in the PRT and the MER Facebook page for more details.

Flyers for the events will also be posted throughout the communities.

MER has lot more to do before the year is over. Stay tuned for updates and information. Remember YOUR participation in our fundraisers and events helps the Club perform the service projects for our community. We cannot do the work we do without your support and MER thanks all of you for that.

We love supporting the community and our youths and invite anyone from the community to attend our meetings and learn more about Rotary. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6p.m. Meetings are currently hybrid (In-person and via Zoom). If you want to know more about Rotary, attend a meeting, or suggest a project, feel free to contact Keith Barth at judgebarth@gmail.com, or our Membership Chairman, Mike Veta at mveta@aztrailfinancial.com.
Patagonia Celebrates the 4th of July

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

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By Dottie Farrar

Open for Business
New Business News
Biscuits for Breakfast in Sonoita

By Dottie Farrar

Biscuits for Breakfast in Sonoita

Katie Perry, Chef Jaime Chavez and Devon Bohanon dish up some of the popular danishes served at Butter My Biscuit in Sonoita.

By Dottie Farrar

Butter My Biscuit, which recently opened in Sonoita, is open for breakfast or brunch daily from 5a.m. to 1p.m. Located across from the Sonoita-Elgin Fire Station, the eatery seats 24 people inside, plus 10 outside on the covered patio overlooking the Santa Rita Mountains. Takeout is also available. Catering can be arranged, and there is a large patio with an outdoor fireplace for parties.

The menu includes homemade pastries, a traditional breakfast of eggs, bacon, hash browns, or biscuits and gravy, a Monte Cristo sandwich and more.

Chef owner Jaime Chavez, a graduate of the Arizona Culinary School in Scottsdale, comes to Sonoita with ten years’ experience in the restaurant business. Two years ago, his mother moved to the Sonoita area. When Chavez visited, he fell in love with Sonoita, and then found “the spot” for his restaurant.

After six months of hard work renovating and painting, plus installing restaurant equipment, the opening took place the end of June. Five employees now assist Chavez in serving customers, with another coming on board soon. The high energy and friendliness of this youthful crew add zest to the dining experience.

The most popular menu item by far is the peach danish, followed by biscuits and gravy and the Monte Cristo. The danishes are posted daily on Facebook for those who wish to plan ahead or to simply get a vicarious thrill from the enticing photographs.

Food is served in compostable containers made of processed sugar cane leaves to ensure low water usage.

Plans for the future include having Butter My Biscuit on site at community events and at local wineries. Chavez stated that the customer response to Butter My Biscuit has exceeded his expectations. He is particularly grateful to the local businesses who helped with transforming the space into an attractive, and comfortable place to serve and enjoy breakfast.

“Welcome to everybody,” he said. “I appreciate the welcome you have given me, and I would like to give you the same welcome.”

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Brothers Partner with Goats to Prevent Fires

Emanuel Ramirez, Daniel McGuire and Michael McGuire operate Fire Prevention Specialists with the help of a herd of goats and sheep.

By Pat McNamara

“Why chase a fire when you can prevent one?” This is the mantra of Michael and Dan McGuire, owners of Fire Prevention Specialists. The company, which is licensed and bonded, works with homeowners to create defensible space to mitigate the effects of wildfire.

A Chicago native and former Chicago firefighter, Michael McGuire has spent his career fighting fires. After a work-related injury in 1995 ended his career in Chicago, he and his brother Dan pulled up roots and relocated to Arizona. Michael, who settled in Patagonia in 2001, recently retired as a lieutenant in the Patagonia Fire and Rescue Department (PVFRD) after 20 years.

During his tenure with the fire department, he volunteered as a wildlands firefighter, traveling all over the west. In 2014 he also started work for the non-profit organization Baptist Child and Family Services, based in Texas, coordinating and helping unaccompanied children at the border or wherever there is a natural disaster. He still is a reservist with PVFRD and on the roster as needed for that organization.

2022 found Michael and Dan, also a volunteer firefighter for Patagonia, looking for a way to prevent rather than ‘chase’ fires. With the goal of staying close to home, the brothers started their business, Fire Prevention Specialists, with the help of some goats, some sheep, and livestock manager Emmanuel Ramirez. They provide temporary fencing to keep the animals confined to the designated clearing area.

It takes 20 goats and/or sheep only two and a half days to clear out an acre. The McGuires have enough animals available to handle from one to a hundred acres if needed. Along with the goats and sheep, the business is also fully equipped with a truck and necessary equipment to clear out larger trees and brush that are too large for the animals to handle.

Fire Prevention Specialists offer its services statewide. They also offer a Fire Wise program, which is a community-based effort. This program was started in the west ten years ago and is now mandated by some insurance companies. Many HOAs have begun to require this program in their communities, as well. Local, state, federal and tribal lands have now signed on and the Fire Wise program continues to grow with more businesses like the McGuires’ coming on board. With climate change and fires becoming more frequent and destructive, prevention is more imperative than ever.

In the desert, the invasive buffel grass has flourished and is causing environmental destruction as well as being a fire hazard. Removing it by hand is very labor intensive, so the goats and sheep are the answer to its eradication. This is another example of the positive impact of the natural, environmentally friendly, animal-based approach.

Customers have been pleased with the results of the goats’ clearing efforts. A recent client said that he used the goats to clear his land, especially along his fence line and it now “looks like a golf course.”

As the climate gets hotter and drier, fire prevention in the west is becoming much more imperative for landowners. Businesses such as Fire Prevention Specialists will become even more essential to mitigate the destruction of wildland fires. The McGuires have demonstrated that their animal herds are a valuable tool in the effort to remove unwanted vegetation in an environmentally friendly way. As their website states, “It does not matter how dense the fuel load, it’s no match for a herd of hungry goats and sheep.”

For more information about Fire Prevention Specialists, visit www.firepreventionspecialists.com.
PRT Bird Photo Contest
We received an astonishing number of great photos from our readers and this was a difficult contest to judge. Congratulations to our winners, Thomas Brown and Eric Herman! Congratulations, also to our Honorable Mention winners, Thomas Brown, Steve Johnson, Brett Daniels, and Eric Herman.

Look for a gallery of all our entrants' photos at https://patagoniaregionaltimes.org/bird-photo-contest/

Winning Photos

Thomas Brown captured this image of a Snowy Egret fishing.

This image was taken by Eric Herman while hiking in Cochise Stronghold. Eric said the roadrunner walked with him along the trails for the day.

Honorable Mention Winners

Bushtit

Rosiate Spoonbill

Mexican Spotted Owl

Barn Swallows

Elf Owl

Gila Woodpecker
Glimpses Into Our Past

By Alison Bunting

In 1921 five Rain Valley and Elgin women - Cora Everhart, Edith Ferris, Katherine Klene, Edith Roath, and Ida Turney - took a picnic supper to the “Northcraft Grove”[also called The Cottonwoods] south of Patagonia to discuss creating an organization that would purchase, share, and discuss books.

The picnic meeting led to a set of By-Laws and “Precedents” for the Elgin Book Circle. “The Book Circle membership was limited to 17 people; this permitted each member to keep a book for three weeks before passing it on to the next person.”

At the first Book Circle meeting in early 1922, ten women paid dues of $2.00 each and recommended a book. The books were purchased using the dues money and a schedule for “passing” the books was determined. “It was up to each member to arrange the timely transfer of the book in her possession. If a member lived near the next recipient, the book could be dropped off at her home. For those who lived farther away, a book might be left in the care of the Elgin storekeeper…For many years, the mail carrier was helpful…a book could be placed in the mailbox—‘with a slip of paper designating the person to whom it should be delivered, and the carrier would convey the book to that person’s mailbox.’” [Wincn, Barbara. The Elgin Book Circle. Pimeria Alta Historical Society (PAHS) Newsletter, Aug/Sept 1993]. Ida Speed Turney was regarded “as the founder of the Book Circle.” [Wincn, 1993]. Born in Kentucky in 1879, she and her parents moved to Texas in 1912 where she taught piano and music. At age 34 she married cowboy Mark Turney and the couple, and her parents, moved to Elgin in about 1913 to operate a small ranch. [Arizona Daily Star, 12/4/1962]. In 1916 Mark Turney was shot and seriously injured by a neighboring rancher, Jackson Ward and his son Bufford. [Arizona Daily Star, 12/16/1916], Turney survived but his right leg was amputated. Jackson and Bufford Ward served time in prison for the shooting.

Mark Turney continued ranching until his death in 1951. Ida “successfully assumed the operation of the ranch…after the death of her husband, despite the fact that she neither rode a horse nor drove an auto.” She sold the ranch in 1958 and moved to Tucson. Ida “was instrumental in building the entrance gate…in Black Oak Cemetery at Elgin in memory of her mother and father and late husband who are buried there.” She died in 1962 and is buried at Black Oak Cemetery. [Arizona Daily Star, 12/4/1962].

In its 100-year existence the Elgin Book Circle has faithfully followed the precedents established by its founders - 17 members circulating books for three-week reading periods. The procedures, however, have changed with the times. Dues charged to purchase the books increased from the initial $2/year to $10 in 1979. In 1980 members agreed to each purchase the book she recommended and reduced dues to 50 cents to cover the cost of postage and supplies for meeting notifications.

Today no dues are needed as email communication is used. Books are passed directly by nearby neighbors or at a drop-off location such as the Sonoita Post Office, National Bank of Arizona, or the Sonoita Elgin Fire Department.

Two Book Circle meetings are held each year. At the first, books are selected. At the second meeting, the books read the previous year are discussed. The early members “tastes in reading were diverse: fiction, history, biography, and autobiography, philosophy and humor were all represented.” [Wincn, 1993]. Included were national best-sellers such as “Bridge of San Luis Rey,” “All Quiet on the Western Front,” and “The Good Earth.” Today’s selections mirror those of the early days. When the books were purchased with dues monies, a drawing was held “to determine the permanent ownership of each book.” [Wincn, 1993].

Today each member retains her book at the end of the reading year. Three of the five founders of the Circle remained members over 34 years. The most remarkable membership history belongs to four generations of women from the Bartlett/Collie family. Nellie Bartlett, her daughters chopeta Collie and Fern Collie, Fern’s daughters Jane Woods and Marka Moss, and Marka’s daughters Gay Moss and Rebecca Smith. Minnie Kunde holds the record for the longest continuous membership—59 years.

Current member Elizabeth Chevola, who joined 25 years ago, reflected that participating in the Book Circle “has been a constant pleasure.” She is always eager to try out the books that 16 other women want to share, as “being hooked by a book is one of the joys of life.”

Museum Hosts Youth Art Exhibit

By Dottie Farrar

The Patagonia Museum was filled with the sounds of excited children and their families on June 30. The attendees had come to celebrate the opening of an exhibit showcasing the artwork of the 30 campers who had attended the Patagonia Creative Arts Association Summer Art Camp.

The central hall of the museum and exhibit rooms were festooned with brightly colored paintings, banners, birdhouses, javalina piggy banks, origami, drawings, illustrated stories and more. There were mobiles, hangings, tables covered with art, and beautiful butterflies were migrating on string throughout the museum. Much of the artwork was created with recycled materials.

The theme for the camp this year was “What we love about Patagonia,” according to Cassina Farley, executive director of the Arts Association as well as camp director. Campers, families, friends, and community supporters of the arts were encouraged to touch, read, and even play with some of the projects as they walked through the museum.

All the campers wrote and illustrated their own Patagonia Folk Tale, under the direction of Audrey Doles. “The kids did a really great job coming up with unique stories about Patagonia,” she said. Campers created a watercolor and title page for their original stories. Topics covered a wide range, including “How Patagonia Got Its Mountains,” “How the Hummingbird Got Her Name,” “How the Animals Lost Their Voices,” “How Did the Spirit Tree Get Here?” and “How the Rainbow Got to Patagonia,” a story about a border crossing.

Before a community potluck was served to the guests, Farley spoke on the steps of the museum, surrounded by campers and the instructors and volunteers, including Sydney McKay, Tammy Quiroga, Martha Kelly, Deb Goff, Audrey Dole, Kyle Carey, Robin Kulbert, Jose Santos, and Tavania Padilla.

The Summer Arts Camp has been operating for the past 15 years. For the last five years, the camp has been free to attend, as it has been underwritten by grants and community donations.

Along with thanks to everyone who made the camp possible, Farley asked the crowd to continue financial support for the camp and the Creative Arts Association. “We’re back, we’re here. Please support us. We need your help.”

This exhibit is part of a series titled “Art+ History,” a joint project of the Patagonia Museum and the Arts Association. The mission of this project is to highlight local artists, and to increase awareness of local history and the Museum’s offerings.

Past exhibits have featured Kayla Simpson’s and Gooch Goodwin’s photography, Martha Kelly’s pottery, and Bob Bergier’s paintings. The series will be continuing in the fall.
Local affordable housing nonprofit Community Homes of Patagonia, Inc. (CHOP) is pleased to announce the hiring of Elvia Gallaher as part-time Program Manager, the organization’s initial staff employee.

Elvia most recently retired from the position of fourth-grade teacher at Patagonia Elementary School. She has been hired to work with the CHOP Board Directors to coordinate, implement and manage all aspects of the Home Buyer/Financial Education Program, Home Repair Program and Affordable Housing Programs.

Her two degrees from Northern Arizona University in education and leadership, along with the many credits earned from the University of Phoenix in business administration, align with the skills required for CHOP’s newly funded Program/Office Manager Position.

With her 30-plus years in public education, leadership experience, work ethic, problem solving skills, willingness to collaborate and ability to speak Spanish, Elvia will be charged with increasing program awareness and participation throughout the community. She will also be responsible for planning, coordinating and facilitating specific courses, events and meetings.

Lastly, her responsibilities will include documenting grant progress, sharing program results with CHOP’s Board and Membership, funders and the community as a whole.

Elvia has a strong bond with the Patagonia community. Elvia and her husband, Kelley, are residents of the Patagonia area. Elvia’s parents, Justo Rene and Elvia Miranda, are neighbors. Elvia graduated from Patagonia Union High School as did her two boys, Jacob and Jonathan. Elvia and her parents are active members of the St. Therese of Lisieux Church congregation. Elvia also formerly served on CHOP’s Board of Directors.

**CHOP**

**FREE FINANCIAL/HOMEBUYER EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, August 13, 2022, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Cady Hall, Patagonia Public Library

346 Duquesne Ave., Patagonia, AZ 85624

COMMUNITY HOMES OF PATAGONIA is hosting a free Financial/Homebuyer Education Course presented by PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST, a certified U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development housing counseling agency. Bilingual Course instructors, Frances Villa and Elias Garcia, will present the following topics: Budgeting, Savings, Credit, Homebuyer Readiness and Pre-Purchase Mortgage Types, and the Community Land Trust as an Affordable Housing Option. Frances and Elias welcome participants’ questions to help guide the session.

Open to all Santa Cruz County residents, the course will especially benefit working families and individuals looking to develop or enhance sound financial asset building habits, and consider affordable housing opportunities in Patagonia and its vicinity. Refreshments will be provided.

No fees are involved; however, participants are required to register and complete an application by Thursday, August 11, 2022. To register and obtain an application please call Tod C. Bowden at (520) 394-9051 or email: info@chopatagonia.org

Funding for this Course has been provided by Santa Cruz County Nonprofit Grant for Community Financial Capacity, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding from the US Department of Treasury.
**STARSTRUCK**

**Our Stellar Journey**

By Harold Meckler

On August 20, around 8 or 9p.m., look due south just above the horizon. If you’re lucky enough to have a dark, cloudless night you might be able to see the hazziness of the Milky Way.

If August slips by and you suddenly find yourself in September, just look low in the southwest. In the middle of that hazziness is the center of our galaxy and, at the heart of that is a black hole intent on devouring everything - stars included - that crosses what astronomers call the Event Horizon.

What happens then? It is believed that the black hole will gravitationally crush whatever it consumes into the smallest of subatomic particles and, eventually, into a “singularity” that has no depth or width. Nothing escapes.

So, end of story, right? Not at all. Life is not just about reaching a destination. The journey to that destination should be at least of equal value. What happens in the time between the birth of stars like the Sun and their demise within a black hole or after their hydrogen and helium are depleted and they become ghosts of what they were? I believe that this is worth trying to understand. It’s like reading a biography. Our own. But more on that later.

We now have a tool that will provide much more insight into the unfolding of the universe. I’m writing this on the day before NASA (and the European and Canadian space agencies) unveils the first batch of images and data from the James Webb Space Telescope. The press releases have stated that we will be astonished. I’m ready.

I’m ready because I have come to believe that our ability to find solutions for the hardships we are facing on Earth will ultimately be found through a greater understanding and appreciation for the story of the universe.

If Webb can show us where and how everything began, and make sense of the journey that has brought us to this time and place, maybe we’ll take more pride in preserving what we have. Call it wishful thinking, but it might just be our best shot.

It’s now a day later, and I’ve seen Webb’s initial work: the light from a 13 billion-year-old galaxy, a star nursery within a dazzling nebula, a dying star’s final display of greatness, and the telltale signs that the atmosphere of a far distant planet contains water molecules. The photos and displays are fantastic. Even better, though, are the faces of the people from the agencies that have been instrumental in building, placing and operating Webb. They may be astonished at their success but, more than that, they exude unashamed joy, for they know that they are the means by which all of us will be enlightened.

Toward the end of NASA’s live presentation, its administrator quoted the late astronomer Carl Sagan. As much as anyone, Sagan pioneered the concept that astronomy wasn’t just for geniuses. He made it accessible to those who, without technical degrees and expensive equipment, just wanted a little more information about the beauty they beheld in the night sky. Sagan said, “Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.”

In the very near future we’re going to know a lot more, and it will all be incredible.

By far, though, the most incredible thing - one that we’ve known for some time - is that we are made of the atoms and molecules created and expelled by stars as they go through their life cycles. We would not exist without the stars.

As I’ve noted, there are places in the universe that serve as star nurseries. Individually, though, each star is its own nursery. Scientists may have created new elements with modern technology, but the vast majority of every bit of matter around and within us comes from stars. The Webb telescope will reveal even more about this process.

The singer Joni Mitchell was right. We are, indeed, stardust. When we look at stars, we see where our own journeys began. Each of our biographies starts right there. Don’t you want to know more?

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**Nature Journeys**

By Vince Pinto

**Science Fiction?**

Climate Change or Global Warming...choose whichever phrase suits you best. Just don’t tell me that the Earth isn’t getting hotter. I have no time for such fools, naysayers, wishful thinkers, and outright liars (especially politicians) these days.

Truth is, I’d rather not have to write about the topic altogether. Instead, I wish I could wax scientific or poetic on any number of fascinating Sky Island species of flora or fauna. The sad truth, however, is that the very biodiversity I’d prefer to write about is at grave risk from Global Warming. I’m capitalizing the term - my preferred one since the climate is always changing and currently is heating up like a red-hot poker - to give emphasis to the phenomenon and all that it entails.

Our planet, ensconced in what astronomers term the “Goldilocks Zone,” is currently neither too hot nor too cold to support life. That is changing before our very eyes. As you read this, we are rapidly becoming more like Venus, where greenhouse gases create surface temperatures over 800° Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt lead. Sound appealing? We are not about to turn into Venus overnight. We don’t have to, however, for there to be catastrophic consequences for life as we know it - and yes, that includes us.

Already a veritable tidal wave of events is sweeping the globe with more to come unless we take action...like yesterday. In Arizona, officials at Maricopa County Public Health Dept. reported at least 29 people died from heat-related issues since March, compared to 16 heat-related deaths during the same period in 2021. Dozens of other deaths are under investigation for heat-related causes.

Experts agree that the dangerous temperatures are becoming more common across the globe due to climate change. This July, London experienced a temperature of over 100°Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt lead.

This metropolis lies at 51 degrees latitude, north. No point of the lower 48 states is far enough north to be intersected by this line. That’s how hot it’s getting.

A handful of such weather events - short-term and day-to-day trends - is generally no cause for great alarm. When, however, country after country experiences an increasing quantity of extreme weather events each year, the weather trend suddenly morphs into a climate pattern, one that screams “Danger, danger, Will Robinson.”

A gentleman I was talking to a few years ago near Patagonia informed me of a winter weather update from his native Louisiana. “Just got four inches of Global Warming back home,” he declared. In other words, it just, unusually, snowed in Louisiana, so according to him, no such thing as Global Warming must therefore exist. That’s weather.

We are concerned with climate here, and we should be concerned. A high percentage of the world’s population live near low-lying coastal areas. They are threatened with long term inundation from melting polar ice. Heat waves could kill people, even well away from the tropics. Close to home, most of Arizona, and the west at large, have been experiencing varying levels of drought for years. Lakes Powell and Mead are drying so fast that soon the term “lake” will be passé.

All of this sounds very much like some of the science fiction movies I was so enamored with as a youth - especially one of my favorites, “The Day the Earth Caught Fire,” released in 1961, three years before I was born, when very few people thought that Global Warming could be a planet-threatening force. While the reasons behind that film’s hot Earth are vastly different than ours, its abandoned cities, dwindling water supplies, and panicked population ring far too true.

More not-so-science-fiction news: Some folks have proposed floating the sky with titanium dioxide, which theoretically would prevent enough solar radiation from reaching the Earth’s surface to reduce its temperature. We don’t have nearly enough space here to address the multitude of things that can go awry with such a risky venture.

Another scheme is to grow legions of genetically modified poplar trees to combat the rising heat. The very trait that would qualify the trees to combat Global Warming - extremely quick growth - might well see them outcompeting and replacing native forests.

That would be an ecological disaster.

Where does that leave us, right here and now? Unlike the fantasies of billionaires and dreams of NASA, we will not be able to move to another planet - Mars or otherwise. Let’s take care of the one that still supports life, heed good science, and do all we can to treasure that which we still enjoy.

Otherwise, in the immortal words of Charlton Heston, “Soylent Green is people.”

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
**Scholarships Announced**

Anna Coleman, Director of The Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, presents scholarships to graduating seniors from Patagonia Union High School. (From left): Jordi Peterson, Tavania Padilla, Madison Vines, Anna Coleman, Santiny Aguilar, Sidney McKay

**News Release**
Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center Director Anna Coleman announced the winners of this year’s scholarships given by the Center. The Michael Martin Pay It Forward Scholarship was awarded to Tavania Padilla, Jordi Peterson, Sydney McKay, Madison Vines, and Santiny Aguilar. Pathways Scholarships were awarded to Santiny Aguilar, Tavania Padilla, Madison Vines, Lalo Aguilar, Exelee Budd, and Isaiah Ruiz.

**News Release**
Perin McNelis holds the painting of Sonita Creek by Bob Bergier that she won in the recent raffle held by the Patagonia Museum.

The Museum Board deeply appreciates Bergier’s donation as well as the support coming from the many members of our community who purchased raffle tickets.

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**The Road to Chalcanthite**
By Keith Krizan

Early July is a good time to explore Middlemarch Mine on Middlemarch Road in the Dragoon Mountains. A march was defined, in medieval Europe anyway, as a borderland, distinct from a country’s heartland by geography and governance. Marches were established by kings and queens to form buffer zones. The title Marquis is derived from these areas.

My march to Middlemarch begins in Sonoita. When you crest the Whetstone Gap, heading east on SR82, you are confronted with the sight of the Dragoon Mountains. Hazy and light colored in the monsoon afternoon sun, they look for all the world like the mounted infantrymen for which they are named, with muskets and blunderbusses. They stand guard between the San Pedro River Valley to the west and the Sulphur Spring Valley to the east. It is not obvious from this distance where they yield a way through.

Mustang Corner lies at the intersection of SR90 and SR82 in Whetstone. Two gas stations/convenience stores anchor the corners. One is modern and working, the other defunct and empty, a sort of ghost town.

From Mustang Corners it is all downhill. Past the Pipeline Road that I once explored, and where I found an excellent piece of fossilized coral, and past several RV parks, you go down and down until you reach the low point of the trip. At an elevation of 3870’, SR82 crosses the San Pedro near where the Babocomari River, which has its headwaters in Elgin, forms a confluence.

The road then gains in elevation as it intersects SR80. Turning south on 80, it is a short distance to the road I seek. Turning east and faced again with the Dragoons, I wonder which gap it is in the high mountains where the road exists to get me through to the other side.

Middlemarch Road, even after the pavement ends one mile ahead, is as wide as an Interstate. Graded and well maintained, it is a quick, if dusty, ride to where it gradually necks down to a narrower trail. The road is crisscrossed with cattle guards and washes. The washes have been freshly graded to push away vast amounts of sand and gravel deposited onto the road by the rainfall provided by the recent string of lightning storms that I watched dance over these mountains the past few nights.

The road to Cochise Stronghold goes off to the north at mile marker 10 as you enter the Coronado National Forest. The Stronghold and Council Rocks are where the Apache Chief Cochise negotiated a peace treaty in 1872. These places lie north and west of Skeleton Canyon, in the extreme southeastern corner of the county. This canyon, on the east side of the Chiricahua Mountains is where, 14 years later, Geronimo would surrender, along 27 other men, women and children, effectively ending the Indian Wars in America.

What was it about these Sky Islands, the cool, wet mountains in this hot and rugged land that made them the last redoubt in the United States to be dominated by the inexorable push of European power?

When you finally come over the top of Middlemarch Pass, between mile markers 13 and 14, there is a decent view over the Sulphur Springs Valley to the Chiricahuas. Another valley, another watershed that flows into the Wilcox Playa where thousands of Sandhill Cranes winter over. Snowbirds.

Below the pass, a wash goes off to the northwest. This is Middlemarch Canyon. Less than a mile in is the mine. Minerals were discovered there in 1895 and worked from then until the 1950s, producing more than 5000 tons of ore. The principal metals were copper, zinc, silver, gold, and lead.

What is left behind are the remnants of a milling operation where a crusher existed. An adit, or mine opening, sits above the stone and concrete foundations.

One day last winter, my wife and I decided to enter the mine. I am not encouraging anyone to do the same, as it is foolish and dangerous to enter an old dig. After a belly crawl past the narrow entrance, we were able to stand and walk along a shaft, sloshing through several inches of water. A hundred feet or so in, there was a high-ceilinged room with a wooden ore chute. There were drifts off this room, one of which contained the remains of core holes.

Another drift appeared to be a bottomless pit of clear water, and one drift had ladders that led to upper levels of the mine. There was ample cribbing and a wooden platform that held what looks like a massive pneumatically driven winch, piping and gears intact.

We paused and ate some lunch here. We searched and found the chalcanthite we were looking for, also known as copper vitriol, blue stone, and sulfate of copper. The name is from the Ancient Greek for copper flower. It is a small and delicate bloom, colored an ethereal shade of blue.

On our way out, two of our three flashlights gave up the ghost, but we made it fine. One more belly crawl and we were in the waiting daylight. We were at the end of a long and winding road, holding our small treasure.
I have been hearing about many tomato problems this past month. A lot of growth but no fruit, stunted growth, wilting, curling leaves, bugs and beetles eating foliage, tomato hornworms, cracks, and blossom end rot. Last year was an epic tomato year for many, but not every year will be an epic tomato year.

A lot of growth but no fruit? It’s too hot or you have over-fertilized with nitrogen. When weather is too hot, typically over 90 degrees, the pollen in the tomato flower binds up and no pollination occurs. Once the monsoon sets in, the temperatures reduce enough to allow decent pollination. With climate change this could become more and more of a problem for the Patagonia area unfortunately. If you have over-applied nitrogen, fast and full vegetative growth occurs at the expense of fruit. Within a month the nitrogen levels will even out and fruit should follow. Amend your soil with a good compost before planting next year and you will need less fertilizer.

Stunted growth? It could be they are planted in poor soil. Poor soil is usually under-fertilized or compacted. Add compost and your favorite fertilizer to help this. Don’t plant your tomatoes or other nightshade crops in the same place every year. Maybe they are stunted because they don’t have enough hours of full sun. Do you have them planted on your porch in pots or under the shade of a large tree? I think the best placement is on the east side of a structure where they will get great sun in the morning and nice shade from the hottest rays in the afternoon.

Did your tomatoes suddenly wilt? It’s probably one of the wilt diseases fusarium wilt or verticillium wilt. Both are soil borne bacterial diseases. There is no treatment that I know of once your plant has it. You should pull the affected plants and throw them in the trash. You can prevent it by planting hybrid tomatoes and avoiding heirloom varieties. If you had wilt disease this year, avoid planting any tomatoes, eggplants or potatoes in that spot for 3-4 years.

Did your tomato leaves start to curl and become stunted? Sometimes it’s caused by high temperatures, or you over-pruned your plants. The plants will recover with time. On the other hand, it could be curly top virus. This virus is transmitted by insects, usually the leafhopper. To prevent this, make sure to remove weeds around your garden and yard as the leafhoppers pick this virus up from many of the common weeds in our area. You can also cover the tomatoes with a sheer row cover to keep them out. Not very practical, but if you are desperate and had this disease over and over it’s worth a shot.

Are there bugs, beetles and tomato hornworms chewing on your plants? Try simply going out every morning and evening to pick them off. Chickens love tomato hornworms! Also try spraying insecticidal soap, pyrethrin sprays, neem oil or BT. Bacillus thuringiensis, or BT, is a naturally occurring bacteria used as a pesticide for various pests that attack gardens. It is safe to use around people or pets. Alternately, a pesticide containing Spinosad, which is also a bacterial spray, effectively controls many of these pests. Its toxicity level is considered low.

Cracked tomatoes happen from heavy rains or inconsistent watering regimes. Heavy rains cause the tomato to grow faster than the skin can grow, with the resulting crack. Not much can be done to stop this when we have heavy monsoon downpours except to plant crack resistant tomato varieties. Blossom end rot occurs as a result of uneven watering cycles. Calcium must be evenly transported through the plant tissues and low calcium often is the culprit of blossom end rot. We have PLENTY of calcium in our soils, it’s just the calcium is not being evenly transported because of periods of high water followed by periods of dryness. Maybe you diligently watered your tomatoes until the rains started, then stopped watering. The rains took a week-long break but you didn’t pick up watering again. After a few weeks of this type of cycle the tomatoes start getting blossom end rot. Keep up with watering when the monsoon takes a break! Tomatoes need evenly moist soil.

Come by and talk to me about your tomato troubles at the nursery. We are open Thursdays through Saturdays 9a.m. to 3p.m. 308 Naugle Ave in Patagonia.

By Mary McKay

Troublesome Tomatoes

Garden Guides

Garden Guides

Patagonia Plants

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Space Weather Threats

By Kat Crockett

As our dependence on electricity and technology grows, so does our vulnerability to space weather. Most people are aware of threats to power grids from cyber and physical attacks and major storms, but less known is the havoc the sun can create. A solar geomagnetic storm is capable of collapsing our power grid.

In the Summer of 1859, solar astronomer Richard Carrington witnessed a solar flare in broad daylight from his observatory outside of London, which he described as “two patches of intensely bright light and white light.”

Early the next morning, the impact of these massive solar flares was felt around the world. Telegraph communications globally began to fail. Fires ignited from sparks generated by the burst of energy travelling down the lines, and auroras (northern and southern lights) set the sky aflame with a red glow seen as far south as Colombia. According to historian Christopher Klein, this extreme geomagnetic storm, called the “Carrington Event” is the largest storm on record, striking the Earth with the energy of 10 billion atomic bombs.

Magnetic storms are the atmospheric effects felt on Earth from events occurring on the sun. They begin when the sun emits bursts of energy called coronal mass ejections or CMEs. Depending on the size of the CME and direction it is headed, if it hits Earth, it can cause geomagnetic storms that may disrupt, damage or interrupt power and internet systems, and more. A scenario of a “Carrington-Event” occurring today estimates the impact on the U.S. economy could reach trillions of dollars.

If an extreme geomagnetic storm like the Carrington Event were to happen now, the National Weather Service (NWS)’s Space Weather Prediction Center says widespread problems could occur. The power grid could completely collapse or experience blackouts. Satellites, GPS and other navigational systems could suffer extensive damage or disruption, lasting for hours, days, weeks or even months. The NWS Space Weather and Safety site lists cascading effects from significant power outages:
- We could lose water and wastewater systems, perishable foods and medications, heating, air conditioning and lights, computer systems, telephone systems, satellite networks and GPS service, public transportation systems, fuel distribution systems, and all electrical systems without backup.
- The frequency of solar flares follows an 11-year cycle. The risk of intense geomagnetic storms is elevated during the peak, or midpoint of the solar cycle. At peak activity, there could be several solar storms each day. At other times, there might be less than one solar storm per week. The current cycle is expected to peak during 2024-2025. A large CME struck Earth in March 1989, knocking out power grids in Quebec, Canada and causing significant interference to power systems in the Eastern United States. A high-voltage transformer at a nuclear power plant even melted due to the overload of electricity in the grid. This was a wake-up call for infrastructure leaders and power companies, who began building safety measures into the electrical grid to stop cascading failure and set aside spare transformers for emergency use.

Both the Obama and Trump administrations issued orders for Federal Government agencies to work together on space weather study, assessment, and prediction. In 2019, the White House’s National Science and Technology Council released a National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan, and in 2020, Congress passed the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to improve the “Forecasting of Tomorrow Act.”

In 2019, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studied how electric power grid operators across the northern and central United States would be affected by a once-per-century magnetic superstorm. Dr. Jeffrey Love, a research geophysicist with USGS, told the PRT that this work demonstrated that large areas of the nation that have relatively electrically resistive rock would experience higher magnetic storm hazards than locations where the rock material is a good conductor of electricity, where the current flows easily through the ground.

If the rock is electrically resistive (including igneous and metamorphic formations), high-voltage electric wires will be more susceptible to magnetic storm induced electricity, forming a larger threat to the grid.

Love and his colleagues found that large portion of the eastern seaboard from North Carolina, through Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and up to Maine – as well as a portion of Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin - sit above high-risk geologic rock structures.

“These results... tell us where we need to concentrate our efforts,” said Love. “The seats of government, the financial industry and many people live in these higher risk areas. Special scrutiny in those areas is needed to ensure the resilience of power grid systems against magnetic storms.”

Love said Arizona and the remaining southern states should be mapped in the next couple of years. At this point in time, there is no hard data to determine how electrically resistive the rock structure in Arizona is.

While USGS is leading the effort to assess geoelectric hazards to the power grid, many other government agencies and academic institutions are involved in studying space weather. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) monitors real-time response of the earth to space weather. The National Science Foundation and NASA support research. The Department of Energy and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ensure the electrical power industry is responsive to hazards. The Department of Defense is working to protect their systems. Homeland Security/FEMA is planning and preparing for the aftereffects of a storm.

“The work I do and some of my colleagues is coordinated out of an office in the White House and that has brought significant progress to this subject,” said Love.

Love said that intense magnetic storms do not happen very often, but when they do, the implications can be very widespread. He added that over the last 20 years of his involvement, significant progress has been made with government, industry, and academia taking the storm threat seriously.

Jack Blair, vice president of Member Services at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, said most outages on the system are storms with high winds, fires, vehicle accidents and animals and birds, where power can be rerouted quickly.

“For solar storms and geomagnetic storms and electromagnetic pulses (EMP) we have safety equipment on our lines that minimize damage,” he said. “We are often contacted about the Carrington Storm from 1859 that caused all the telegraph systems in the area to fail. The key thing to remember is there was no safety equipment in place in those days. Today we have numerous safety devices that protect our system.”

Love encourages people to be interested in science and challenge their curiosities whether it’s space weather, astronomy, geology, or meteorology. Although he said he would not advise people to go out and buy a generator, he does encourage people to expect their government to pay attention to science and to be responsive to the natural hazards that scientists understand are real.

As a major voice in the worldwide geophysical community, Love warns that the geoelectric “perfect storms” will happen, it’s a question of if, but when.

For additional information visit www.spaceweather.com to sign up for Space Weather Alerts and receive a text message when magnetic storms erupt.

Editor’s note: Look for “Space Weather – Part 2” in the October issue of the PRT.
Hudbay Reinvents Itself as the Copper World Complex

By Robert Gay

In 2021, Hudbay revised its mining strategy for the north end of the Santa Rita Mountains by replacing the single-pit Rosemont Mine with the multi-pit Copper World project after rejection of their plan to dump tailings on Forest Service land on the east side of the mountains.

The current mining plan is to develop three new open pits to access a string of seven ore bodies. These ore bodies are expected to yield about one third the amount of copper estimated for the original mile-wide Rosemont Pit, now called the East Pit.

The company’s reconfigured plans are outlined in the July 14, 2022 Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), encompassing land use, methods of mining, processing, infrastructure, buildings, production estimates, profits and rates of return on investment.

The land configuration of the Copper World Complex is complex. From the original Rosemont area on the east side, the new configuration expands over the ridge, down through foothills and over the historical Helvetia townsite. It embraces roughly 25 historical mines, if fully mined, Copper World would reshape over a mile of the Santa Ritas’ ridgeline from 20 to 350 feet lower, eliminating Gun Sight Pass.

Copper World’s PEA presents two Phases, first to 16 years and then to 44 years of mine life. In phase one, all four pits would be mined, using no State or Federal lands. Instead, phase one would use Hudbay’s 2,000 acres of private, patented parcels in combination with private properties recently acquired, 4,500 acres in all. Waste rock and tailings would be mostly stacked on the project’s west side, three miles long and up to 330 ft high, visible from Green Valley, Sahuarita and the i-19 corridor. In phase two, Hudbay assumes it will obtain use of certain federal and state lands, mostly in its 12,000 acres of about 850 unpatented claims in the Coronado National Forest lying between Box Canyon and Mt. Fagan.

The Project is bordered on the west by the Santa Rita Experimental Range and Wildlife Area, a 52,000-acre ecological and rangeland research property administered by the College of Agriculture of the University of Arizona. The Range includes the Helvetia Cemetery and a Hohokam site west of Helvetia.

This year, the primary sitework has been a lattice of access roads and about 160 drill pads on both sides of the mountains, with three to six drill rigs working 24/7. Service roads are being extensively developed on the west side, some constructed with fill that blocks washes — leading this spring to unsuccessful legal requests for injunctions to stop the work. Hudbay’s response was to abruptly withdraw their AZ State Section 404 water permits. The PEA states that they will retain and deal with all stormwaters, process water and tailings runoff onsite.

South Santa Rita Road is planned for both main access and a utility corridor for electricity and water. The electricity would be from the regional grid, and the water from the company’s well field and pumping stations on 180 acres they own nearer to Sahuarita. They claim approval for drawing 6,000 acre-feet per year, roughly 2 billion gallons.

To bring Copper World into production, the ore processing plant would be a multi-building set of material-handling conveyors, pipelines and buildings for crushing, grinding, flotation, circulation of materials to and from heap leaching, evaporation ponds, concentrated load for shipment, chemical handling and disposal, and shipping via truck. It would be centrally positioned on the west side and its site plan is diagrammed in the PEA.

The ore refinement process would be chemical-intensive, including a sulfuric acid plant producing over 1,000 tons a day for copper extraction. Copper and molybdenum will be the mine’s main products. Whatever gold and silver is recovered in processing would be alloyed into “doré bars,” and shipped to smelters.

Given Hudbay’s track record to date, how fast and far the Copper World Complex develops is likely to involve continuing the string of court battles begun in 2007. A central argument will be over the designation of Waters of the US, and thus the applicability of the Clean Water Act. In phase two, when permitting requirements require an Environmental Impact Statement, other parts of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) will be activated.

According to Austin Nuñez, Chair of the San Xavier District of the O’odham Nation, it is clear that the indigenous position has not changed towards the mine. In a 2018 movie called “Ours is the Land,” Nuñez summarized the indigenous perspective toward the affected land by saying “It’s important to have places where people can go to be rejuvenated, to pray and again to gather materials and medicines that are needed for our livelihood. I don’t really agree that short term gain for employment and income for a company that’s going to come here and leave again, is worth the long-term effects.”

Other involved resistance groups, such as Sky Island Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity Sierra Club, and Tucson Audubon, are likely to continue resisting as well.
Neighbors Engage

**Community Advisory Panel** | Meetings of the community advisory panel for the South32 Hermosa Project are now being held at noon on the third Wednesday of the month at the Wild Horse Restaurant in Patagonia. The panel is comprised of community members from across the county. Their meetings are open to the public and led by an independent facilitator. Scan the QR code at left to access agendas and minutes within our online library.

**Hermosa Project Updates and News** | To sign up to receive electronic versions of the South32 Hermosa Project quarterly newsletter, *Hermosa Project News*, just send an email to hermosacommunity@south32.net or simply text the word HERMOSA to 42828.

**First Friday Drop-In Discussions** | We invite you to drop by our Patagonia office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a masked/outdoor visit with Hermosa President Pat Risner on the first Friday of any month.

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**Santa Cruz County Fair**

**We look forward to seeing your entry at Fair!**

**Tuesday, September 13th**
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
4-H/FFA General Projects (Except Livestock)

**Wednesday, September 14th**
9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Produce & Eggs, Culinary Arts, Creative Arts, Cowboy Crafts, Fine Arts, Quilting, Floriculture (except fresh flowers), Photography

**Thursday, September 15th**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
4-H/FFA Livestock
Rabbits, Fowl, & Livestock (Entry forms due 9/14)

**Friday, September 16th**
9:00 am - 10:00 am
Junior Perishable Foods

**Saturday, September 17th**
9:00 am - 10:00 am
Fresh Flowers & Senior Perishable Foods

For more info visit: sonitafairgrounds.com/fair
### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 6 - 7</td>
<td>SAILA Junior Livestock Show. Sonoita Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>Bud's Pancake Breakfast: Sat. 7-10a.m. Sonoita Fairgrounds - Pioneer Hall. Adults $7/Children 6 and under $4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>SAILA Dessert Auction: Sat. Sonoita Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>Tin Shed Theatre Presents: Sat. 3p.m. Future episode of &quot;The Border Chronicle&quot; Podcast - Live interview in person with Hop Hopkins, from the Sierra Club. Free Event. For more info 520-394-9369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 7</td>
<td>Live Music: Jim Koweek and Lana Taylor: Sun. 5p.m. - 7p.m. The Patagonia Lumber Yard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>CHOP Homebuyer Educational Workshop: Sat. 10 - 3p.m. Cady Hall, Patagonia Library. Call Tod to pre-register. 520-394-9051 No Cost event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 21</td>
<td>SCFFA Presents: Concerts in the Courtyard - Sun. 7p.m. Cool Breeze Latin Jazz Tickets $1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>Sonoita Fairgrounds: 107th Labor Day Rodeo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 10 - 11</td>
<td>Friends of Sonoita Creek: Wet/Dry Mapping Event 8a.m. - 2p.m. Locations are Harshaw and Sonoita Creeks. Call 602-903-8296 for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 16 - 18</td>
<td>Sonoita Fairgrounds: Santa Cruz County Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Patagonia Library Presents: Astronomy for Beginners Sat. 7p.m. - 9p.m. 6 series course By Ken Graun. More info 520-394-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Sonoita Fairgrounds: A Border Affair Camping and Weekend Event. For more info. <a href="http://www.soniotafairgrounds.com/events">www.soniotafairgrounds.com/events</a></td>
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### SPECIAL INTERESTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch for Seniors: Fresh-cooked meals. In-house dining only 11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. Patagonia Senior Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve: Wed. - Sun. 6:30a.m. - 4p.m. Masks required in restrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Farmers Market: Saturdays 9a.m. - 12p.m. Located at post office parking lot, NW corner Hwy 82 &amp; 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Farmers Market: Thursday - 9a.m. - 12p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patagonia Flower Farm's Monthly Market: Last Thurs. of month. 9a.m. - 3p.m. at the Gazebo in the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siesta Vista Farmers Market: Thurs. 10a.m. - 2p.m. at Veteran's Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nogales Little Mercado: Fridays 4p.m. - 7p.m. 163 Morley Ave, Nogales. email <a href="mailto:cavid@mariposachc.org">cavid@mariposachc.org</a> for more info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Elephant Thrift Store: 325 - 327 McKeown Ave, Patagonia. Open 10a.m. - 3p.m., Thurs. - Sun.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel Wings Thrift &amp; Gift Shop: New location: 22 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita Thurs. - Sat 10a.m. - 2p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Thrift Shop: Located at 387 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia. Open Fri and Sat from 10a.m. - 12p.m. Look for the OPEN flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Museum: Open hours 2p.m. - 4p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays <a href="http://www.thepatagoniamuseum.org">www.thepatagoniamuseum.org</a> for more info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Library: Wed - Sat 10a.m. - 5p.m. Call for more info. 520-394-2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AA: Alcoholics Anonymous: In person meetings weekly Tuesdays at 7p.m. at The Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Highway 83, Sonoita. Social distancing honored This meeting is also on Zoom at 544-376-9576 (no password required). Fridays at 7p.m. Methodist Community Church 387 McKown Ave., Patagonia Contact Dave at 207-249-8302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous: to find a meeting go to <a href="http://www.oasouthernaz.org">www.oasouthernaz.org</a>. Contact Adreinne H. for more info 520-404-3490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Town Council: Meets 2nd &amp; 4th Weds. of the month. 6p.m. Public invited. CDC Guidelines will be followed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Club: 2nd &amp; 4th Thurs. 5:30p.m. has moved online. Info: Sue 520-990-4648.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens of Patagonia's Board of Directors: 2nd Mon. 3p.m. at the Senior Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month, Sonoita Bible Church. All are welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting: every 3rd Sat. of the month, 9:30a.m. NOW hybrid. In person at 32 Morley Ave, Nogales or <a href="http://www.azsantacruzdems.org">www.azsantacruzdems.org</a> for additional info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VINE Christian Church 3107 Hwy 83, Sonoita Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd &amp; 4th Wed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal Church: 969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales Services are weekly, however times change frequently. Visit stdrewsaz.org for additional info.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker Worship Group: Meets via Zoom. Contact Janice Pulliam if interested 706-614-6959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubac Buddhist Meditation Center 2247 Frontage Rd #2, Tubac Sunday: 8:30 - 10a.m. <a href="mailto:tubacbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com">tubacbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com</a> for zoom.</td>
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### CHURCH SERVICES

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Canelo Cowboy Church 14 McCarthy Lane, Elgin 520-604-6990 Sunday Service: 8:30a.m. Sunday School: 10a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Sunday service 10a.m Call/email church office for info. 520-394-2274 patagoni- <a href="mailto:aumc@gmail.com">aumc@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church: Patagonia 222 Third Ave., 7, Th, Fri 9a.m. (Oct - March, 8 a.m. April - Sept.), Sat 5:30p.m., Sun 10:30a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of The Angels Mission Wed 9:00a.m., Sun 8:00a.m. in Sonoita 520-394-2954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Hills Community Church 52 Elgin Rd., Elgin Sunday Service: 10a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoita Bible Church 3174 N. Hwy 83, Sunday Service: 10:30a.m. Youth Group: 2nd &amp; 4th Wed.</td>
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</table>
HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: EXPERIENCED RANCH HAND
Must ride, rope, horseshoe, feed and medicate cattle and horses, weld, build fence, repair drinkers, operate heavy equipment, and do stucco and masonry work. Call 520-455-5507.

RANCH HELP WANTED
Must be highly skilled in welding, concrete, brick and rock work. Animal knowledge must consist of horse shoeing, fixing prolapse cows and identifying sick cattle/horses. Experience a must. Call 520-490-7784.

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.

NOW HIRING DETENTION OFFICERS
Incentives Include: Health Insurance, Paid Vacation, Paid Sick Leave, Shift Differential Pay, Double Time Holiday Pay, $32,181.00
Please Apply Online www.santacruzsheriff.org Or call: Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office 2170 N. Congress Dr. Nogales, AZ 85621 • 520-761-786

MISCELLANEOUS

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

GET THE PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME OR MAILBOX
$50/ YEAR (10 ISSUES).
To sign up for home delivery or for more information, contact prtbookkeeper@gmail.com

KPUP Broadcast Schedule - Summer 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daily Shows: Best of the Oldies: 1pm to 2pm/ BirdNote: 6am and 10am/ Growing Native with Petey Mesquitey:MW 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.
**CUSTOM ADOBE RANCH ESTATE—NOGALES**

MLS # 22204620  106 ACRES

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

$1,050,000

**HORSE PROPERTY IN VAIL — NO HOA**

MLS # 22217431  12.32 ACRES

Cit lights views! Great ride out. Corrals, tack room/hay barn. 3167 sf w/3bd, den, guest quarters, 2 car garage & large workshop. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$799,000

**LARGE PATAGONIA LOT**

MLS # 22201664  .62 ACRES

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

$75,000

**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

$79,000

**LAKE PATAGONIA RANCH ESTATES**

MLS # 22207278  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

$34,000

**SANTE FE STYLE HOME IN SONOITA**

MLS # 22212484  2+ ACRES

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

$650,000

**10 ACRES IN THE HEART OF WINE COUNTRY**

MLS # 22211205  LOWER ELGIN ROAD

10 flat, usable acres with lovely views of the Mustang and Santa Rita Mountains. Several good building sites ready for your dream home. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

$160,000

**2 HOMES ON SALERO ROAD NEAR PATAGONIA**

MLS # 22218890  164 SALERO ROAD

2 secluded homes on approx. 20 acres just 15 minutes from Patagonia. Gorgeous mountain views. Live in one and rent the other. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

$595,000

**SONOITA ESTATES 29 BUCKSKIN LANE**

MLS # 22202874  3.48 ACRES

Corner lot with high building site and great views. Close to Elgin School and local wineries. Ready for your home, pets, and hobbies. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

$35,000

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AUGUST 2022