Town Doctor Retires

By Sarah Klingenstein

“For the almost two dozen years we worked together, Dr. Anderson kept saying she was going to retire. It’s hard for me to believe she really meant it this time,” said Sharon Cordova, Office Supervisor at the Family Health Center in Patagonia, part of the Mariposa Clinic group headquartered in Nogales.

Well, it seems she did mean it. The end of December marked Dr. Molly Anderson’s last day of regular shifts at the clinic. After 28 years of caring for this small community, Anderson will no longer see patients in Patagonia.

Cordova praised Anderson for always giving her patients 100%. “She was often at the clinic long after closing to finish up her notes,” she said.

“She took as much time as a patient needed. There are many people in our community who will feel a great loss that she will no longer be there to care for them.”

Tim Penniston, Family Nurse Practitioner at the clinic, has worked with Anderson for 14 years. He admired the way she attended to patients, especially in delivering test results quickly and personally to them.

“People can feel quite anxious when they are waiting on a blood test or...”

See Anderson, p. 3

PUHS Senior Headed to Ivy League School

By Marion Vendituoli

Nicholas Dekhtyer’s dream came true when he was accepted to Columbia University, with the help of the Questbridge program. “I’ve always dreamed of going to an Ivy League school,” said Nicholas Dekhtyer, a senior at Patagonia High School (PUHS).

Nick’s dream came true in early December when he was awarded a full scholarship to Columbia University in New York. His scholarship will cover tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and travel expenses.

Nick explained that he was drawn to Columbia because the University

See Nick, p. 8

Fire Chiefs Discuss 2022, Anticipate Challenges Ahead

By Dottie Farrar

The Patagonia and Sonoita-Elgin fire services both had a busy 2022, and anticipate more of the same in 2023.

“It used to be that the wildfire season began in May, but recent history shows that the fire season is now year round,” said Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company Chief Ike Isakson in a recent interview.

Patagonia, the only all-volunteer company in Santa Cruz County, responded to 11 wildland fires last year. Four were in the Patagonia area; the other seven were mutual aid responses to neighboring communities.

On Feb. 16, 2022, Patagonia responded to a large wildland fire in the Lochiel area of Lochiel near the border with two brush engines and two water tenders and eight volunteers. They were joined by Sonoita-Elgin and the United States Forest Service.

In early May, Patagonia worked on the San Rafael Fire in the Lochiel area, a massive wildfire that consumed nearly 12,000 acres and was two miles wide at one point. Local, mutual aid, state, federal, and agency firefighters saved several historical structures and other properties. “A brave and successful fight,” Chief Isakson said.

To be in a constant state of readiness to serve their community, the
County's Courthouse Lease Raises Questions

By Kat Crockett and Marion Vendituoli

During a public meeting on Dec. 6, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to approve leasing a 278 sq. ft. office space at the historic 1904 Courthouse in Nogales to Arizona Minerals (AMI), a subsidiary of South32, for $1,000 per month. Needless to say, renting space in an iconic county-owned property to a controversial, foreign owned, for-profit entity raises several questions...

The PRT reached out to Supervisors Manuel Ruiz, Rudy Molera and Bruce Bracker, County Manager Jennifer St. John, and Chris Young, Chief Deputy at the Santa Cruz School Superintendent's Office, for some clarity on the many issues surrounding this vote. Of these five County officials, only Sup. Bracker and Manager St. John responded to our inquiries. Chief Deputy Young referred us to St. John, and Supervisors Molera and Ruiz did not respond.

Issues of Concern Presented to County Officials

Did the Board of Supervisors have the legal authority to lease the office space to South32?

When asked if Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 11-256 gives the county the authority to lease office space to a foreign, for-profit company (AMI and South32 are listed as foreign entities; the use of the term ‘foreign’ in this statute means ‘out-of-state’) in a county-owned building occupied by County staff, St. John’s brief answer via email was, “The County Attorney’s Office has reviewed the lease and approved it as to legal form.”

ARS 11-256, which outlines the Powers of the Board, provides for counties to lease for public purposes any real property. St. John was asked how this lease to a private business meets the standard for the public purpose requirement. She replied that “public purpose’ is not actually defined by the statute.”

St. John also stated that since “the County will be paid 2.5 times the market value of the space, which maximizes unused county resources,” the lease serves a public purpose. In an email to the PRT, she wrote, “Supervisor Bracker stated the public purposes... included bringing back businesses to the downtown Nogales area and advancing an innovative/jobs corridor in the County.”

At the Dec. 6 BOS meeting, Bracker appealed to South32 to “make Santa Cruz County the home of your either North American or Worldwide Headquaters for South32. Keep these things in our community so that we will the maximum financial benefit from this.” South32 corporate offices are located in Australia. The company has mines in Australia, South Africa, South America and is exploring in Arizona and Alaska. The PRT has been unable to locate any expression of intent to move their corporate office from Perth, nor to establish a corporate office in the United States. If the Board is aware of such a move or potential move, that information has not been made public.

Why does the County have a double standard on the use of County-owned buildings?

SCC Resolution Number 2008-07 was adopted by the county in May 2008 to establish a Facility Use Policy for County Facilities in Sonoita and Tubac. In Sonoita, this policy, which prohibits any for-profit use of a county building, applies to the building that houses the Sonoita Library. The resolution states that the primary use for these facilities is to assist in providing certain governmental services, such as law enforcement, the courts, and public works. The county “desires to continue the limited use of the facilities in a manner which provides other needed services to the public.” The resolution allows these facilities to provide governmental services and space that may be utilized by non-profit community organizations and specifically states, “the facilities are not available for private social services or commercial purposes.”

The county shall not enter into long term agreements which require formal lease or rental agreements.”

This resolution, if applied to the Nogales Courthouse, would have precluded the AML/South32 lease arrangement approved by the BOS in December. St. John wrote that the present board is not governed by the 2008 resolution, because “a Board may not adopt policies that restrict, in perpetuity, a future Board of Supervisors.” If this were the case, why have Sonoita residents been told on numerous occasions that activities such as farmers markets and other for-profit activities cannot be held at the County owned Sonoita facility?

Was the public properly notified of the lease process and Board vote?

The County listed the proposed lease in a legal notice buried in the Nogales International (NI). County officials are required by state law to publish in a local newspaper at the beginning of the 15-day posting period “a summary of the proposed lease that provides information on the process for an

See Lease, p. 7
846% increase in average monthly views! We are also excited about the new interactive community calendar we host on the website. This calendar gives members of our community the opportunity to post information and flyers about events. This is open to all nonprofit organizations and local small businesses.

Our staff is working to improve our digital footprint, and to develop new tools and skills to support our evolving technical resources. The board and staff also continue to work on our long term goals and strategic planning to ensure that the PRT will be a viable news organization for years to come.

Our committed group of volunteer writers continue to amaze us with their professionalism, and dedication to the PRT. These individuals volunteer their time and expertise to keep our readers informed and educated about those issues and events that affect our community.

Our PRT family members includes not only our writers, our board members and staff, but also all of you that continue to bring you the local news that you depend on us to deliver.

Thank you for investing in the PRT. These individuals volunteer their time and expertise to keep our readers informed and educated about those issues and events that affect our community.

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Thank you for your investment in the PRT. These individuals volunteer their time and expertise to keep our readers informed and educated about those issues and events that affect our community.
Jan Pfitzenmaier

Jennifer Biehl wrote: "Jan is such a wonderful person. She is the first to volunteer for whatever her friends and neighbors might need. From arranging meals for those that are sick to driving someone to a doctor’s appointment, she steps up and offers. She is the first to offer help at church and never expects anything in return. Jan is an incredibly Godly woman with a great sense of humor and being around her makes you want to be a better person. Sonoita is a better place because she lives here.”

By Dottie Farrar

Jan Pfitzenmaier is a petite, vivacious woman with a lovely smile and eyes which light up when she talks about how much she loves her community, especially the friendliness of the people. She enjoys going to the post office every day to exchange greetings and news with everyone.

Jan has been the volunteer treasurer and office manager of her church since 2000, and also loves working at the polls. In addition, she loves the children of the church and thinks the young people are the best. She enjoys taking them to church activities and seeing the beautiful Sonoita valley for the first time.

The Pfitzenmaier family lived in Maryland for many years. Larry was a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Navy when Raytheon offered him a job in Tucson in 2000. Larry accepted the offer, and they needed to consider their living options. The couple wanted to be near a military base, but not right in the city.

They began exploring the area south of Tucson, and when driving over the pass on State Route 80 and seeing the beautiful Sonoita valley for the first time, they knew they had found the right spot. Renting a casita south of the town center, they built a new house and completed the move from Maryland, happily beginning their commitment and contributions to their new community.

Sylas Lattanzio

Anna Coleman wrote: "I would like to nominate Sylas Lattanzio as a Good Neighbor youth. Sylas has been coming to the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center for the past three years and is always willing to help out with anything needed. He assists with keeping the youth center clean up without being asked. Sylas has a positive attitude and works hard to cultivate relationships with his peers. Additionally, Sylas enthusiastically helps with the garden projects around the youth center. It is a pleasure to have Sylas attend the youth center activities.”

By Dottie Farrar

Sylas Lattanzio is a very personable seventh grade student at the Patagonia Middle School.

“I love living in Patagonia, a small town where I can walk everywhere, be outside as much as I want, and where everyone is friendly,” said Sylas. "Every kid should be as lucky as I am. I am absolutely happy that I don’t live in a city."

Like a lot of kids, one of Sylas’s favorite activities is playing video games, especially LARP (Live Action Role Playing). He has written two stories based on the characters he has developed.

The family has two dogs, three cats, three chickens, and one rooster, and Sylas loves playing with them.

He has five grown sisters and one brother, whom Sylas visits in Phoenix.

“He is a great kid, and he’s come a long way,” said Tom Lattanzio, Sylas’s father who adopted him ten years ago. Sylas, with a big smile, nodded his head.

Susan Lange

Cera Lynn wrote: "I have known Susan Lange for 25 years, and like many others have experienced her selflessness firsthand. A registered nurse specializing in elder care, she has worked professionally in home health and long-term care units and hospice and become a ‘go to’ person when individuals & families need medical attention. Susan continues to spend countless hours volunteering her time and expertise to this community, answering inquiries like: ‘Will you look at my wound?’ ‘Can you check my blood pressure?’ ‘My husband needs hospice.’ ‘I took a bad fall, can you check if I have a concussion?’ ‘My heart is racing, should I go to the ER?’ Community members make the call, and Susan responds.”

By Patra Kelly

"It is in my DNA, as it is with most nurses, to help and does not seem anything but natural and ‘what to do,’” Susan Lange said.

Susan came to Patagonia to work in holistic nursing, having read articles by Dr. Gabriel Cousens, at the Tree of Life. "I drove here from San Diego and fell in love with the area. The land felt very peaceful. I was hooked!" she said.

Susan enjoys the many places to hike, watch birds and animals around Patagonia, and canoeing, kayaking and swimming at Patagonia Lake. She goes to Tucson for theater, good food, and musical events. "On returning to Patagonia, one feels so grateful for little traffic, but also for having cultural events close by,” she said.

She feels fortunate to live in a neighborhood with neighbors who are interesting to talk to, friendly and kind, offering to care for pets or others when needed. "I grew up in a small town in the midwest, and Patagonia is much like my home town where neighbors ‘watched over’ each other.”

"Being a good neighbor to me means we are all ‘kin, trying to survive on this beautiful planet,” she said. "That is much easier done by helping - and with the help of - others. Dag Hammarskjold once wrote, ‘Be grateful as your deeds become less and less appreciated with your name, as your feet ever more lightly tread the earth.’ With those thoughts I humbly thank my friend, Cera, for this nomination.”
Delbert Wayne "Cotton" Basinger, born in Italy, Texas Sept 29, 1934 has passed away and gone to be with our Lord and Savior on Nov. 24, 2022. Cotton is preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Pat Basinger, his mom Virgie, dad Russel, brother Buddy, and sisters Betty Wetona and Robbie Nell Mayhar (Albert). Cotton is survived by his six children: Debbie Basinger, Tyler Basinger (April), Judy Jablonski, Michael Basinger (Julie), Sherri Stout (Russell), Terri Powers (Gene), 14 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild, one brother Ronnie Basinger (Terry) and three sisters, Carol Patterson, Shirley Rapper, Vicki Osborne and many nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life will be held for both Cotton and Pat at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, Jan. 14, 2023 from 12-4p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to either American Heart Association, The Elgin Sonoita Cowbelles, or the Santa Cruz Fair and Rodeo Association.

John Van Bezooyen, 74, designer and builder of fantastic structures, man of mystery and music, prolific reader, lover of cats and all animals, passed away at home with his wife Janie holding his hand and reading him the myriad messages pouring in for him on Facebook. As a tear rolled from his eye he took one of his last breaths and peacefully passed into the sacred beyond while a devoted hospice nurse also witnessed his transition.

John Van Bezooyen and Janie Swartz were married at her home in 2005 in the aspen and pines of Steamboat Springs Colorado. In late 2006 Janie took early retirement as a tenured college professor and they moved to the home that John had designed and was building in Dos Cabezas, Arizona. There they enjoyed walking the washes, looking for rocks while hoping for gold.

Janie fulfilled her dream of being a cowgirl as she enjoyed her horses. They rescued llamas, alpacas, and donkeys while John continued to build and expand his house until it was four bedrooms and four bathroom on five levels, totally designed and constructed by himself. Janie truly believed as the ancients did that he was a magician as he could not only design but make a building appear.

As they grew older they decided to move to Vail in 2013 to a house John found that they both loved. In 2016 they decided they were too close to civilization so they bought land north of Sonoita and John decided they should have a one story home for their golden years. In 2017 they had to move five times due to being caught in two wildfires. But ironically on the same day he died in December 2022, five years earlier Janie and John moved into their newly built home.

John’s decline became apparent to him in 2018 as he refused to play the guitar, thinking it was arthritis. By fall of 2020 he was seeing a neurologist and went through diagnosis of ALS, Parkinson’s, Super Nuclear Palsy and finally the incurable Parkinson’s Plus Disease. Very similar to ALS, it robbed him of his left hand then left side, then right side, and was robbing him of his speech. He was still brilliant as he was also a scamp and a scallawag with a wicked sense of humor and had his nurse belly dance for him just eight days ago. He wanted to leave with dignity and without drama.

Donations can be made in his memory to your local animal shelter or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.

John also leaves behind three daughters - Jodi Samson, Julie Drachman and Jaime Richards - and four grandchildren, as well as two sisters, Trudy Laub and Jessica McCoy.

This obituary and announcement was written with John’s wishes. A private celebration memorial will be held in January in accordance with John’s wishes.
HOPE Lends a Helping Hand to Recovering Addicts

By Kat Crockett

Inside a nondescript building on Mastick Way in Nogales, a dedicated staff of 12 works on the front lines of combating the growing effects of drug addiction and associated behavioral health issues in Santa Cruz County. This facility is part of HOPE (Helping Ourselves Pursue Enrichment), a statewide nonprofit program that provides peer support services to individuals who are living with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. “We work with mental health and addiction through group counseling, family support, life skills training, information referral services, and the eight dimensions of wellness,” said Luis Gaxiola, a counselor at HOPE’s Nogales center.

Gaxiola is one of the center’s 12 staff members who are either recovering addicts or have struggled with addiction of a family member. “The beauty of HOPE is that we have lived the experience,” he said. “We have been in their shoes, and we have come out of it, so we know what it takes, and we do it with open arms.”

HOPE’s Nogales center is busy. The Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, Recovery Court, medical centers and fire districts direct clients to HOPE, but Gaxiola said most of their patients - called “members” - contact HOPE directly, based on HOPE’s word of mouth reputation. HOPE accepts members ages 18 and up. (Families with younger children are referred to Community Health Associates, Pinal Hispanic Council, and MIKID.)

As of mid-December, HOPE had 120 enrolled members, but the numbers fluctuate, said Gaxiola. They also usually have about ten people per month who are not enrolled and of those, three or so will eventually become enrolled.

98% of HOPE’s addiction members are being treated for opiate addiction, mostly street-bought fentanyl. Addiction to opiates can occur after only a few uses especially since opiates often have higher potency than heroin. In addition to opiates or “downers” that produce a sedative effect, HOPE is experiencing an uptick in stimulant abuse or “uppers.” Uppers include cocaine, methamphetamine, crack, Adderall, and ecstasy, which increase energy, alertness, and mood, and can also heighten feelings of self-confidence or sexual prowess.

HOPE members are empowered by the program to choose their route to recovery. If a HOPE member is facing an addiction-related health issue, a HOPE outreach team will visit them at the hospital, or visit them at home, to “place all the resources on the table,” said Gaxiola, including enrollment in medically assisted treatment, residential programs, and outpatient programs.

“The biggest challenge facing our area is the lack of treatment centers for detoxing and the lack of residential intensive outpatient homes or sober living rehabilitation houses,” said Gaxiola.

“HOPE breaks the barriers because we have a lot of support from Tucson with rehab centers, but it is unfortunate because it takes people a bit far away from their homes.”

If the member chooses no treatment for their drug addiction, the HOPE team will coach them on harm reduction and safety, even offering free transportation from across the county to the Nogales Center so that members can participate in the Center’s day programs.

“It can be overwhelming for somebody coming from addiction straight into recovery,” said Gaxiola. “We know we have a small window of time where we do something for users seeking help, but if it passes, either they are going to get more drugs or postpone treatment. I am a recovering addict and the reason I kept using, honestly, was to not feel withdrawals - the withdrawals felt that bad. I wasn’t thinking of anything else, I just wanted to stop the pain.”

HOPE’s day program features peer counseling teams focusing on behavioral health, such as anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar and other diagnoses. Another team focuses solely on substance use disorder. “Both teams are strong, and the rooms are packed,” Gaxiola said. He added that HOPE also provides anger management training as emotions can be a trigger for substance abuse. In addition, the Nogales center dispenses the anti-overdose treatment Narcan to anyone who requests it.

The primary insurance for services provided by HOPE is Arizona’s Medicaid agency, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). The enrollment process is completely automated so the staff provides computer access and will sit with people seeking treatment to help navigate the system.

If members do not qualify, the staff assists in enrolling members for a substance abuse block grant. HOPE also provides assistance to the local homeless population, which they estimate has grown to 2,000 people. “They just come in to get a free lunch everyday at noon and we’ll go sit with them,” said Gaxiola.

“Many of the homeless are struggling with some sort of mental health issue like depression, and we do see a lot of substance abuse. Sometimes they just want to be here to talk and feel human.”

HOPE works to help homeless people find temporary or permanent homes using state and federal grants and housing vouchers. HOPE stocks hygiene materials, clothing, non-perishable foods and other items for the many transients and members in need. (HOPE accepts donations from the public; they are in particular need of coats, shoes, boots, and blankets during the winter months.)

Gaxiola said the holiday season is a challenging period for people in recovery. “Addicts in recovery are isolating but want to celebrate and they only know one way to celebrate and that’s getting high,” said Gaxiola. Drug use becomes a security blanket for recovering addicts coping with emotions. The upcoming tax season is another period of danger for recovering addicts, as income from tax returns often generates an increase in both using and selling drugs.

Gaxiola encourages people struggling with drug addiction - or affected members of the addict’s family - to contact the HOPE office in Nogales for help.

“I am grateful that the fentanyl crisis is starting to bring awareness to the community,” he said. “There are a lot of people recovering from addiction and I want people to know they are not alone. Others have lived through addictions, and recovery is definitely possible. There can be a new way of life, and it starts off with seeking treatment.”

The Nogales HOPE center is located at 1891 N. Mastick Way. Call (520) 287-9612 or visit hopearizona.org for more information. Also, the three-digit number 988 is the national suicide and crisis lifeline for anyone who needs someone to talk to. It operates 24 hours a day.

For further information on SCC programs and the current opiate crisis, see the PRT November 2022 article, “Combating Fentanyl in Santa Cruz County.”
**New Trailhead Opens**

By Robert Gay

Mountain bikers prepare to ride out from the new Oak Tree Canyon trailhead that connects to the Arizona Trail north of Sonoya.

In the midday warmth on Dec. 16, the Oak Tree Canyon Trailhead of the Arizona Scenic Trail (AZT) was opened with short talks, coffee, and an O’odham-inspired lunch.

The new access point for trails in the eastern Santa Rita Mountains is on SR 83 north of Singing Valley Road, near Milepost 43. The mile-long trail is what AZT labels a “connector trail,” like Patagonia’s Train Track Trail, one of many spurs off the main 800-mile Mexico-to-Utah route. It saunters for just under a mile through grazing land and up an inconspicuous two-track, meeting the Arizona Trail where Passage 5 ends and Passage 6 begins. Once at the main trail, heading south leads to Gardner Canyon, and heading north, to the trailhead where Sahuarita Road meets SR 83.

At the gate leading to the trail, a three-panel sign features a large and very informative map, with a side panel giving detailed trail ethics for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The other side panel describes, in Spanish and English, the cultural and natural background of the region. It begins with an acknowledgment of the traditional lands of the O’odham and Chiricahua Apache peoples.

After describing his personal connections to the trail and this location, AZT Executive Director Matt Nelson summarized the more than ten-year administrative push and stakeholder coordination it took to create the new trailhead. He gave thanks to several contributors, especially to the Coronado National Forest, for partnering on the project.

Next, Nelson introduced James Martinez, of the Babocomari District O’odham group and a lifetime land steward. Martinez spoke of his people’s history and connection to the land, mentioning that in Navaho, O’odham folks are referred to as “the foot-trail people,” and that the word O’odham in his language simply means “people.” He hopes for a future with less division and more unity among people. “We all enjoy the land equally,” he said, “and are nourished by it.”

Nacho Flores, from the west side of the O’odham reservation, explained the ongoing traditional use of the Santa Rita and other nearby mountains for harvesting fiber plants for the O’odham practice of basketmaking, which he’d learned from his mother.

The National Forest Service was well represented. Jim Copeland of the Nogales District - in which the trailhead lies - spoke of the Forest Service’s responsibility and pleasure at being able to expand access for more users. Also in attendance was Bill Vickery, of Elgin, whose group helps carry tools deep into the trails for both maintenance and new construction. He had come with two horses and found the top rail of the parking lot’s steel fence to be a fine hitching rail.

Following the talks, a fresh-cooked lunch was offered to all, prepared by AZT staff member Donovan Caputo. The menu included tepary beans, sautéed squash, red chiles, chicken in a seasoned sauce, cholla buds, squash empanadas, and homemade tortillas. Fittingly, the serving table for this eat-local feast had a cloth that was a topographic map.

Old connections among the gathering of 70 or so were revived, and new ones made. As to inaugurate the trail, a colorful group of mountain bikers posed for a photo-op in front of the entry sign and headed out. Most were Forest Service staffers taking Friday afternoon off by using what the Service calls “wellness hours.” One of the staffers said, “If this isn’t wellness, I don’t know what is.”

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Lease (Cont.) interested person to request that the proposed action be submitted to public auction.” In this case, the county submitted a notice entitled “Public Auction” which was embedded in the part of the paper with other required paid legal notices such as divorces, summons, notice to creditors, etc. According to the NI, the ad was not submitted through, or seen by, its news department.

County Attorney Kim Hunley stated that County property transactions below $5,000 do not automatically go to a bid unless requested by an interested party. However, the title “Public Auction” implied there would be a bid. Had the paid legal notice read “County proposes to lease office space in the 1904 Courthouse” it would have communicated to the public the true intent of the County and would not have been printed in a section of the NI that fewer people read. Hunley also stated that no people showed any interest. That may be because the PRT, which serves the area where South32’s controversial mining business operates, and where a large proportion of the residents who are opposed to the development of South32’s Hermosa Project reside, did not receive any notification.

ARS 11-256 requires that, “the board posts a notice in a conspicuous place on the affected property.” To comply with this requirement, the County posted a notice, in regular type on an 8.5 by 11-inch piece of paper placed in a document protector and taped to a north side door of the Courthouse, informing the public that commercial office space was available. This notice would not be “conspicuous” unless someone was directly in front of that door.

**Why did the School Superintendent’s Office request that the proposed lease be included on the BOS agenda?**

Chris Young, Deputy Supervisor at the County School Superintendent’s Office, declined to comment about his request to have the lease to AMI/ South32 included on the Dec. 6 agenda, referring all questions to the County. The School Department, which has received significant financial support from the mining company, has voiced strong public support for AMI, giving at the very least the appearance of a quid pro quo relationship between a private company and a County department.

**Conclusion**

Elected officials and County employees failed in their duty to keep the public informed about matters of significant public interest regarding South32. Questions about the County’s legal reasoning, inadequate public noticing, lobbying efforts by County employees, and pro forma proceedings are further eroding the public’s confidence in local government, which seems to be deaf to concerns about persistent County favoritism towards South32.

As Patagonia activist Carolyn Shafer acknowledged when she addressed the Board at the Dec. 6 meeting, “I want you to vote no, but I anticipate that you will approve this contract.”
Nick (Cont.) "has a really strong interest in research and a strong physics program." Columbia was one of nine schools Nick applied to earlier this year through QuestBridge, a program that facilitates early admission applications for students who exhibit outstanding academic achievement despite financial challenges. Finalists can apply, for free, to up to 12 of the 42 colleges that partner with the program. Nick was one of only 1755 students, out of over 17,900 applicants, to be selected as a National College Match Finalist. He described the QuestBridge application process as being "like the biggest final of my life. I basically didn’t sleep for three days."

Nick is the second PUHS student who has been awarded a scholarship through QuestBridge. Chesed Chap, who graduated in 2021, was accepted at Yale University. Chesed inspired Nick to apply to the QuestBridge program. "I saw an article in the PRT about Chesed and I thought, ‘Dang, I’ve got to get there,'" said Nick.

Michael Young, Assistant Principal at the Patagonia Schools, said, "QuestBridge has high standards and to have two students in the past three years qualify for their program goes to show that great things are happening at Patagonia Public Schools."

Nick’s passion for physics and his intellectual curiosity have driven him since elementary school. He credits Elgin School teachers Manuel Gatica and Annette Koweek for encouraging his interest in math and science. "It’s crazy how big an impact they had on my life," he said.

Partly because of the pandemic and partly because of the broad range of Nick’s interests, much of his education has been done on-line, including one year each of physics, biology, geometry and algebra 2. He is presently studying calculus online under the supervision of PUHS math teacher John Lynch.

In 9th grade, Nick took part in a year-long online astronomy program with the Whipple Observatory, and was interviewed on national television about the benefits of the program.

In 10th grade, Nick took part in an online environmental science program from Notre Dame University. While at home during the Covid shutdown, he also worked on a project on his own, in his bedroom, to "create levitation with the use of magnetic fields." He was attempting to create a magnetic spinning car. This project earned him third place in the Southern Arizona Research and Science Engineering Fair.

During the summer after 10th grade, Nick participated in a two-week program at Brown University studying quantum mechanics and the nature of reality. Nick also landed a summer internship that year after he sent emails to 20 professors at the University of Arizona asking if there were any internship opportunities available. One professor, Gregory Hodgins created a program for him to work on a carbon dating project with the particle accelerator machine. "It was an amazing experience," said Nick.

During Nick’s junior year he was invited to work with Paul Rogazenski at the University of Arizona on a project. "I tried to determine the age of the universe using different cosmological surveys," he explained.

Last summer, Nick worked as an intern for the Borderlands Earth Conservation Youth program in the mornings and spent his afternoons at the library working with U of A professor Elliott Cheu on a virtual internship analyzing data collected from the super collider.

Along with his research and studies, Nick also found time to be involved in student government for three years, and to be on the high school tennis and soccer teams for all four years, serving as captain of the soccer team his senior year. On weekends Nick worked as a landscaper in and Patagonia, as well.

When asked how he was able to keep up with all these activities, Nick replied, "It’s all about balance. I owe big thanks to my parents. They really shaped me into the person I am today.” He also credits his high school. “The teachers here are amazing. It’s a really great community and a friendly environment.” He also thanked "all the strangers who have helped me along the way."

"We are all so proud of Nicholas and his acceptance into Columbia University, as his hard work and dedication to his education have truly thrills you. And then self-publish. It is not hard. There is so much information on the internet. Just do it."
Fire (Cont.)

Patagonia Company’s 30 volunteer firefighters do a lot of training. In 2022 that included three days of training at Sonoita-Elgin, in addition to the regular monthly training sessions at the firehouse. Five members completed two weeks of classroom and hands-on training while four members attended the Phoenix Fire School, adding to the capabilities of the company. “These are good young people (in their 30s and 40s), and are well-trained,” said Chief Isakson.

Last year was also busy for the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District, which is staffed by Chief Marc Meredith, Administrative Assistant Kristen Dineley, three Captains (one for each shift) and a crew of 45 firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and dispatchers.

The company fought brush fires in Gardner Canyon, at the Empire Ranch, and at a location off Route 83, as well as the San Rafael Fire. The Vaughn Loop Fire in May was closely followed by the Elgin Bridge Fire, which climbed the Mustang Mountains above Mustang Valley. That fire was quenched with the assistance of other departments and agencies after several days of efforts, including flame retardant drops by airplanes and water drops by helicopters. Sonoita-Elgin crew members also traveled to New Mexico to provide help at the Black Fire, at an Elgin Bridge Fire, which climbed the Mustang Mountains above Mustang Valley. That fire was quenched with the assistance of other departments and agencies after several days of efforts, including flame retardant drops by airplanes and water drops by helicopters. Sonoita-Elgin crew members also traveled to New Mexico to provide help at the Black Fire.

Chief Meredith said that he expects the coming fire season to be very busy. “It was a good monsoon last year,” he said, “which means lots of vegetation growth, providing plenty of fuel for wildland fires once the brush dies out and the wind blows.”

Because Sonoita-Elgin is designated an “All Hazards Agency,” it is tasked with responding to medical emergencies, public assistance calls, wildland fires, structure fires, and hazmat emergencies across the district’s 325 square miles.

“At the end of the day, 80% of the calls are medical,” said Chief Meredith. Public assistance calls range from unlocking car and house doors, people needing assistance getting up after falls, and snake removal, 90% of which are rattlesnakes. With two state highways intersecting in the district, motor vehicle accidents are not uncommon.

Sonoita-Elgin is currently equipped with twelve vehicles and four utility apparatus - including two antiques - to provide mobility to the crews. The company’s training of personnel runs the gamut from low frequency/high intensity such as rope training, IV runs the gamut from low frequency/high intensity such as rope training, IV

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Chief Isakson said he would like to see “some 18- and 19-year-olds come in and start training.” But if that doesn’t happen, he is very proud of the Patagonia firefighters right now and the department as it presently stands. The Town continues to contribute $65,000 to the fire service to defray operating and maintenance costs, with no charge for water.

The organization has to be resourceful when it comes to getting equipment. A FEMA grant is paying for a new tender - a 3,200-gallon unit built in Minnesota - which will arrive at the station in February. Two other vehicles have been gifted. The volunteers maintain the equipment.

Meanwhile, the company continues to run the Annual Steak Fry in June in the Park as a fundraiser. The annual Burger Burn, again in the Park during the Sky Island Artisan Market, offers up a burger dinner while raising a few more dollars for the company.

Other events include giving school kids tours of the firehouse, rides on the trucks, participating in the Halloween “Trunk or Treat” celebration, and sharing fire preparedness information to the community. The Fourth of July and Christmas Parades are always special with the inclusion of those wonderful red trucks, sirens wailing, overflowing with the Town’s firefighters.

“We’re here for the community,” said Chief Isakson. “No ego. Anything we can do to help, wherever we can do it. And we depend on our community as much as they depend on us.”

Sonoita-Elgin also enjoys participating in community service. (Does not fundraise because the residents and businesses of the district pay taxes to support the Fire District.) The Annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by the firefighters and volunteers will be held in 2023 when the weather warms enough so folks can enjoy breakfast, at no charge, in the bays.

Crews are always on hand at the Santa Cruz County Fair for laugh, water play, and community interaction. Fire Safety Day at the Elgin School gives the students a chance to interact with the firefighters and equipment. Toys for Tots donations can be dropped off at the station during the season for distribution to kids for Christmas.

Chief Meredith enjoys hosting occasional “Coffee With the Chief” Saturday morning sessions, where folks can drop in and informally chat with the chief at the station.

“Our purpose in being here is to help, no matter how you need us,” he said. “We’re here for you.”
LIFE AMONG THE HUMANS

By Cassina Farley

I made it to December 26th before I furiously crammed every Christmas decoration back in its box. I didn’t pay attention to organization - 2023 me will figure it out and question why 2022 me did this to us. I did a broad sweep in the kitchen, ridding myself of any leftover cookies, cake, dip, chips and scraps of leftover meat. All tamales were relocated to the freezer. In

JEWBS IN THE NEWS

By Martin Levowitz

It’s nice to see that antisemitism’s on the rise again! There’s something comforting about the stuff that doesn’t change. Even the more unpleasant stuff, like jock-itch and/or athlete’s foot. They’re awful and they itch, of course, but they’re familiar, too, and reassure us that the world is as it’s always been.

Can you recall that rally down in Charlottesville a few years back? (The one that had “fine people on both sides”?) A mob of white supremacists, each with a Tiki torch, was slowly moving up the street that night. As they approached the microphones you heard a garbled chant. At first it was hard to decipher the words: “Jews will not replace us! Jews will not replace us!”

“What does that even mean?” I thought. Back then, I hadn’t yet heard of the “Great Replacement” theory, which has grown better known of late. It says: Subversives who detest us and our normal way of life have sworn to bring the whole thing crashing down. The two key tactics they employ are seeing that illegal immigrants keep pouring in, diluting this great nation’s voting base, while also adding to the voting rolls those folks whose credit scores are low and skin is darker than your mom’s. And who contrived this scheme and years to see our world fall down? The *%$#@ Jews, of course! Who else?

Whenever there’s some “secret plot” which we’re advised to fear, it’s both fun and traditional to blame it on The Jews - the world’s Eternal Boogie Man. They carry the baton, today, for monsters who, when you were young, lived underneath your bed. (Watch out! Watch out! Don’t let your hand hang down!) In his small book, “The True Believer” (1951), longshoreman/philosopher Eric Hoffer notes that fervent movements often cite a bygone age (which sometimes didn’t exist in fact) - a time when things were much, much better than they are today. The former grandeur has been lost, or ruined by our enemies, and we must strive to get it back; to Make Croatia Great Again!

We must unite because the hills above us are rife with parasites, whose object is to dismantle our precious way of life. All visionary movements, to succeed, Herr Hoffer says, must name and blame a common enemy, must emphasize the notion that the world is dangerous, and that those fiends will rob us of whatever we hold dear unless we patriots stand up and put them in their place. (A place with lots of barbed wire, of course.)

How perfectly familiar it all is. For centuries, in Europe and some places further east, the Jews were gaily slaughtered in pogroms. Their farms and homes and wealth were seized, and laws forbade that they own land again. Then, in the end, for centuries, they were simply kicked out.

Well, if you can’t own land or real estate, how are you gonna make a buck and keep the wife and little verm-in fed? You have to find some other gig, a pushcart on Delancey St., or Wall Street or in Hollywood, or newspapers and media, which, as St. Nicky (Fuentes) and his sidekick Screwloose Ye attest, are completely infested with Jews. And, don’t forget the doctas, lawyers, CPA’s and anarchists, the nudists and the Bolsheviks, and civil-rights- and Queer - provocateurs - those troublemakers, in a word.

If you live in a world where you are second- or ninth-class, you’ve to be inert or dumb to just put up with it. Excuse me if I disappoint conspiracy enthusiasts: Ours isn’t a plot to take over the world. It’s more a scheme just to survive and, maybe, prosper if we can, despite the many doors, over the years, slammed in our face. Some folks complain that Jews are “clannish,” that we stick together and will not let others in. Perhaps. But if the door slammed in your face is to the Zyklon shower-stall or crematorium, with whom, beside other Jews were you expecting us to schmooze?

Abuse or mistreat anyone and they’ll regard you with mistrust - even hostility. Around and ‘round the planet goes. And, where it stops, nobody knows. (But, as you know, it never really ends.) That’s why, of course, we should be friends. Until we stop despising, dishissing, and excluding them, no matter who they are this week, the animus, suspicion and resentment cannot end, and none of us will get the love and peace we say we seek.

It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in MS Word, to pteditor@gmail.com. The PRT reserves the right to edit all submissions for language, length, and content.
In the next month or two the Food Bank is relocating to a fabulous location on Harshaw Road. This facility will allow for easier pickups, loading and unloading food, and has enough space for future growth.

In an effort to reach all those in need in east Santa Cruz County, the Food Bank has established collaborative partnerships with churches, youth groups, and civic organizations such as the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center and Senior Center.

As a 501c3 nonprofit, the Food Bank experiences times of funding insecurities. Jim stressed that the Community Foundation for Southern AZ has been stellar in their support. What can Patagonians do to support the Food Bank? Here are a few ideas:

- Donate to the Food Bank monthly with an automatic withdrawal. A $25 monthly donation will change and strengthen a family’s nutritional needs for several weeks.
- Honor your friends, relatives and neighbors at the holidays by making a donation to the Food Bank in their names. Ways to donate:
  - Online at PayPal Giving: paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/2125544
  - Online at Network for Good: nfggive.org
  - Mail a check to PO Box 1147, Patagonia, AZ 85624
- More good news is that your contribution to the Food Bank may lower your AZ tax. Under the terms of the AZ Charitable Tax Credit, AZ residents will receive a dollar for dollar tax credit on your Arizona tax return. The Food Bank’s QCO code is 20164.
- Here’s to a healthy new year, Barbara Kuhns Patagonia

By Lynn Davison

If it seems like there is a lot of Covid around, that’s because there is. And there are also more flu and RSV infections.

Santa Cruz County (SCC) is one of six counties in Arizona that had high levels of Covid community spread on Dec. 1. In a recent interview with the PRT, SCC Health Department Director Jeff Terrell said the increases in respiratory infections are to be expected this time of year as people celebrate the holidays with more travel and large indoor gatherings. Also, unlike the past two years, fewer people are wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, two mitigating precautions against the viruses that cause Covid, flu, and RSV. The spike in Covid cases in the two weeks after Thanksgiving has leveled off but Terrell expected another spike after Christmas.

It’s hard to know exactly how much Covid is currently in the county. Fernando Silvas, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager for SCC, crunches the Covid numbers for the County. He told the PRT that most new Covid cases are not reported due to the accessibility of home testing and the fact that more people who have already had Covid or have been vaccinated may have milder infections with fewer or no symptoms. He also said many people are in denial about Covid and don’t test.

With those caveats in mind, Santa Cruz County had 630 new cases reported between Nov. 1 and Dec. 20. Patagonia/Sonoita/Elgin had 30 of the reported cases in that time period. That number compares to 10 reported cases in the prior two-month period. Silvas said every reported case represents, conservatively, at least an additional two to three cases and maybe more.

Two other factors suggest that the number of reported cases is much lower than actual incidence of Covid. 37% of reported Covid tests were positive in SCC, second highest in the state. Anything above a 10% positive rate suggests that increased prevention measures are warranted. A more accurate reflection of the amount of Covid in a community is Covid-relatd hospitalizations. Since Nov. 1, there have been 19 people hospitalized for Covid in SCC, with only one from the Patagonia-Sonoita-Elgin area. 68% of these hospitalizations were people aged 65 and over as compared to 23% of total cases that were people 65 and over.

Santa Cruz County has one of the highest initial vaccination rates in the state. The State Health Department reports 95% of people in Santa Cruz County have received at least the initial two shots. Silva suggested that percentage is somewhat inflated as there are people who are vaccinated in SCC but live elsewhere; he said 70% to 80% seems more realistic. A much smaller percentage of people in Santa Cruz County have received boosters. The protection afforded by the initial round of vaccinations is waning as time passes and new variants continue to appear. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends booster shots for everyone over six months, particularly for those at higher risk of severe disease, which includes seniors and people with compromised immune responses.

Kennedy Hayes, Superintendent of the Patagonia Unified School District, reported an increase in Covid, flu, and RSV cases. As a result, the district moved its Fall Festival and Winter Concert to virtual events. Students are already in pods to limit their exposure and the district has instituted heightened social distancing procedures.

“There is not much else we can do,” said Hayes. He expected another spike when students return from Christmas break.

Dr. Molly Anderson at the Mariposa Family Health Center in Patagonia reported a high level of Covid community transmission in Santa Cruz County. It is advisable to she said. Anderson recommends wearing a mask when you are indoors around other people, and doing a home Covid-19 test before any indoor gatherings. If you feel sick, even if your test is negative, stay home.

If you are over 50, or if you are younger, but smoke or have diabetes, lung disease, rheumatologic diseases or any other immunosuppressive disorder, you should have had the Covid bivalent booster by now. Boosters are available at Mariposa Clinic in Nogales by appointment (520-281-1550). Also, if you are in one of these high-risk groups mentioned above, Anderson encourages you to get treated for Covid at the onset of symptoms, even if those symptoms are mild. Call your physician to request a prescription for an oral antiviral medication.

**Support Food Bank**

Kudos to the PRT for facilitating a critical dialogue on food insecurity. Most difficult conversations are important ones, and this is an important community conversation.

I first became interested in food insecurity when I taught on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. I couldn’t figure out why the chalk for the chalkboard kept disappearing. The day I realized my students were eating it for the calcium was the start of something so much bigger than just the standard take away: food insecurity.

Because I didn’t know how local Patagonians may help the East Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank (ESCCFB), I spoke with Jim Staudacher, ESCCBF president. Here’s a bit of what I learned.

In fall and winter months, the Food Bank serves approximately 400 families. It’s a staggering figure given the town’s population. The Food Bank board’s belief that nutritious food should be as accessible as possible means recipients do not have to show proof of income.

Food boxes to be distributed are created based on nutritional value, not donated cans. I’m sure I’m not the only one who donated a jar of maraschino cherries because I didn’t know what else to do with it. I realize now that I wasn’t donating it but moving it to their pile of items few want or can use.

The Food Bank purchases food such as cans of chicken, tuna, beans and vegetables to give recipients the best nutritional bang possible. In addition, Jim partners with Borderlands Produce Rescue to supplement the boxes with produce. (Read more about the important and humbling work of Borderlands Produce Rescue at borderlandsproducerescue.org)

**Feelings Coverage 'One-Sided'**

I’ve enjoyed the ‘balanced journalism’ articles of past PRT issues, but I can’t resist responding to the one-sided Dec. 2022 article, “Foes Line Up Against Ducey’s Container Wall.”

The federal government is legally responsible for the security of our borders. The current Administration, who hide behind tall fences of their own homes protected by armed agents, have failed horribly in this.

Governor Ducey, along with Governor Abbott of Texas, is trying his best to make this entire nation as safe as possible for all, even though the federal government Democrats do all

**Thank you to Community**

A thank you note to the angels of Sonoita. I am truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community. To all those who have helped and supported
My life as I knew it disappeared into thin air when I tried to get out of bed on Dec. 26 of last year. My kids and I had just come back from Florida. Our family had partied at a hotel for my niece’s wedding. I’m glad I had a great time with the kids because that will be the last of fun like that for me, maybe forever!

After returning from the wedding, I drove back to Patagonia from Johnny’s home in Mesa, AZ. I went to bed when I got home. When I tried to get out of bed, I couldn’t. Not knowing why, I slid onto the floor and lay there struggling to reach my desk, where I thought my phone was.

I figured if I fell asleep for awhile I’d get some strength back, and while pulling the covers off the bed, my phone fell on my head! The screen lit up, spelling ZANDER, so I hit the call button. When he answered, I asked if he could come and get me off my bedroom floor. He said he would, but he wasn’t going to be alone. He called the EMTs. The next thing I knew, I was being loaded into the helicopter. I don’t remember the ride.

At the hospital they put me in an MRI machine and went through my abdomen, then inside my brain, sucking out the clot on the right side. I couldn’t sit up at first, and they had to teach me to swallow without choking.

I’ve been in a constant state of shock ever since. It was hard to believe that life as I knew it was gone in the blink of an eye, but I was still alive, with the task of getting it back. I had to push past massive pain, both physical and mental.

Close to my birthday in May, I fell and broke my hip. The board in my hospital room said, “Happy Birthday!” They did surgery right away and had me up and learning to walk again the next morning. The pain was indescribable.

I’ve never worked so hard as I did in therapy to get back home. I learned to dress myself and walk with a cane, though I still rely on my wheelchair. I make my own breakfast and do my dishes every morning. The plate keeps spinning, washing them with only my right hand. But my left arm and hand now have some movement. I am hopeful I will be myself again. Gravity is my biggest enemy.

I have a way to go yet. My left arm and hand finally have movement. I’ve just begun physical therapy at Holy Cross. Therapy is my saving grace. I am hopeful and ready to give it all I’ve got! I remembered something my father said to me before he died. He said, “Rhonda, I don’t agree with anything about you, but you have more guts than anyone I have ever met!” That’s as close as he ever got to “I love you.”

The biggest blessing I can think of, besides not dying from the stroke that paralyzed my left side, is all the contributions and support I have received from the wonderful people in this town.

Without my son, Johnny, and his fiancé, Kassie, I would not have been able to manage my affairs and the remodeling of my trailer to make it suitable for me to live alone again.

I had some fun, a lot of laughing when Johnny and Kassie took me home from the hospital to live with them for two months. They were, and still are, very important to my recovery and my sanity. I love those kids! So, once again, a thank you to the community for helping my son get me back home.

The Blue Lady

Being gone nine months really seemed like an eternity. I am so thankful that I don’t need a full-time caregiver. I like my privacy - nobody watching my every move. The hard work has paid off. I’m home!
Locals Pay Tribute to Joni Mitchell

By Sarah Klingenstein

It was a chilly mid-December night at the Patagonia Lumber Company when the air was warmed by a large crowd who had gathered to witness ten of Patagonia’s bravest show their stuff. No, not the volunteer firefighters or the Sheriff’s posse, but rather amateur singers stepping to the microphone (many for the first time) to play tribute to Joni Mitchell, one of the greatest singer/songwriters of all time. The evening was organized by the Sashas, a local band who wanted to honor Mitchell and give local folks a chance to perform on stage.

Riotous support and energized whooping greeted each of the local folk who had practiced with the band after choosing their particular song to sing. It was a touching and inspiring evening - the community support was warming and familial - in the very best Patagonia way.”

Planned for months, and canceled once due to Covid, the event featured renditions of songs from across Mitchell’s career, from “The Circle Game,” performed by Mark Berg, to “Help Me,” sung by Keith Spooner. Some of the vocalists had never sung on a mike before.

Two members of the Sashas, Melanie Morrison and Cindy Mohr, prepared the aspiring singers with individual rehearsals to work out arrangements, entrances, and how to approach a microphone. One participant said, “They were incredibly encouraging, and the rehearsals were just as much fun as the performance.”

The Sashas, formed last June, feature Cindy Mohr on drum kit, Melanie Morrison on guitar, Jeff Latham on bass, Mary Tolena on percussion and Rochelle Raya on harmonica. “I never thought I’d be singing or playing in a band again but here I am,” said Morrison. “There’s something magical about being in Patagonia that allowed this to happen.”

The Sashas’ next gig is scheduled for January 21 at the Patagonia Lumber Company.

The Cemetery Trail Is Back

By Murphy Musick

Volunteers from the Mountain Empire Trail Association and The Nature Conservancy worked together to re-open the Cemetery Trail in December.

The Cemetery Trail is a very pleasant, flat walk through a mature mesquite forest. The entrance is located just opposite the ramadas at the Nogales end of Doc Mock Park. The easy access and flat trail make it one of the favorite trails for locals and visitors alike. If you want to continue up to the cemetery you will leave the flat trail behind and head up a steep but beautiful trail that takes you to the cemetery at the top of the hill.

A loop can be made by going down the cemetery road to Highway 82 and then back to Town. I prefer to go back down the Cemetery Trail after I have toured the cemetery - this route is much quieter and very beautiful.

Trail workers gather at the end of the day after working to clear the Cemetery Trail in Patagonia. From left: David Christiana, Steve Finch, Zay Hartigan, Kerry Schwartz, Bob Proctor, Bets Stover, John Hughes, Aaron Mrotek. Not pictured: German Quiroga, Murphy Musick.
Glimpses Into Our Past
The Donnellites and the Copper Glance Mine
By Alison Bunting

In 1888 a unique mining community was established in Sunnyside Canyon on the western slope of the Huachuca Mountains. Initially known as the Copper Glance mining camp, the community eventually became known as Sunnyside. For 13 years the residents were referred to as Donnellites - followers of a fundamentalist Protestant, Sam Donnelly. This is the first in a series of articles that will trace the history of Sunnyside from its establishment to the 1950s. Two publications were especially helpful in the preparation of this article: “A Place Called Sunnyside” by Roberta Lamma (A&W Limited Editions, 1982) and “Sky Island Righteousness above a Desert of Sin: ‘Donnellite’ Seeds in Sunnyside Canyon” by Bruce A. Peterson, undated.

Sam Donnelly was born in Scotland in 1852. He emigrated to the U.S. around 1875, having worked as a merchant marine. He was known to be a hard drinker and scrappy fighter until about 1885 when he was converted at a tent meeting in San Francisco. Donnelly relocated to Los Angeles and had run a saloon in Charleston, AZ, and as a blacksmith, machinist, and inventor. Gattrell had run a saloon in Charleston, AZ, and had also owned a bank that had been robbed so many times that he went bankrupt.” Gattrell also had “an interest in a mine in the Mule Mountains in conjunction with an assayer named Ellis Sinclair.” (Peterson: 9). Donnelly, Gattrell, Langford and Sinclair tried unsuccessfully to obtain ore from the Mule Mountain mine.

In 1887 they filed a claim on the Copper Glance Mine in Sunnyside Canyon, on the west side of the Huachuca Mountains, and the men began mining operations in 1888. They were soon joined by a number of Donnelly’s followers. Donnelly married Alvine Schwartz in 1893, and they had three sons, Raymond, Laurence, and Alvin.

An 1896 Los Angeles Times article touted the success of the Copper Glance and described the unique living arrangements of the “mining commune.” The mine was reputedly generating an average of $3,000 in monthly income. “The Copper Glance camp comprises about 80 souls, about half of the number men, with a score each of women and children.” None of the Donnellites were paid; all income and expenses were pooled and shared.

On Sundays everyone gathered to hear Brother Donnelly preach and to listen to music. (Los Angeles Times, 3/27/1896). In reality, the mine production was spotty as the ore was in deep pockets sometimes difficult to access. The Donnellites established a sawmill located about five miles below the mine, in a meadow that came to be known as Sunnyside. Supplying lumber to Washington Camp provided another source of income. (Lamma: 21-22).

The communal living arrangement was viewed with suspicion by some, and in 1897 an article in the Bisbee Weekly Orb called for an investigation, claiming that Donnelly ruled the community through hypnotism. He sued and won a case against the editors of the newspaper, but not before he was charged and convicted of child abuse. He appealed his conviction to the Arizona Supreme Court, which sent the case back to Cochise County for retrial. At that point the charges were dropped. (Peterson:18-23).

About 1898 the Copper Glance Mine flooded when a dynamite charge opened an underground stream. Efforts to drain the mine were unsuccessful and most of the community moved from the mine camp down to the sawmill site. Donnelly and his family lived a few miles from the Copper Glance at another mining claim - the Lone Star.

In 1900 Donnelly fell ill with Bright’s disease and died on April 14, 1901. He is buried at the Lone Star site. Alvine and sons left Sunnyside for Los Angeles about 1903, as did most of the other Donnellites.
2022 Christmas Bird Count

By Louie Dombrowski

18 spotted towhees were sighted during the Patagonia Christmas Bird Count.

An enthusiastic group of 42 birders participated in the 50th Patagonia Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022. Birders registered early in the morning at the Gathering Grounds in Patagonia and finished by turning in their count and species reports at the Wagon Wheel in the early evening.

The first Patagonia CBC was held on Dec. 26, 1962, with five participants. The National CBC has its start on Christmas Day in 1900 to promote counting and conservation in place of the tradition of shooting birds on the holiday. Now, 123 years later, tens of thousands of people participate nationwide, and in over 20 countries in the western hemisphere on a designated day sometime between December 15 and January 5. The Patagonia count is always on the 3rd Thursday of December.

The Christmas Bird Count is a citizen’s science program collecting data from the same areas during the same time of year. The areas for the count are predetermined with a center location and a radius of 7.5 miles. The Patagonia Count takes place in a radius circle with the center near the intersection of Harshaw Creek Road, Harshaw Road, and the San Rafael Valley. Once established, the designated count area remains the same every year for accuracy of bird population trends. Santa Cruz County has four other designated counts. Nogales, Buenos Aires NWR (just a small section includes SSC), Atascosa Highlands, and Appleton-Whittell (which is a private count).

Birders are a hardy and diverse bunch of people. Some take off birding on Count Day one stroke after midnight with headlamp and winter gear hoping to identify owls. Most birders will carry on no matter rain, blizzards, or below 0° weather, trying to keep their binoculars from fogging up. They might argue about a species identity or where does that radius circle line really end. After all there might be a great bird species just across the boundary line. They have been known to block up traffic, fall through ice, and occasionally get lost. One prerequisite is to have a sense of humor and adventure. All manage to make it back to the end of the day tally with great stories and thankful for a hot meal and good company.

The Christmas Bird Count is open to all, no matter one’s birding ability. If you are new, you will be paired up with an experienced birder. No special education needed. This year, Patagonia CBC participants ranged from those with PhDs in science to those without any special training. People came from other parts of the state and even as far away as Ireland.

Where else can you have a rousing discussion about the ten Townsend’s warblers, or 155 red crowned kinglets, brown creepers, and nuthatches, plus many more, than at the end of the day of another great Christmas Bird Count.
**Open for Business**

**New Business News**

**Doing Beauty Better With Holistic Hair Care**

By Jo Dean

Hairstylist Tami Blakely has opened a new salon in Sonoita to serve local customers looking for organic, holistic hair care.

Purely Sonoita Organic is the first "clean salon" in the area, said Blakely in a recent interview. With over 33 years' experience in the salon profession, she has recently taken a new approach to haircare, foregoing plastic containers and using only sustainable, organic products made with natural, healthy ingredients.

"In my years in this profession I have seen a lot of toxicity in the industry, and eventually it takes its toll on the stylist's body," she explained. "Modern, popular hair care is slowly growing more aware of the disadvantages of using harsh chemicals."

Blakely uses products imported from Bologna, Italy, where organic extracts and essential oils are grown free of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers.

"It's all part of "doing beauty better,"" she said. "The holistic approach to beauty goes far beyond what we can see in the mirror - it's recognizing and caring for our mental, spiritual and physical attributes equally so as to remain in balance and radiate true beauty from within. I believe that eventually the knowledge of organic haircare being necessary for the health and wellness of the stylist, client and planet will be widely accepted."

Blakely is a sixth-generation Arizonan who moved to Sonoita in 2021 to return to her rural roots and the lifestyle she values. In addition to Purely Sonoita Organic, Blakely continues to own and operate Tami and Co Studio Salon in Scottsdale, which she has run for 13 years. She doesn't see much of a difference in what her clientele is looking for, regardless of where her business is located.

"I have had salons in Prescott and Scottsdale with clients from corporate America to small ranching families," she said. "But the one thing that’s been constant is the desire to have quality services and products in a nurturing, professional salon environment. The organic approach is just another layer into that quality-minded thinking. So much has changed over the years, but this remains the same."

In recent years Blakely has experienced significant autoimmune problems, while her son has recovered from a debilitating accident. She says these experiences deepened her spiritual growth and her interest in the importance of leading a healthy, organic life and caring for the environment. This approach to life has in turn been deepened by her work with horses.

"I always say the horse is the closest we can get to God on this earth!" she laughed. Blakely, who owns 14 horses and 8 dogs, is a firm believer in Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL). "In EFL we utilize different exercises or experiences with the horse that allow us to be 'in' this world in a whole different way," she said.

"The horse makes conscious that which is not conscious. We become very honest and congruent with ourselves and others, leaving only room for healing and authentic living. This intuitive nature has been long forgotten but the horse remembers and gladly shares if we know how to ask," she said. "My life's purpose is to share in all of this beauty that makes us so complete from the inside out. Oh, and I can do hair too!"

Purely Sonoita Organic is located at 3266 Hwy 82 Suite 2 in Sonoita. Appointments only, usually Monday, Wednesday, and every other Saturday. Contact Tami Blakely at 480-229-7124 or Purelysonoita@gmail.com

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Rarely, Spotted

I’m not a gambler by nature. You won’t find me in a casino or buying a lottery ticket. When it comes to seeking rarely-seen wildlife, however, I’m an eternal optimist, willing to risk my time and effort for the ultimate “prizes” nature has to offer. Glimpses of flashy elegant trogons, rare and diminutive elf butterflies straying here from Mexico, hidden reptiles or nocturnal mammals - all part of my stock and trade as a naturalist. Regardless of whether or not I actually see something rare, consolation prizes in the form of many other species of wildlife, countless native plants, and wild experiences abound.

I’m not immune to an ongoing obsession with a particular species. Enter one reclusive and hyper-rare feline, normally associated with parts more tropical: El Tigre, the jaguar.

Panthera onca is the world’s third-largest cat species on average - after Old World tigers and lions. Big males in South America can exceed 250 pounds, taking down large crocodiles as part of their diet. Our borderland cats seem to be more on the order of large mountain lions - the males perhaps 150-180 pounds. Females, which have not been reported in Arizona since 1963 when one was unceremoniously shot along the Mogollon Rim, average much lighter in weight.

The local diet of jaguars includes white-tailed deer, collared peccary, and even - in the case of the famous male jaguar, El Jefe, of the Santa Rita Mountains a few years ago - American black bear! El Jefe made national news for a transplant of camera-trap photos and even a few direct ones since 1996. They all appear to be lone males ranging up from the Sonora desert to the mountains to over 9,000 feet in elevation. Clearly this is no finicky cat. Left to its own devices and unmolested by humans, the jaguar is a supremely adaptable top predator able to thrive in a variety of environments.

We, however, rarely do leave it alone. Essentially all of our Arizona records in this time frame constitute humans killing jaguars for “sport” or as supposed reprisals or preemptive hits for livestock depredations. There was even a bounty on them in the state for a time.

Now, in an effort to right our ecological wrongs, environmentalists are encouraging reestablishment of the jaguar here by this veritable shadow of a cat - one that is rarely glimpsed even where it is considered to be relatively common.

The Sky Islands have witnessed a handful of jaguar sightings in the form of camera-trap photos and even a few direct ones since 1996. They all appear to be lone males ranging up from known breeding centers in Sonora, Mexico. No evidence of females has been documented during the same time span, leading some resource agencies to declare the jaguar a mere stray in the U.S. and hence, unfortunately, not worthy of truly safeguarding.

This sort of logic belies the recent range of the jaguar here, the key role humans played in initially exterminating it in Arizona and beyond, and the potential for a breeding population to reestablish itself here and in the greater Southwest. Protect this big cat and you automatically safeguard many other species requiring the very same large chunks of intact habitat.

Envision a near future where thriving populations of jaguars, cougars, bears, and a litany of smaller creatures draw in tourists and their dollars. A green economy - sustainable, friendly to the planet, and filling the coffers of local tourism-based businesses. The remote, frozen and mosquito-infested Yellowstone area relies partly on its top predators for the thriving eco-tourism there. Take away the grizzlies, wolves, bison, elk, and other charismatic large fauna and watch their revenue wither away. Along with New Mexico, Arizona is currently the only place in the entire U.S. where someone - perhaps you - might sight el tigre. Let’s not squander this feline prize, otherwise our future might be spotty.

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 ravensnatureschool.org.

El Jefe rests in a tree in a photo taken in the Whetstone Mountains in 2011. Photo by Donnie Fenn
**Past Prospects**

By Keith Krizan

I am standing outside in the early afternoon sun of December. I am panning for gold in my front yard. It is here that I wash the dirt that I have collected from various stream beds and dry washes throughout our little corner of southeast Arizona. The science behind panning lies in the fact that gold is denser than most other elements and will settle to the lowest point in your pan when you add water to your mix and then toss your slurry back and forth, each motion meant to drop the gold down while floating all of the less dense material out of the pan. What is left behind is black sand and it is in this black sand that gold can sometimes be found. The fact is, though, that I have yet to authenticate a single flash in my pan.

Today does not seem to be the day that my discovery is to be made. I am washing, washing, washing and I wonder if the only thing of value is the precious forest water that falls onto the ground, or maybe it is the time that I am expending in my search. Both the water and my time may be of finite quantity.

I finally exhaust a small collection of Planters Nuts cans that had built up in my garage that hold samples from several trips out rockhounding. I decide to go and collect from a place which yielded an ample amount of dense, black sand in the past. I am setting my sights on Duquesne in southeast Santa Cruz County.

Today’s drive happens to be one of my favorites. The route takes me up Canelo Pass Road and down into the San Rafael Valley. I pass some pine covered hills and plenty of green prickly pear cactus and red branched manzanita. Down in the valley the once lush summer grasses have turned yellow and between the clear blue sky and the grasses I feel as if I am driving through a Ukrainian flag. Hawks circle looking for lunch. Open range cows cast leery glances as I slide slowly by.

Every time I enter the San Rafael, I am reminded of my first time. Back in the early 2000s, on our first trip through Patagonia, my wife and I were enjoying our first decent cup of coffee in Arizona when a woman walked by us on her way into the Gathering Grounds. She remarked that we should check out the valley, that it would knock our socks off.

We meandered out Harshaw Ave. and under Red Mountain. Nice. Further along we drove in and out of the wash that is San Rafael Valley Road, through Goldbaum Canyon, past an idyllic little ranch in Willow Spring Canyon. Very nice, but my socks were still on.

We were looking for a place to turn around when the road began to gain in altitude. At the top of the rise was the sudden expanse of the San Rafael. Grasslands and distant mountain ranges. Dirt roads. It was love at first sight. It still grabs at me when I drive through. Something there makes me sense both the eternal and the ethereal.

As I move further south on this day, though, I am feeling some apprehension. I am wondering if a Great Wall of Shipping Containers is going to confront me when I reach the T intersection where FR 813 comes to an end. On this day the vista is still unblemished. A fence is still in place. It varies in design but consists of chain link bent southward at the top with barbed wire. It is backed up in places by Czech Hedeghogs designed to repel the advance of tanks and wheeled vehicles.

I turn west and head towards Lochiel and beyond that towards Duquesne. In Duquesne I veer left onto Old Duquesne Road and then left again onto Smugglers Road. South of town the road delivers you back into public land. I park near a dry wash just beyond some stone pillars that mark the boundary between the places where I can prospect and the places I cannot. I am careful as I walk up the stony wash with a hand shovel and an empty can in my hand. The temperature is in the low sixties and that seems to be the borderline for snake activity.

I look at the wash and try to imagine it as the riffles on the edge of my pan. If I were a nugget of gold, where would I settle? In a low spot made narrow by two boulders I sink my shovel into gravel. I go as low as I can and then begin scraping dirt into my container. It fills quickly and I walk out and drive home and put the can into my garage. It still has not been emptied nor its contents washed.

The gold, I guess, is in the prospecting.

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**STARSTRUCK**

Interconnections

By Harold Meckler

The reality is that nothing, not here on Earth, or in the vastness of space, is truly independent. If we’ve learned anything in the past three years it is that, despite all desires born from any number of rationales, we continuously impact each other regardless of distance, race, or nationality.

Benjamin Franklin said it some 250 years ago when his fledgling country, seeking redress from another, needed its citizens to be very interdependent if all were to survive. Franklin wrote, “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.” It was true then, and nothing has changed. Okay, so that’s not all that remarkable. What recently caught my eye, though, was new research that shows that young stars, along with their rapidly developing planetary disks, are rather just like people. Despite the vastness, the enormity of every nebula in every galaxy in a universe of billions of galaxies, individual stars interact with other stars leaving all a bit different, affected by forces that transcend any semblance of good or evil or political ideology.

Stars are born within clouds of gas. As the gas condenses, or collapses, a mass begins to grow. As it does, gravity provides a key assist, drawing even more matter to the protostar. Finally, under intense pressure, hydrogen atoms begin to fuse into helium, a process that creates an abundance of light and energy and affects the development of the nascent planetary system surrounding the star.

This is how our own solar system came to be. Hot solar wind from our newborn sun blew away icy ammonia and methane gasses, leaving behind heavier materials that coalesced into the inner rocky planets. Further out, the lighter compounds survived, leaving us with the gas giants Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

We now certainly know that star birth is not solitary. Multiple stars form simultaneously within those huge, dense gas clouds. The great nebula in Orion is an example of this. Images from the Webb Telescope of the most studied and photographed nebula in our galaxy prove that radiation from one star can prevent a second star from forming nearby, while simultaneously depositing material that allows another to form further away. It appears to be an endless cycle that has been in motion for many billions of years.

We also now know that once a planetary disk begins to take shape around a star, the radiation from that star not only dictates the type of planets that will emerge, but may also impact the planetary disks of nearby stars. The finding: stellar siblings play an integral role in so much of what we find in the sky. Like us, planets can take their forms, their characteristics, from multiple sources.

For me, the sky has always been a mirror of life on Earth. That we are influenced by our brothers and sisters is no mystery. Conversely, though we sometimes think we’re well insulated from "others," really is clear that what happens in China or Ukraine or in California or just up the block in Tucson affects our health, gas prices, and the quality and quantity of what we eat.

The late John Denver wrote in "Calypso" that we must learn from the sea to live on the land. I think what we learn from space is just as valuable. There’s a transparency in the knowledge we glean from modern technology that cannot be twisted or warped by someone’s agenda. Learning and accepting the interconnectedness of everything in space tells us, I think, that our best option on Earth is to lean into our interconnectedness.

The evening sky, mysterious as it may be, filled with countless objects as different and diverse as one can imagine, holds the answer to how we will successfully navigate the future of our own, tiny little place in an infinite universe. We’re dependent upon and connected to each other. We need to hang together.
**Update on Hermosa Project Water Permits**

**News Release**

In December 2022, the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) filed legal objections to two permits issued by Arizona state agencies for the Hermosa Project in the Patagonia Mountains: an Aquifer Protection Permit (groundwater impacts) and an Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (surface water impacts).

**Aquifer protection permit**

In 2018, the AZ Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issued an Aquifer Protection Permit to the mining company South32, which is developing the Hermosa Project. This permit allowed for discharge of 120 gallons per minute of treated water into the Alum Gulch aquifer. In August 2020, the mining company filed a significant amendment to add the discharge of 4,500 gallons per minute (6,652,000 gallons per day) from a newly constructed second water treatment plant into Harshaw Creek.

One week after filing a Motion to Stay requesting that the mining company not be allowed to discharge any water into Harshaw Creek until PARA’s appeal is decided by the State Court Judge, PARA filed an Opening Brief on Dec. 12 requesting that the State Court Judge return the permit back to the ADEQ with instructions to modify the permit; to require the installation of at least one monitoring well in Harshaw Creek; to require that the mining company demonstrate that the piping that will transport untreated tailings across the mining property complies with Arizona statutes; and to rule that as a matter of law the ADEQ has the authority to include narrative aquifer water quality standards in this permit.

**AZ pollutant discharge elimination system permit**

In 2018, the ADEQ issued an AZ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit to the mining company. South32 has filed a request to renew this permit, which expires on Jan. 7, 2023. This permit is required for municipal, domestic, and non-domestic (industrial) discharges of pollutants to a surface water that fits the definition of “waters of the U.S.” as described in the Federal Clean Water Act.

On Dec. 14, 2022, PARA, along with several other environmental groups, submitted comments objecting to the renewal. The comments assert that the permit renewal cannot be issued primarily because the Hermosa Project is a “new source” of discharge as defined in the Federal Clean Water Act and because the ADEQ cannot renew the Permit until ADEQ updates the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) as the calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody will meet and continue to meet the water quality standards for that particular pollutant. PARA also asked the agency to address issues related to the sampling process; changing the water hardness calculation from influent to effluent water; and additional reporting requirements, stating that there are ongoing concerns about dewatering the aquifer.

Given the importance of the Patagonia Mountains and the existence of immense biodiversity in this region, the depletion of the aquifer will almost certainly harm or even destroy the numerous springs and seeps, and other surface water features, at a time when the existence of these critical water resources and the habitat they support are already under pressure from drought and climate change. The water that would be permanently removed from these aquifers by South32 is an important part of the function and health of the biodiversity of the Patagonia Mountains and the Sonoita Creek Watershed.

Visit PatagoniaAlliance.org for more information and to sign up to receive updates.

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**SOUTHERN ARIZONA QUAIL FOREVER**

**Family Day**

**Activities Include:**
- Trap Shooting
- Archery
- 88 Gun Range
- Fly-Fishing/Fly-Tying Intro
- GPS Instruction
- Animal Footprint ID
- Live Bird Hunt Demonstration
- Bird Cleaning
- Police Dog Demo
- Falconry
- Free Breakfast & Lunch

**No Fee/All Ages Welcome**

**Location:** Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Empire Ranch/Airfield Site (north of Sonoita, AZ)

**Time/Date:** Saturday, March 4, 2023 (8:00am – 3:00pm)

**Sponsored by:** Southern Arizona Quail Forever Chapter

Register at AZ Game & Fish Outdoor Skills (https://register-ed.com/events/view/183101)

For additional info contact:
- Tony Valentino | 520-445-6569 | qfpqltn18@qpl.com
- Zack May | 520-301-8155 | amy@qpl.com

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

January Schedule

Updated health protocols: Proof of vaccination is required for first-time attendees. Mask wearing inside the venue will be optional though strongly recommended. SCFPA reserves the right to alter its safety policies at any time, based on the latest information and advice.

Jan. 6: 5 p.m. An epiphany concert to usher in the new year with works from the 15th to the 21st century featuring the music of the Sky Islands Camerata. $10 Prepay online

Jan. 15: 3 p.m. Hidden Gems of Haiti and Mexico - A Community Concert Event Featuring Janet Anthony on the cello and Mari Tomizuka on the piano. $10 Prepay online

Jan. 29: 3 p.m. Harp, Flute, and Strings Emily Chao (violin), Carla Fabris (harp), Zachary Warren (flute) and Juan Meija (cello) perform an array of music, including the "Trio for Harp, Flute and Viola" by Claude Debussy. Reception to follow in the courtyard. $30 Prepay online

Visit www.scfpapresents.org for more information

Area Students Stage Two Plays

The Patagonia Creative Arts Assn.’s Club Theater held performances of “Hansel and Gretel” on Dec. 5 and 6 at the Tin Shed Theater. It was directed by Anita Clovesko-Wharton, assisted by Kayla Miller.

Check It Out at the Library

By Kayla Miller

As the year comes to an end and the winter approaches, everyone has just one thing on their mind: good food. No? Just me?

For anyone who shares the same love of food, the Patagonia Library has great book options for you.

A warm, rich soup from "Soup for Syria: Recipes to Celebrate Our Shared Humanity" by Barbara Massaad is sure to stave off the chilly winter weather descending upon us.

"Charcuterie: The Art of Salting, Smoking, and Curing" by Michael Ruhlman is a staple for those looking to host a holiday party.

Anyone who has kids that want to be in the kitchen will love the simplicity of "Cooking Class: 57 Fun Recipes Kids Will Love to Make (And Eat!)") by Deanna Cook. I can tell you from personal experience that their Tiny Tomato Toast recipe is the most delicious little between-meals snack.

And last but not least, my personal favorite. "Noodle Worship: Easy Recipes for the Dishes You Crave From Asian, Italian, and American Cuisines" by Larone Thompson, is perfect for anyone who can’t get enough of the beautiful, carb-y perfection that is pasta.

HOLIDAY SCENES

Photos by Robert Gay and Marion Vendituoli
Want to tour the Hermosa Project?

The South32 Hermosa Project public tour season is back. Join us to learn more about this critical minerals project in the Patagonia Mountains. Ask questions, discover how our team is uniquely designing for sustainability, and get a guided view of the site from our project overlook.

Weather permitting, public tours take place the first Friday of each month and continue until monsoon season. Send your inquiry to askhermosa@south32.net. Tours fill quickly, and capacity is limited.

south32.net/hermosa
SPECIAL INTERESTS

Lunch for Seniors: Fresh-cooked meals. In-house dining only 11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. Patagonia Senior Center.


The Natures Conservancy’s Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve: Wed. - Sun. 6:30a.m. - 4p.m. Masks required in restrooms.

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

Patagonia Farmers Market: Thursday - 9a.m. - 12p.m. In front of Red Mountain Foods

Sierra Vista Farmers Market: Thurs. 10a.m. - 2p.m. at Veteran’s Park

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

Purple Elephant Thrift Store: 325 - 327 McKeown Ave, Patagonia. Open 10a.m. - 3p.m., Thurs - Sun.

Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop: 22 Los Encinos Rd, Sonoita Thurs. - Sat 10 a.m. - 2p.m.

Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Thrift Shop: 387 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia. Open Fri and Sat from 10a.m. - 12p.m. Look for the OPEN flag.

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

Patagonia Library: Tues - Sat 10a.m. - 5p.m. Call for more info 520.394.2010

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous:

Patagonia Methodist Church: Fridays at 7p.m. 387 McKown Ave., Patagonia Contact Dave at 207-249-8302.

Overeaters Anonymous: to find a meeting go to www.oasouthernaz.org. Contact Adrienne H. for more info 520-404-3490.

Patagonia Town Council: Meets 2nd & 4th Weds. of the month. 6p.m. Public invited. CDC Guidelines will be followed.

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

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

The Constitutional Conservatives of Southern AZ Club Meeting: 6:30p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month, Sonoita Bible Church. All are welcome.

The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Meeting: every 3rd Sat. of the month, 10:30a.m. NOW hybrid. In person at 32 Morley Ave, Nogales or www.assancruzdemns.org/meetings

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

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

Gratitude Drum Circle: Tuesdays 4 - 6p.m. at the Gazebo in the park

MEETINGS

Canelo Cowboy Church 14 McCarthy Lane, Elgin 520-604-6990. Sunday Service: 8:30a.m. Sunday School: 10a.m.

Patagonia Community United Methodist Church Sunday service 10a.m Call/email church office for info. 520-394-2274 patagoniaumc@gmail.com

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church: Patagonia 222 Third Ave., T, Th, Fri 9 a.m. (Oct - March, 8 a.m. April - Sept.), Sat 5:30p.m., Sun 10:30a.m.

Our Lady of The Angels Mission Wed 9:00a.m., Sun 8:00a.m. in Sonoita 520-394-2954

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

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

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

St. Andrews Episcopal Church 969 W. County Club Dr. Nogales. Services are weekly, however times change frequently. Visit standrewsaz.org for additional info.

Quaker Worship Group Meets via Zoom. Contact Janice Pulliam if interested 706-614-6959

Tubac Buddhist Meditation Center 2247 Frontage Rd #2, Tubac Sunday: 8:30 - 10a.m.

dubaucbuddhistmeditationcenter@gmail.com for zoom.

Calling all Local Businesses!
The PRT is Excited to Announce Our New Sponsorship Program.

Thank you to TerraSol, our first Silver Sponsor!!!
TerraSol is a camping venue in Patagonia for hikers, cyclists & van travelers. Visit TerraSolaz.com for more information

Terra Sol owner Mary Tolena wrote “Yes, I am happy to become a PRT Silver Sponsor! The paper is such an important pillar for what makes our community special.”

The Patagonia Regional Times is made possible with community-driven support from foundations, local businesses, and individual donors. Thank you to everyone making it possible for The PRT to produce trustworthy, credible news that educates and informs the people of Eastern Santa Cruz County.

Individuals, businesses, and other organizations interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Patrick O’Neal at prtasted@gmail.com

Visit our website to post your events on our new community calendar page. patagoniaregionaltimes.org/events
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.

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.

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SONOITA SELF STORAGE+RV/BOAT STORAGE RENTALS
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Native Seed Lab
SEED CLEANING VOLUNTEER MONDAYS
Mondays 9 AM - Noon

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:MWF at 7am, Sunday at noon/ Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8am, 12pm and 6pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm, Sun. at 8am / Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund will begin accepting scholarship applications January 1, 2023. Scholarships are available for high school seniors or adults returning to school at community colleges, four-year universities and career or technical schools. Apply by March 1. Through one application, you will also be matched to any of the other 90 ACF scholarships for which you qualify.

We’re here to help you make a difference.
Call or click: 520.439.0595
or www.azfoundation.org/Patagonia

Patagonia Regional Community Fund
440 W Fry Blvd, STE 6, SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635

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