

Patagonia Regional Times



JANUARY 2024

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CANELO, ELGIN, PATAGONIA AND SONOITA

VOL. 14 ISSUE 1

Patagonia Schools Eye 4-Day Week Schedule



File photo by Marion Vendituoli

Students walk to class at the Patagonia Union High School in November 2021. Soon, students may be attending classes four days a week.

By Dottie Farrar

The Governing Board of the Patagonia School District (PSD) will decide on Jan. 17 whether the elementary and high schools will go to a four-day week starting in Fall 2024.

"A four-day week is a great tool to retain and recruit teachers," PSD Superintendent-Principal Kenny Hayes said. "Hopefully, it would reduce our absenteeism problem on Fridays, and consequently students would miss fewer days."

In the proposed new schedule, students would attend school from Monday to Thursday. To make up for the time lost on Fridays, the length of each remaining school day would be increased between 30 and 40 minutes, most likely at the end of the day. All staff salaries and hours would stay the same, and bus schedules would adapt to the changes. Bus service for Elgin School students, which is provided by the Patagonia School District, would continue to be provided on Fridays.

90% of parents approved of the change to a four-day week in a survey conducted by the school district in the

fall of 2023. School is currently a half-day on Fridays, and parents have cited the difficulty of picking up or arranging for pickup of their children from school in the middle of the day.

Teachers for the most part support the change, according to Hayes.

"We are accepting public comment," Hayes said. "Email or call me. I am happy to listen to comments and suggestions."

Public hearings are scheduled for January 10 at 5pm and January 16 at 5pm. Both meetings will be held in the high school cafeteria. The Governing Board will then meet on January 17 at 3pm to decide the issue.

If the Board approves the four-day week, the schools will look at reaching out to the community to provide for the needs of the kids on Fridays. "These discussions will have to wait until after the vote of the Governing Board," Hayes said.

Nationwide, 7% of school districts, most of them small and rural, have moved to a four-day week, including 67% of school districts in Colorado.

See Schools, p.22

Robert Cabot Reflects on Turning 100



Photo by Penny Cabot

Patagonia resident Robert Cabot will be turning 100 this month.

By Lynn Davison and Martin Levowitz

Have you ever considered what it might feel like to turn 100 years old? Robert Cabot has, now that his 100th birthday is only a month away.

Capturing Robert's life in a PRT article is a lot to ask. As he says, "There are many things that can happen in a life that lasts 100 years!"

Fortunately, Robert published a memoir in 2019, "Time's Up: A Memoir of America's 20th Century," that includes descriptions of his time in the Army as a private during World War II, his graduation from Yale Law School, and his work for the U.S. Government. Robert spent time in D.C. during the Truman and Eisenhower administrations; lived in Europe working on the Marshall Plan that helped rebuild a shattered world after World War II; and worked on many aid projects in Asia.

Robert's focus shifted from government service to writing in the late 1960s. His first novel, "The Joshua

Tree," was published in 1970, with later editions following in 1988, 1991, and 2011. He sailed solo across the Atlantic in his thirty-foot sloop in 1976. He and his wife Penny founded an intentional community on Cortez Island, British Columbia in 1978. Throughout this time Penny and Robert raised their three children. In total, they have six children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

As he closes in on 100, Robert both embraces and fumes about this latest chapter of his life.

On the fuming side, Robert sees his world becoming more limited, his attention span shortening, and his body less reliable. He may start a sentence and momentarily forget the words to finish it. He is more dependent on Penny than he would like to be, for her and for himself. Robert is not a believer in the afterlife, but these days he admits he does spend a lot of time

See Cabot, p.5

MISSION STATEMENT

To be a reliable and engaging source of news for the communities of eastern Santa Cruz County—open to all views, focused on local issues, written and edited by local people, and providing a platform for community education and involvement.

WHO WE ARE

We are a nonprofit news organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. The PRT is distributed in print monthly in eastern Santa Cruz County, and weekly in the PRT e-newsletter.

Managing Editor:
Marion Vendituoli
editor@prtnews.org

Assistant Editors:
Nisa Stover Talavera
prtasted@gmail.com

Jay Babcock
prtadast@gmail.com

Ad Manager:
Nisa Stover Talavera
prtads@gmail.com

Bookkeeper:
Cynie Murray
prtbookkeeper@gmail.com

Development Coordinator:
Jamie Smith
communications@prtnews.org

Contributing Writers

Bob Brandt	Dave Brown
Alison Bunting	Kat Crockett
Lynn Davison	Jo Dean
Cassina Farley	Dottie Farrar
Linda Jade Fong	Robert Gay
Patra Kelly	Keith Krizan
Martin Levowitz	Dave Lumia
Pat McNamara	Mary McKay
Harold Meckler	Vince Pinto
Cami Schlappy	Carrie White

Board of Directors

Kathryn Schrag.....	President
Mollie Wright.....	Secretary
Kay Pitt.....	Treasurer
Lynn Davison	Cassina Farley
Chip Fears	Jac Heiss
Bekki Jaynes	Emmett Rahn-Oakes

Submissions

Do you have an idea for a story having to do with the Eastern Santa Cruz County region? It could be a person or organization who's doing something interesting, a concern about possible wrongdoing, or a unique approach to local challenges. Send your ideas to editor@prtnews.org

Patagonia Regional Times
PO Box 1073, Patagonia, AZ 85624
(740) 206-9594
prtnews.org

THANKS TO YOU, PRT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN A HUGE SUCCESS

By Marion Vendituoli

To our generous readers who donated to the PRT during our recent fundraising campaign, We Thank You! You have donated an astonishing \$48,031 over the past two months! This record breaking amount is \$11,000 more than we have ever raised before in our annual campaign!

\$15,000 of the funds raised will be matched by NewsMatch, a national organization that supports nonprofit newsrooms. The PRT was also selected to receive an additional \$15,000 matching grant from The Loud Hound Fund. The Loud Hound Partner Fund is awarded to select local newsrooms to support civic engagement. We are honored to have been selected for this award for the third year in a row. These donations help to ensure the future of the PRT and will be used to help us continue to bring you the local news that you depend on us to deliver. They

fund your community news services - the printing of the paper; the hardworking staff; the PRT website, the weekly e-newsletter and breaking news alerts.

In 2024, it will be more important than ever that our readers have access to factual, nonpartisan, accurate local news. Important issues that the PRT will be reporting on include local candidates for public office, the Hermosa Project and its impact on eastern Santa Cruz County, the County's proposal to create a wine and cuisine tourism region in Sonoita and Elgin and efforts to override existing zoning restrictions, to name only a few.

We are working to implement a robust breaking news and emergency alert system to better inform our communities about wildfires, accidents, law enforcement updates, road closures etc.

Our staff is also working to improve our digital footprint, and to develop new tools and skills

to support our evolving technical resources. Our dedicated Board members 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 include not only our writers, our board members and staff, but also all of you that have supported us this year. We thank you for kicking off 2024 in the best way possible, especially as we emerge from the challenges of the past few years. Thank you for your investment in the future of the PRT because, especially in these tumultuous times, **local news matters!**



Photo by Eric Herman

The photographer made this composite photo from three photo bursts of a mountain lion in the Santa Rita Mountains last year.

By Eric Herman

This oft misunderstood feline of many names frequently roams the Sky Islands surrounding us. Puma. Cougar. Mountain lion. Panther. Catamount. The adaptable puma

lives in just about every habitat in the western hemisphere.

Elegant, elusive, agile, independent; the panther may rove up to 150 square miles. The catamount keeps to herself, avoiding us and

focusing on wild game as prey. Your drive to the trailhead is always more dangerous than the miniscule chance of a lion attack. Should you cross paths with a cougar, smile and enjoy the day.

Want to Keep Up With the News?
Access *all* of the PRT on your phone, tablet or computer at patagoniaregionaltimes.org

The Arts
Opinions
Local News

Breaking News
Our Archives
COMMUNITY STORIES

Current Issue
OBITUARIES
Environment



South32's Risner Updates BOS, Public on Hermosa



Image courtesy of South32

An artist's rendering of the Hermosa project's proposed remote operating center, discussed at the Dec. 19 County Supervisors meeting.

By Marion Vendituoli

The Hermosa mining project in the Patagonia Mountains was the focus of the Dec. 19 meeting of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. The meeting started with more than one hour of public comments from community members, most of whom are opposed to the mining project. Following the Call to the Public, Pat Risner, president of the Hermosa project, updated the board on the \$2 billion project's progress. He touched on the newly created Workforce Development Task Force,

which includes local school administrators, including Kenny Hayes, Patagonia School District Superintendent. Risner emphasized that job training is a priority, as the company anticipates hiring 850 employees, with a goal of hiring 80% of the workforce from within Santa Cruz County. The company has stated that the average wage for its employees will be \$120,000, including benefits. When asked if that average included management salaries, he said it did not. He anticipates employee training to begin in early 2025, and that the mine will go into production in 2027.

All of this is contingent on the Board of South32 making its final investment decisions, which Risner expects by the end of the first quarter of 2024. "We have essentially one mine, but two projects," Risner said, referring to the zinc and the manganese mining. The zinc project is further along than the manganese, with a final investment decision expected in the first quarter of 2024. They have started drilling the shafts for extracting zinc. "We will need to select a site [for the remote operating center for the mine] by March," Risner said. The company is still committed to building the facility in Santa Cruz County along the I-19 corridor in either Nogales or Rio Rico. Federal permitting for the mine is moving forward. Risner anticipates that the Forest Service will begin the scoping process in May 2024, at which time the mine's plan of operation will be made public and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the plan. The "legally binding Community Protection and Benefits Agreement" was discussed. This document, also referred to as the Good Neighbor agreement, would include environmental monitoring, social investment, education, community programs and economic development, Risner said. Signatories to the agreement would be South32, Santa Cruz County, the Town of Patagonia, and likely the City

of Nogales. Risner hopes to be able to execute this agreement by the end of 2024. After Risner's presentation, he responded to questions raised by the audience and the Supervisors. Concerns raised included the potential dangers of manganese in the environment. Vanessa Register, of Lake Patagonia, asked him, "If our wells go bad, are you going to truck water in? If we get sick, how are you going to support the health care provider community so they can address these things? Who's going to pay for that?" "Any and all of what you suggested are opportunities to include in the [Community Protection and Benefits] agreement," Risner responded. Carolyn Shafer, of Patagonia, asked Risner, "How many Hermosa Management people have moved their residences to the Town of Patagonia or the county, including you, sir, and your twin sons?" Risner answered, saying, "I don't have that number off the top of my head." BOS Chairman Manny Ruiz later echoed Shafer, asking, "If the mine project is so safe, why don't you or any of your administrative staff live in the community? That's a fair question."

Risner did not directly answer Ruiz's question. He responded that "the project has been in study phase," with most of the work being done in Tucson. "If our board makes the decision

See S32, p.14

Town Now Requires Licenses for Short-Term Rentals

By Lynn Davison

On June 28, 2023, the Patagonia Town Council passed an ordinance regulating short-term and vacation rentals, requiring any residential properties that are rented on a daily or weekly basis to be licensed. The short-term housing covered by the license is intended for transient tenants, most often tourists, who occupy rental units for less than 31 consecutive days. The new ordinance requires owners of these rentals to pay a \$50 fee to license each short-term rental property they operate. That is in addition to the state Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) and local business taxes. Hotel rooms are not covered by the ordinance but do collect a 3% bed tax. Town Manager Ron Robinson reported that "the ordinance was proposed by Council members who were concerned that unregulated growth of short-term housing could turn Patagonia into another Sedona. Currently there are approximately 50 short term rental properties out of a total of 563 residential properties within the town limits. The Patagonia ordinance was patterned after ones in Bisbee and Oro Valley. No one spoke against the

ordinance at the Council meeting." As far as Robinson is aware, Patagonia is the only local jurisdiction within Santa Cruz County that has regulated short-term rentals. The state of Arizona has limits on how much local jurisdictions can regulate short term housing. For example, local jurisdictions cannot prohibit Airbnbs, bed and breakfasts or other short-term rentals entirely. All over the country, especially in small rural communities, jurisdictions are exploring different ways to manage the impacts of rapid increases in bed and breakfasts and other short-term rentals on town character and availability of affordable housing. These are important issues for Patagonians, though it is too soon to gauge the impacts of the new Patagonia ordinance. The license requires all short-term and vacation rentals to comply with the federal, state, and local laws. The short-term rental license also requires the owner/applicant to:

1. Provide proof of a valid transaction privilege tax (TPT) license.
2. Provide evidence of liability insurance appropriate to cover the vacation rental in the aggregate of at least \$500,000.

3. Provide evidence the vacation rental is registered with the county assessor's office.
 4. If the applicant is an individual, provide proof of lawful residence in the United States
 5. Within 24 hours of every booking, a sex offender background check on each guest shall be conducted by the owner or by the online lodging marketplace on which the vacation rental is advertised.
 6. Designate a 24/7 emergency contact who is either on-site or can respond to an emergency call within 60 minutes or a non-emergency call within 24 hours.
 7. Notify neighbors directly around the short-term rental property that the property is to be used as a short-term rental and provide the name, phone number, email of the owner, designee for the owner, and 24/7 emergency contact.
 8. Display the name, phone number, and email address of the owner, designee, and emergency point of contact outside the residence near the front door.
 9. Pay an annual licensing fee of \$50. This fee may be adjusted by the Town Council at any time.
- Short-term or vacation rentals are prohibited from the following uses: any nonresidential use; holding a special event that requires a permit

pursuant to town code or state law or rule; operating a retail business, restaurant, event center, banquet hall or similar use; housing sex offenders; operating or maintaining a sober living home; selling liquor, illegal drugs, or pornography; operating a nude or topless dancing venue; obscenity; adult-oriented business. There are real consequences for not having a current short-term rental license or for violating any of the regulations within the license. A vacation rental owner who fails to apply for a license within thirty (30) days of the notice of violation shall immediately cease operations. In addition to any other penalty pursuant to the Town code, the Town may impose a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per month for failure to obtain and maintain a valid license, and up to \$3,500 per violation of conditions of operation for the third and subsequent violations within any one year. Licenses may also be suspended at the discretion of the Licensing Agent (the Town Manager) for violations of licensing regulations. Licensing fees and penalties will be collected by the Patagonia Municipal Court. To read the entire ordinance, visit the Patagonia Town website and search for Ordinance No. 23-01 of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Patagonia, Arizona.

Winners of the PRT's Good Neighbor Contest

The PRT Good Neighbor Award recognizes people who voluntarily build a better community in Canelo, Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia.

We asked our readers to nominate someone they knew who was a 'good neighbor.'

Gift certificates to local restaurants were awarded to both the winners of the contest and to those who nominated them.

Thank you for sending in your nominations for the 2023 Good Neighbor Awards.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Dena Ploetz

Gail Christmann nominated Dena Ploetz for the PRT's Good Neighbor award. She wrote, "Since opening her business, The Corner Scoop in Sonoita, three years ago, Dena has been an amazing contributor to our community's welfare. She has annually collected winter coats for children and adults, collected backpacks and school supplies, supported the local food pantry locker, and most recently sponsored a larger, locked, and staffed food pantry at her place of business. She assisted with the Sonoita Helping Hands Thanksgiving Dinner at the fairgrounds on Thanksgiving day. I don't know what else she may be involved in, but I'm sure there is more. Dena is a supporter of local 4-H, our fire and rescue service, and is always stepping up for those in need in Sonoita and Elgin. She employs local staff and is always ready with a smile. Dena works long and hard hours and is a valued businesswoman in our town. Oh and another thing—she has been coordinating holiday meal boxes to be distributed by the Arizona Rangers Sonoita unit."

By Dottie Farrar

"If I have it, I'm going to share it. Money means nothing to me," said Dena Ploetz, founder of the Food Bank and Helping Hands Sonoita, parent organization of the food bank/pantry. "My dad was that way. He would give you the shirt off his back. I watched him and saw what a great person he was. It breaks my heart to see people go without."

Dena Ploetz was born Dena Cummings in Silverton, OR, where, as a young girl, she helped her dad race greyhounds. During her childhood, the Cummings family moved all over the West following the greyhound races, until settling in Marana, AZ where Dena attended high school. She and her dad maintained a close relationship, and during her senior year at Marana High, they started a plumbing business together. (It remains active today as Cummings Plumbing, run by

Ploetz's nephew.)

After graduating from high school in 1986, Dena married Jason Ploetz. The couple had three daughters. Currently one lives in Minnesota, one is a senior in college in Las Vegas, and one is in Albuquerque with her two children, ages nine and six. "I can't wait to go home and be with my grandkids," Dena said earlier in December.

Dena combined marriage, parenthood, and a career for the next nine years, working as a respiratory therapist and X-ray technician at Tucson Medical Center. Then, in 1995, she moved to Albuquerque. Ever the entrepreneur, she started three internet companies. After a time, she became interested in working for Starbucks, eventually becoming a manager and then a training manager for the company.

Three years ago, Sandra Cummings, Dena's mother, opened the Corner

See Ploetz, p.7



Photo by Linda Jade Fong

Chuck Kelly

Clare Bonelli nominated Chuck Kelly for this year's Good Neighbor award. She wrote, "Despite being in his 80s, Charles Raynor (Chuck) Kelly works full time managing the Patagonia Senior Center—without any pay. In addition to keeping all the ADOT, SEAGO, county, and state 'paperwork,' he attends the mandatory sessions on transportation, writes grants, shops, picks up food from the food banks, and does whatever else is needed to keep the senior center thriving. He leaves Patagonia at 5:45 on Sunday mornings to go grocery shopping in Nogales for several people who are housebound and is often seen escorting disoriented people around town. None better than Chuck."

By Linda Fong

"There's a similarity between seniors and preschoolers. They both need love and attention." Chuck Kelly, the former priest/corporate executive/preschool teacher and now Patagonia Senior Center manager, chuckled, but with deep warmth.

Almost all the seniors in Patagonia know Chuck. It could be through the Senior Lunch program, where up to 45 people from the most diverse of backgrounds line up early on weekdays for the salad bar. Or through the Senior Van Ride program or education presentations.

Those are the visible roles Chuck plays as the director of the Senior Center, a full-time job which he has done for six years as a volunteer. The programs could not exist without his expertise and his refusal to accept any salary.

That in itself is extraordinary. Yet it's also what he continually and quietly does behind the scenes that touches people and inspires them to do the same.

Chuck grew up in Manhattan, going

to school in Harlem. He attended Fordham University before becoming a Jesuit priest for six years, during which he completed his M.A. in Philosophy. Three of those years were in South America, where he met his wife Patra.

Back in the U.S., Chuck switched gears to work as a corporate executive in customer service, credit and collections for Con Edison. He next did a 180 to become a preschool teacher for 24 years, mostly in Oregon.

He came to Patagonia in 2005, and spent his first 11 years here as a hermit. During that time he wrote nine books, including one on St. Francis of Assisi and a trilogy on Native American spirituality. His books are available on Amazon, and some of them are available at the Patagonia Library.

Now at the Senior Center, Chuck jumps into whatever roles need to be done. He recalls the first time he took over as cook. "I was pretty nervous about it—I didn't know how to cook," he laughed. "If there was lasagna on the menu, I'd be reading the recipe and coming in three hours early, trying

See Kelly, p.7

BOOK REVIEW

Local Author Jim Koweek Pens ‘Nontechnical’ Guide to Native Plants

By Jo Dean

Jim Koweek, local native vegetation expert, and Dale Armstrong, photographer, have written an entertaining and instructive user-friendly plant identification book, “Sonoran Desert Plant ID for Everyone: A nontechnical field guide.”

Four years in the making and 30,000 photographs later, the book is finally published. Koweek wrote the text, entertaining, educational descriptions, and practical information along with a good dose of humor and wisdom. Armstrong photographed the 300-plus Sonoran Desert plants included in the guide.

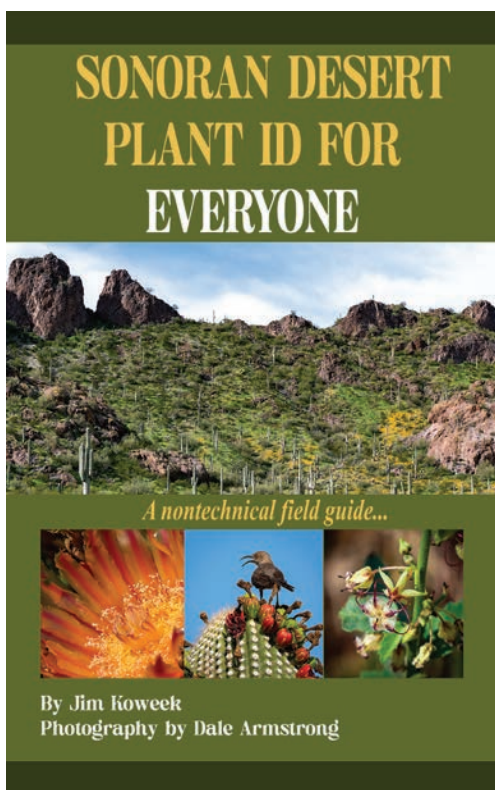
“This book is meant to be the book that I wish I would have had when I was learning all this stuff, and I don’t do serious too well,” Koweek writes. “This book is meant to be enjoyed, not endured. Learning about plants should be fun.”

The author’s love and respect for our local native plants and the environment is always present in Koweek’s writings. In his introduction to his latest book, he writes, “The Sonoran Desert is hot, thorny, and snaky—but it is so much more. It is the most simple but complex habitat you will ever experience.”

Also present in all of Koweek’s articles and books is his tongue in cheek style and witty asides. In his introduction, for instance he states, “I promise, no boring ultra-technical stuff... All measurements in this book are in feet and inches. This is America. That’s how we roll.”

This 12-page introduction is a crash course in the overlapping environments in the Southwest. Sonoran and grassland identification overlaps in many areas. “We like boundaries and hard definitions, but plants are rule breakers,” he writes. “They are ornery and don’t read the rules.”

The author encourages landscaping with native plants. “Most desert flowering plants attract desert life like hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators,” writes Koweek. “Everybody likes them, right? For the same amount of time, money, and effort, you get twice the return. Plant a boring-ass rose or a Boxwood and you will end up with a plant that looks



decent in the spring, attracts nothing but boring-ass people, and looks like a struggling plant the rest of the year.” “Sonoran Desert Plant ID” is focused on helping the reader to identify the right natives for their specific landscaping and revegetation projects.

Koweek credits many people as resources for his knowledge and understanding of plants and the environment. “Chances are if I worked with someone one day, I probably learned something from them,” he writes. Koweek is entirely field trained, having never taken a formal botany class. He started out in the landscape business after graduating from the University of Arizona in 1978, and honed his identification skills while conducting rangeland monitoring for the forest service and BLM.

In the mid-’90s, Koweek opened Diamond JK nursery in Sonoita, specializing in native and hard to get plants. After selling the business, he expanded his native seeding operation, Arizona Revegetation, and continued to perform as a musician.

“I was the only person I knew that played music to support his day job,” he said in an interview in 2016.

Koweek hopes that knowledge of native plants will give us the ability to restore and protect our environment with the reward of new awareness about the role nature plays in our daily lives.

Koweek and Armstrong’s previous book, “Grassland Plant ID for Everyone,” published in 2016, is a local classic, and may be purchased at many area stores, wineries and online. Now, area residents and local plant lovers can add another classic to their bookshelves, also available locally or through Amazon. Jim Koweek can be reached at jim@azreveg.com.

Christmas at the Empire Ranch



Photo by Pat McNamara

Nora, Bauer and Isla DeMerits visit with Santa on the porch of the Empire Ranch House.

By Pat McNamara

The second Saturday in December is the traditional time for Christmas at the Empire Ranch. This year was no exception and the weather was perfect for the 18 vendors to present their wares for attendees looking to do a little shopping for handmade Christmas gifts. A table loaded with baked goods greeted those touring the old ranch house with drinks also available to wash the tasty goodies down.

Santas were there. Yes, two of them. There was the traditional Santa, all ‘ho ho ho,’ plump and stocked with candy canes for the children. ‘Santa’ David Burhams, is a 50-year resident of the Empire Mountains. “I’m a Santa from the heart,” Burhams said as he took his place on his throne for the awaiting DeMerits children—Nora, Bauer and Isla—to share their Christmas wishes with him. Other families were also lined up and ready for a word with the jolly old elf.

The second ‘Santa’ was a bit more

untraditional. His very tall stature and green, homely face identified him as The Grinch. Michigan resident Robert Bilodeau was this year’s Grinch and delighted the youngsters with his antics. Bilodeau grew up in foster care, so as an adult, he said, “I take my role here as the Grinch to heart and love helping out with the kids and making them smile.”

Regie Richter and her palomino horse, Remington Steel, both beautifully attired for the season, strolled around and added the equine element to the day’s festivities. The Saguaro Strutters, a country dance group from Tucson, performed their various country dances and invited the crowd to join in. In the old hay barn, the Mountain Saddle Band, a trio of talented musicians, played country and western songs for the crowd.

This year’s Christmas at the Empire Ranch was a success with many enjoying all that this historic Sonoita treasure had to offer.

Cabot (Cont.)

wondering what it will be like to die. “I am slipping away slowly, but grateful that my basic mind is still working.”

“When I look back there are a few things that stand out,” he said. “The first is the writing. There are four novels now and a memoir. The last novel, “The Mango Tree,” should be released in a few weeks.

In my novels, I have been my most intricate, often complicated, often sad self, but always reaching for the beauty of life. My sister once complained that there were few verbs in “The Joshua Tree.” I responded that it makes my writing more private, more alive. I never know exactly what I am going to write before I start writing. In the end, my novels are all somewhat autobiographical.

“The second is that I have spent a good part of my life rebelling against my privileged upbringing. It has

shaped, hopefully in a positive way, my choices.”

(While there is evidence aplenty, Robert would never broadcast that he has consistently made choices that acknowledge and address social injustices. But we are his friends and we would acknowledge Robert’s actions. Philanthropy does much to better balance the scales of social justice. He is still working at it.)

“The third is that my 100 years is really split in half: my life before Penny and then my life with Penny. I am so very grateful for all of it, but especially the second half! What a deal!”

“My body, mind, and heart now occupy a quieter space,” he said. “My number one job is to see beauty. It is all around us despite our concerns about our fractured world. I am not optimistic about the future of humans on the planet. But for now, I am happy to be in this truly amazing community of Patagonia.”

LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!

PAUL ANTHONY MIHALIK, SR.

MAY 31, 1928 - DECEMBER 14, 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Paul Anthony Mihalik Sr., 95, on the 14th of December 2023, with his beloved wife and three of his children by his side.

Paul is survived by his wife of 74 years, Lucy Valenzuela Mihalik of Patagonia, AZ. He is also survived by his children: Denise Heiss (Jac) of Patagonia, Cliff Mihalik (Karen) of Springdale, WA, John Mihalik (Cathy) of Healdsburg, CA), Ann McGuire (Michael) of Patagonia, Cathy Sotomayor (Fernando) of Nogales, and Stephen Mihalik (Polina) of Asheville, NC. He leaves behind 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Suzanne and George Mihalik, his sisters, Agnes and Rita, and brother, George. He was also preceded in death by his son, Paul Mihalik, Jr. and grandson, Jesse Mihalik.

Paul was born on 31 May 1928 in Homestead (Pittsburgh), PA. He was a first generation American born of an immigrant family from Slovakia. Like many other young Americans of the greatest generation, he joined the US Air Force in which he ultimately completed 21 years of service and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This was a source of great pride for Paul; even 50 years after his retirement, he wore his Retired Air Force baseball cap daily! After military service, Paul attained three college degrees, enabling a second successful career in education, serving as a school teacher and school administrator.

Paul had a wide-range of interests throughout his life. His deep Catholic faith was a source of comfort and life-long direction, and later in life became his vocation as a lay minister and



authoring several spiritual books. He had a passion for history, particularly mastering knowledge of the civil war, the great train era and high appreciation for the history of the Patagonia area and its pioneer families. Paul truly enjoyed music and was blessed with a great voice – as the lead singer in the high school swing band, leading traditional hymns at St. Theresa's Church, or joining local jam sessions at the Wagon Wheel Bar. And just last year he participated in a singing competition!

Paul will be remembered for his love of his family, commitment to his friends and community, service to his Nation, and his passion for his faith.

The family wishes to thank the entire staff at The Prestige Assisted Living and Gentiva Hospice for their excellent care and affection for Paul. We also want to thank his friends for love and support during this difficult and sad time.

A funeral mass will be announced soon. A graveside service will be held in the future with military honors.

TRACY ANN POVILL

JANUARY 28, 1970 - DECEMBER 5, 2023

Tracy Ann Povill was born on January 28, 1970 (53). She passed away on December 5, 2023 surrounded by family, with a wildflower in her hair.

She is survived by her parents, Rick and Sandy Povill, and brother Eric. Also, by her birth mother Penny Millar, her husband Cal, and their children Sarah and Calvin, as well as her sister on her father's side, Laurie Kraus.

Tracy's early years were spent in Stamford, Connecticut. Her family moved to Louisville Kentucky during her senior year, where she graduated from Ballard High. She studied nursing at Bellermaine College, then shifted her focus and got a degree in dental hygiene from University of Louisville.

After almost a decade in this field, she followed her passion for animals and with her partner began raising and training horses and other livestock in rural Kentucky, then later Alabama. During this time she also practiced eldercare. In 2018 she moved to Arizona, where she reunited with her first love, Zay Hartigan. Tracy was his first love as well. They cared for land, livestock, and elders around the Patagonia area until her passing.

Tracy joined Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue immediately upon her arrival in the area, and began providing in-home care to elders in the community.

She loved to garden, and had just completed a wildflower garden at their new home, a lovely reminder of her passion for wild places and creatures that brought her much delight,



whether hiking, biking, horse riding, backpacking, or just sitting on the porch surrounded by nature. Tracy loved all animals, and even both dogs needing medical attention after getting too close to javelinas could not stop her from adoring them and their "cute little noses." She also enjoyed baking with the fresh eggs from her chickens, and reading. She is remembered for her quick smile, easy laugh, and kind compassionate nature.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday January 27 on the "Valley Rim." Take Forest Road 58 to the San Rafael Valley and follow the TRACY signs. Contact Zay for more detailed information or in case of inclement weather.

Local & regional art, gifts, jewelry, books & more!

Open Every Day 10 - 4



317 W. McKeown Ave, Patagonia AZ 85624
520-394-2100 / www.patagoniatradingpost.com

Fly's Exclusives Store & Studio

☛ Made Locally/USA ☛

441A W McKeown Ave in Patagonia, AZ

- Sterling Silver Jewelry & Chains
- Salsa, Scarves, Utility Clips
- Cabs, Slabs, Abalone Shells
- Beaded Earrings, Barrettes
- Unique Note Cards, Artwork
- Bird & Rock/Crystal Guide
- Gifts, Collectibles
- Beads, Findings, Components
- Jewelry Making Tools/Books
- Light Box

Open Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tue, Wed through late April 2024

Most days 10am to 5pm, 7pm on Weekends

Closed every 1st Saturday

Or call/text Frankie for an appointment: 301-331-0566

SUE SCOTT

Sue Scott grew up in Riverside, California, the last surviving member of the Skelley clan. After college, at the University of Oregon and San Jose State, she ventured out to Aspen, looking for the love of her life, who turned out to be lucky Tam Scott (aka "Judge") who beat out a bunch of "would be's" from Princeton and Harvard to win her over.

Sue and Tam were married in Aspen on March 29, 1969, followed by a wild bash at the Hotel Jerome. Together they raised three wonderful children - Fitz, Peter and Robyn and were blessed with three adoring grandchildren, Stella, Fisher, Will and daughter-in-law Holly.

Sue was a hockey, ski and soccer mom, living in a bunch of different homes in and around Aspen in the good old days until the end of December 1999 when she and Tam pulled up stakes and moved to Patagonia, Arizona and Bozeman, Montana, intermittently until finally returning to their favorite spot in the Roaring Fork Valley, the log house at Tam's sister Kit's ranch in Carbondale.

Suddenly, stricken with terminal cancer, Sue passed at home on



December 20th with her family by her side.

Sue was a class act, one of a kind. Quick to lighten up your day, play you in scrabble or cook an amazing dinner for family and friends. Now lost forever but loved and laughed at by those lucky enough to have known her. She is probably above us now, bragging about skiing the bumps.

No services planned, that would not be her style. Sue will wait right next to Judge until his departure when they can be back together again and blown in the wind on a mountainside.

Celebration of Life to Be Held in Sonoita for Steve Getzwiller



Contributed Photo

Steve Getzwiller with weavers Helene and Cindy Nez.

A celebration of life for Steve Getzwiller of Sonoita will be held 1 to 3pm, Saturday Jan. 20 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 3142 S. Hwy. 83, Sonoita.

Getzwiller, 74, who passed away August 23, 2023, is remembered for his contributions to Navajo weaving, particularly the development of weavers and promotion of the art form.

The fourth in a generation of southeastern Arizona ranch families, Getzwiller was the son of Marion and Kathryn "Kay" Getzwiller of Benson, AZ. He is survived by wife Gail Getzwiller, daughter Jamie Hellems (James), son Sean Getzwiller (Aspyn) and grandchildren Oliver, Dorian, Holden and Carter. Also, sister Darby and brother Joe.

Kelly (Cont.)

to figure out how to make it and hopefully have everything ready by 11:15."

Then he still had all the management work to cram in afterward, including daily balancing of the books and grant-writing back in his cubby-hole office. This went on for a month. "I didn't realize I was under stress until I got shingles in my eye," he said.

When asked what gives him joy, Chuck didn't hesitate: "Seeing people socialize and knowing that for most of the people this is their main meal. And their main social opportunity. Like [with] preschoolers, I'm teaching them how to socialize and making sure they're fed!"

Chuck feeds people on many levels. It could be someone up in the hills, unable to drive, who Chuck would go get for lunch and appointments every day for many months. Or it could be someone in distress who Chuck would take to the park to sit and chat. His example is contagious, as lunch attendees are often moved to pass around cards for signing and make sure to personally greet those who could use extra attention.

Why does Chuck go into overdrive to humbly and naturally be a good neighbor to all?

"I believe in a soul," he said. "When we pass into the next life, we bring the love that we have. Therefore, we need to grow in love in this life. If you have love in your heart, you've fulfilled all the religions. If you don't have love, it doesn't matter what religion."

If you see Chuck on his early morning walks around town or out buying groceries from several lists for people, take a moment to return some of the love and attention he so generously and compassionately passes out to all of us.

Ploetz (Cont.)

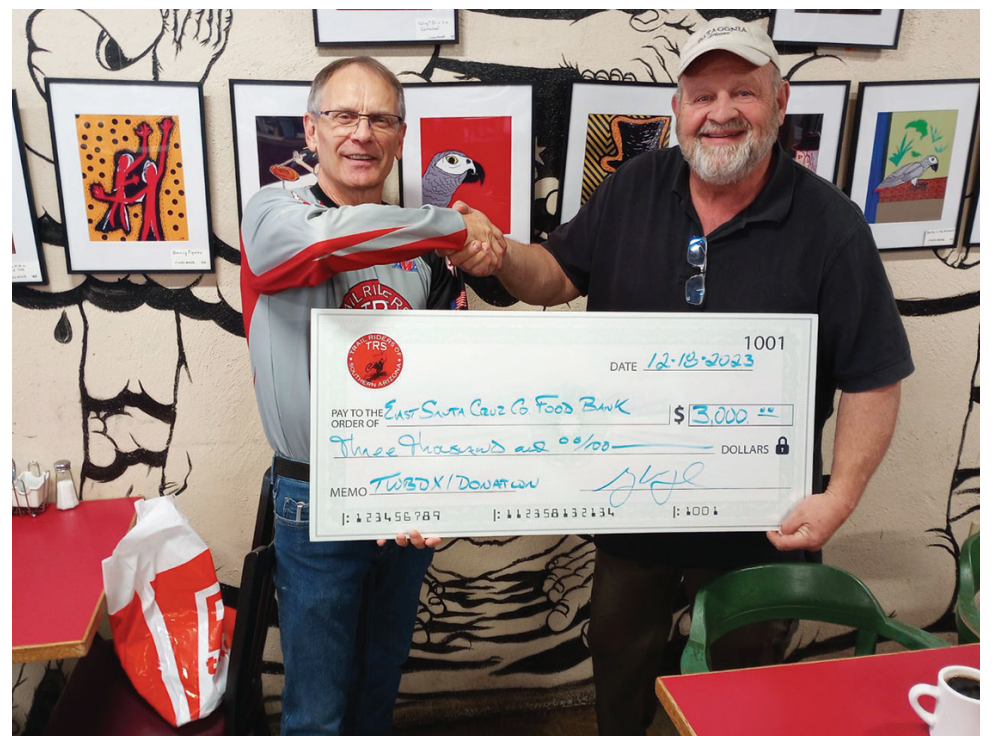
Scoop in Sonoita. Cummings had long had a dream of running an ice cream/coffee shop where local people could meet, gather and share time together. But three weeks after the Corner Scoop opened, Cummings fell, had hip surgery, and was subsequently confined to a wheelchair and couldn't possibly run the Scoop. Dena came to the rescue, coming from her home in Albuquerque to run the shop. She even brought a Starbucks espresso machine with her and has trained all her employees to use it.

Dena loves being at the shop and shares her mother's commitment to provide a place in the center of Sonoita where neighbors can gather to meet and share their daily lives. "I have good people working here. They are amazing," Dena says of her eight employees.

Seeing the need in the community for a food bank, Dena set to work to establish one in Sonoita. In October, a structure to house the food bank was placed next to the Corner Scoop. The Food Bank is staffed and open seven days a week to serve good healthy food to the community.

Dena was home in Albuquerque over the holidays, enjoying her family, especially the two grandkids. Her plans involve eventually, perhaps in about two years, going back to Albuquerque to retire near family.

"I would miss Sonoita so much," she said. "I have to find the right person to run the Corner Scoop. And I want to be sure to keep Helping Hands Sonoita/the Food Bank operating. I am honored to be the Good Neighbor Sonoita for 2023. I would never have thought of it. I am not doing anything special."



Contributed Photo

George Wysopal (left), president of the Trail Riders of Southern Arizona, presents a \$3,000 check to Jim Staudacher, president of the Eastern Santa Cruz County Food Bank. The funds were raised at the Trail Riders' 'There Will be Dust' event held in November in Patagonia.

CUT AND RUN



By Cassina Farley

Usually when a guy walks up to you at a street fair and asks if you would like a free mammogram, your first line of defense should be to cut and run.

I'm not sure if it was because of the street fair or the bright pink t-shirt or

the obvious lisp when he said "excuse me ladies," but something made me stop and listen to what he had to say. After stuffing a flyer in my hand, he went on to say that "for this weekend only, free mammograms will be given in that RV right over there." He gestured to a side street. I laughed. Nope, not taking my shirt off in a strange RV at a street fair. Nice try.

My friend and I kept walking and eventually made it to the main street. As we do every year at the fair, my friend bought bath bombs and candles while I looked desperately for mini donuts. Every now and then we laughed about the prospect of a mammogram in a van and kept perusing the booths and shops along 4th Ave.

After lunch and on our way back down the avenue we were once again confronted by someone offering free mammograms. This time it was a woman. For some reason, this made it seem more legit. Suddenly the pros-

pect of a free mammogram didn't seem so shady. My friend agreed and encouraged me to do it.

Was it a dare? Maybe. Either way I found myself at the free mammogram booth on the side street. I was handed a clip board with the standard medical paperwork. No red flags or weird questions.

The guy with the pink T-shirt was there. I thought to myself that if I went in the RV and he was there I would immediately fight my way out. I was happy to see him wander off with an armload of flyers. So far so good. I finished the paperwork and handed it to a lady that seemed to be in charge. She looked it over and asked a few follow-up questions. I looked over at my friend, and it was obvious that she was enjoying this.

I stood there for a moment in the sun and realized that I could still run. It was then that I was summoned to the RV. I walked slowly and took one last look back at my friend. Why am I

volunteering for this? Too late.

Before I knew it, I was topless and standing on my tiptoes getting the big squeeze. The whole time I was nervously chatting with the tech about the strange circumstance that brought us together in this RV. I could tell she was trying to ease my mind about how very normal this all was.

It was all over in a flash. I got dressed and prepared for my walk of shame out of the RV. I stepped out to see my friend smiling at me from the street. A lady from the booth came over and handed me a goodie bag and congratulated me. She then informed me that I would be receiving a letter with my results in 2 to 3 weeks.

As of today, I have yet to receive my letter. I hope it is because of the holidays and not because I let some strange people give me a fake mammogram in an RV at a street fair. I should have cut and run straight to the donut booth.

Cassina Farley can be contacted at cassinaandzachfarley@msn.com

A PLEA FOR MUSIC EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

By Pat McNamara

Ahhh, 'tis the season of joy, togetherness and love! No matter what the celebrant celebrates, one of the factors that is most loved about this time of year is the music.

As I prepare for a Christmas Eve performance of our little group of fellow musicians, my thoughts are of the people and era that propelled me to this yearly, joyful event of harmony (mostly...we ARE amateurs) and the memories the music brings. Even the non-religious tear up at a beautiful rendition of 'Oh Holy Night' or 'Silent Night.' 'The Hallelujah Chorus' can evoke even more tears and the hair-standing-on-end reaction when sung by a choir backed up with a full orchestra. And the processions that herald a big event complete with antiphonal brass echoing in the balcony? Wow! There's a chills-all-over event!

I'm sharing my personal story to explain why this subject is a passionate one for me and other musicians I know as we age. Yes, at 75 (and standing at the door of 76) this old bat can still enjoy playing and entertaining others on her trusty 62-year-old flute.

The daughter of a college music professor, my fate was sealed. Music would become part of my life, whether I liked it or not. Though my true passions were horses and softball, I did, indeed secretly appreciate music, as long as I was playing it and not having to sit still, IN A DRESS(!), at a concert, of which there were many, since my dad was the music director. (Did I mention I was an overactive tomboy and in the '50s, girls wore dresses to everything?) After seven years the piano lessons finally ceased to my everlasting

joy, since I had to sit still while practicing, listening to the neighborhood boys play softball outside without me, their best shortstop! I really wanted to play the drums but 'girls didn't play drums' in a small Midwestern town in the '50s so the flute became my go-to instrument. In elementary, middle, and high school, band became my favorite subject...right up there with P.E. Then on to college where, again, band was one of the only subjects that I excelled in, along with college athletics. Later, participation in community bands and orchestras continued.

Why do I keep bringing up the athletic stuff, when this is supposed to fire y'all up about there being no music education in the schools here in the Sky Islands? Because I love sports and played softball, rather competitively, until finally retiring at 53. I was not just a 'band geek' but also appreciated the sporting world. My speed wasn't as blazing as before and my arm was soring up from too many hard throws to first from third base, it was time to quit. My athletic career, except for equines, which I still ride, was over.

But my music still lives on!

I still have music to play, perform and practice—I've finally learned to sit still—and share with the community. I can do this until my flute-holding arm falls off. It helps with my memory, and, at my doddering old age, that is a real plus. It helps to keep me content, focused and still brings joy to me and hopefully those who are listening.

I think it is so very important for all kids to have the opportunity to at least be exposed to the prospects of learning to create music. Studies have



Photo by Dave McNamara

The author (left) plays with the Patagonia Minstrels on Christmas Eve at the Patagonia Lumber Co.

shown that the majority of children who are playing an instrument and learning to read music also excel in other academics, especially math. Children often sing before they talk, dance before they walk and draw before they learn to write.

Music is played at all our large celebrations, happy or sad. What if the music stops? What if the kids growing up in underprivileged or non-musical households are never able to experience the joy of creating beautiful sound?

I write this as I hear of the 'necessary' money and 'importance' of fielding a sports team and then how we 'can't afford' to support music programs. Heaven help the few kids eligible to play on a team who may not have a uniform! How about some

of that effort goes into buying instruments and instruction for those kids? And there are a lot more of 'those kids' who may like to participate in music than there are athletes. Music is something they can pursue and enjoy throughout their entire lives.

Let's not 'drop the ball' (pun intended) and let this important aspect of education, development, and an important symbol of a healthy civilization fall through the cracks of obscurity. As the saying goes, "Art decorates space, music decorates time." What would our civilization be without these decorations?

Looking for answers here. Does anyone else care? How important does the community think this is? Is it worth fighting for? If so, what's the first step? Inquiring musicians want to know.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recycling Program a Good Start

The Town of Patagonia has now launched its new recycling program. It's a simple one that I believe will prove to be phenomenally successful.

Readers of this newspaper can ensure its success by following the rules of recycling in this program closely and supporting it with a donation. Especially if you live out of town, a donation would be a wonderful way to thank the town for footing the bill to transport and process your recyclables. Helping out during the collections is another way to help sustain it.

These actions all help create a sus-

tainable recycling program: Volunteers help keep labor costs down; donations provide direct financial support; and the town saves on tipping fees when recyclables are diverted from the landfill. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

As enthusiastic as I am about this new opportunity to elevate our local recycling game, I recognize that recycling alone will not save this planet. It is the part of the reduce-reuse-recycle triad with the least potential for reversing humanity's race to oblivion... but it is a start.

Bob Brandt
Patagonia

That Was Easy!

The Town of Patagonia Recycling Program started today.

There was a large group of volunteers and Town employees waiting for me when I arrived. Quickly they

emptied my load and sent me on my way with a "Thank you!"

My "thanks" to all of them for their help—they made it very easy.

Murphy Music
Patagonia

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

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

By PRT Staff Reporters

December 20, 2023

Jim Usevitch presented the Fiscal Year 2023 financial audit for the Town, without mention of problems or actions needed.

Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance no. 23-03, amending the Town Code's Chapter 3, Administration, Article 3-2-7, having to do with the Town Prosecutor. The change authorized the cost of prosecution fees in diversion or delayed prosecution agreements.

Council voted to allow the Cycling Pac group to use the Dr. Mock Park gazebo on March 4, 2024, from 11am-1pm, and March 11 and 18 from 8-9am. These permissions are for an annual biking group event. The group traditionally leaves a donation with the town.

The Mayor and Council scheduled a study session concerning Code Chapter 11, Building, in order to review guidelines submitted by the Town's Planning and Development Committee. Time of the session will be January 17, 2024, at 6pm.

Council approved Manager Robinson's signing an agreement with CPE Consultants for the design, management and inspection of the McKeown

Rd. extension to SR 82. The project will begin on July 15, 2024.

Council approved Mayor Wood to send a letter to South32 President Pat Risner requesting South32/Hermosa provide funds annually to the Town to support various experts in reviewing local mine-related actions and projects.

Next, the Mayor and Council approved a one-for-one land exchange (no payment involved) with South32/Hermosa. The Town would exchange a 3.77-acre County Parcel it owns, Parcel #106-25-001, for a five-acre portion of a parcel the company owns within town limits, #106-41-003A. The Town's parcel lies along the former railroad right-of-way and SR82, and the portion of the company's parcel in the exchange lies on Harshaw Ave. The original idea of the exchange was said to have come from South32's Melanie Lawson, and there was a brief exchange of appreciation for and from Ms. Lawson as she will be leaving her position on Jan. 5.

The last item of new business was the Council's and Mayor's approval of an experienced hydrogeologist, Chris Gardner, to the Flood and Flow Committee, which welcomes his deeper technical experience.



YOUR LOCAL INSURANCE TEAM

Call for a bundle quote today!



Gordon Purvis, Agent
Gordon Purvis Agency Inc

gpurvis@amfam.com
(520) 298-3900
7429 E 22nd St
Tucson, AZ 85710

Contact Me



HOME | AUTO | LIFE | BUSINESS | FARM & RANCH

American Family Mutual Insurance Company S.I. & its Operating Companies, Life Insurance underwritten by American Family Life Insurance Company.
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2022 21178 – 8/22 – 17220238

Eating Our Way Through History

Cooking for Cowhand Appetites Included Midday Dumplings

By Carrie White

Classy. Elegant. Tough as nails. Those words describe Mary Grantham Boice as seen through the eyes of her great-granddaughter, Faith Boice McCabe.

Mary, along with husband Frank, held title to the Empire Ranch from 1951 to 1969. She knew her way around the kitchen and the range. She loved entertaining—a lady who put on memorable July 4th gatherings. And she loved cowboying, present as she was at every roundup.

When Frank passed unexpectedly in 1956, Mary oversaw ranch operations—unusual for a woman in that day and age—along with sons Pancho and Bob.

“She was a strong woman,” said Faith, president of the Empire Ranch Foundation. The foundation, a non-profit 501c volunteer operation, works in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management to protect, restore and sustain the integrity of the historic property.

While Faith was young when Mary passed, access to foundation archives has added to her knowledge and appreciation of her great-grandmother.

“What was the recipe she contributed to the cookbook?” Faith asked when contacted for an interview. She sounded surprised when told Mary’s instructions for dumpling preparation were included in the 1951 Cowbelles cookbook, ‘Roundup Recipes.’

“She was known for her mustard sauce,” she said, referring to a recipe you can find taped to Faith’s refrigerator. “It is so rich.”

Mustard Sauce

½ cup sugar
2 tablespoons dry mustard
½ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons corn starch
2 cups heavy cream
5 egg yolks, beaten
½ cup vinegar

In the top of a double boiler, combine the sugar, dry mustard, salt and corn starch. Mix together well. Add in 2 cups heavy cream and mix until blended. While cooking over medium to high heat, stir constantly as the mixture can lump up. If you cook the sauce at a boil, it will separate.

In a separate dish, combine the beaten egg yolks and the ½ cup of vinegar. Cook until thick. Cover.

While mustard sauce is a special occasion addition to ham, prime rib or turkey, it wasn’t going to fill the bellies of hungry cowhands at lunch. ‘Roundup Recipes’ is geared to foods that would do just that.

According to Bonnie and Ed Peplow, authors of ‘Roundup Recipes,’ the midday feed was the most important meal of the day. Consequently, a simple, inexpensive means to extend stews and satisfy eager eaters would be appropriate for inclusion in a ranching food guide.

“The midday meal is served anytime between 11:30am and whenever the men get in from a ride, maybe as late as 4:00 or 5:00,” the Peplows wrote. And “when they get in, they want to eat, not just pick and peck.”

Steve Boice, Mary’s grandson and Faith’s father, has fond memories of time spent preparing food with Mary and the other grandchildren at the Empire Ranch. He loved the breads and biscuits they would make. Even cleaning and chopping vegetables, pulled from grandmother’s extensive garden, are cause for nostalgia.

“We were always in the kitchen,” he said. “That’s where I learned to improvise, how to make goulash from leftovers.”

He also remembers things about ranch life that were quite different from today’s ranch kitchens. Take the storage of perishable goods. Before 1957, when electricity arrived at the Empire, food was kept cold in screened boxes, covered in water-soaked burlap and situated where the wind could assist in refrigeration. Previous to that, in 1951, Mary and Frank modernized the kitchen with state-of-the-art metal cabinetry. Some of the trappings from that room—the delicious center of the Empire—are still in the family today.

Dumplings

1 egg
2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
Sift flour and baking powder together.

Beat egg and put into 1 cup measuring cup. Add water until the cup



Photo courtesy of Empire Ranch Foundation
Mary Grantham Boice, 1935

is filled. Mix. Add to dry ingredients quickly, stirring well.

Drop by tablespoonful into boiling stew or broth. Cover tightly and cook for 20 minutes without lifting lid.

Dresses up stews made from old hens or tougher parts of beef. Makes about 10 dumplings.

A copy of ‘Roundup Recipes’ can be found at the Santa Cruz County Heritage Center. The Center is located at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 3142 S. Highway 83, Sonoita, and is open Mondays through Fridays 9am to 3pm. For access, please visit the fairgrounds’ office. For more information on the center, contact SonoitaHistoryCenter@gmail.com.

Recycling Returns to Patagonia

By Bob Brandt

Thanks to Mayor Andrea Wood and Town Manager Ron Robinson, recycling has returned to Patagonia and the surrounding area.

While the location behind the Patagonia post office is the same, little else about this new recycling program resembles the county-operated program that preceded it. Most notably, patrons will actually be recycling rather than wishcycling. That will be true because the facility is fenced and town personnel and trained volunteers monitor what people bring to recycle, offering little opportunity for contamination to creep into the recycling stream.

The program makes it extremely easy for people to recycle. All recyclable items except cardboard can be mixed so there is no need for households to set up multiple bins for paper, glass, metal and plastics. And town personnel and volunteers will even unload the recyclables from patrons’ vehicles and put them in the recycling trailers. Collections will take place

every Thursday morning from 8:30 – 11:30 behind the Patagonia post office.

The town has contracted with Republic Services to process the recyclables at the company’s materials recovery facility (MRF) in Tucson. This is one of the most up to date MRFs in the country. Not only can it process plastics 1-7, but it has advanced equipment for efficiently sorting mixed materials into their respective categories, thereby eliminating the need for consumers to sort their recyclables and making the processed materials more attractive to companies that turn them into new products.

The Patagonia Recycling Task Force is assisting the town in implementing the new program by coordinating the volunteer corps that will assist in the collection of the recyclables. The task force will also play a key role in creating and disseminating messages that will help patrons prepare their recyclables in keeping with guidelines tailored to the town’s program.

Recyclables need to be clean, dry, and empty; however, they don’t need

to be spotless. They need to be clean enough to avoid contaminating other materials in the recycling stream. If a load of recyclables arrives at the processing center containing 20% or more contaminants, the entire load will go to the landfill. Cans and jars should have all food removed and rinsed clean.

Lids and caps can be left on containers even when they are of different elements, e.g., metal caps on glass bottles.

Plastic bags and wraps must be kept out of the recycling stream because they get caught in the machinery at the MRF and cause expensive shutdowns of the operations. Plastic bags can be recycled at grocery stores.

In general, items smaller than a tennis ball are not recyclable. However,



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Volunteers and town employees unload recyclables from a truck on the first day of the new recycling program in Patagonia.

er, there are exceptions. For example, small metal pet food cans and plastic pill bottles are acceptable.

Flyers giving details on when, where and how to recycle properly are available at various locations throughout the area. More information is available by contacting Bob Brandt at Brantownb@gmail.com.

2023 Christmas Bird Count



Photo by Cathy Beck

The downy woodpecker spotted at the Paton Center Dec. 17

By Louie Dombrowski

The 51st annual Patagonia Christmas Bird Count was held on Dec. 14, 2023. A total of 4155 individual birds of 109 species were counted by 46 bird enthusiasts in an area enclosed in a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Patagonia. Most participants spread out and hiked, while others reported what they saw at bird feeders in their yards. The consensus was that many bird numbers were down, especially doves and sparrows. Waterbird habitat was limited, so few ducks or shore-birds were reported.

The count was organized by Donna

Edmonds, with the final tallies compiled by Louie Dombrowski. In the table below are the totals for each species seen, with the most notable species in bold.

A few species missed on count day were seen during the "count week," defined as the period three days before and after the count day. These included great horned owl, belted kingfisher, **elegant trogon**, brown creeper, **winter wren**, house wren, Wilson's warbler, and a species common over most of the continent, but virtually unheard of in south-east Arizona, a **downy woodpecker**, photographed at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds on Dec. 17.

2 American Wigeon	125 Gila Woodpecker	126 Horned Lark	18 Spotted Towhee
6 Mexican Duck	40 Red-naped Sapsucker	105 Bridled Titmouse	19 Rufous-crowned Sparrow
10 Ring-necked Duck	1 Red-Breasted Sapsucker	40 Verdin	41 Canyon Towhee
77 Gambel's Quail	75 Ladder-backed Woodpecker	31 Bushtit	39 Abert's Towhee
43 Montezuma quail (reported by multiple parties)	7 Arizona Woodpecker	68 White-breasted Nuthatch	8 Rufous-winged Sparrow
25 Wild Turkey	71 Northern Flicker	10 Rock Wren	31 Chipping Sparrow
28 Eurasian Collared Dove	1 Northern/Gilded Flicker	6 Canyon Wren	27 Vesper Sparrow
44 Inca Dove	10 American Kestrel	60 Bewick's Wren	13 Lark Sparrow
2 Common Ground Dove	3 Merlin	2 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	34 Black-throated Sparrow
1 Ruddy Ground Dove	3 Peregrine Falcon	2 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	1 Fox Sparrow
150 White-winged Dove	2 Prairie Falcon	1 Black-Capped Gnatcatcher	36 Song Sparrow
314 Mourning Dove	1 Hammond's Flycatcher	180 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4 Lincoln's Sparrow
5 Greater Roadrunner	10 Dusky Flycatcher	17 Eastern Bluebird	1 White-Throated Sparrow
19 Anna's Hummingbird	1 Hammond's/Dusky Flycatcher	56 Western Bluebird	381 White-crowned Sparrow
6 Broad-billed Hummingbird	12 Gray Flycatcher	1 Townsend's Solitaire	4 Unidentified sparrow
2 Violet-Crowned Hummingbird	1 Unidentified Empidonax flycatcher	37 Hermit Thrush	90 Dark-eyed Junco
2 Killdeer	13 Black Phoebe	3 American Robin	45 Chihuahuan Meadowlark
5 Wilson's Snipe	44 Say's Phoebe	30 Curve-billed Thrasher	13 Western Meadowlark
2 Great Blue Heron	1 Ash-throated Flycatcher	4 Crissal Thrasher	10 Brewer's Blackbird
1 Black Vulture	9 Loggerhead Shrike	9 Northern Mockingbird	1 Ovenbird
2 Golden Eagle	4 Hutton's Vireo	11 Cedar Waxwing	1 Louisiana Waterthrush
3 Northern Harrier	3 Plumbeous Vireo	14 Phainopepla	1 Black-and-White Warbler
3 Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 Steller's Jay	41 House Sparrow	13 Orange-crowned Warbler
5 Cooper's Hawk	5 Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	1 American Pipit	107 Yellow-rumped Warbler
34 Red-tailed Hawk	239 Mexican Jay	182 House Finch	5 Black-throated Gray Warbler
1 Western Screech-Owl	24 Chihuahuan Raven	3 Cassin's Finch	3 Hepatic Tanager
2 Green Kingfisher	321 Common Raven	5 Pine Siskin	57 Northern Cardinal
71 Acorn Woodpecker	13 Unidentified raven	153 Lesser Goldfinch	27 Pyrrhuloxia
		21 Green-tailed Towhee	1 Lazuli Bunting



Cera Lynn M.Ac. O.M. L.Ac. Aesthetician

CHINESE MEDICINE

Acupuncture • Acu Injections • Pain Syndromes
Laser & Light Therapies • Anti Aging Skincare

520/398-9886

www.spazen.netcerafina1903@hotmail.com

Treasures from around the corner & around the world



global Arts
GALLERY
& Lillian's Closet

520.404.3490 • 315 McKeown Ave • Patagonia, AZ • 520.394.0077



ARIZONA
STANDARD

AZ Standard Office: 275 W. McKeown, in the Ovens courtyard

Phone: 520-394-5374

Email: Community@arizonastandard.com

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm,
or by appointment



Homegrown Instruments

Beginning Lessons
Ukulele, Guitar,
Native Flute Sales

Zach Farley
520 -216- 0258



Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop

22 Los Encinos Rd.
Sonoita, AZ

Thursday thru
Saturday
10:00 - 2:00

Like us on Facebook!

Donations Accepted During Shop Hours



LOPEZ
HOUSE CALLS

In-Home Chiropractic Care
We come to you!

520-357-1711

www.lopezhousecalls.com

HOLIDAY SCENES



**Modern mining is
dramatically
different from
historical mining
in Patagonia,
Arizona**

Compare
142,158
tons of ore extracted
between 1903 & 1912
to

4.7 million

tons of lead, zinc, silver, and manganese PER YEAR as one
company plans to extract starting in 2027



Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

We stand at the front line of all environmental issues in Patagonia to ensure any actions taken by mining companies or local government agencies have sustainable, long-term benefits for our public lands, our water, our wildlife, and the ecosystem in which we all live.

Learn more at PatagoniaAlliance.org

Patagonia Girls Back on Track by Slowing Down



Photo by Dave Lumia

Senior Jenny Vasquez puts up a shot during a late December practice for the Lobos.

By Dave Lumia

It's one of life's unassailable truths. Haste makes waste.

And what's true for the game of life also holds true for the game of basketball. Coach Ralph Padilla hopes that this lesson continues to sink in for the Patagonia High girls basketball team.

The Lobos entered the holiday break with a 7-6 record, but Padilla believes they are capable of much more.

"We're finally getting to where we should have been at the start of the season," Padilla said. "We've had some really tough losses. I feel that we could be undefeated right now. There were games that we should have won, it's just the wheels came off at the wrong time."

A prime example was a 46-40 overtime loss to Willcox, one of the Lobos' toughest opponents, on Dec. 4. The game came directly after Patagonia had played six games in three days at the Williams Route 66 Holiday Classic—winning three and losing three.

"We got back that Monday and we had to go to Willcox," Padilla said. "We had a 10-point lead with four minutes left, and the wheels just came completely off. They were just spent. With a little better timing on that one, we would have won."

Two days later the Lobos were held to 20 points in a 27-20 loss to Desert Christian. "We just could not function," Padilla said. "Couldn't cross halfcourt with it."

The Desert Christian loss left Patagonia with a 4-6 record, but they've since won three in a row: 56-24 over

San Manuel, 51-25 over Ray and a forfeit victory over San Simon.

"We have finally settled down," Padilla said. "We were playing this real fast-paced offense, but for no reason. "When we played San Manuel, we calmed it down, we slowed down the offense and sped up the defense. Things were kind of backwards there for a little bit. Now they see that when we play calm on offense, work the ball around, everybody's in motion on and off the ball, that's really helped."

Sophomore Emma Lewton had 18 points, five rebounds and four steals in the win over San Manuel, Jenny Vasquez and Heaven Day had eight points apiece, and Alexis Fimbres had a team-high eight rebounds.

Lewton followed up with 26 points and four steals in the win over Ray, while Day and Brianna Majalca each pulled down 10 rebounds.

"Emma has come into her own on the defensive end. She's moving really well, getting a lot of steals, starting a lot of fastbreaks," Padilla said.

"We still need to work on our offense. Our defense, we're going to be fine, we should be able to hold every team inside 30 points. It's just a matter of us scoring above that."

The Lobos have 10 games remaining in the regular season after they return from the holiday break, starting Jan. 4 against unbeaten St. David, the defending region champion.

"St. David will be tough, but there's nobody that we shouldn't be able to beat," Padilla said.

(Statistics courtesy of GameChanger)

Lobos Work to Solve Scoring Woes



Photo by Dave Lumia

Coach Nate Porter meets with the team after the Lobos' rout of the Lourdes team on December 18.

By Dave Lumia

The main issue facing the Patagonia High boys basketball team seems simple enough. Where it gets complicated is finding the solution.

"We've got to find ways to score more points," coach Nate Porter said as the Lobos prepared for the home stretch of their season following the holiday break.

Patagonia entered the break on a high note: a 71-33 victory over Lourdes Catholic on Dec. 18. It was a well-balanced effort. Isaiah Ruiz had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds, Leo Nunez also scored 12, Diego Carranza contributed 10 points and five steals, and Arturo Magallanes also had five steals to go along with eight points.

The victory improved the Lobos' record to 7-11 – including a 3-7 mark in a pair of early season tournaments.

The 71 points matched a season high, but such scoring outbursts have been rare. For the season, the Lobos are averaging 37.9 points per game. Turnovers (22.8 per game) have been a primary culprit, and a shooting percentage of 30.8 hasn't helped.

"Ball handling is still a struggle for us, making baskets is a struggle for us," Porter said. "But I've also learned it's a great group of kids that have worked hard every day to get better. And the defense, team defense, has come a long, long way."

"You've got to get into the 50s to win in 1A, and we're not there. We work really hard on defense and the boys really hustle, but you've got to score points. We're continuing to work to find ways to do that."

Patagonia's busy early season schedule included six games—three wins, three losses—in three days at the Williams Route 66 Holiday Classic.

"It was a great experience," Porter said. "A lot

of the kids had never been north of Phoenix. It was fun for them. They got to see and play a lot of basketball. And we got better."

The Lobos have gone 2-3 since returning from the tournament.

In a 54-45 victory over San Manuel, Carranza had 24 points and seven steals, Ruiz had nine points and 11 rebounds, and Johnny Fields scored nine points and recorded six steals. "We played very well offensively that game, but not very well defensively," Porter said. "We haven't put it all together yet. We're still working on it."

Porter was more pleased with the effort in a 51-37 loss on Dec. 16 to Ray, which was undefeated at the time. Carranza had 10 points and 12 rebounds in the loss, and Ruiz contributed eight points and eight rebounds.

The emergence of Ruiz and of junior guard Sebastian Padilla have been positive developments. "Sebastian Padilla has gone from the end of the varsity bench to a starter. And Isaiah Ruiz has really improved as well," Porter said.

The Lobos have nine games remaining in the regular season, returning from their break on Jan. 4 with a home game against St. David.

"We're about where I thought we'd be, but we're getting better, and that's what you want," Porter said. "We'll see what happens from this point on. Christmas break can kind of make or break a team. I hope we can keep the momentum we have right now."



•Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
•Thrift Shop
Fri & Sat 10-1
•Spiritual Roundtable
Zoom Wed 4:30
WATCH FOR 2023
CENTENNIAL EVENTS!

PATAGONIA COMMUNITY UMC
387 McKeown • patagoniaumc@gmail.com • 520-394-2274



Quail Season Is Vintage Shotgun Season



Photo by Dave Brown

Bob Chulla of Jackson Hole, Wyoming shows off his newly purchased William Evans 28 Gauge Boxlock, manufactured circa 1920.

Once quail season rolls around, Patagonia becomes a base for bird hunters who are here taking advantage of the excellent winter weather and the opportunity to hunt three species of quail within an hour's drive of town.

It's also an opportunity to re-establish friendships with fellow hunters that you have met over the years. What I look forward to is seeing all the old shotguns that friends and clients alike have recently purchased. On any given day during quail season it's not uncommon to witness a shotgun aficionado version of "show and tell" in the parking lot across from the Stage Stop Inn.

To the non-hunter, viewing a group of middle-aged men openly handling and discussing shotguns might seem a little odd. But keep in mind that most of the double guns on display are from the period between the late 1800s and 1939, when shotguns were built with a level of craftsmanship that has slowly faded away. The engraving is top-shelf, most of the wood used for the stocks is highly figured walnut and some

come with the original maker's case, sometimes with notes from previous owners. The guns on display usually range in price anywhere from \$2,000 to \$10,000 but when a Holland and Holland or Purdey makes an appearance, the value goes north of \$50,000.

Gun collecting themes vary, ranging from a particular manufacturer, gauge or country. American-built guns are well-represented, usually including Parkers, L.C. Smith's and the occasional Fox. British-built guns usually rule the roost, coming from a long list of makers that for the most part are no longer in operation. Occasionally a Belgian or German gun is passed around for a look and feel.

Collecting these old guns might not seem very practical, but the reality is nothing has changed in double gun technology. The older guns are in many ways superior to modern versions of side-by-side shotguns and retain their value and appreciate. The bonus is the gun comes with a long story which the new owner gets to add their input to.

Ask an Engineer Tin Can Ribbing

By Lance Dean

Reader's question: "Why are some food containers ribbed and others are not?"

Thank you for this question. My first job as an engineer was for Continental Can Co. during the summer of my junior year in college. My project was to speed up beer can production from nine cans/second to ten cans/second. This was when we had "man cans" which were nearly impossible to crush with one hand to impress the ladies and required a 'church key' (i.e.: can opener) to access the beverage. These cans were made of tin coated steel sheets which were first lithographed with the proper label. Then the approximately 4' x 4' sheets were slit to can size, rolled and edge crimped. Then the seams were soldered as they passed over a molten bath of lead. Next, a prepared bottom was roll crimped to the cylinder and then spray lacquered inside to prevent the contents from contacting the container.

When I surveyed my wife's pantry recently, I discovered that all the metal cans were nearly continuously crimped from top to bottom. Small aluminum cans with crimped tops and bottoms were un-ribbed, while 'normal' height cans, which had been made by extrusion processes, were un-ribbed and very thin walled. They all seemed to be meant to hold contents with specific properties.

I am certain that in all cases the ribbing is meant to add structural strength/rigidity to the can. Money can be saved without sacrificing perfor-

mance if we add ribs to the can sidewall to compensate for using thinner, less expensive material.

When was the last time you knowingly picked up a dented can at the grocery? Forget the small dents. Consider how strong a can must be to be stacked eight feet high and then loaded by a forklift two or three palettes high for commercial transport.

There are more factors in play here than just presenting a customer with a dent-free can of peaches. The thin-walled smooth aluminum cans with no ribs are mostly all meant to hold carbonated beverages. The beverage itself with its full liquid and pressure-creating properties adds greatly to the structural strength and rigidity of the container. Compare the heft and feel of a can of beer to a can of green tea. Or apple juice. Enough said. What happens when you remove the top of say, tonic water? Once it is open, you can barely manage to pour out the contents without the bottle collapsing in on itself.

All the same principles apply to plastic containers which might not display small ridges but consist of larger smooth curved surfaces to provide strength and rigidity. To demonstrate this, take a drive down a rough dirt road, first in a square boxy Jeep JK, and then take the same ride in a curvaceous modern SUV. The shakes and rattles are greatly reduced by the curvaceous body design.

I look forward to hearing more questions from PRT readers. Any questions and comments may be submitted via email directly to: askengineerpert@gmail.com Responses will be given directly to the submitter or will be published in subsequent issues of the PRT.

S32 (Cont.)

to proceed with the full investment in February...and we go into construction, all that changes and a significant number of roles, including senior leadership roles, shift from Tucson to Santa Cruz County."

Risner stated that the leadership of South32 was aware of the community sentiment. "Management is not under the illusion that every person in the county is supportive of what we're doing," he said. "When we engage with stakeholders, we hear all sides of this," he said. Referring to those people who

support the project, he said, "They can't necessarily come to meetings like this at 9:30 on a weekday."

District 2 Supervisor Rudy Molera asked Risner if the mine were to be sold, would the Good Neighbor agreement also be transferred. Risner partially answered this by saying, "We have the ability to make sure that happens."

Risner addressed the environmental concerns surrounding manganese mining and transportation, saying, "The manganese will never be exposed to the environment." The plan calls for the ore to be encapsulated under-

ground and transported in sealed containers to the future manganese processing plant. "There are misconceptions," he said, commenting on concerns expressed about the dangers of manganese in the environment. "We have an opportunity to do it in a different way."

THE LENDING SHED

a non-profit community project by
Family Health Care Amigos

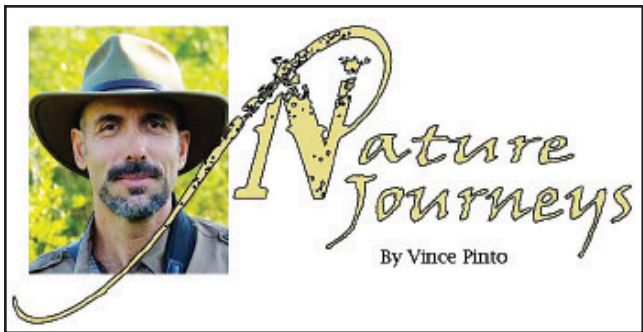
Provides wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, shower benches, mobile commodes and much more, free of charge to residents of Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita.

(520) 297-7065 * (520) 603-7330

THE PONYTAIL HAIR SALON

241 S. 3rd Ave ~ Patagonia, Arizona
Wed. ~ Thur. ~ Fri.
* By Appointment
(520) 394-2347
*Leave Message

✂ Charlee Farley ~ Owner ✂



Sky Islands Conifers

Part 1

On average, January is our coldest month in the Sky Islands—a month when human snowbirds may actually rethink the logic of traveling here in an effort to escape the frozen throes of a more northern winter.

Frigid temperatures and a general dearth of life mark this month. Bare trees, sparse bird life, no flowers, and other hallmarks of winter make even spoiled Sky Islands denizens long for a respite, perhaps a connection with life that helps to bridge our more abundant times.

Coming to the rescue are the good handful of coniferous trees gracing the U.S. portion of the Madrean Archipelago. While not all coniferous, or cone-bearing, trees are evergreen—witness bald cypresses and larches—our local species do indeed sport year-round, verdant foliage. Hence their great utility in not only enlivening drab January, but also in furnishing crucial habitat for a plethora of wildlife species.

All our native Sky Island conifers fall into two distinct plant families. The cypress family houses both our many juniper and our lone cypress species. All possess scaly foliage that up close looks a bit like the overlapping scales of a fish. Arizona cypress is our state's sole representative of its genus. There are about 16 new world and ten old world species of cypress currently gracing our planet. The cones on our

species look a bit like a child's wooden puzzle with few moving parts. A sort of simplified Rubik's cube.

Even those folks who have never laid eyes upon a wild AZ cypress have very likely spotted the tree in someone's backyard. Perhaps no native tree is so heavily used for landscaping at or above 4,000 feet within the Sky Islands. In fact, the species

has been widely planted around the globe as a relatively low water user in drier locales, such as Provence, France. It acts as an effective windbreak and provides luxurious shade. In our local wilds, the species thrives in select mountain canyons and occasionally on mountain slopes. In each case it provides quality roost and/or nest sites for many different raptor species, particularly in the depths of winter. Species as diverse as Mexican spotted owl, great horned owl and northern goshawk all take advantage of the protective evergreen embrace of this handsome tree.

Joining the cypress are a handful of local juniper species, particularly alligator and redberry junipers. These two species—out of about 60 on Earth—constitute a formidable ecological tandem. Starting at elevations as low as the 3,000s, redberry juniper can either be a botanical spice to various habitats or be so abundant as to form either juniper woodland or, when they are not quite as dense, juniper savannah.

Woodhouse's scrub jays, as well as other birds and various rodents consume juniper 'fruit'—actually unopened cones and not fruit at all. They rely heavily upon the habitat and/or food provided by redberry juniper. I remember once spying quite an entourage of birds in one lone tree of this species in the



Photo by Vince Pinto

Arizona Cypresses with the hoodoos at the Chiricahua National Monument.

depths of winter. A northern mockingbird, several sage thrashers, a crissal thrasher and a curve-billed thrasher were all seeking the singularly aromatic cones of their host tree. Phainopeplas, Townsend's solitaires, and various species of bluebirds are among the other partakers of this unique food.

Alligator juniper fruit is even more palatable to some wildlife, given its lesser dose of chemicals and higher sugar content. It draws in more mammalian diners. Collared peccaries, pack rats, rock squirrels, Arizona gray and other tree squirrels, hungry naturalists, and even American black bear all greedily devour the larger, purplish cones of this juniper. Both it and redberry juniper provide key evergreen refuge to roosting birds and mammals alike.

Redberry juniper is also the main host for the locally rare bromeliad, ball moss. The juniper creates an ideal microclimate for this arboreal member of the pineapple family. Certain specimens of the juniper are festooned with

this lovely epiphyte which, despite the bedecked appearance of the trees, are not parasites but instead harmless commensals.

Though Arizona cypress receives most of the press when it comes to tree planting, I highly recommend trying either species of juniper in your own backyard. They are both rather drought hardy and bear all the numerous wildlife benefits noted above. Each species has greatly added to both the look and wildlife value of our restored habitat at Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary.

Next issue we'll take a peek at our other conifer group—the diverse pine family.

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



Patagonia Plants

Mary McKay
520-604-2540
kmmckay810@gmail.com
[@patagoniaplants](https://www.facebook.com/patagoniaplants)

Growing roots in Patagonia



Zulas

A NOGALES TRADITION
SINCE 1950

Supports Local Journalism
982 N Grand Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621

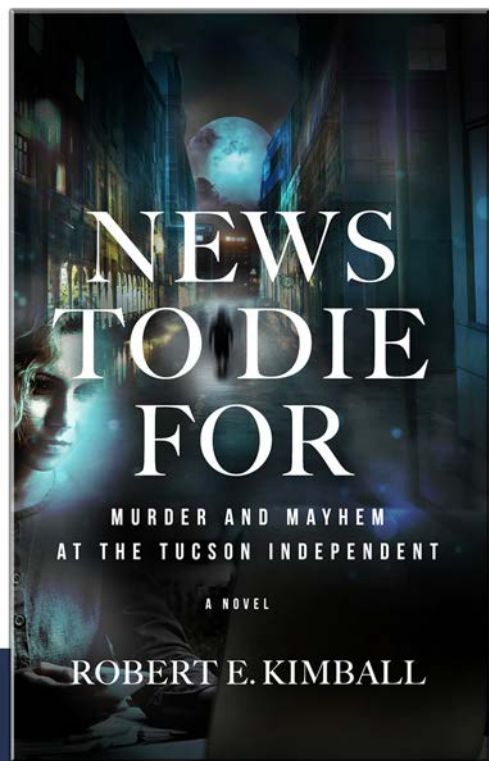
Only 18 mins away | Open everyday 7 am- 3 pm



Stand up for a child who has been abused or neglected.
Become a CASA volunteer today.



CASA of Santa Cruz County
2160 N. Congress Dr., Nogales, AZ
(520) 375-8159 or mfish@courts.az.gov



News To Die For
by local author Robert E. Kimball
is available at The Patagonia Trading Post
and at Amazon.com

Glimpses Into Our Past

Irvin, Volney and Mark Douglas

By Alison Bunting

A remarkable sight along the north side of Lower Elgin Rd. is the seven-acre Douglas orchard. The property was originally homesteaded by Henry Z. Belue, a farmer/carpenter, and his wife and son. About 1924 the property was purchased by 16-year-old Volney Douglas, son of pioneer Irvin Douglas, to raise cattle. Volney and his siblings were living on their father's homestead on Yucca Ash Rd. The story of Irvin Douglas and his descendants, who have lived in the Sonoita/Elgin area for more than 116 years, follows. Special thanks to Lena Stephens and Mark Douglas who provided information and photos for this article.

Irvin Douglas, born in Texas in 1861, moved to Arizona in 1887. In Yuma (1903) he married Maud Daisy Jacobs, who was born in Washington state in 1880. Irvin held several mining claims, and by 1907 he and Maud had moved to Sonoita to homestead 160 acres in the Yucca Ash Rd. area. They had four children: Grace Mary, Volney Marx, Ann Olive and Irvin, Jr.

Irvin's mining job took the family to Nevada in 1918. Tragically, on Jan. 21, 1919, Maud was killed by an intruder

in their home. Irvin and his oldest son, Volney Marx, returned to the Sonoita homestead; the other children joined them a few years later. [Barr, Betty. More Hidden Treasures of Santa Cruz County, 2008]. Irvin farmed/ranched on Yucca Ash the rest of his life. By 1935 his daughter Olive, her husband Emory Stoddard, and their seven children had joined him. Grace, her husband Frank Burch, and their seven children lived nearby. Irvin Jr. worked for Mountain States Telephone throughout Arizona. Irvin died in 1954, age 93.

Volney and his siblings all attended school in Patagonia. Volney had a keen interest in agriculture and played the violin in the school orchestra. Graduating from Patagonia High School in 1928, Volney immediately went to work for the Forest Service as a mule packer, switching to forest research while attending the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture. He graduated from UA in 1932 and began working for the UA Santa Rita Experiment Station. [Nogales International, 12/10/1932]. By 1935 he was working as the Canelo ranger in the Coronado National Forest. [Arizona Daily Star, 10/24/1935]. In 1936 Volney married



Photo Courtesy of Lena Douglas Stephens

Irvin and Maude Douglas, 1900s.

Blanche Audrey Lawson, and they moved to New Mexico where Volney worked as a range specialist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The couple had six living children—four boys and two girls born between 1938 and 1953. Volney also attended graduate school at the University of Chicago and the California Institute of Technology.

Volney worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Texas and California and by 1947 was living in the Phoenix area where he was employed by the State of Arizona to "teach on-the-farm training to veterans on isolated ranches in the northern half of the state." [Arizona Republic, 10/10/1947]. He also appraised land for the Federal Land Bank. Volney died in 1977, age 69. [Arizona Republic, 3/16/1977].

Mark Douglas, the youngest of Volney and Blanche's children, was born in the Phoenix area in 1953. He graduated from Arizona State University and taught math, science and

computer science. He remembers visiting his father's property on Lower Elgin Rd. where his dad was raising registered Angus cattle. Mark planted his first apple tree about 1973 and in the 1980s moved to Elgin to develop his experimental orchard in the hopes that it would support his family and allow Mark to pursue his philosophical research/writing. He repaired the original Belue adobe home, and later built a second home to accommodate his family of five children. Mark also worked for the Forest Service and helped build the walkway around Parker Canyon Lake.

In its prime the orchard included over 1,000 trees and 400 varieties of apples. Nature's challenges, especially freezing temperatures and the codling moth, limited the orchard's commercial viability, but local residents have always enjoyed the delicious fruit. Today Mark's daughter, Lena Stephens, teaches local youth about the orchard and its bounty.



The Patagonia Regional Community Fund will begin accepting scholarship applications January 1, 2024. 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 ACF scholarships for which you qualify.



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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

Santa Cruz County Cowbelles Seeking Scholarship Applicants

News Release

The Santa Cruz County Cowbelles Scholarship Program is now open for the 2024-25 school year.

Scholarships are to provide funds for funding to deserving, recent high school graduating seniors. The number of recipients and amounts of scholarships awarded varies, depending on available funds and number of applicants.

Students must carry 12 credit hours per semester and maintain a 2.5 GPA to be eligible for funding.

An emphasis will be given to students pursuing studies in courses and careers directly or indirectly related to the cattle industry, however, not required. The applicant must be a

citizen and resident of Santa Cruz County.

Applications have been sent to all Santa Cruz County Schools and Extension Office. You can obtain an application from your school or any Cowbelle, or online: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551905528824&mibextid=2JQ9oc

Application deadline is April 15.

Last year we had three recipients, each receiving \$1,500. Those recipients were: Hanna Munoz (majoring in Animal Science), Jasmin Lopez (majoring in Biology and Entomology) and Viridiana Terriquez (majoring in Animal and Veterinary Science) all from Rio Rico High School, and all were attending the University of Arizona.

The Cowbelles are immensely proud of the Scholarship Program and all the other projects and activities that we are involved with, and hope the community continues to support the Cowbelles.

LET'S GO GET STONES

Don't Fence Me In

By Keith Krizan

In post-WWII America, a song written in 1934 rose to the top of The Hit Parade. Cole Porter wrote the music and shared lyric credit with Robert Fletcher, a poet, and engineer with the Highway Department in Montana. The war that bound the country was still raging when many people heard the song for the first time on Kate Smith's radio broadcast on October 8, 1944.

I cannot recall the first time I heard the song, 'Don't Fence Me In,' in the 1950s, I do remember my parents, young romantics in their 30s, harmonizing with it whenever it played on the radio. It was "their" song.

We lived far away from any place The Sons Of The Pioneers would call open range. The east was closed up. Fenced off. Walled in. We had a car but it would have been a long "ride off to a ridge where the west commences."

The song conjures up the things that would have appealed to that generation of heroes, men who had gone off to war and women who had stayed behind to work in the munitions factories. All had sacrificed to defeat authoritarianism and fascist dictatorships.

The song speaks of a physical west of "wide open country" but also of a yearning to be someplace where

you could be yourself "in the evenin' breeze."

In addition to open-range cattle ranching, the West has a long history of mining. The Arizona State Mining Inspector estimates there are 100,000 abandoned mines in the state, many of them on the 12.1 million acres that the Bureau of Land Management maintains and conserves.

I have made it a retirement hobby to visit and document the mining industry that once flourished here. I get my clues from the smudges of waste rock piles on Google Earth or from following remnant roads into the mountains.

In this day of fiat, and now, even more inexplicably, digital currencies, it is difficult to imagine the impact the worldwide search for gold had on human behavior or on human history. When gold was discovered in the west it brought about a massive migration of people seeking fortune in the cool rivers and washes for the placers that had accumulated, untouched, for hundreds of thousands of years. Gold dust begetting gold flakes begetting gold nuggets.

The placers pinched out and the search went underground to the cool gloom of damp, hard rock mines.

This endless pursuit made perfect sense from an economic view.

Before the Bretton Woods system



Photo by Keith Krizan

Bat bars on an old, unnamed, digging in the Santa Rita Mountains.

of monetary management broke down in 1971, countries around the globe depended upon their gold reserves to back their currencies. If you borrowed gold-denominated dollars you paid that loan back in hard currency too. The world's money supply, and therefore, economic growth could only expand if more gold was brought to the surface.

The value of this activity explains things like boomtowns, brothels, and boxcars of oysters, packed in harvested ice, making their way to rustic Arizona.

The work was all brute force and sinew.

Discovering and documenting the diggings has been a good exercise. Picking at the waste rock, hoping to find a bit of ore that was passed over

on the way to richer veins, has been a quiet and contemplative pastime.

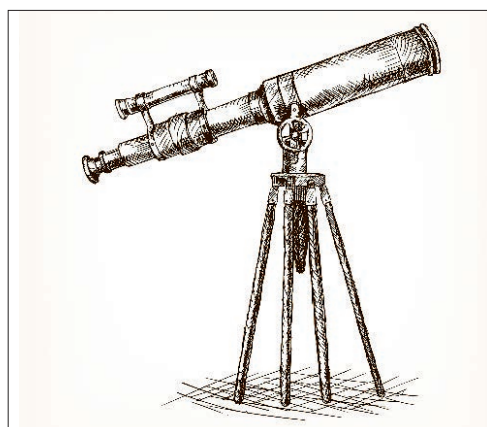
It is, in at least one aspect, a race against time, not only because of the time allotted to me, surely finite in nature but also against the powers that want to erect iron grates, or bat bars, on every abandoned opening in the American West.

I have not entered many of the open shafts that I have found. I do not have a death wish. Occasionally I like to take a flashlight and a helmet and explore a little.

I know the caveats that come with the territory. Wild animals. Bad air. Cave-ins. That I might endanger a first responder if I encountered trouble might seem selfish. Having gotten to an old age though, does make me a

See Krizan, p.22

STARSTRUCK The Southern Cross



By Harold Meckler

It has been over 40 years since the singer Stephen Stills recorded "Southern Cross," his magnificent tale of discovery and redemption. I've always been drawn to it, especially the line in which he states that it was only after he'd seen the small constellation—Crux—that he finally came to understand why he had sailed to the South Pacific.

I wondered if I would have a similar experience while on a long-delayed trip away from home. As it is visible only in the Southern Hemisphere, I'd

never seen the Southern Cross. So, there was that. Something new for me to see in the sky. Perhaps, there would be more.

I wound up catching it by accident. I woke up in the middle of the night with a stuffy nose and stepped out onto the balcony of our port-side cabin to clear my head. It was the first time we'd had clear skies since we had come onboard. It was there, not far off the horizon, clear, unmistakable and really, not nearly as impressive as the Northern Cross—Cygnus—or any number of constellations that one can see on any given night from Patagonia.

And yet, I was elated. I woke my wife and, together, we stood quietly staring at it. Had we chosen a room on the other side of the ship, it would have remained hidden. Sometimes, you just get lucky.

I got back into bed, unable to sleep. I wanted to keep thinking about my good fortune, about my new connection to a well-loved song. Would it become a symbol for me as it had for the songwriter?

Instead, my mind drifted back to a walking tour we'd taken a few days earlier in Auckland. The guide had told us a little about the Maori Origin Story, and the important role the Pleiades

has within it. The Pleiades, of course, is the Greek name of what we often call the Seven Sisters, an open star cluster that's easy to find right now and throughout January, well up in the sky, and just a bit to the west in the early evening.

The Maori call it Matariki. Their story is different than the Greek version. But, lying in bed, all I could think about was the common desire among distinct cultures to make sense of their lives. Different people at different times see what they see. But, underneath it is the common thread, the human drive to imagine, to understand, to keep trying to make connections even if those connections have already been in place for billions of years.

Our differences provide color to the world. They provide endless interest. Our commonalities, I think, are the themes. We need the former for inspiration, the latter for survival. As sleep failed me and the rocking rhythm of the ship became ever familiar, I realized, like Stills, why I'd come this way.

Finding the Southern Cross is part of my personal origin story. I've always loved the stars. They help to define me. But our own origin stories and the progress we make in life to fill in the blanks can, perhaps, leave little

room for those times when we must understand that there really is a single accounting, a common history for all of us.

Call them whatever you want, but the Pleiades/Matariki and the Southern Cross were there in the sky long before different folks gave them names and meanings and concocted explanations for their shapes and sizes. At the end of the day, the obvious fact of the matter is that we share a universal origin story. We need to be reminded of that even as we treasure our differences.

To see the Southern Cross forces one to leave home behind, to accept that there is always more to discover and much more to accept. So, thank you Mr. Stills for writing those words so long ago. The truth is, that no matter our stories, to look at another, is to look at oneself. For all our distinctions, we're not so different. The stories we create may be unique, but the unstated need to create them and to be sustained by them is the same for all. If we're going to repair the planet, that's where we need to begin.

Harold Meckler can be contacted at glusk@proton.me

Just What Is the Sonoita Elgin Fire District?

By Eddie MacArthur

In Arizona, fire districts are special taxing districts organized under the Arizona Revised Statutes. They operate independent of other governments and are funded mainly through property taxes in the district they serve.

The Sonoita Elgin Fire District (SEFD) is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of five people, who are elected on a non-partisan basis. The Board hires a Fire Chief who handles day-to-day operations and supervises all other employees. Currently the District has 40 members: 13 full-time, eight part-time and 19 volunteers.

SEFD encompasses 350 square miles. We respond to fires in this large, rural area, resulting in challenges to response times. In addition to structure fires, we deal with what are termed wild land fires. That may be a grass fire spreading across a plain or a fire within a more forested area. We have no public water available, meaning we must haul water to fires.

Our Certificate of Necessity boundary (CON), meaning that area in which we are responsible for EMS ambulance transport, is even larger. That area is

750 square miles and covers areas in which we are not responsible for fire response. It runs all the way to the Mexico border, over to the Cochise County border, and well past Patagonia. Generally, we have far more EMS calls than fire calls.

We cover a lot of territory with a relatively small number of personnel and available equipment. Response times are affected by the distance we travel as well as severe weather such as monsoons. There are more unpaved than paved roads in our area of service, and some remote properties are accessible only by 4-wheel drive vehicles.

In September 2023, which included the rodeo, we responded to 78 incidents. Four of those were fires, 38 were EMS calls, and 36 were for other services, which can include snake removal, smoke detector checks, vehicle lock outs, lift assists, and blood pressure checks.

We operate three shifts, each headed by a Captain who is also a trained paramedic. We have personnel trained in Hazmat, ropes rescue, confined space rescue, and driver/operator.

Future articles in the PRT will address a variety of topics from 'what it takes to outfit a firefighter' to 'what happens when I call 911 for service?' Send questions or comments to Meredith@sefd911.org

Eddie MacArthur is a member of the SEFD Board of Directors.

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

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

(Advertisement Paid for by a Group of Concerned Sonoita/Elgin Residents)

Make Your Voice Heard Attend the Public Meeting Jan. 16 at the Elgin School

Concerns We Should All Have Over The Santa Cruz County Housing Strategy Developed By Out Of State Consultants

A public meeting is scheduled for January 16 at 6pm at the Elgin School to discuss the Santa Cruz County Cuisine Tourism Initiative. Part of this discussion centers on high density housing in rural communities, including Sonoita/Elgin. This study fails to address the significant adverse impact the proposed development would have on water resources in our desert environment.

The plan did not address the significant adverse impact the proposed rezoning and development will have on threatened and endangered species of plants and wildlife.

The plan fails to address the significant impact its implementation will have on property taxes, which will affect all county homeowners and renters.

The plan ignores the impacts of rural, higher density housing on rural customs, cultures and lifestyles.

County government bureaucrats already present an impediment to those wishing to build housing, open new businesses and expand existing businesses like the Sonoita Hardware Store. It is time for the County to

get its house in order before taking on more projects.

The study, which proposes high density rural housing, was undertaken by out-of-state consultants utilizing your tax dollars.

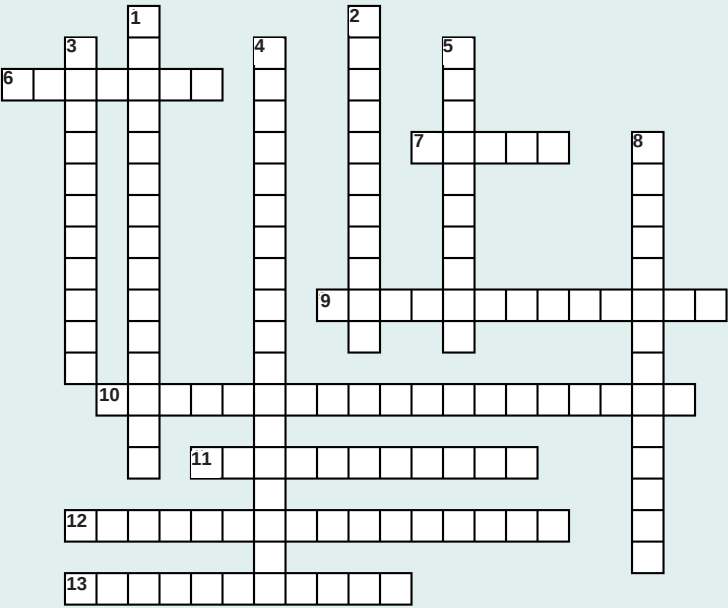
The study fails to assess the impact on the proposed developments on rural infrastructure, such as roadways, waste disposal and essential services. The County can't even provide a refuse site that is open more than a few days a week.

The study is aimed at resolving a nonexistent problem in our rural areas. The only benefit will be to the consultants, who get paid, and the County government, which wants to increase its tax base, while already having mismanaged its present obligations.

If something is viable, people will do it without government subsidy. We recommend the County streamline its bureaucracy and work on eliminating corruption. Leave rural unincorporated areas alone so they can grow organically in healthy ways that respect our customs and culture and the natural resources that make rural Arizona so wonderful.

Local Restaurants
By Carrie White

Local eateries have plenty of delicious options for food and drink. Let's test your knowledge of their menus. Match the dish with the establishment.



- | Across | Down |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6. Firecracker Chicken Slider | 1. Hot Mess Sandwich |
| 7. The Porker | 2. Noonie's Nachos |
| 9. Pearl de Bier | 3. Tuco's Revenge |
| 10. Philly Cheesesteak | 4. Green Corn Tamales |
| 11. Verdejo Blend | 5. Chicken Chipotle |
| 12. Pecan Bars | 8. Konrath |
| 13. Sonoita Strip | |

Stumped? See Solution, page 23

Dynamic Equilibrium
By Patra Kelly

Trying to find
and keep balance,
maintain equilibrium
with calm and stillness,
may be an illusion.

For equilibrium needs
to be dynamic
like an orchestra
of organisms
large and small—

Electrons and protons,
photons and cells,
organs and systems
responding to each other
in recurring rhythms
and variations,
e n d l e s s
improvisations,
with molecular bonds
vibrating
while all change beat,
key or tune
with no hesitation,
acting together
as a whole
in frenetic harmony
keeping us
alive.

JPI *Jeanne Peterson Insurance*
LICENSED BROKER

- ♦ Medicare Advantage Plans
- ♦ Medicare Part D Plans
- ♦ Medicare Supplements
- ♦ Medicaid/AHCCCS Plans
- ♦ Individual Short Term

Proudly Serving Southern Arizona

(520)455-5464
Cell: (520)237-3284 | Fax: (520) 455-5463
PO Box 1244 Sonoita AZ 85637

SANCTUARY AT
Sonoita Creek
CAMPGROUND

376 Pennsylvania Ave. | Patagonia, AZ 85624
sanctuaryatsonoitacreek.com
Reservations on **HIPCAMP.COM**

520-237-5003

*"We aspire to live in harmony
with the natural world
in which we encroach upon."*

LOVING SPRINGS FARMS

LANDSCAPING | IRRIGATION | GENERAL CONTRACTING

lovingspringsfarms.com (520)860-0373 ROC 342933

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA QUAIL
FOREVER**

Family Day

Activities Include:

- Trap Shooting
- Archery
- BB Gun Range
- Fly-Fishing Intro
- Drone Demo
- Animal Footprint ID
- Live Quail 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 2, 2024 (8:00am – 1:00pm)

Sponsored by: Southern Arizona Quail Forever Chapter

Register at AZ Game & Fish Outdoor Skills (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/199804>)

For additional info contact:

Tony Valentino | 520-465-6569 | avalen18@aol.com
Zack May | 520-301-8135 | zmay@comcast.net

Jeepers Creepers



The Arizona stripe tailed scorpion, the most prolific scorpion in Santa Cruz County, is active March through October.

By Carrie White

In summer, they're breaking down our doors.

Now, there's not a creepy crawl to be found. What gives?

Well, some are dead, explained Dr. Lucy Shujuan, a University of Arizona Extension entomologist. Others are snuggled down for the winter, probably inside your house, garage or yard.

"Many insects are annual," she noted in a phone interview. "They live. They die."

Others emerge in the spring and play out their life cycle, succumbing to one of two certainties of life. Not taxes.

"Spiders go anywhere quiet and dark, where they are not easily disturbed. They go there to hide," Shujuan said. Scorpions, too, are taking a respite from their summer shenanigans.

"Spiders and scorpions are predators," Shujuan said. They are beneficial in that they keep other insects in check. But that doesn't mean you want them in your home or close to your pets.

So inside – get 'em out.

Outside – leave 'em be.

Here in Santa Cruz County, there are several species of spiders and scorpions, members of the arachnid

Adobe Stock photo

See Creepers, p. 21

Patagonia Library and Mat Bevel Co. to Host STREAM Program

Free to Youth in Santa Cruz County

News Release

In 2024, Patagonia Public Library and Mat Bevel Company will host The Universe Within worldbuilding program free to all 3-8th graders in Santa Cruz County. Unit 1 of The Universe Within—Headgear of Heroes—will be offered on Saturdays from 9:00 am to noon, February 17 - May 11 at the Patagonia Public Library.

The program is a launch pad for the next generation of creators, makers, and inventors, equipping youth with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to explore and apply art and science principles and fields of study to excel in education, career, and life. Students will learn science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math (STREAM) through a series of personal, game-like, hands-on activities.

Librarian Kayla Miller's expertise in linguistics will add new dimensions to the program, teaching students valuable language, research, reading and writing skills. Students will produce short novels about the worlds and characters they've created during the program, which will be published and circulated at the library.

Students create a superhero character who solves major social or environmental problems. Working with materials, technology, and attachment mechanisms they create functional tools and headdresses that help their characters solve the problems in their worlds. Activities align with Science, Engineering, Math, Theater Arts, Visual Arts and English Language Arts standards. The program concludes with The Pedestrian Carnival where students publicly parade in character and share their solutions, poems and functions of the sculptural headdresses and tools they've made.

The program has been developed by University of Arizona School of Mathematical Sciences, Mat Bevel Company, and Patagonia Elementary School to boost student academics by integrating discovery learning and imaginative play into the learning experience.

Spaces are limited. Reserve your spot by completing this form: the-universe-within.org/patagonia-library-sign-up/ or calling the library at 520-394-2010. For questions, contact Paula Schaper at 520-604-6273 or: pschaper@matbevelcompany.org.



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.



Subscribe to our
community
newsletter here!

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

What Is That??

From the Patagonia Museum



Photos by German Quiroga

'The 1962 Mesquite' is the Patagonia Union High School Yearbook. Most editions include the junior high school students who joined the high school campus in 1951. In this yearbook are many students who currently live in Patagonia including Mollie Mendoza Wright (pictured above), PRT Board Treasurer; Maureen De La Ossa, former Patagonia Postmaster; Gilbert Quiroga, Patagonia Town Council Member; and Bill Bergier, Former Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department Chief.

Creepers (Cont.)

class, that could be lurking, preferably outside. Let's start with spiders.

Among the nearly 100 varieties found here are the black widow, Arizona brown, orbweaver, tarantula, wolf spider, lynx spider and the jumping spider.

The majority of spiders are no threat to humans. However, those that can be poisonous and deliver a painful bite and a possible adverse reaction fall into two groups: black widow spiders and brown spiders.

"Spiders sometimes eat moths and little bugs," Shujuan said. The life cycle of a spider includes three developmental stages: egg, spiderling and adult. "Depending on the species, the average life span of a spider varies from several months to two years. Most spiders only survive for one season." And they are generally active at night.

As for scorpions, four species are most prevalent in Santa Cruz County: the Arizona smoothclaw scorpion, Arizona bark scorpion, yellow devil scorpion and the stripe-tailed scorpion. The smoothclaw scorpion is most active July through September. The bark scorpion is a force to be reckoned with March through October. The yellow devil hits its peak activity August through October. And the stripe-tailed scorpion, the most prolific in Santa Cruz County, reeks havoc March through October.

Scorpions are considered "living fossils," Shujuan said. The oldest scorpion on fossil record comes from the Silurian period, 430 years ago. That's much older than the first dinosaurs.

"There are many reasons people

hate scorpions," she noted. "They look mean with their large claws and a stringer ready to strike."

And they are silently creepy and wall-crawling creatures. "People are afraid they will wake up on a bed with a female scorpion carrying her babies on her back."

According to Dr. Steven Dudley, director of the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at the University of Arizona's College of Pharmacy, the majority of calls coming out of Santa Cruz County right now involve arachnids and reptiles. The center, which services 14 of the state's 15 counties, provides free access to experts on topics ranging from emergency medicine to genetic counseling.

"When we like to be out, they like to be out," Dudley said of critters. Scorpion stings right now are occurring inside as people move outside "stuff" indoors.

While a scorpion sting may cause tingling and pain, medical attention is not always required. However, some young children and older adults do have a more pronounced reaction, including excessive salivating, which will require administration of an anti-venom.

In terms of snake bites, Dudley issued this advice: "No exception. Go to the hospital." And when it comes to spider bites—specifically black widow—that may require a hospital visit if only for pain management.

If you think you have been poisoned by a sting or bite, call the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at 1-800-222-1222. The center, operated by the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy, is open 24/7 with services free to residents of Santa Cruz County.

THE TIN SHED THEATER

JANUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

JAN 7: 12pm & FEB 9: 3pm A Special Event at the Tin Shed Theater "The Janes," an award-winning documentary. Joined by Heather Booth, one of the original "Janes," following the screening for a Zoom question and answer period. Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation \$10

JAN 20: 7pm & JAN 21: 2pm Live Theater "LETS PRETEND." A one act collection of monologues and songs written by Rick Jones and directed by Eva Wright. \$5 at the door

Dates and Times Subject to Change

If you would be interested in sponsoring upcoming events, please contact Cassina Farley at 520-394-9369.

Visit www.patagoniacreativearts.org or 394-9369 for more information.

The Santa Cruz Foundation For The Performing Arts

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

JANUARY Schedule

January 14: Carla Fabris and Zachary Warren Harp and Flute friends Carla Fabris and Zachary Warren present an eclectic mélange of music for a refreshing afternoon concert!

January 28: The Benderly String Quartet

Emily Chao, Juan Mejia, Raphael Lizama and Fanya Lin return to the Opera House with a thrilling program featuring two major works.

Prepaid admission is \$30 - adult/ \$15 - student. Pay online (using your credit/debit card or PayPal) or by sending a check to SCFPA PO Box 875, Patagonia AZ 85624. Tickets are \$35/\$20 on the day of the concert (if seats are available)

Visit www.scfpapresents.org for more information

SIMPLIFY FITNESS at The Duquesne House

Simplifying fitness at any age for any stage

Private and semi-private sessions

Call **(310) 993-7425** for a **free** consultation

Rick T. Jaynes
NASM Certified Personal Trainer

Receive Breaking Local News Sent Straight to Your Inbox
Sign up for the PRT E-Newsletter!
patagoniaregionaltimes.org/e-newsletter/

Great Food, Coffee and Community



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

The Gathering Grounds has been feeding locals and visitors for more than 26 years.

By Carrie White

Breakfast, as a luxury, is one of food and time.

Eggs over easy, not scrambled. Whole wheat, not rye. Hold the mushrooms on that omelet. I know I shouldn't, but biscuits and gravy, please.

Most days we depart from the morning menu of our forefathers for grab-and-go options. The culprit: Time.

But at the Gathering Grounds, there's plenty of the latter commodity. Time to sit and savor home-cooked food and conversation. Remember that? LOL!

Or, maybe, a third cup of joe. "I had the Breakfast Bowl and it was really good," said Dianne Steffen of Patagonia, who's had morning meetings at the Patagonia eatery. Her a.m. order included country potatoes topped with onion, green chili, tomatoes, melted cheddar cheese and two eggs, the latter to her liking.

Next door to The Gathering Grounds, Barbara Harris can attest to the sense of community the restaurant promotes. From her window at Long Realty, she often sees a local gentleman stop by for lunch. Like daily. "If he doesn't show up, I worry," she said.

As with most restaurateurs, Audrey and Brandon Doles know that strong local patronage is important to success. During the summer—the "slow season"—75 percent of diners are area residents. "We need their support," Brandon said.

Originally "Angelo's," the restau-

rant got its start around 1997. Owner Angelo Filigenzi later sold it to Jenna Haugaard, who changed the name to the Gathering Grounds. In 2011, Audrey and Brandon took over. It wasn't easy. As a young couple—fresh out of college—they could not afford to fail.

"It was scary," Brandon remembers. After the bills were paid, the couple subsisted on several hundred dollars a month. They worked six days a week, long hours. But they knew the hospitality business, she having worked at the Gathering Grounds in high school and both having worked at Little America while attending Northern Arizona University.

Today, they've handed over their aprons to others. Audrey is a second-grade teacher at Patagonia Elementary School, and Brandon works a number of accounting jobs, including Borderlands Restoration Network. They have three children: Logan, 10; Leviana, 7; and Lorenzo, 5.

"It was scary," Brandon said, reflecting on the past. But the locals came. And ate. And came back. The Doles are grateful and feel incredibly blessed.

"I think people loved that we were young and local," Brandon said.

And those local connections keep getting stronger. That's Mack Wood, Audrey's brother, in the kitchen creating those sumptuous dishes like the Green Machine Bowl, Chorizo and Eggs, and, for lunch, the Quirky Turkey. By the way, that's one of Harris's favorites, a sandwich that includes turkey, tomato, romaine, mayo and

homemade cranberry sauce. Other Wood family contributors include sister Heather, who conjures the delectable baked goods found in a front entrance counter. And, mother Andrea ("Andy"), who manages the day-to-day operations. Also, the town mayor.

"Everything we've done, we've done together," Brandon said.

And, happily, they plan to do it for a long time.

Gathering Grounds, 319 McKeown Ave., Patagonia. Open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Sunday. No reservations.

(This is the first in an occasional series highlighting local eateries and their favorite recipes.)



Photo by Carrie White

Gathering Grounds Pecan Bars

Crust
3 cups brown rice flour*
3/4 teaspoon Xanthan*
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup butter

Filling
3/4 cup butter
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
1 cup corn syrup
6 teaspoons vanilla
3/4 teaspoon salt
3 eggs
2 lb. toasted chopped pecans

For the crust: Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix all the crust ingredients together and press into a 15 X 11" pan. Bake at 350 F. until the edges brown.

For the filling: Mix together all the filling ingredients except the pecans. Pour over the baked crust and sprinkle toasted chopped pecans on top. Bake at 350 F. until firm, 35-45 minutes.

*Brown Rice flour is a must.
*Xanthan is a food additive commonly added to food as a thickener or stabilizer. It can be purchased at Walmart.

Stones (Cont.)
little confident in my risk assessment abilities.

According to Geology.com, a total of 278 people died in abandoned mines and quarries in the US between 2001 and 2017. 72% were from drowning after swimming in quarries. 8% were ATV related. Another 8% were from falls presumably while trying to scale the walls of a quarry. Just 30 deaths are in the asphyxiation/other category. The data is not broken out any further. I cannot say with confidence how many people died over those 17 years from making the mistake of entering an abandoned mine.

I can say with confidence that the number of people who died from entering mines is far fewer than those who died from alcohol-related auto crashes, from being unvaccinated and contracting influenza, or even from accidental gunshots. Draconian measures to prevent those deaths could be taken too, but they are not.

I can hear the Bat Lobby protesting already, and they have a legitimate grievance: protect the bats. It seems though that ancient, natural caves should be a protected part of their ecosystem. But man-made tunnels on public lands?

Please don't fence me out.

Keith Krizan can be contacted at therealkbkbk@gmail.com

Schools (Cont.)
The National Education Association (NEA), the national teachers' labor union, cites cost savings as the key factor. Districts that don't want to raise taxes to pay teachers more are using the long weekend as an incentive to retain personnel. It frees up teachers to have more time to develop professionally. The NEA reports positive impacts of a four-day week to be cost savings, increased teaching recruitment and reduced student absenteeism. Low income families who rely on free lunches to help feed their families are negatively impacted, and child care costs for Fridays are also a burden for many.

"We don't know how the four-day week will affect us until we try," Hayes said. "Our systems can overcome any problems."

Superintendent Hayes can be contacted at 520.394.3000 ext 3018 and khayes@psd0620.org



Circle Z Ranch
Patagonia, Arizona

We Would Like to Thank Our Sponsors TerraSol and Circle Z For Their Generous Support of the PRT

Become a Sponsor Today.
Contact Nisa at prtasted@gmail.com



TERRASOL
Camping for Hikers, Cyclists & Van/RV Travelers

520-987-0770

TerraSolaz.com
terrasol.az@gmail.com
542 Harshaw Ave
Patagonia, AZ 85624



Classifieds

THE PRT COMMUNITY PAGE

IS NOW LOCATED ON OUR WEBSITE.

YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ON EVENTS, MEETINGS AND
LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES AT
PATAGONIAREGIONALTIMES.ORG/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR/

MISCELLANEOUS

SONOITA SELF STORAGE+RV/BOAT STORAGE RENTALS

5x10, 10 x 10,10x 20. 520-455-9333 or 520-455-4641.

To place a classified ad in the PRT,
contact Nisa Talavera
prtads@gmail.com

GET THE PATAGONIA REGIONAL TIMES DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME OR MAILBOX

\$50/ YEAR (10 ISSUES).

To sign up for home delivery or for more information,
contact prtbookkeeper@gmail.com

Join the PRT Press Core

Why do we call it the Press Core?

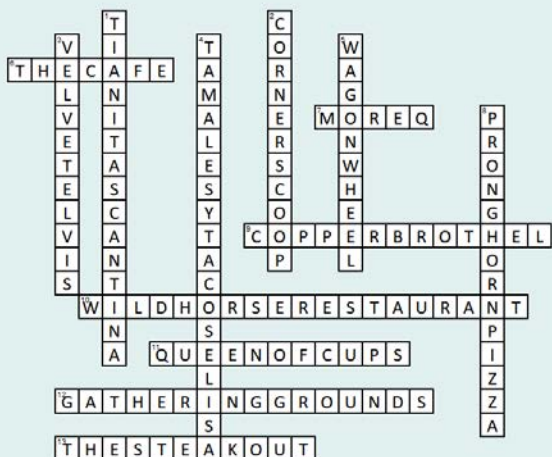
Because our monthly supporters are the very core of the Patagonia Regional Times. Every dollar counts toward creating our monthly newspaper, the PRT website, weekly e-newsletters, and breaking news, all services we provide to our community at no cost.

patagoniaregionaltimes.org/join-the-press-core/

Solution for this Month's Word Search

Local Restaurants

Local eateries have plenty of delicious options for food and drink. Let's test your knowledge of their menus. Match the dish with the establishment.



Across

6. Firecracker Chicken Slider
7. The Porker
9. Pearl de Bier
10. Philly Cheesesteak
11. Verdejo Blend
12. Pecan Bars
13. Sonoita Strip

Down

1. Hot Mess Sandwich
2. Noonie's Nachos
3. Tuco's Revenge
4. Green Corn Tamales
5. Chicken Chipotle
8. Konrath

KPUP Broadcast Schedule Winter 2024

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 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"

6pm to 8pm: Acoustic Café. 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.



\$599,000

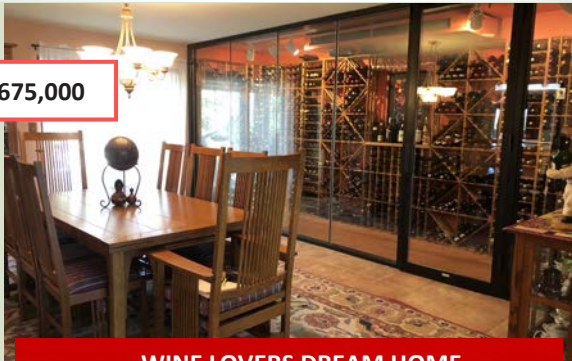


BRAND NEW HOME IN LAKE PATAGONIA

REDUCED! MLS #22231411 9.52 ACRES

Fabulous mountain views! Room for horses, a workshop or Casita. 3Bd/2Ba, Great Room, island kitchen, 2 car garage. More land available. JEAN MILLER 502 508-3335

\$675,000



WINE LOVERS DREAM HOME

MLS # 22323734 22 PARK DRIVE, SONOITA

This home has everything a gourmand could want! 3349 sq ft, 3Bd/3Ba plus library. Temp controlled 1500 bottle wine cellar, solar, trees. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

\$649,000

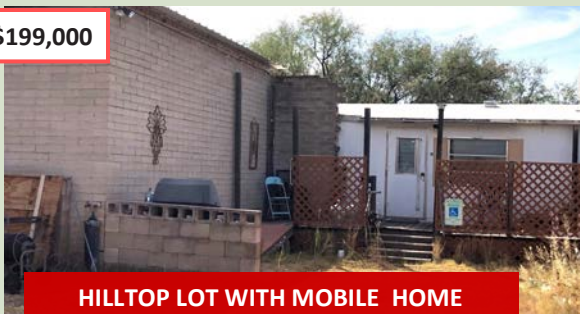


NEW CUSTOM HOME ON THE MESA

MLS # 22309333 4.13 ACRES

SPECTACULAR VIEWS from this new 2158 sf custom home in a gated community. 3Bd/2.5Ba, plus and office/den. 2 car garage, private well. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

\$199,000



HILLTOP LOT WITH MOBILE HOME

MLS # 22322427 239 SANTA RITA AVE

Great hilltop lot with older mobile home and site built addition on 3 parcels. Town utilities, out of the floodplain, Nice mountain views. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

\$392,000



THE CAFÉ IN SONOITA

MLS # 22314558 50 CASAS ARROYO ROAD

Your chance to own Sonoita's well loved eatery. Ready to go with kitchen equipment, furnishings, & supplies. Solar, lots of parking and storage. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

\$55,000



SONOITA LOT READY TO BUILD

MLS # 22314305 9 HOLBROOK DRIVE

Great location close to town from this gently sloping lot. Paved road, passed perc test, electricity, water at lot line. Priced to sell quickly. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

\$20,000 - \$28,000



3 LOTS IN A ROW—LAKE PATAGONIA

4-5 ACRES EACH 48, 50, 54 LADO de LOMA

Buy 1,2, or all 3! Electricity & phone at the paved road. Good building sites and great location with lovely mountain views. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

\$42,900



LAKE PATAGONIA 4+ ACRES WITH WELL

MLS # 22229949 111 LADO de LOMA

Nestled in the trees with lovely views, a strong capped private well, and lots of wildlife. Electricity and phone at the lot line. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

\$545,000



LAKE PATAGONIA CUSTOM SANTA FE

MLS # 22327009 25 JAVELINA COURT

JUST LISTED! Saltillo tile floors, wooden doors, beamed ceiling. 2Bd/2Ba, Office, huge foyer w/wet bar. Garage, 4+acres, fenced, vews. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia, AZ

next to Gathering Grounds

Jean Miller, Owner, Designated Broker

Long Realty Sonoita/Patagonia

Direct 520-508-3335 Office 520 394-2120

jeanmiller@longrealty.com



Download FREE Long Realty App for instant Arizona real estate active listings, pending sales and recently sold properties. January 2024