

# Patagonia Regional Times



FEBRUARY 2024

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CANELO, ELGIN, PATAGONIA AND SONOITA

VOL. 14 ISSUE 2

## It's Her Store-y

*Adrienne Halpert's Global Arts Gallery Hits 30*



Photo by Pat McNamara

**Adrienne Halpert relaxes in her store, surrounded by the eclectic wares she's collected from around the globe over the past 30 years.**

**By Pat McNamara**

It's the 30th anniversary of the opening of Global Arts Gallery in Patagonia and owner Adrienne Halpert sat before her large inventory of colorful items from all over the world, recalling her motivation for opening the store back in 1994.

"I wanted to simplify my life," Halpert says. "I had no intention of getting into retail, but here I am."

A New York native who moved to Tucson in 1974, Halpert has been an active participant in the arts for her entire adult life. As a young and ambitious artist, she found work as an arts administrator in Tucson, as well as managing Hotel Congress for five years through its transition in the 1980s.

In the early 1990s, The Museum of the Horse building on McKeown had been sold and the new owners were looking for occupants to lease it. Halpert was part of a group of artists and musicians who banded together to form an LLC collective to lease the space. They called it 'A Horse of a Different Color' to honor the history of

the building. It was a large space and each artist used a part of the area for their particular expertise. At that point, Halpert was a jewelry maker who was still commuting to Tucson for her part-time work there. As time went on, it became apparent that a choice had to be made, so she bought a house, built in 1898, and became a full-time Patagonia resident. The house needed an incredible amount of renovation that Halpert "had the time but not the money for" to fix but that "wove the fabric" of her life not planned.

As the other occupants of the former Museum of the Horse building began to transition and move out, Halpert was left with a lot of space to fill, so she began to turn it into retail space. Today, she obtains her items from "around the corner and around the world." Though most of her inventory belongs to her business, she does have a few artists who display their creations for sale there on commission. Halpert offers items from Fair Trade organizations as well as other importers.

**See Halpert, p.19**

## County Pivots Initiative After Community Outcry



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

**Residents listen to the County's Cuisine Tourism Initiative proposal during a meeting at the Elgin School. Several audience members spoke in opposition to the plan.**

**By Marion Vendituoli**

Responses from Sonoita-Elgin residents to an online survey, followed by two contentious public meetings in mid-January, have persuaded Santa Cruz County to significantly reorient its Cuisine Tourism Initiative with input from a newly formed citizens' steering committee.

The initiative is funded by a \$300,000 grant the County received from the federal Economic Development Administration "to develop a countywide cuisine tourism action plan that connects the fast-growing wine sector with businesses countywide to capture increased tourism spending."

But the County's rollout of the initiative, which was initially focused on consulting with stakeholders directly involved in winemaking and tourism in the Sonoita-Elgin area, left out other constituents, breeding confusion, suspicion and hostility towards the initiative itself. This took the County by surprise.

"We did not know there was going to be this kind of community blow-back," Portland, Oregon-based project manager Thatch Moyle, a consultant

on the initiative, said in a recent interview with the PRT. "Our engagement strategy was designed to address the original intent of the proposal, which was geared toward wine producers. Now we want to pivot to make this more of a community plan. We want the steering committee to be representative of the different constituents."

"We're trying to figure out what growth is acceptable to Sonoita," Supervisor Bruce Bracker told the PRT. "Those things include where businesses can be, what those buildings should look like."

Community response to an online survey conducted by the county in late 2023 proved to be pivotal in a change in focus for the initiative, according to Moyle. The 260 survey responses from residents in Sonoita and Elgin were largely in opposition to the plan.

More of the same opposition was demonstrated at a January 16 public meeting on the initiative held at the Elgin School gym, at which more than 150 Sonoita and Elgin residents showed up.

Supervisor Bracker opened the

**See Initiative, p.18**

## 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, weekly in the PRT e-newsletter and on our website.

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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

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# Enter the PRT's 'My Furry Valentine' Contest



The PRT is excited to launch our 2024 "My Furry Valentine" photo contest to celebrate our companion animals and the unconditional love they bring to our lives.

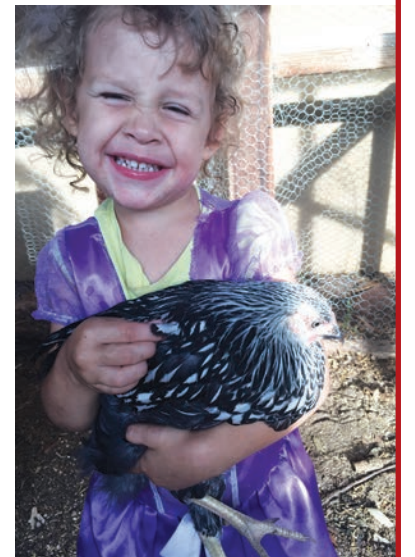
It's easy to participate. Please submit your photo and entry info to prtastd@gmail.com by Friday, February 9, 2024, to be considered.

Photo Rules: Participants may enter up to three photos in as many categories as you like! Please include in your email: Name of the photographer, your pet's name(s) and what you love most about your animal Valentine. Please make sure photos are well-focused, sharp images that are high resolution.

## Photo Categories

- \* Cutest Pet
- \* Golden Oldies (senior pets)
- \* Best Friends Forever BFFs (more than one animal in photo)
- \* Pets and their People
- \* Don't Worry, Be Happy (Happiest pet)

The winners in each category will be honored with a \$25 donation made in their pet's name to one of the following local animal rescue/charities of their choice: SCC Humane Society, Kitty Kasa in Sonoita, or Whispers Sanctuary in Canelo. Photos must contain domestic pets (no wildlife).



Color and black/white photos are acceptable. No professional photographers please. All photos submitted may be published in future PRT articles online or in print.

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There is a firm line between editorial content and advertising content, and the inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the PRT. This is an important distinction for us, as a nonpartisan, nonprofit local news service, to reiterate as we enter the 2024 election cycle.

Here is an excerpt from our advertising policy:

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# ADEQ Discusses Air Quality Permit, Monitoring for Hermosa Mine Project



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

An audience member holds a protest sign as she listens to ADEQ staff discuss the process for granting the Hermosa Project an Air Quality Permit.

By Kat Crockett

On Jan. 11, experts from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) addressed an audience of approximately 60 people in a public meeting held at the Patagonia School cafeteria. ADEQ presented a review of South32's request for an Air Quality Permit for the underground mining of the Taylor deposit (zinc, lead, and silver), and the Clark deposit (zinc, manganese, and silver) referred to as the 'Hermosa Project,' located five miles from Patagonia.

Balaji Vaidyanathan, manager of ADEQ Air Permits and Compliance, discussed the South32 permit status and processes, and responded to questions and comments from the audience.

Many of the public's comments focused on the lack of a federal standard for manganese exposure. Vaidyanathan explained that although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified manganese as a hazardous air pollutant, it has not established an air quality standard for use in permitting. He stated that ADEQ uses the

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) minimal risk levels as a guideline. Unlike EPA, ATSDR is not a regulatory agency, it is a public health agency that advises EPA.

One attendee expressed concern saying, "I'm personally not reassured by the standard developed by South32 and ADEQ." Several audience members requested that the permit not be issued until an official standard for manganese exposure is developed in the United States.

Vaidyanathan responded, saying, "Unfortunately, our program is not set up to do that. Our authority is not discretionary. The science has not caught up, but the reality is we have to act on the permit based on the information we have and write the most responsible permits that we can." He added that when a standard is developed, by law, they would have to go back and put it in the permit.

Vaidyanathan reported that both South32 and ADEQ had conducted air dispersion modeling for manganese using the ATSDR standard for respirable manganese **See ADEQ, p.17**

# Community, Mayor Voice Objections to Hermosa Water Permit at ADEQ Hearing

By Lynn Davison

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) staff held a public hearing at Patagonia Union High School on Jan. 11 to receive community comments on their proposed renewal of South32's Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permit for its Hermosa project.

An AZPDES permit places strict limits on all pollutants discharged into protected Arizona surface waters. A renewal of South32's permit would allow it to dump approximately 6.4 million gallons of water per day into Harshaw Creek.

Close to 100 people were present in the PUHS cafeteria in Patagonia to participate in the hearing, which followed an ADEQ hearing earlier on the same day regarding the Hermosa project's ADEQ air quality permit application. Pat Risner, President of the Hermosa project, was in the audience "to listen and, if necessary, provide additional information to ADEQ in response to the issues raised at tonight's hearing."

The majority of the speakers at the hearing were residents of Patagonia, Patagonia Lake, Tubac or Rio Rico. All 29 people who spoke opposed the renewal as written. Speakers addressed three major areas of concern, with most referencing material prepared by the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) material in their comments.

First, speakers rejected ADEQ's claim that the Hermosa Mine is an addition to an existing source of pollution (the historical January Mine). They

argued that Hermosa is instead a new source of pollution, and is thus subject to the current, more stringent requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

Secondly, speakers noted that there are no recent studies of the current composition of polluting minerals in the waters of Harshaw Creek, Alum Gulch and Sonoita Creek. Those studies, called Total Daily Maximum Load analyses, provide baseline data which would be necessary to determine the additional impacts of the Hermosa Mine's discharges on already impaired waters like Alum Gulch and Harshaw Creek.

Finally, speakers registered objections over what they called the lack of robust monitoring—or in some cases, any monitoring at all—of potentially harmful pollutants that may enter our water. Joni Stellar, co-chair of the PARA Board of Directors, argued that the Permit must include who monitors, what they monitor, where they monitor, and how often they monitor discharges. Further, the monitoring must be done by an independent agency.

Rita Bradley, a Patagonia Lake resident and a member of Friends of Sonoita Creek, recounted the disaster near Cananea where, she said, a mining discharge pond overflowed into the Rio Sonora, polluting the water supply to over 20,000 farms and residences. The responsible copper mine "compensated" residents of the area with roof mounted water tanks and nothing else. Bradley implied ADEQ's reissuing of the Permit to South32 "may risk similar impacts to habitat, people, the economy, tourism, and all the species living here."

Andrea Wood, Mayor of Patagonia and a 48-year resident, said the Town objected to the permit's renewal, citing concerns that pollutants discharged from the mine would affect Patagonia's water supply. Michael Stabile, Vice Mayor of Patagonia, also spoke, commenting, "So much water, 6.4 million gallons per day, through our highly mineralized rock will mean an accumulation of dangerous pollutants in our drinking water source."

ADEQ has 45 days to respond to comments. Whatever they do, legal challenges are likely to follow.

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# Manganese Expert Addresses Hermosa Panel

By Kat Crockett

On Jan. 17, the Santa Cruz County Advisory Panel for the South32 Hermosa Project hosted Dr. Brad Racette, a leading neurologist in the field of manganese toxicity and Chair of Neurology at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, an international center for neurologic disease treatment and research.

At the meeting, Dr. Racette, whose experience with manganese toxicity spans over 20 years, discussed the human and environmental impacts of exposure to manganese.

South32 plans to mine battery grade manganese underground for the electric vehicle supply chain at the Clark Deposit over the next 60 years in the Patagonia Mountains. Information circulating via e-mail and Facebook groups (videos of manganese mines in Australia and South Africa, data on health concerns, etc.) has elevated public awareness and concern about the dangers of manganese exposure.

Recent discussions of the mine's intent to build a manganese processing plant, preferably somewhere in the western part of the County, have motivated many people in Rio Rico and surrounding communities to get involved. The topic has been front and center during the public comment pe-

riod of several County Board and ADEQ meetings.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health states that overexposure to manganese can lead to symptoms like Parkinson's disease and may include trembling, stiffness, slow motor movement and potentially severe depression, anxiety, and hostility. The level of exposure depends upon the dose, duration, and the way the material is being handled.

Dr. Racette said he has examined over 5,000 people exposed to manganese around the world. One study involved over 1,000 welders in the U.S. who were exposed to manganese because it is used to strengthen steel. Many of the welders entered the workforce right out of high school. By the time they were in their 40s, they were showing Parkinson's symptoms rated at level 10 (16 is the threshold rating for Parkinson's Disease). By the time these welders retire, they will be well above the rating for Parkinson's. "The more manganese exposure, the more progression, and the levels of disability can exceed what you see in people with Parkinson's," Racette said.

Racette has also received and studied over 90 brains from people overexposed to manganese and was able to verify accumulation of the toxin in the brain, lower brain cell density and signs of inflammation.

Racette conducted environmental work in South Africa in a community about 30 miles southeast of Johannesburg in an industrial valley. The community lived in low-cost government housing at the fence line of a manganese smelter. He said people could not even open their windows due to the heavy concentrations of black dust. He and his team spent four years modeling exposure levels and conducted mo-

tor impact assessments and cognitive studies, including 60 brain MRI's.

He found that the people had cognitive impairments, some anxiety, and evidence of manganese accumulation in the brain, similar to that seen in welders. "Once you have a certain amount of exposure, the neurological damage doesn't really reverse. Even without ongoing exposure, the symptoms actually may continue to progress. This is a problem that is not going away," Racette said.

Racette said that the highest level of manganese exposure is found in welding, the steel industry, mining, and smelting. To the core of the problem, Racette said "The manganese research community feels the established exposure limits are too high," which begets the question, how low do we go?

Exposure limits for manganese are very confusing. Some limits are set by regulations and others are advisory guidelines. The Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets enforceable permissible exposure limits (PEL) to protect workers against health effects of exposure to hazardous substances, including limits on the airborne concentrations. The OSHA PEL for manganese is 5 milligrams per cubic meter. Racette described the OSHA limits as ridiculous, "just way too high."

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), a non-profit established in 1946, recommends a threshold exposure level of 0.02 milligrams per cubic meter as a respirable fraction averaged over an 8-hour work shift. The OSHA PEL is 250 times higher than the ACGIH recommendation.

Racette believes the standard should even be lower than the ACGIH

levels. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency under the Dept. of Health and Human Services, recommends a standard for respirable manganese dust at 0.0003 milligrams per cubic meter.

Pat Risner, President of the Hermosa Project said that the manganese mining in Patagonia will be completely different in terms of how the mining, transport, onload/offload, and processing of manganese is managed compared to other mines established decades ago. "We can take the lessons that everybody's had all over the world and apply those here," he said. Risner said his concept is that from time the ore is mined to the time it is loaded and shipped, it will not be exposed to the environment.

In response to a question posed at the meeting, Racette said, "From what I've heard [about the Hermosa project], there are a lot of good faith efforts being made to run a mine unlike what I have seen in the past."

In an interview with the PRT after the meeting, when Racette was asked if he would consider a partnership with South32 to better inform an exposure level for manganese, he replied, "Absolutely! Our lab has been involved in occupational exposures for the last 20 years. It's serendipitous."

When the PRT then asked Risner if South32 would consider working with Racette, he replied, "The research he has done is good input for what we are doing. I have said all along that we will seek external expertise. We are going to do baseline assessments and health surveillance and environmental studies so there is an opportunity to get input from research like what he has done to make sure we are doing the right things in those programs."

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## Election 2024

## Important Dates

### Presidential Preference (PPE)

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 20 | Last day to register to vote/Update voter registration |
| February 21 | Early voting begins / Early ballots are mailed         |
| March 8     | Last day to request early ballot by mail               |
| March 12    | Recommended deadline to mail back your ballot          |
| March 15    | Last day of early voting                               |

## March 19 Election Day

# Lady Lobos Finish Strong End State Tournament Drought



Photo by Dave Lumia

Seniors Janelle Valenzuela (left) and Heaven Day helped the Lobos to a victory over Superior in their final home game.

By Dave Lumia

For the first time since 2016, the Patagonia Lobos girls basketball team will be playing in the state tournament.

The Lobos wrapped up their regular season on Friday, Jan. 26, with a never-in-doubt 47-18 victory over Superior. The win improved their record to 14-9 overall and 11-6 in games that count toward the state rankings. They entered Friday's game ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in Class 1A, with a possibility of moving up higher.

The victory was the fifth in a row for Patagonia, though two were by virtue of forfeit. Still, coach Ralph Padilla saw some encouraging signs in on-court victories over Superior, San Simon (39-19), and The Gregory School (36-30).

"We had a couple of disappointing losses [to Valley Union and Duncan] but we've been playing better lately," Padilla said. "When we move, don't stand around, it makes a difference."

In the win over Superior, the Lobos led 10-0 at the end of the first quarter

and scored the game's first 14 points before Superior broke the ice. It was 24-7 at the half and 40-13 at the end of three quarters, and the comfortable margin enabled Padilla to use all 13 of his players.

Seniors Jenny Vasquez and Heaven Day scored ten points apiece on Senior Night. Day also had five steals. Janelle Valenzuela had a team-leading nine rebounds and four assists, and Aliyah Gallardo had six points and four rebounds.

"I think my team played really well this season, and I'm happy I got to play with such an amazing group," Day said. "I'm feeling a little sad that I'm going to be leaving a lot of them behind, but I know they're going to do big things next year, and I can't wait to watch them."

Six seniors in all played their final home game. "They're a good group," Padilla said. "I'm going to miss them."

The state tournament pairings won't be known until after the super-regional tournament at St. David on Feb. 1-3 after this issue of the PRT goes to press.



Photo by Dave Lumia

Hoopcoming Royalty: King Arturo Magallanes and Queen Heaven Day

# Defensive Pressure Pays Off for Lobos



Photo by Dave Lumia

Senior Isaiah Ruiz (right) and teammates head to the bench as coach Nate Porter rotates in a fresh pack of Lobos.

By Dave Lumia

It was Senior Night at Patagonia High School gym, but junior Diego Carranza stole the show.

Carranza scored 14 of his 20 points in the second quarter as Patagonia broke open a tight game and rolled to a 47-33 victory over Superior on Jan. 26.

The victory improved the Lobos' record to 12-14 overall and 9-7 in games that are factored into the state rankings, with one game remaining against ASDB. It was their fourth win in their past five games and gives them a nice jolt of momentum heading into the super-regionals at St. David on Feb. 1-3.

"It means a lot for us," coach Nate Porter said of qualifying for the super-regionals. "That was our team goal for the year, and it didn't look good at the beginning of the season. It means a lot for us to grow as the season went on and develop an identity. We're excited about that. It means more basketball."

The Lobos' "identity" is one of using their depth to apply constant pressure on opponents, particularly on the defensive end, in hopes of wearing them down. It was again a winning formula against Superior. The game was tied at 8 after the first quarter, but

with Carranza providing the spark, the Lobos built a 24-13 lead in the second quarter and stretched it to 41-22 after the third.

"Diego was really good about taking the ball to the basket, which is what we wanted to do, not settle for shots," Porter said. "Diego took it to heart and was exceptional at it."

DJ Castro added seven points in the victory, and Gavin Arbizio scored six.

"We were struggling to score 30 points early in the season, and we figured it out a little bit," Porter said. "We still struggle offensively, but we were able to identify as a defensive team that brought heavy intensity and rotated a lot of guys. We found something that worked for us."

The rotation includes four seniors who were honored after the game: Arturo Magallanes, Leo Nunez, Isaiah Ruiz and Andres Hoyos.

"I love these kids," Porter said. "These four seniors—two of them I've known since middle school, and the other two joined over the years, and they're great kids. That makes it easier to coach. And they're willing to listen. When the older kids listen, everybody else follows."

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# Steve Getzwiller: A Visionary Straddling Two Worlds



Photo by Ray Manley

**Steve Getzwiller with his “Navajo Grandmother” Ellen Smith at the loom in Wide Ruins, circa 1985.**

**By Carrie White**

A spiritual sense hangs over the Navajo Nation.

Steve Getzwiller felt that. He lived it.

Traversing a landscape that swings from desolate volcanic fields to lush forest land, he was in his element, traveling the same dirt roads for some 45 years. By his side, a cooler of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches prepared by wife Gail. A piece of foam thrown in the back of an old blue Suburban served as his bed.

And while, over the years, he secured more comfortable sleeping arrangements and learned where to buy great tacos and ice cream, he always knew where to find weavers. Great weavers.

Getzwiller, who died August 23, 2023, at the age of 74, leaves a legacy that looms large over a declining industry as weavers age and young Navajos look elsewhere for employment. Getzwiller’s calling, along with Gail, was in promoting and supporting a medium some believe was handed down from Spider Woman, a Navajo deity.

“Steve took weaving to a whole different level,” said Al Grieve, a trader on the Navajo Reservation for decades. “He took it from rugs, to Navajo textiles to fine art. He was able to do that by working individually with the weavers. Most traders didn’t do that.”

Getzwiller’s interest in the Native American culture was ignited at an early age and fanned by the promise he saw in people and craft. He discerned in the weavings and the weavers a craft that deserved to be elevated from utilitarian to fine art.

“It’s more a family relationship than a business one,” he said in an August/September 2013 edition of *Cowboys & Indians*. “It’s a collaborative partner-

ship, and when you consider I’m working exclusively with the same weavers for 10, 20, 30 years, it tells you something about the relationship.”

Born March 4, 1949, to Marion and Kathryn “Kay” (Harrigan) Getzwiller, Steve was the oldest of two boys and the fourth generation to grow up on a ranch in southeastern Arizona. While he took to his father’s love of ranch and rodeo, he carved his own way in the world of Navajo weaving.

With Ray Manley, Steve wrote “The Art of Navajo Weaving” (1984). He published numerous catalogs for museums and galleries including “Woven Holy People” for his Nizhoni (which means “beautiful place” in Navajo) Gallery, which opened in Benson in 1972, and “One Trader’s Legacy: Steve Getzwiller Collects the West” for the Desert Caballeros Western Museum in Wickenburg. He did exhibits with, among others, the Tucson Desert Art Museum, Tubac Center for the Arts, the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, and the Heard Museum in Phoenix. In 2000, the Getzwillers moved their gallery to Sonoita.

But perhaps the thing of which Getzwiller would have been most proud was the attendance at an initial celebration of life held in Gallup, N.M. on Sept. 28, 2023. There were very few non-Natives present. Which speaks to the relationships he built with the Dine’ over time.

Berlinda Nez-Barber of Table Mesa, N.M. was one of those in attendance at that celebration who counted Steve as a friend. She first met him in 1991 at age 16 years old when he came looking for her mother, Grace, a weaver.

Grace and Nez-Barber would both weave for Getzwiller, as would Berlinda’s seven sisters. Over time,

**See Getzwiller, p.17**

# Volunteers Work to Rewild Old Roads in Coronado National Forest



Photo courtesy of the Sky Island Alliance

**A volunteer gathers data on the condition of one of the decommissioned Forest Service roads in the Coronado National Forest.**

**By Robert Gay**

Last October, the Sky Island Alliance (SIA) rolled out ‘Road Rewilding,’ a new volunteer program to support the Sierra Vista District of the Coronado National Forest (CNF) in their plan to close 160 miles of Forest Service roads in an area that stretches from I-10 to the Mexico border, including the Whetstones, Patagonias, Huachucas and Canelo Hills, and restore the land to its natural state.

Reevaluation of the U.S.’s 371,000 miles of Forest Service (FS) roads began in 2005 in response to at least 20 years of declining Federal funding for road care in the National Forests, even as public demand increased.

Unmaintained FS roads have suffered from vegetation loss, drought, erosion, overuse by vehicles, invasive species, and wildlife disturbance.

A number of roads in the CNF have been ‘technically decommissioned.’ However, only a portion of the 160-plus miles identified for closure are, in fact, now closed to vehicles, or show significant restoration.

In an interview with the PRT, Sarah Treube, SIA’s Habitat Conservation Manager, stated that the Road Rewilding Program “intends to fix that discrepancy.”

SIA is coordinating with the SV District to prioritize the southern end of the Huachucas and southeast corner of San Rafael Valley, including Parker Canyon Lake, Montezuma Pass and the former container wall site.

However, a 60-foot strip along the Mexico border is Federal land, not yet accessible to the program’s surveyors. (For road rewilding in the Santa Ritas and other ranges to the west, the Nogales District would have to initiate its own program.)

The online map that the Road Rewilding program is creating identifies the basic road network, roads designated for restoration and roads already surveyed. Elements like roads

and survey points have pop-ups that include data gathered, surveyor’s name, coordinates, elevation, and other relevant info.

Surveying these roads is done on a phone app. Surveyors gather geo-data for the access point or endpoint of a road segment, make observations of physical and biological conditions, identify species, and can add photos as well. The app then uploads the surveyors’ info. Once a surveyor’s field information is in the system, blue squares on the map identify which locations have been surveyed.

In the four-mile zone of previous container occupation on the border, the rewilding project is assessing and planning for remediation work on several flattened staging areas, as well as documenting other damage from transport and equipment. Truebe explained that the destruction by the wall contractors included mature oaks, so discussion is underway about transplanting sizable oaks of the proper species.

As regional drought continues, transplanting can be problematic, so seeding is becoming the preferred method of small-plant revegetation. Sometimes seed can be broadcast, sometimes dug in, and other times placed by nutrient-containing seed-balls. Sometimes also, soil is compacted by vehicles, and needs to be loosened, since part of the restoration work is also restoration of soil condition to make it amenable to new growth.

For each area to be restored, Treube explained, “It’s so variable what the damage is and what the best way to correct it will be. We’ll use the results of each survey to decide exact methods of restoration for a given site.” Nature will, of course, also reseed areas, and ‘disturbance species’ like tumbleweed will be among what appears, so invasive species elimination will

**See Rewilding, p.11**

## JULIE'S BROTHER SEAN



By Cassina Farley

Julie Williams lived across the street from my childhood home in Tucson. She was a bit older than me, tall with flaming red hair and perfectly placed freckles. Her brother was my worst enemy.

Sean Williams was the scary older brother of most nightmares. One chilly winter afternoon while Julie and I were playing in her backyard, Sean snuck up behind us with the garden hose and pinned us to the back fence.

If we moved, he'd spray us in the face with the hose. This went on for what seemed like hours until Julie's mom came home and caught him holding us hostage.

He was the typical bully. I couldn't get by him without being punched, tripped or assaulted in some way. Julie was used to it, and upon entering her house would run to her room and lock the door behind her. Since her mom worked late hours, Julie was often locked away from her brother, laying low and staying safe. Every now and then I'd forget about the horrible big brother and go trotting across the street only to find him sitting in the carport with a BB gun.

One time my mother made me a new outfit. It was a little white cropped top and a pair of blue culottes (remember those?). By 1980s standards I was a superstar. I put on my new outfit and ran across the street to show my friend Julie. I knocked on her front door and stood there in my blue culottes. I was so proud. The front door flew open violently and Sean stepped out, just far enough to shove me in the bush just outside their front door.

As I fell into the bush my culottes

caught on a branch and ripped. I heard him laugh and then slam the door shut. I removed myself from the bush and held my torn culottes together as I walked back across the street in tears.

This sort of torture went on for many years until I think he lost interest. Things got better, and on occasion, we could play with little to no interference from the terrible big brother. Which leads me to the gerbil story.

One afternoon my sister and I were playing at Julie's house. Julie had many gerbils in several plastic cages. I suspect they belonged to her brother. There were brown ones, black ones and white ones with black spots. We were little girls and completely fascinated by all things furry and small, and we were thrilled when Julie's brother said we could take some home. He started shoving gerbils into an empty cage. He stuffed in some shavings and gave them some of the little green pellets.

One of us must have said we needed to ask our mom because the thing I remember most is my mom saying (or yelling), "There is no way we're bringing glorified rats into her house!" She yelled it a few times.

What my sister and I heard was "just take the gerbils and hide them

under your bed." So that's what we did. We took a plastic cage with an undetermined number of gerbils and stuffed them under our shared full-sized bed. The pink dust ruffle and the various toys hid their existence from everyone but the cat.

My memory is fuzzy as to the number of days the gerbils lived under our bed, but I do remember when my mom found the empty cage. Rage doesn't seem like an angry enough word to describe my mom at that moment.

There are questions that persist to this day. Did the cat get to the gerbils in the cage? Did the gerbils escape and become victim to the cat? Were the glorified rats, in fact, alive and well in the house somewhere?

I don't remember the last time I played with Julie Williams. Eventually she and her family moved away, never to be seen or heard from again.

I think of them often. I credit Julie for my love of perfectly placed freckles. And I credit Sean, who knew, all the way back in the 1980s, that culottes were not cool and that he was doing me a favor. Too bad he had to shove me in a bush to prove it.

Cassina Farley can be contacted at [cassinaandzachfarley@msn.com](mailto:cassinaandzachfarley@msn.com)

## WE NEED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE

By Supervisor Bruce Bracker

As your county supervisor, I want to thank those attending the county's two forums last month to shape Santa Cruz County's Cuisine Tourism Initiative. I was especially encouraged by the overwhelming turnout at the meeting I attended at the Elgin Elementary School meeting on January 16.

It's my job to listen, hear you and respond—and I value what you have to say. I want to take this opportunity to share how I plan to do just that and to clarify any miscommunication about this initiative.

Santa Cruz County was awarded \$300,000 in grant funding from the US Economic Development Administration to preserve and protect Sonoita and Elgin while growing nature-based economic opportunities countywide for local businesses and residents.

That opportunity is outlined in a 2021 study, *The Nature-Based Restorative Economy in Santa Cruz County, Arizona*. That study was commissioned and funded by local leaders who paid the University of Arizona Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics to produce the report.

As a result of the forums, I plan to act on three priorities. The first is to

preserve what you shared as crucial: Sonoita and Elgin's values, people, landscapes, and wildlife. The initiative is aligned to do just that. The County is in the process of identifying your priorities, ideas, and solutions to protect the beautiful rural landscape and mitigate existing and future conflicts given growth trends.

There are challenges like traffic growth along the scenic route, and potential for businesses to develop out of character with the area, as many of you have told me was the case with Dollar General. With a community-vetted process made available through this grant, the community can now shape and put in place regulatory tools that require developers to mitigate their impacts with contextually compatible standards defined by the community.

My second priority — also to be addressed with this initiative — is growing economic opportunities for local residents and local businesses. This initiative intends to do so by understanding how to support existing local businesses that respect our community.

A goal is to mitigate impacts of the fast-growing winery sector and connect employment in that sector, countywide, with local restaurants,

local food entrepreneurs and local businesses, directing future business growth to areas where it is wanted and needed.

Employment in county wineries has already been growing throughout the pandemic, despite job losses mostly elsewhere: winery employment grew 89% from 2019 through the end of 2022, from 35 to 66 jobs, with wages up 27%, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

My third priority is to do a better job of communicating with you by creating a local steering committee for this initiative. Please scan the QR code if you are interested in serving on the committee to shape this initiative.

I am working with the county community development director, so this serves as a venue to address some of the long-standing communication challenges with the eastern side of the county. I also plan to have the county increase communication and

paid announcements in the Patagonia Regional Times, update fact sheets about existing projects and initiatives on our county website at [santacruz-countyaz.gov/833/Plans-and-Reports](http://santacruz-countyaz.gov/833/Plans-and-Reports), and frequently update the county's social media.

I look forward to working with the steering committee so we can move forward with transparency and respond to the community's voice on key initiatives.

*Steering Committee signup QR code*



*It is our objective as a community newspaper to present many views to our readers. The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of this publication. If you would like to contribute your opinion or commentary to PRT, please send your article, in MS Word, to [editor@prtnews.org](mailto:editor@prtnews.org). The PRT reserves the right to edit all submissions for language, length, and content.*

# TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

By PRT Staff Reporters

**January 10, 2024**

In Old Business, Heather Floyd of Valley Telecomm Group (VTG) updated the Town on the progress of their project to bring fiber optic interconnection to Patagonia homes and businesses. VTG employees will install and connect the customers' equipment at no charge. To encourage customers, there will be an introductory discount, and speeds that are substantially higher than most Patagonia-area internet users currently have available. She anticipates her company will start a six-to-nine month installation program this spring, and finish by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

Under New Business, the Mayor and council approved the sending of a letter on the Town's behalf, to the AZ Dept of Air Quality, opposing the issuance of Air Quality Control Permit no. 96653 to South32/Hermosa Inc until ADEQ, in conjunction with the US Environmental Protection Agency, create an air quality standard for manganese pollutant limitations prior to permit issuance.

The Town declared a Financial Emergency in accordance with its resolution 2022-02. This resolution suspended the 2022-2023 alternative expenditure limitation, to be in

effect for one fiscal year at a time. This formality is internally understood by Council and Mayor and there was no opposition to the declaration.

The Mayor and Council then adjourned into executive session to review the Town Manager's evaluation for the prior year, as a basis for determining his continued salary and benefit package.

The council's regular meeting reconvened with the approval of an 8.5% raise in the Town Manager's salary.

**January 24, 2024**

It was announced that Mayor Wood and Manager Robinson had gone to the State Capitol in Phoenix to meet with two State Representatives and two State Senators, presenting the Town's concerns about impacts of industrial mining. ADEQ's issuance of water discharge permits was discussed, as well as the need for EPA oversight. Potentially harmful downstream effects of discharges from the Hermosa Project were also discussed.

Mayor Wood was approved to send a letter to Scott Vandergrift, Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer of the Coronado National Forest, requesting that the Forest provide the Town with South32's mining Plan of Operations (POO), which the company has not furnished to the Town.

The Mayor and Town Manager were approved to jointly sign an agreement with the AZ Dept. of Housing for an environmental review record on the upcoming Colonias Community Development Block Grant (CBDG). The grant would fund the Rothrock Alley water service replacement project.

Garrett Froelich gave a short presentation on the wish of his company, Destination Trail, to use a portion of the town's parks and a brief street closure for the start of a large footrace in April 2025. The race is one-directional, for 309 miles, ending in Superior. The course would use substantial portions of the Arizona Trail and is being arranged in conjunction with the Arizona Trail Association. It was suggested he consider the open area in back of the Post Office for staging and race start.

Interim Library Director Kayla Miller was approved to apply for two grants. The first is to the AZ Community Foundation, to buy new technology to help library users who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing. The second is for 2024 Literacy Awards by the Library of Congress. These grants can vary from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

Councilor Finch and Gerry Isaac were appointed to the Community Foundation's Distribution Committee.

## Errors and Omissions

Kenny Hayes, superintendent of the Patagonia Schools, has responded to 'A Plea for Music Education in our Schools,' an opinion piece by Pat McNamara published in the January PRT:

*Mrs. McNamara's article is incorrect about no schools offering music classes in the Sky Islands.*

*Patagonia Schools District employs a full-time music teacher. We provide one hour of music time a week to grades K-8. We have a 30 minute enrichment class every day at the high school and a one hour elective two days a week. We held a winter concert this year and a spring concert last year. Our HS/MS choir performed for the Santa Cruz County ASBA (Arizona School Boards Association) meeting last fall.*

*Kenny Hayes*

The PRT apologizes for this error.



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# SUE HEY

APRIL 28, 1932 - NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Fiercely independent, stubborn, somewhat curmudgeonly, beloved.

Sue grew up in Los Angeles and Santa Paula, California, and graduated from Stanford University. Refusing to be a debutante, she traveled to many parts of the world—sometimes by freighter—and had many lifelong friends in Sonoita and around the world.

She loved the pies from the Rock Springs Cafe and told stories about stopping there as a youngster when her family would drive the dirt road from the Phoenix area to Flagstaff, averaging five flat tires along the way. She also loved old westerns, Chuck Norris, Judge Judy, dark chocolate, and dulce de leche ice cream.

She moved to Scottsdale in the 1970s and built her beloved house in Sonoita in 1980, where she loved riding her horse, Bonnie. She also had many dalmatians and cats over the years.



Sue worked as a travel agent in Palm Springs in the 1960s and as a bookkeeper for many places, including Rawhide, the Steak Out, and Empire Homes. For several years, she was active with the Fair and Rodeo Association and the Sonoita-Elgin Volunteer Fire Dept.

For the last couple of years, she lived in an assisted living complex near her niece in California, where she passed away quietly in her sleep.

## OUTDOORS WITH DAVE BROWN



### Limits on Mearns Quail Need to Change



Photo by Dave Brown

#### Two English Pointers point a Mearns quail covey.

Is it time for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) to adjust the limit on Mearns quail? In view of the fact that 90% of Mearns quail hunting takes place within a hour's drive of the Patagonia-Sonoita area, many hunters, resident and non-resident, think that they should. Here's why some hunters, myself included, feel that reducing the limit to five birds per day in a good monsoon year, and dropping it to three birds per day in a poor monsoon would be a smart move both biologically and socially.

The five-bird limit (the current New Mexico limit) would extend the harvest in those easy-to-get-to spots. This was proven when the limit was reduced from 15 birds per day to eight, which created the opportunity for older or handicapped hunters to have more success.

Reducing the limit to three birds per day would also help the population rebound by ensuring there are more 'carry over' birds when the monsoon storms roll in again the next year.

Unfortunately, the Arizona Game and Fish Dept. believes in the age-old guiding principle that hunting is compensatory, that the Mearns quail that are being harvested would die anyway. What is not being taken into

consideration is the amount of hunting pressure placed on Mearns quail in recent years, which could be having a negative impact on the population, especially in years of poor reproduction.

AZGF has no accurate data, or any current research, to determine if their management strategy is reflective of the current popularity of this unique bird. When one considers the fact that this is the northern range of the Mearns quail and the only two states with a Mearns quail hunting season are New Mexico and Arizona, it makes sense to monitor the population of what many hunters consider a trophy bird.

An easy way for AZGF to get a handle on the amount of hunting pressure and generate revenue for research would be the implementation of a Mearns quail stamp. This suggestion has been put to the Department on numerous occasions only to be shot down. Why? Because they feel that it would (for lack of a better term) over-complicate the licensing process.

Until AZGF proves that their current management strategy is biologically and socially sound, Mearns quail aficionados will continue to question their apparent lack of concern for this unique game bird.

## March 7th, 2024

A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

PCAA and Patagonia Library presents:

### AN EVENING WITH CRAIG JOHNSON

AUTHOR AND CREATOR OF THE LONGMIRE SERIES ON NETFLIX  
(LIMITED SEATING)

#### Join us for a meet and greet:

<b>10:00AM:</b> Meet and Greet at the Patagonia Public Library	<b>5:00PM:</b> Tapas and drinks at the PCAA Studio Courtyard.	<b>6:30PM:</b> Reading and Q&A with Craig Johnson at the Tin Shed Theater.	<b>12:00PM:</b> Bonus Appearance and book signing at Patagonia Trading Post.
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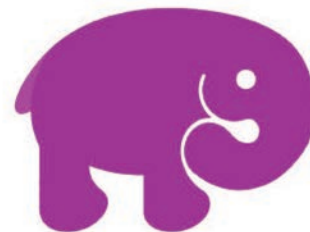
#### Tin Shed Theater: \$50 per person

Tickets will be sold at PCAA, Patagonia Public Library, and Patagonia Trading Post starting Feb 1st.  
(Or contact Cassina at PCAA during working hours - makeart1@msn.com | 520-394-9369)  
More information can be found at: [patagoniacreativearts.org/longmire](http://patagoniacreativearts.org/longmire)



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# Eating Our Way Through History Celebrating Valentine's Day With a Rockin' Favorite

By Carrie White

Raise your hand if you like dessert. Thought so.

In February we celebrate love with sweets for the sweet. Their form can be anything—candy, cookies, brownies, cakes. But most important—chocolate.

One recipe from the Cowbelles' 1951 cookbook, "Roundup Recipes," hits the mark with the use of that confection. It came from Sally Grennan, who, along with husband Bob, operated the Rockin' Chair Ranch outside Patagonia for 12 years beginning in 1945.

A charter member of the Elgin Sonoita Cowbelles, Sally would play a part in forming a meeting tradition that continues today.

Desserts.

"We enjoy some wonderful desserts," said Cowbelle Lou Apperson. Monthly hostesses furnish two for the group, "and we exchange recipes whenever we find something we would like to add to our collection."

Sharing that ranching heritage with the public comes through the sale of cookbooks, with monies raised going for such things as scholarships.

When Bonnie and Ed Peplow first sent out a call for recipes for the 1951 edition of the cookbook, the big surprise was the response.

"We anticipated the book would be top-heavy with stews, casseroles, meats and main dishes," the Peplows wrote. "What we got were desserts. We got pies and cakes and puddings; we got cookies, and ice cream and sauces. We had to send out an SOS for

more substantial fare."

The takeaway: Ranch folk love their sweets.

"No meal is complete without dessert, at least no dinner, lunch or supper menu is, and it is far from unknown for a touch of New England to creep in at breakfast in the form of pie," the Peplows wrote.

Sally and Bob Grennan came to Arizona from Flushing, Queens, New York, so, while not officially New Englanders, they might have enjoyed a slice or two for that morning meal in the day.

Terri Murrietta of Patagonia is a Grennan granddaughter and not only knows of Sally's Good Devil's Food Cake, she makes it still. A smudged double-sided index card is proof.

"They wanted to be part of the Wild West," Murrietta said of her grandparents' move from the East. "Particularly my grandmother."

This was a time when frontier freedom was vividly portrayed in films like "King of the Cowboys," "Death Valley Rangers" and "West of Tombstone." But rather than watch it, the Grennans chose to live it.

"They loved it," Murrietta said. "It was their dream."

But not always a comfortable one. During renovation of the property's original adobe, the couple resided in a two-bedroom guest house, according to a 2004 obituary published in the Nogales International. Food was cooked in an outdoor fireplace.

Eventually the Grennans moved pots, pans and three daughters—Nancy, Judi, and Vicki—down the road to Papago Springs.

But that new address is not record-



Photo courtesy of Patti Oliver

Sally Grennan (left), Jane Holbrook and Gladys White perform at an Elgin Club event.

ed in "Roundup Recipes." In that book, Sally will always live on the Rockin' Chair.

### Good Devil's Food Cake (without eggs)

1 cup sugar  
1 ½ cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
¼ lb. butter or other shortening  
2 squares chocolate  
Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease and flour two 8-inch cake pans.

Melt butter and chocolate in the top of a double boiler.

Mix flour, sugar and soda together. Add milk to dry ingredients. Stir melted chocolate and butter into mixture. Add vanilla and mix thoroughly.

Pour into cake pans and bake for 30 minutes.

### White Frosting

¾ cup sugar  
½ cup water

2 egg whites

Beat two egg whites until stiff.

In a saucepan, combine the sugar and water and boil until it "hairs"\*. Beat egg whites slowly into the syrup. Frost.

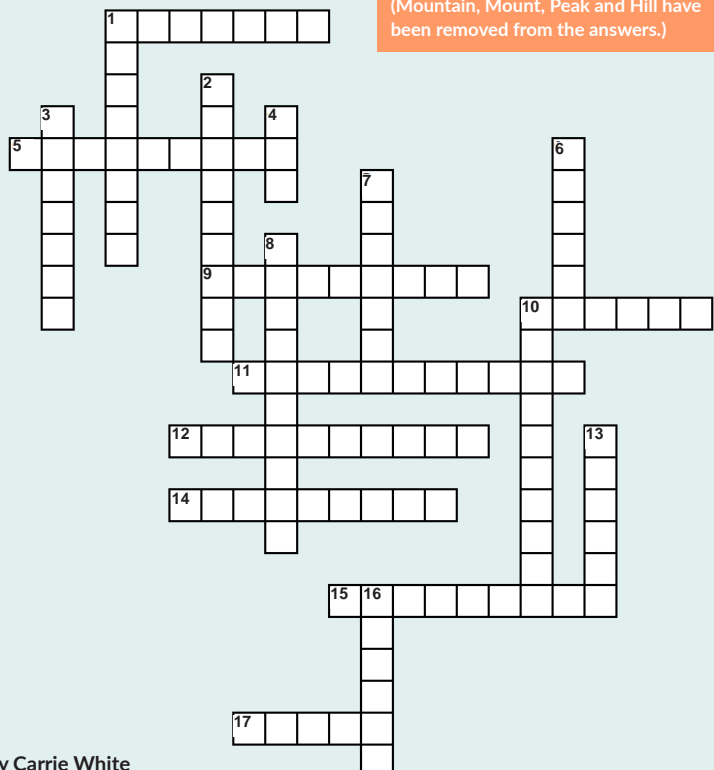
\*Archaic term meaning "threads" determined by dropping a spoonful of syrup into cold water, creating a spider web.

A copy of "Roundup Recipes" can be found at the Bowman-Straddling History Center located at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 3142 S. Hwy. 83, Sonoita. The center is open Mondays through Fridays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For access, please visit the fairgrounds' office. For more information on the center contact SonoitaHistoryCenter@gmail.com.

Carrie White can be contacted at CarrieWhitePRT@gmail.com.

## Peak Your Interest

How well do you know area mountains, peaks and hills? We will soon see. (Mountain, Mount, Peak and Hill have been removed from the answers.)



By Carrie White

Stumped? See Solution, page 23

### Across

1. I can't be tamed.
5. I'm a Pennington daughter.
9. Patron saint of impossible causes.
10. Think Cu (periodic table).
11. I'm the patron saint of Argentina.
12. I'm the highest point of the Patagonia Mtns.
14. The namesake of our illustrious publication.
15. I'm used to sharpen blades.
17. In Yiddish, my name is associated with 'clever trick'.

### Down

1. Wrightson's shorter sister at 8,357 feet.
2. At 9,456 feet, I'm named for a miner/entrepreneur.
3. I've got telescopic vision.
4. I'm 'rojo', 'rouge' or 'rosso'.
6. I was once known as "Canille'.
7. Plenty of sunshine on me at 8,136 feet.
8. You won't find nickels on my slopes!
10. The French would call me a 'chandelier'.
13. Some say the ranch was named after me.
16. No relation to Howard.



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# PRCF Receives Estate Gifts

## News Release

The Patagonia Regional Community Fund (PRCF) recently received a generous bequest from the estate of the late Jim Kolbe, whose family was former owners of the Rail X Ranch. Kolbe was a former U.S. Congressman representing Southern Arizona from 1985 to 2007, and a longtime annual PRCF contributor. PRCF is a collection of funds affiliated with the statewide Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) that receives donations from local residents, invests those donations in professionally managed endowments which steadily grow and last forever into the future. The funds then make grants, via an annual competitive grant making process, to over 40 other nonprofits providing services in our community.

Examples of local nonprofits that have received PRCF grants include Family Health Care Amigos, Friends of Sonoita Creek, Mountain Empire Trail Association, Patagonia Creative Arts Association, Patagonia Parent Teacher Booster Club, Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center, Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, and the Society for Bevel Intentions, all of which received

grants in 2023.

Congressman Kolbe's bequest, along with another major gift received in 2022 from longtime Patagonia residents and annual contributors Don and Doris Wenig, will allow PRCF to increase the amount it can grant yearly from over \$20,000 to over \$25,000 in 2024, and over \$30,000 in future years because PRCF grants a percentage of its total endowed funds yearly based on a three-year rolling average of those funds. While PRCF grants are of great benefit to our local nonprofits, they total far less than the dollar amounts of requests that PRCF receives every year - which routinely exceed \$50,000.

If you want to help PRCF make grants to our local nonprofits, you can make donations to PRCF online at [azfoundation.org/Patagonia](http://azfoundation.org/Patagonia) or by mailing a donation to PRCF at P.O. Box 1085, Benson, AZ 85602. If, like Congressman Kolbe and the Wenigs, you wish to leave a legacy for your community, learn more about making a planned gift to PRCF by contacting ACF's local Senior Regional Director Angie Laskarides at [alaskarides@azfoundagion.org](mailto:alaskarides@azfoundagion.org) or call 520-505-3676.

## Rewilding (Cont.)

be another part of the work in some spots. Treube portrays the natural restoration process as a partnership with nature, "speeding it up in very conscientious ways with low-impact nature-based solutions, kind of helping nature do the work itself."

As SIA identifies the road segments most in need of work, SIA's volunteers and staff, with FS assistance, will begin to implement the priority projects.

Francesca Claverie, Borderlands Restoration Networks' Native Plant Program Director, said that she "stands ready to provide an array of local plant materials."

Truebe is very receptive to future partnering with other conservation organizations with a track record in the area, such as Tucson Audubon, Arizona Trails, and the Arizona Conservation Corps.

Truebe views the rewilding effort as part of the regional reinforcement of wildlife corridors, such as the route jaguars and other mammals use from

northern Sonora across the border and through Huachuca and Canelo Hills to the Santa Ritas. She also argues that although the program may seem small in acreage it has an "ecological ripple effect" in protecting wildlife habitat. She hopes it inspires others to devise and implement other rewilding strategies.

The Road Rewilding effort is a tangible, achievable local example of a conservation strategy that might help slow or stop the current mass extinction of species. "Think of it as a pilot program," Treube said. The Road Rewilding program is a perfect example of the 'Think globally—act locally.'

The road rewilding map is at [skyislandalliance.org/2023/09/help-rewild-old-roads-in-the-huachuca-mountains/](http://skyislandalliance.org/2023/09/help-rewild-old-roads-in-the-huachuca-mountains/).

For more information about the project, visit [skyislandalliance.org/2023/09/help-rewild-old-roads-in-the-huachuca-mountains/](http://skyislandalliance.org/2023/09/help-rewild-old-roads-in-the-huachuca-mountains/)

At the top of the page is a link for reading it in Spanish.

# Citizen Survey Seeks Input

## News Release

Change is happening in Patagonia, much faster than ever before. That's what long-time residents are reporting in the "Our Town, Patagonia" citizen survey and discussion groups.

Hearing long-time residents' historical perspectives is essential to meeting the challenge of our time: Preserving town character and quality of life. That is a strong sentiment being expressed by participants: Keep what makes Patagonia special.

"Preserve Town character and quality of life" are explicit goals in Patagonia's General Plan, which guides town decision-making. But what, exactly, does that mean? In times of slower change, people "just knew," and decisions were made accordingly. Now, people are bringing in new ideas and plans that push the envelope of what used to be obvious. In addition, there's the increasing mine activity and its effects on many aspects of life here.

The goal of the Our Town, Patagonia (OTP) project, led by volunteers Nancy McCoy, Laurie Monti, and Mary Tolena, is to gather citizens' input to create a more specific and shared understanding about residents' priorities for the future. The still-ongoing survey and discussions ask questions like:

What are your biggest concerns? What do you most appreciate and want to preserve about Patagonia? What are your hopes for the future?

What suggestions do you have to improve the town?

Over 140 people have completed the OTP survey, and we've held several small group discussions that go into more depth. Respondents value our friendly small-town feel, quiet rural lifestyle, and natural beauty. Areas for improvement include traffic and noise, affordable housing, and more opportunities for employment and youth.

People are also concerned about gaps in perceptions and desires between long-timers and newcomers. The qualities that make Patagonia special—our friendly and caring community, active

and creative civic life, etc.—developed over decades of contributions from the many kinds of folks who have settled here, and are still here today.

The OTP survey and discussions show that newcomers appreciate these qualities, too. Yet it takes a while to perceive and understand how they operate in this town, and how they came to be. As one relative newcomer wrote, "I hope that the families with deep roots here are honored and...that newcomers are respectful of the history, and attempt to dovetail themselves into this strong community."

"[We don't want] people trying to make Patagonia something it's not," another respondent said.

The Our Town, Patagonia citizen survey is still open. Adding your voice is important to create the most accurate and comprehensive picture of community sentiments. More responses from long-time residents are particularly important so that their perspectives are fully included.

Surveys are available online at <https://bit.ly/OTPSurvey1>. There is a link to a Spanish version at the top of that page. Paper copies are available in English and Spanish in the Library, Senior Center, and Art Center.

Results will be reported.

After further citizen input, OTP organizers will report results to town and organization leaders, and to the public. Areas for specific improvements will be identified for follow-up action groups.

# Garden Guides

## Some Sage Advice



Contributed photo

**A Texas ranger in bloom.**

By Mary McKay

### Part 1 - Leucophyllum

Do you know the difference between the types of sage? 'Sage Advice part one' will highlight the Leucophyllum sages while part two will unravel the mystery of the salvias.

Leucophyllum comes from the Greek—leucos meaning white, and phyllos meaning leaf. All Leucophyllum have fuzzy and whitish or silvery foliage. While it's commonly called sage, it's not actually a true sage.

Leucophyllum sages have a history of being used in Native American ceremonies for healing and energy cleansing. They are native to the Southwestern United States and/or Mexico.

Leucophyllum sages are evergreen but do have some leaf drop in winter. Cold hardy to about 5- or 10-degrees F, they also thrive in hot and arid conditions. I recommend watering every 10 days at the very least, but once per week is even better. Loving hot sun but also thriving in part shade (half a day of sun), they handle heat and reflected heat off structures and can even do well in windy sites.

All leucophyllum attract bees and hummingbirds when they bloom in summer through fall. Most begin their bloom cycle with the onset of monsoon.

In the landscape they can be used as a focal point, in a large pot, edging, pollinator gardens, rock gardens, foundation planting or hedges. They take well to pruning but I think they are more beautiful and bloom more when left to their own devices. Many types are commonly available, and some have been hybridized, creating even more stunning specimens. Read on for details on the common types and subtle differences of Leucophyllum sage.

Leucophyllum frutescens, aka Texas ranger, Texas sage, Cenizo, or barometer bush. Distinguished by its silver-grey foliage and vibrant purple flowers that tend to bloom during periods of moisture and high humidity. L. frutescens has a growth habit of

about 5'-8' tall and wide depending on cultivar. A few common cultivars of L. frutescens are: 'Green Cloud,' 'Compacta,' 'Convent' and 'Heavenly Cloud.'

Leucophyllum langmaniae, aka Langman's ranger, Rio Bravo sage, Texas ranger, Texas sage. Lush sage green foliage with pale purple to dark pink-purple flowers. Not as dependent on humidity for bloom. 5'x5' tall and wide. Cultivars include 'Lynn's Legacy,' 'Rio Bravo.'

Leucophyllum candidum, aka Silverleaf or Violet Silverleaf, Texas ranger, Texas sage. Distinguished by its fine textured silvery-white foliage and pale to dark purple flowers. L candidum has a compact size of around 4' x 4' with a naturally rounded form. Cultivars include 'Silver Cloud,' 'Thunder Cloud.'

Leucophyllum pruinatum, aka fragrant sage. Distinguished by its silvery rounded fuzzy leaves and bubble gum scented flowers going up spikes of foliage. This one is probably my favorite. Often sprawling growth habit of 6'-8' tall and wide. Cultivar: 'Sierra Bouquet.'

Leucophyllum laevigatum, aka Chihuahuan sage, Chihuahuan rain sage, Chihuahuan ranger. Chihuahuan rain sage is less dependent on the humidity of monsoons, and can produce masses of fragrant, bell-shaped, lavender-purple flowers several times a month from early summer through fall. Spiky, open habit 5'x5' tall and wide. Common cultivars are the white flowering 'Summer Snow' and 'Heavenly Cloud' (a cross with L. frutescens).

Leucophyllum zygophyllum aka blue ranger. A petite shrub with a naturally rounded form. Distinguished by its silvery-green, distinctly cupped leaves and bluish bell-shaped flowers. Grows 3' to 5' tall and wide. Cultivar 'Cimmaron.'

Any of these can be planted in winter here in Southern Arizona so get growing! Come in to Patagonia Plants nursery to see what sage selections you can find for your landscape.

Happy Winter, happy gardening.

# Notes From SEFD

## Outfitting a Firefighter

By Eddie McArthur

The protective gear worn by our firefighters is manufactured to standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and none of it is cheap.

This turnout gear can weigh 50 to 75 pounds, including helmet, gloves, boots, coats and pants. Three layers—the shell, moisture barrier, and thermal protection layer—can withstand temperatures up to 1600 degrees Fahrenheit. In general, turnout gear will last three to six years with proper maintenance. NFPA suggests gear be retired after 10 years.

In many instances, specialty cleaning is required (think exposure to bodily fluids or hazardous chemicals). For us, that means shipping to Phoenix. When washing can be done in house, we have a custom drying rack. Because we cannot afford more than one set of gear per firefighter—a common situation in agencies of our size—we need to be able to clean and dry the gear as quickly as possible.

Basic gear and its approximate cost is as follows:

A helmet designed to protect from debris, fire, scalding water, and extreme temperatures includes a chin strap, a visor for eye protection, and flaps to protect ears. Cost: \$480

Goggles provide additional eye protection. Cost: \$30

The self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) supplies air to a firefighter inside an area filled with toxic smoke. Cost: \$2,245

Gloves are made of thick leather to protect from burns, cuts, and scrapes as well as providing protection from chemicals and sharp objects. Cost: \$90

Turnout Pants made of several layers often have reinforced knees and leather cuffs. Built in suspenders and leg zippers are often included. Cost: \$1,490

The Turnout Coat, again consisting of several layers of fire resistant mate-



Photo by Eddie McArthur

**Taylor Glasser, one of the SEFD firefighters, in her gear. Behind Taylor is the custom drying rack.**

rial, includes reflective strips to provide visibility. A wristlet fits around the firefighters' hands to hold the sleeve down. Special stitching causes the collar to remain up for added protection. Cost: \$2,430

Heavy leather boots provide protection from sharp objects, have steel toes, and are fire resistant. Cost: \$350

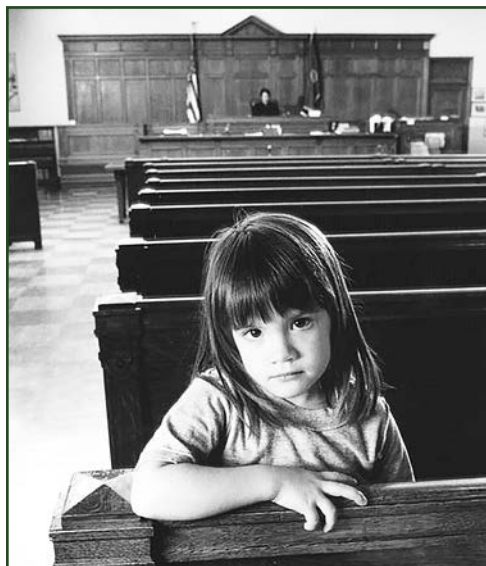
Additional gear can include a two-way radio for communication between firefighters (\$2,300), a flashlight (\$75), and headlamp (\$90). Wildland gear adds about \$950.

Cost for this basic outfitting is over \$10,500 and going up. One agency in New York reports an 18% increase in gear costs in 2023. Because the gear is so specialized, and must meet NFPA standards, there are no "cheap" versions available. Our goal, of course, is to protect the lives and welfare of our firefighters as we provide services to our communities.

SEFD's November service stats: 24 EMS calls, eight Fire calls, and 19 other services.

Please send any questions or comments to Meredith@sefd911.org

*Eddie McArthur is a Sonoita resident and member of the SEFD Board of Directors.*



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# Glimpses Into Our Past

## Houghton Hedgcock and Reagan Gardner

By Alison Bunting

The Santa Cruz Fair Association (SCFA) was incorporated in 1915 when a group of residents collaborated to create an association “for the purpose of having an annual fair.” In 1916 Sonoita residents Wade Purdum and Frank Rigsby each donated ten acres of land and volunteers constructed a wood frame building at the site of today’s Pioneer Hall.

In 1936 the SCFA reincorporated under the name of Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association (SCCFRA).

As the activities at the fairgrounds expanded over the early years, new buildings/facilities were added including a cattle barn (1940); racetrack (1953/54); Hedgcock Hall (1958); Gardner Building (1960), and the rock wall at the entrance to the fairgrounds (1961). [Piper, Rose E. A History of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association, 1915-1965, 1999]. This article provides background information on Houghton ‘Bum’ Hedgcock and Reagan Gardner who have buildings named for them.

Houghton ‘Bum’ Hedgcock and his wife Frances moved to Sonoita from Indiana in 1945 to partner with Bum’s

brother Harvey and sister-in-law Lydia in operating the Los Encinos guest ranch. The guest ranch was previously owned by Neil and Mary Carr [see Glimpses article about the Carr/Montoya families in the December 2019 PRT]. The brothers added a cattle ranching operation after purchasing two adjacent properties and obtaining Coronado National Forest grazing permits. In 1949 Bum bought out Harvey’s interest and eventually converted the guest quarters at Los Encinos to rental properties. [Barr, Betty. Hidden Treasures of Santa Cruz County, 2006: 247-250].

Bum was a “tireless” worker for the SCCFRA. [Piper: 35]. He was a member of the committee that obtained a grant from the Arizona State Racing Commission to build a racetrack at the fairgrounds and served as SCCFRA President in 1955 and 1956. When Bum died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1957, SCCFRA voted to name the 50’ x 60’ all-purpose building under construction to honor him, and to also build an office in the corner of the building with a plaque honoring him. [Piper: 49].

Joseph Reagan Gardner was born in Arizona in 1906. His father Charles



Photo Courtesy of Ancestry.com

### Hettie and Reagan Gardner, 1960s

ranching in the Douglas area of Cochise County. In 1927 he married Hettie Lee Dalton and they had two children: Edwin Reagan and Monta Carol. Hettie’s parents were Elgin homesteaders who ran a dairy. In 1930 Reagan and Hettie were living in Greaterville where he worked as a miner. By 1940 they were ranching in Elgin and Reagan worked as truck driver, eventually for the Arizona Highway Dept. Hettie was the Sonoita postmistress for many years.

Reagan served as President of



Photo Courtesy of Empire Ranch Fdtn.

### Francis and Bum Hedgcock on a cruise in the 1950s.

SCCFRA from 1950-1952. He was active in managing the Sonoita Rodeo, and was a member of the same committee as Bum Hedgcock that obtained funding to build the racetrack at the fairgrounds.

The 50’ x 100’ building located SW of Pioneer Hall was constructed in 1960 and was later named after Reagan “in honor of his long service to the Association.” [Piper: 53].

Reagan died in 1997, age 71; Hettie died in 1987, age 77. Both are buried at Black Oak Cemetery.

## WE REFUSE TO BE A SACRIFICE ZONE!



- Sacrifice zones are areas where residents are subjected to heightened levels of pollution and hazardous materials, despite the adverse impacts on their health.
- Sacrifice zones are part of a legacy of environmental racism and injustice that has resulted in people of color being significantly more likely than white people to experience polluted air and groundwater.
- Those who live in sacrifice zones are far more likely to develop conditions such as asthma, respiratory disease, and cancer as a result of their environment.
- Sacrifice zones are a moral stain on the nation. No community should have to trade its health to fuel the prosperity of another.

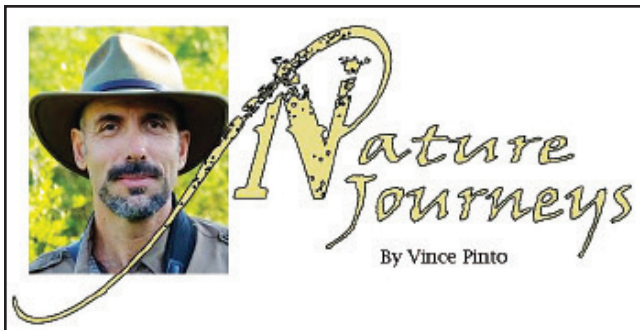


While Patagonia is at the heart of mining activity by Australian mining company South32 and Canadian exploratory company Barksdale Resources, all of Santa Cruz County is a frontline community that will be impacted in the next century by proposed mining.

PARA is working to ensure we will not become a “sacrifice zone” for corporate profits.

Learn more at [PatagoniaAlliance.org](https://PatagoniaAlliance.org)





## Sky Islands Conifers Part II

Now it's time to shed some light on the family of conifers found in our neck of the woods, species in the Pinacea or pine family. Even those poor in botanical skills can recognize this family in Arizona, owing to the needle-shaped, evergreen leaves present on all of our Sky Island species—quite unlike the scale-like foliage found in the cypress family.

Despite this similarity in foliage, not all members of the pine family are actually pines. Also included are true firs, spruces, and Douglas firs.

Each of these species plays a crucial role in furnishing critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife. In addition to bolstering our local ecologies, they all add greatly to the beauty of a region that is, after all, largely treeless.

Pines (*Pinus* spp.) outnumber all other members of the pine family in Arizona combined. As a state we host ten species of pine, two spruces, two true firs, and one species of Douglas fir. Narrowing our scope to the Sky Islands, we encounter seven pines, one spruce, two true firs, and the Douglas fir. This is an impressive lineup in a part of the state far more renowned for its cacti than its conifers.

Among all of the tree species present in our region one would be hard pressed to point to a genus more important to wildlife. Perhaps the oaks with their acorns might put up a fight

in this regard. Still, it's hard to beat the combination of evergreen foliage, diversity of growth forms and high-quality food furnished by pine nuts.

Our shortest pine is the Mexican pinyon. Despite topping out at about 40 feet tall—relatively dwarfed by our taller local pines—this species produces the largest pine nuts. These are

highly prized by Woodhouse's scrub jay, Mexican jay, other birds, mice, cliff chipmunks, various tree squirrel species, black bears and humans, among others. Pinyon nut crops vary tremendously from year to year—a boom-and-bust cycle familiar to many aspects of our local ecologies. Pinyons rely mostly upon animals to disseminate their nuts.

Among the taller pine species residing in our higher elevations (where they benefit from greater amounts of precipitation) are widespread ponderosa pine, Apache pine, Chihuahuan pine, with its burnt bark countenance, and stately southwestern white pine, housing elongated cones. All produce pine nuts, albeit far smaller ones than those of pinyon species. These taller pines lean heavily on wind rather than wildlife to disperse their seeds. Nevertheless, the nuts of these species are also relished by a broad spectrum of wildlife.

Our Douglas firs (*Psuedotsuga*) are easy enough to distinguish from the pines, given that their smallish cones look as if a snake's tongue is emanating from between its overlapping scales. Some specimens of this widespread western tree can attain behemoth proportions.

In our region that means perhaps 130 feet tall with a trunk diameter over five feet. In the Pacific Northwest,



A pine forest in the Catalina Mountains. Photo by Vince Pinto

the same species rivals even redwoods in size. Here they grow only high up on mountains, as well as in some deep, cool canyons. The Cave Creek drainage in the Chiricahuas has Douglas firs and mesquite trees growing nearly cheek by jowl.

While cones persist on Douglas firs, they fall apart upon maturing on true firs (*Abies*), making the two difficult to confuse. Accentuating the differences of true fir cones from those of other local conifers is the fact that they stand upright upon their branches rather than hang down from them. Both white fir and, less commonly, subalpine fir grow on select taller mountains in our area.

Finally, we add our lone spruce species to the local conifer mix. The Sky Islands house the southernmost population of Engelmann spruce in the entire U.S.

All our larger conifers provide excellent nesting habitat to a wide range of bird species. Many others find food among the foliage of the trees. Vital habitat indeed.

Coming as no great surprise to most people will be the stark

realities being imposed by climate change, both here and throughout our beleaguered planet. A warming/drying trend over recent decades has led to seemingly countless wildfires that have locally decimated our conifers. Perhaps many of the older/larger specimens we once had, and still enjoy, germinated a few hundred years ago during the Little Ice Age, a period of cooler, wetter climate far more conducive to their reproduction.

We would do well to protect the good handful of tree species still clinging precariously to existence here, as they can easily vanish in a startlingly short period of time. "Evergreen" no more.

*Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS, 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](http://ravensnatureschool.org)*

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Mary McKay  
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# LET'S GO GET STONES

## Doggone

By Keith Krizan

According to Oxford Languages, 'doggone' can be an adjective used to express feelings of annoyance, surprise, or pleasure, or a verb used to express surprise, irritation, or anger. That is one versatile word.

For the past several years, ever since being introduced to the area by a friend and neighbor, I have been exploring the old mines and workings off of what I call Airport Road. Formally, it is Forest Service Rd. (FSR) 235, a dirt track that goes north, towards the Patagonia Mountains, from the east side of State Route (SR) 82 between mile markers 9 and 10 above Nogales International Airport.

The land there has a rich history. There are, I have been told by a reliable source, metates in the wash that continues to carve out what is called either Tascala Canyon (according to Google Earth) or Taskeles Canyon (according to a USGS map, date uncertain).

Whichever name you choose, you go along FSR 235 until you are 1.7 miles in from SR 82. There you can turn right onto Paloma Rd. and somewhere in the wash down below, the First Nations people used a grinding stone to prepare food. I've walked up and down that wash several times and

I have not located the metate yet, but, doggone it, I am determined to.

About 3.1 miles further in on FSR 235, the land becomes host to a plethora of mines and diggings. This is the Palmetto Mining District, a lung-shaped area of rolling hills, washes and deeply faulted mountain crevices approximately ten miles across at its widest and 15 miles top to bottom at its longest.

Mindat.org's list of some 40 mines within the district reads like a journal of the dreams of the prospectors that worked them. Native Silver Mine. Gold Standard Mine. Hollywood Mine. Denver Mine. San Lou Mine. The Prosperity Group. The New Hope Mine.

The most famous, and probably the most productive of the group, is the Three-R-Mine, named after its principal owner Rollin Rice Richardson, which sits a little over three miles away and 1000 feet above the Circle Z Ranch.

Everywhere in and amongst the mines are exquisite ruins. Some are laid-up stone walls and the remnants of domicile foundations. Some are concrete abutments, with large metal bolts still protruding, that supported the massive headframes used for the lowering of miners into, and the heavy ore loads out of, the shafts that they lorded over.

Rails for ore carts can still be found twisted on the ground, removed from their underground routes but not fully

salvaged, most likely because it was preferable to work with a straight track when trying to bend a new route through a new mountain.

On a recent crisp (read: snakeless) December morning my wife and I set out for the Billie D, a former gold mine on an unnamed hill in the Palmetto Mining District. I had visited this hill several times. It housed not only the Billie D but also the Denver Mine where they chased mostly lead and copper.

The Denver consists of a collapsed horizontal adit on the lower level and a collapsed vertical shaft about 350 feet higher up on the hill. Somehow "350 feet" does not do justice to the effort required to get up that hill. One has to slowly switch back and forth avoiding a route that ends up facing out at a small but unconquerable - by me anyway - cliff. Avoiding the things that might stick you and draw blood. Avoiding loose rock that suddenly pitches you forward or jolts you backward. The journey is arduous. The elevation gain and loss are measured. Prospectors came this way with pack animals looking for a promising place to put pickaxe and shovel to profitable work.

My wife and I had set out for a return trip to the Billie D because three weeks prior I had located an opening and now I wanted to explore it. Flashlights, helmet and water gathered, I wanted to go in and see what vein, what dream, was being chased.

When we arrived, the opening had been bat barred. Doggone. After perhaps 70 years of benign neglect I

was thwarted moments before I was going to enter. We turned away and explored elsewhere that day.

I went back alone a few weeks later. There were two other smudges of waste rock on the hillside that I wanted to look at.

Walking along a hillside path I came to an old trench digging that now had some trash in it. The path and the trash were made by someone making the hard walk from some faraway country chasing a dream like some long-ago prospector.

Seeing that migrant detritus made me wonder about the conditions that would compel someone to make that hard journey.

We begin our lives with zero memories. We collect them, slowly at first, by trying to ascribe meaning to our lived experience. Starting, all is pristine, then the layering of life begins and we find ourselves, at turns, surprised, pleased, annoyed, irritated, or angered.

We walk hillsides in search of a streak of riches or we walk hillsides in search of a life free from deprivation.

In the end, we are all bat-barred from entry into permanent happiness because... we age. Things change when we are not looking.

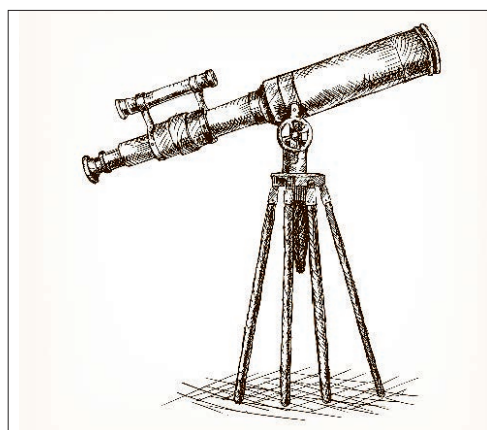
Eventually, after all the digging and moving, we all come to the same place. 50-year friends will contract cancer and slip away. Pets will get old and die.

Doggone.

Keith Krizan can be contacted at [therealkbkkbk@gmail.com](mailto:therealkbkkbk@gmail.com)

## STARSTRUCK

### Moons and Me



By Harold Meckler

There are eight planets and a growing number of dwarf planets in our solar system. Around them, orbiting them, are close to 300 moons of all shapes, sizes, and temperaments.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, Galileo, using a telescope with a magnification of just 10, not only discovered Jupiter's four largest moons, but proved that the Earth was not the hub around which everything else circled. It was cataclysmic. We were forced to accept that we weren't the center of the universe, just a tiny part of it.

It has been over 400 years since Galileo watched Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto disappear and then reappear like clockwork.

I wonder what his first thoughts were when he knew that they were in Jupiter's thrall, not ours. Indeed, Jupiter wasn't in our thrall either. Copernicus had hypothesized in 1543 that the sun was the engine holding behemoths like Jupiter and Saturn in its grasp. Clearly, albeit 70 years later, he had been proven right.

And then, we realized that the sun, along with billions of other stars, were bound together within the Milky Way, a spiral galaxy of unimaginable size and that, at its heart, was a black hole so dense, so all consuming, that nothing escaped it. Even stars much larger and more massive than the sun have been shredded and devoured by the immense gravitation that exists beyond the black hole's event horizon, its point of no return.

We know now that there are billions of galaxies, including those that formed over 13 billion years ago. Their light has been captured by instruments like the Webb Telescope, challenging astronomers to rethink how everything began.

Finally, we have learned that two still somewhat mysterious pieces of the cosmic puzzle, dark matter and dark energy, are the means by which the universe is both held together and ever expanding.

The way I see it, it all started with finding a few moons. That's when science really arrived. Today, photographs and videos and mind-boggling technology detail moons with subsurface oceans, with active volcanoes, and with geysers that are far more powerful and majestic than the grandest that Yellowstone can offer.

To add to it all, there are two moons, Ganymede and Saturn's Titan, that are bigger than the planet Mercury. Yeah, it's an eclectic bunch, endlessly fascinating. But, for me, the key they unlocked to understanding the dynamics of the universe is secondary to something else that both comforts and unnerves me.

There is, it seems to me, a symmetry in space. There are checks and balances. There is a hierarchy that recognizes the absolute necessity of every member in the chain of cosmic evolution. The Earth, for example, though four times larger than the moon, is dependent upon the moon not just for the tides, but also for the tilt of our

orbit. Without the moon, our seasons and climate would look very different.

It's interesting, but the universe is in a state of constant give and take, of change, even though we talk about it in units of millions and billions of years. It's a violent place with its exploding stars, comets racing past, and sometimes into, planets, and those voracious black holes that inhabit every galaxy and possibly float freely like runaway train wrecks.

And yet, it is completely ordered. Everything has its place and purpose. It really is structured chaos. The universe works the way it is supposed to work. But does the same thing hold true for Earth and for us? I don't think so.

The question isn't whether our actions interfere with the structured chaos here at home. The question is how much? Life on Earth has never promised absolute safety to its inhabitants. Ask the dinosaurs. Surely, though, we continue to ignore the obvious. We are constantly turning nature on its head. We are like the third rail of a subway line. That we can't see, or refuse to see, or minimize our role in the chaos is unforgivable.

Harold Meckler can be contacted at [glusk@proton.me](mailto:glusk@proton.me)

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## Getzwiller (Cont.)

Getzwiller became an honorary member of the family—older brother, counselor, friend, and financial advisor. “He took care of us,” Nez-Barber said.

She recalled one rug that was 2 ½ years in the making. A quality she greatly admired in Getzwiller was his patience. “He told us not to rush. If you take your time on a rug, it turns out much better.”

Exactly where Getzwiller’s interest in all things Native American began is not hard to trace. Its genesis lies in the 1950s when, as a youth, he roamed the halls of the Amerind Foundation in Dragoon. His mother was a friend of foundation director Charles C. Di Peso.

“He fell in love with everything Indian,” Gail said, recalling the Amerind’s influence. Following a stint at the University of Arizona pursuing an anthropology degree, Steve began making pottery and trading it for jewelry. His travels took him to Hopi and Navajo lands. Before long, he was dealing primarily in weavings, an affinity that grew from exposure to the Amerind’s native fabrics.

“He was very proud of the fact that at age 18, he traded his collection of .22 rifles for his first Navajo rug,” Gail said.

Gail, an Illinois native, first met Steve in a Benson grocery store circa 1971. A college student herself, attending school in Waubensee, Ill., Gail had just returned from a self-guided, six-month tour of Europe and the Mediterranean. She was in Benson staying with friends after her apartment burned and her job evaporated.

“He was really cute and super nice,” she said, remembering a young rancher who wore his hair back in a “Chongo,” a bun seen among Navajo and Pueblo tribal members. Married in Prescott, AZ, in 1977, their relationship would grow to a partnership in every sense of the word. She was the wife and mother of their two children, son Sean and daughter Jamie. She also marketed and promoted the weavers and their business while continuing to operate the Benson ranch. When he was home, Steve was “dad” and returned to his ranch roots. But when he was on the road, which was often, he was building relationships with weavers and gallery owners.

One such gallery owner was Jeff Voracek of Red Mountain Gallery in Penryn, Calif. “Steve had one foot in this world and one foot in that world,” Voracek said, referring to the Native American culture. “To some extent, weaving became his identity. It was intensely important to him.”

Bill Malone, a retired trader out of the Hubbell Trading Post on the Navajo reservation, said Steve would meet the weavers at their homes. Recognizing that one work can take months—even years—Steve would bankroll them as they completed their work.

He also did something other traders

didn’t do. He critiqued, offering suggestions on how they could improve, whether it be the pattern, dyes, or wool.

One historic improvement he made to the art form was the reintroduction of churro wool, which comes from a breed whose name in Navajo—Dibe’ dits’ ozi—means “long fleeced sheep.” Primarily raised for their wool, the churro population had declined to mere hundreds in the 1970s due to U.S. government policies.

“One thing Steve was very proud of was the fact that the ranch management system he used to run his family’s cattle ranch influenced his research into the weakest link in the tradition of Navajo weaving,” Gail said. That system, Alan Savory’s Holistic Management Theory, addresses four insights and four ecosystem processes that allow for better stewardship. In ruminating on these processes, it became clear to Steve that wool quality was one of the biggest obstacles to the weavers achieving the status of fine art.

It took time, but Steve found the best sources for churro wool. He also found natural dye artists and small operations willing to mill it. This improved fiber was given freely to weavers, allowing them to focus on their craft.

The Navajo Churro Collection was born.

“When he came up, he would stay with me in Ganado,” said Malone. “We used to go down to the [Hubbell] trading post at night and lay on the rug piles and just tell stories” of weavers and weavings. The next day, Steve was off, checking in on the native artists and visiting galleries.

“Steve pulled a lot of weavers up in the world,” he said. “He made them phenomenal. I know one family, six girls, that all worked with Steve.”

The people, the place: it was a life he loved. And his style, when it came to working with weavers, was something that earned the respect of many—including Ray Dewey, who operated Dewey Galleries in Santa Fe, N.M., for 36 years before retiring 12 years ago.

“He was a straight shooter. I admired his honesty and directness,” Dewey said. He also appreciated his consistency and extreme dedication, “almost to a fault.”

Back in Table Mesa, NM, Berlinda Nez-Barber continues to weave, although not as much as she once did. She has six children. And to make ends meet, Berlinda works a full-time job, seven days a week.

“I weave for 30 minutes at a time,” she said.

But she plans to continue. Because, she said, “he is within our weaving. If I continue, he is still here.”

A local celebration of Steve Getzwiller’s life was held Saturday, January 20 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.

## ADEQ (Cont.)

dust, which is 0.0003/cubic meter. The highest modeled concentration of manganese at the mine site fence line was measured at 0.000216 (below the standard). Concentration levels at local communities were predicted to be much lower.

As the jurisdiction of the ADEQ permit lies only within the confines of the mine itself, ADEQ has no jurisdiction on public roads and did not require South32 to monitor the air quality outside the site. Risner stated that the company will monitor it anyway. He said that the exact locations for ambient air monitors are pending but will be placed along transportation routes and wherever the processing facility is built, and the data will be posted to the public on a website.

Manganese is not the only air pollutant to be monitored at the Hermosa Project. Because the project is classified as a major source of potential emissions including nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and other hazardous air pollutants which exceed ‘major threshold’ limits, it requires a class 1 permit from ADEQ.

Vaidyanathan stated that ADEQ has a very comprehensive enforcement program to address violations. He said the agency has “a lot of ways to correct or mitigate the violation to make sure it does not happen again.”

However, he stated, “We have capacity issues. We rely on a lot of self-policing.”

About 60 people attended the meeting including several from the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) who works with coalitions such as Calabasas Alliance and Save Rio Rico. Several people in the audience held up signs stating “Public Health Above Corporate Profits,” “Clean Water and Clean Air Are Basic Human Rights” and “Our Water’s Future is in Our Hands.” Legislative District 21 Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, Santa Cruz County District 3 Supervisor Bruce Bracker, County Manager Jesus Valdez, Patagonia Mayor Andrea Wood and Hermosa Project President Pat Risner all attended.

The public comment period that was opened on Jan. 5, 2024 will close on Feb. 26, 2024. The date was extended by ADEQ following public concerns that the previous time period was too short to review the complex documents made available to the public. There will be a public hearing on the closing date at Patagonia High School at 6:00pm.

The next steps include a responsiveness summary, an EPA review and a permit decision. To comment, visit [azdeq.gov/public-notice-new-air-quality-permit-south32-hermosa-project](http://azdeq.gov/public-notice-new-air-quality-permit-south32-hermosa-project).



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## Initiative (Cont.)

meeting, explaining that the initiative was “an attempt for the county to try to plan for growth in this area, similar to what we’re doing in Rio Rico, where we did the Rio Rico Vitality District and master planning. These are the tools that help us plan for growth and we get the ideas of what people want by the constructive feedback we will get here from you tonight.”

Feedback from the audience, following a presentation by Moyle, ranged from confusion about the initiative, concern about the limited water resources, lack of infrastructure to support development in the area, and anger and frustration fueled by the perception that the County was forcing this development plan on the residents.

Distrust of county government was a theme running through many of the comments at the meeting. “I think there is an ulterior motive that’s not being brought up,” said one speaker. “This benefits the county, not the residents,” said another.

“We need a rural plan for a rural community,” Nick Robbs, of Sonoita, said. “I don’t see one benefit to this community coming from this plan.”

Worries about dwindling water resources were another common theme at the meeting. “Do a water study before any planning,” suggested Matt Parrilli, of Elgin. Parrilli also implored

the planners, “Do not turn Elgin into Sedona.”

Moyle told the group that a market analysis had taken place last summer to early fall. The consultants also held ‘stakeholder’ meetings, including a meeting at the Sonoita Fairgrounds in October that was not publicized widely, held in the early afternoon on a weekday, and was attended by only 20 or so people, the majority of whom were winery and restaurant owners. At that meeting, attendees brainstormed about what development might be beneficial for Sonoita. Suggestions included bike paths, a motel, cluster housing and the creation of new roads.

By contrast, the January meeting at the Elgin School was heavily advertised and the majority of those who attended were residents who felt threatened by the initiative.

More than 40 attendees at the January 16 meeting signed up to be on a steering committee for the initiative, an idea that the planners had come up with “a couple of weeks prior to the Elgin meeting,” according to Moyle. The county is now reaching out to get even more residents involved in the steering committee. (See Supervisor Bracker’s opinion piece on p. 7).

The public had another chance to weigh in on the initiative during a zoom meeting held on January 23, which drew 41 participants. Moyle again presented his power point

and repeated that the goal for this planning is for “this to be community focused, community led.”

Susan Scott, of Sonoita wrote in the zoom chat, “This is so frustrating. It seems the county is once again trying to shove this down our throats. We don’t want this.”

Another chat read, “the community first wants to understand the resources that we have, the current impacts and the potential for future impacts should growth occur. This should include environmental impacts, human welfare impacts, cultural impacts etc. We need to have a basis to understand and work from before you plan for growth.”

During the zoom, County consultant Angie Donelson encouraged the public to sign up to be on the steering committee, saying, “We welcome anyone who wants to join.”

The project timeline calls for ‘concept development’ to occur from February through March. This includes developing concepts for the cross-roads, low impact lodging for the wineries, zoning code audit, and modeling code language.

One topic not brought up at either meeting was the initiative’s proposal to allow “wineries regulatory relief within a proposed district boundary offering more flexibility.” The plan also proposes a “land use overlay district and zoning regulations with the pur-

pose of encouraging future economic growth in strategic locations.”

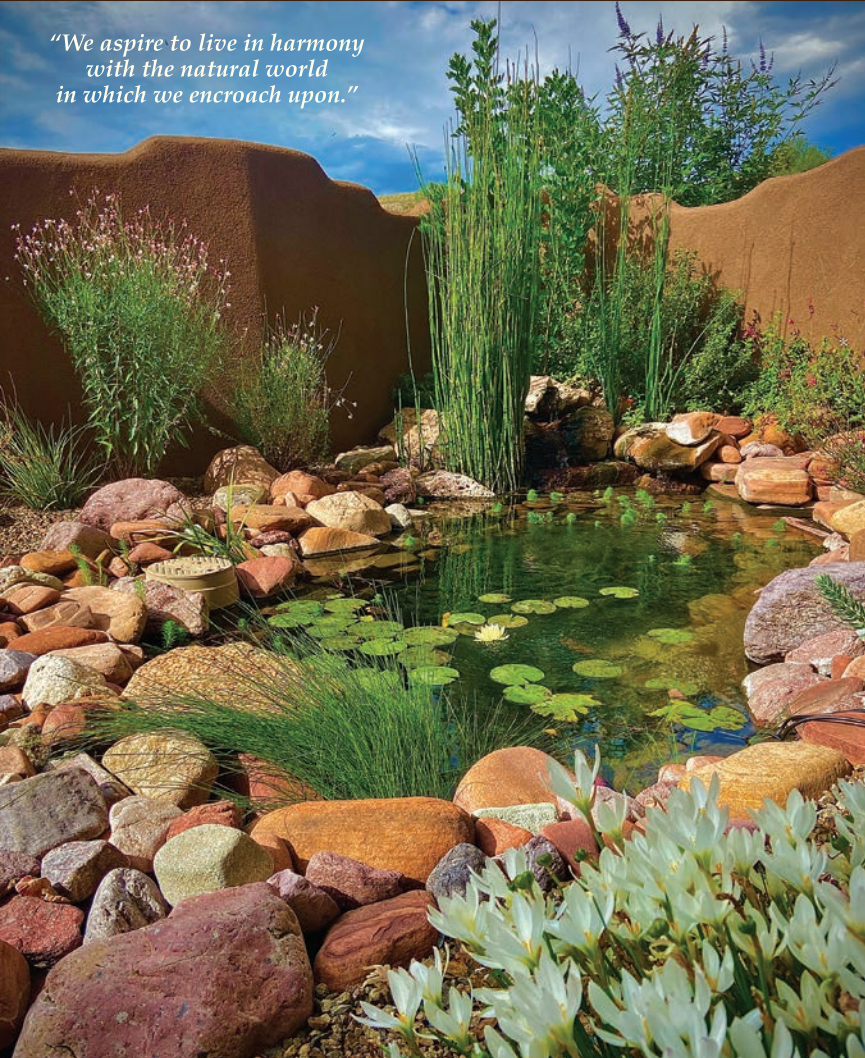
An overlay district is defined as “a district superimposed upon another land use district that supersedes, modifies or supplements the underlying land use district regulations.” In other words, it allows for an area to be, in effect, rezoned. The overlay district zoning can be more or less restrictive than the underlying zoning.

“We’re trying to put the overlay districts where they won’t impact residents. We’re trying to minimize the impact on residents,” Supervisor Bracker explained in a recent interview with the PRT.

The final report to the Supervisors was scheduled to be presented in March or April, according to the project’s timeline. Moyle believes that this deadline will be extended. “Subject to confirmation with the granting authority, the intent is to extend the timeline of the project,” he said. He expects the final report to be presented to the Board of Supervisors sometime in 2024.

The report will include market analysis, presenting of the preferred concept, suggesting changes to the development code, any rezoning recommendations, and design guidelines.

If the Board of Supervisors votes to accept this plan, zoning code changes to implement the plan could then be addressed.



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# Restaurants and Recipes

## Local Flavors at Pronghorn Pizza

By Carrie White

Todd Bostock likes to keep things simple.

No “Margherita Pizza” on Pronghorn Pizza’s menu. Rather, “Cheese Pizza.”

The “Charcuterie board” is called “Meat + Cheese.” It’s listed under Snacks.

As for his business card, well, he’s a wine-worker, not owner, of Dos Cabezas WineWorks, as is his wife, Kelly.

“Wine can be exclusionary,” Bostock said. Pizza—not. And it’s a proven pairing. “Pizza is universal,” he said. “It’s not intimidating. It’s simple.”

You don’t have to look far to find agreement on that.

“When the lemon pizzas are in season, I find an excuse to be at Dos Cabezas several times a week to meet friends, a book club gathering, or when my dog, Buddy, needs an outing,” said Janie Swartz of Sonoita.

Elgin residents Gail and Richard Jauck can be found there every Thursday. “The pizzas and wines are wonderful,” Gail said. “And the owners and servers are like family.” They also appreciate the use of local ingredients.

Pronghorn Pizza, which operates as a separate business inside the Dos Cabezas Tasting Room, got its start during COVID. Wine remains the primary focus, but the pizza is a success-



Photo by Carrie White

**Lunch at Pronghorn Pizza in three words - Red and Cheese. Red for the Dos Cabezas WineWorks red blend varietal. Cheese for the pizza that includes tomatoes, mozzarella and basil**

ful and popular supplement.

“We lost all our customers,” Bostock said, as tourism evaporated with pandemic restrictions. And yet folks still wanted to “connect.”

“We had outdoor seating, and we saw an opportunity,” Bostock said.

There was also opportunity to create jobs as former residents returned home, whether by need or desire.

John Roelke was one of them. He is now Pronghorn’s head pizza guy, although no stranger to the fare. In 2009, he started making pizza in Tucson. In 2021, when he came back to Sonoita, Roelke found a job at Pronghorn.

magical happens with customers as they check out their purchases behind the counter and connect with the lives of those people from all over the globe,” Cobb said.

When asked about the changes in Patagonia over the years, Halpert stated that metaphorically, “They’ve paved paradise and put in a parking lot” as the Joni Mitchell song goes. Halpert is passionate about the future

Unlike the pizzas he was making in a traditional deck oven in Tucson, Pronghorn’s pizzas are cooked in a food truck’s wood-burning oven parked out back. The wood, from olive trees, is hauled south from a monastery in Florence.

When asked what makes a great pizza, Roelke spoke to quality ingredients and simplicity.

First: Ingredients. Meat from the annual 4-H auction, goat cheese from Rory and Leisha George, mushrooms from Allred Family Fungi, beef from Vera Earl, pork from Rain Valley Pork and honey from Jonathan Rusk.

Wait: Honey from Jonathan Rusk? Turns out Rusk, Kelly’s brother-in-law, was able to domesticate a swarm of Africanized bees with the introduction of a new queen. Now the swarm summers in Sonoita and winters in Phoenix, producing the sweet condiment found on Pronghorn Pizza’s charcuterie board.

Excuse me, Meat + Cheese Snack.

Next: Simplicity. Let’s look at the red sauce. Tomatoes, garlic, salt. Period.

The sourdough starter used for the crust had its origin in the winery’s barrel room, circa 2020. Bostock, having attended culinary classes at Phoenix College, is responsible for that. But rather than re-create a Napolitano experience, he wanted a hybrid achieved through local ingredients and talent.

On any given day, there are ten pizzas on the menu, six of which are mainstays. Four others rotate based on what the restaurant can procure and whim.

Such as the July 4<sup>th</sup> pizza—the Independence Dog—which features all-beef wieners from Tucson Sausage Shop Meat and Deli, sauerkraut, sport peppers and pickled mustard seed.

Pronghorn also introduces seasonal specials—peanut butter and jelly ice cream, caviar and potato chips with crème fraiche and chives, salsa macha mussels.

But it’s the pizzas that are Pronghorn’s calling card.

Roelke’s favorite?

The Lisa: garlic confit, potato, rosemary and Parmesan.

Bostock’s?

Cheese.

**Salsa Macha Mussels**

1 lb. fresh, live mussels  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
1 tablespoon red onion, chopped  
1 tablespoon Spanish chorizo, chopped

¾ cup Dos Cabezas WineWorks “Pink” wine

2 tablespoons Macha Butter\*

Handful of herb pileup

1 lime

Slices warm, crusty bread

Prepare the mussels: Remove the “beard,” scrub and rinse. (If you have broken shells or “dead guys,” you’ll want to toss them.)

Prepare the macha butter: Combine salsa macha with softened butter.

Prepare the herb pileup: Combine fresh cilantro leaves, parsley, dill, mint—tender leaves and stems. Whatever’s available—it’s your rodeo.

Heat oven to 450° F. Distribute the mussels in an oven-safe vessel. Add the garlic, onion, chorizo, wine and macha butter. Cover and bake until the mussels open, 5-10 minutes. Remove from heat and serve in the baking vessel garnished with lime wedges and bread. Serves 2.

\*Salsa Macha is a salsa from Veracruz, Mexico made with a variety of dried peppers, nuts and oil. You can make it yourself, recipes available on the internet, or order it pre-made.

Pronghorn Pizza, 3248 Highway 82, Sonoita. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Mondays. Reservations for parties of 10 or more. Phone: (520) 455-5141.

Carrie White can be contacted at [CarrieWhitePRT@gmail.com](mailto:CarrieWhitePRT@gmail.com).

### Halpert (Cont.)

Much of the clothing comes from a fashion house in San Francisco called ‘Cut Loose’ who has outfitted her clothing space with last season’s items that didn’t sell there.

Jessica Cobb works with Halpert in the business as a “joyful collaboration” between two friends, assisting customers as they pore over the many unusual offerings at the store. “Something

of Patagonia. “I am concerned about protecting the mushrooms that grow beneath the earth near the mines, the environment and quality of our lives here from below the mantle to the atmosphere above,” she said. She wants to share a positive influence as much as possible and is active with PARA, Voices from the Border and the Patagonia Arts Center. She shares a “cellular connection” with the local art

scene, noting “how valuable the arts are for the young people to be exposed to their own creativity.”

When asked where she sees herself in ten years, Halpert stated, “Hopefully above ground with one glorious moment sidled up to another. To be unplanned and grateful. I treasure the many people who have come through and told me about their lives. It’s my ‘store-y’.”



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Ron Walp  
Patty Wands  
Mary Warr  
Patricia Watrous & Reed Mencke  
Reba Webber  
Anna Welch  
Donna West  
Susan Wethington Rogers  
Ruby Whelan  
Jonathan & Shelley White  
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Frederick & Christina Wilhelm  
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Fran Winckel  
Mimi Witt  
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### Foundations

Community Foundation of Southern Arizona  
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### Donor Advised Fund Contributions

Daryl R. Burton Family Foundation  
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Lil & Dave Fund  
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# RANCH PROPERTY FOR SALE



Own a piece of property that comprises the heart of Sonoita where the antelope play and the iconic long horns graze! Rare R-1 zoning affords optimal residential development. Mostly fenced with two registered cap wells in section 20. Property location is known for ample water supply. Currently under AG grazing status.

## CURRENT ZONING & PRICING

184 ACRES- R1 ZONE - \$12,500 PER ACRE  
 308 ACRES- GR ZONE - \$8,500 PER ACRE  
 49 ACRES- B2 ZONE - \$22,500 PER ACRE (SOLD)  
 (All acreage is approximate, to be verified)

## LISTED BY

Custom Transaction Services, LLC  
 Dennis Corderman 602-708-8863  
 John Corderman 602-332-4979

Sonoita Realty, LLC  
 Kathy O'Brien 520-405-1800  
 Office 520-455-5381



# THE TIN SHED THEATER

## JANUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

**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

*\*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](http://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

### February Schedule

**FEBRUARY 11 3pm: Duo Entre Nous** Clarinetist Jackie Glazier and saxophonist Don-Paul Kahl perform a program of works for a clarinet and saxophone duo. Jackie Glazier is an associate professor of music at the University of Arizona and Don-Paul Kahl is a Belgian-based contemporary music performer. Together the duo has commissioned and recorded over 20 works for clarinet and saxophone and performed in venues throughout the US and in Spain, Belgium, France, and Croatia.

**FEBRUARY 25 3pm: Rie Tanaka, Pianist** Prize winner of international and national competitions, and currently serving as Adjunct Instructor of Piano at the University of Arizona, pianist Rie Tanaka will grace the Opera House with the Etudes of Debussy, Unsak Chin, Nikolai Kapustin and the unique Sonata in B minor of Franz Liszt.

*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)*

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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.



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# 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/](http://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](mailto:prtads@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/](http://patagoniaregionaltimes.org/join-the-press-core/)

## Solution for this Month's Crossword

**Peak Your Interest**

How well do you know area mountains, peaks and hills. We will soon see. (Mountain, Mount, Peak and Hill have been removed from the answers.)

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## 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

**\$179,000**



**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

**\$895,000**



**SONOITA HORSE PROPERTY**

**MLS # 22401175 102 PAPAGO SPRINGS RD**

Great location and mountain views. 2800 sq, 3Bd/3Ba on 17+ acres. 4 stall barn, paved road. Close to National Forest for great riding. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

**\$595,000**



**CUSTOM SONOITA HACIENDA**

**MLS # 22401767 12 BLACK OAK DRIVE**

Loaded with custom features. Built of insulated concrete block, radiant heating, beamed ceilings. 2701 sf, 2Bd/2Ba, den, nice yard, 2 car garage. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

**\$38,500**



**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

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