

Patagonia Regional Times



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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CANELO, ELGIN, PATAGONIA AND SONOITA

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Mine Plan Raises Concerns for Local Dude Ranch

'Hermosa Will Change Life as We Know It Here'



Photo courtesy of Diana Nash

Circle Z Ranch co-owner Diana Nash looks out over the area where South32 plans to build an access road to their Hermosa Mine project.

By Kat Crockett

An escape from worries and the world: that's what draws visitors to guest ranches. It's as true today as it was 98 years ago when the Circle Z Ranch outside Patagonia was founded. But all that is about to change. Or could.

Diana Nash, co-owner of the Circle Z Ranch with her husband Rick, sat down and read South32's recently released Mine Plan of Operations for the Hermosa Project front to back with a growing sense that a dark cloud was looming across their ranch just miles from the mine's center of operations.

The Plan of Operations provides a conceptual overview on how South32 will operate the mining project from start to finish.

But Diana wasn't satisfied with the level of detail in the document. Some of the content of the plan was redacted, deemed market sensitive, confidential or proprietary.

Diana noted that many details, the

magnitude of what they're proposing, and the lack of specifics in the plan concerned her.

And it's not just about the impact on the Nashes' business. They fear construction, heavy traffic, groundwater pollution, potential dewatering, and compromised air quality will threaten their existence not only on the ranch but in the area—for generations to come.

The Circle Z Ranch sits just miles from the Hermosa project's mining operations. Located south of Patagonia on SR82, it is surrounded by Forest Service and state land where guests can embrace the natural beauty of grasslands, canyons, mountains, lakes and Sonoita Creek. "We are a very low-key, nature-based tourist business bringing a lot of people into the area from all over the world," Diana said.

Circle Z is the oldest continually operating dude ranch in Arizona. Established as a sheep-herding operation in the 1880s, and opened as a dude

See Circle Z, p.19

Meet Father Simon

How a La Bamba-Loving Nigerian Soccer Player Became Patagonia's New Priest



Photo by Linda Jade Fong

Father Simon talks about playing soccer, dancing in Nigeria, finding joy in Mexican music and spiritual inspiration from unlikely books in Arizona.

By Linda Jade Fong and Binx Selby

Father Simon, the new priest at Patagonia's St. Therese Catholic Church, is talking about his favorite books. He winks and asks if you have heard of "The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari."

"I read books to learn—books that help you get in touch with yourself and the best you can be in your service to others," he explains. "Think and Grow Rich" is one of the best books you'll ever read because it's about abundant life. Not necessarily about money

Just like watching the L.A. Lakers or Michael Jackson, I can take a book that focuses on something else, like a military book for Navy Seals, and see spirituality in it. When you look at the training of Navy Seals, they are willing to face pain, to sacrifice. That's exactly what you need to experience God. You need to be willing to sacrifice and grow in spirituality."

"The best book is the Bible," the former high level soccer player-turned-priest says. "Because it can bring in all knowledge. It can even tell how to make money, how to grow, how you can be inspired. It's a book lacking nothing."

Ever since Simon Ityo was a child, he wanted to become a priest. He was born in north central Nigeria, where his mother was a businesswoman and his father worked in a school while both also farmed. After four girls, Simon was the first son before another boy and girl followed.

Crops on the farm included ground nuts, yams, oranges, mangoes, sweet potatoes, beans, millet and corn. (When Simon heads to African stores in Tucson these days, smoked fish and fresh and dried vegetables like bitter leaf are at the top of his list.)

After high school Simon played soccer. We're not talking neighborhood

See Priest, p.9

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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Three New Members Join PRT Board



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Elvia Gallaher

Elvia Gallaher grew up on the Oak Bar Ranch outside of Patagonia. She attended Little Red School and Patagonia Union High School before enrolling at NAU, where she earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education.

She taught in Phoenix before moving back to Patagonia in 1998. "I wanted my two sons to experience the same childhood I did living out in the country," she said. She taught at Patagonia Elementary School, as well as working as the lead teacher, for the next 28 years, retiring in 2022.

Elvia then took a part-time job with the nonprofit Community Homes of Patagonia (CHOP), serving as program/office manager. "I wanted to be part of an organization that was focused on providing affordable home opportunities," she said.

Her favorite program at CHOP is the home repair offered to low income homeowners. "The help we provide is almost life changing for some of our clients," she said.

Elvia volunteers as part of the Mountain Empire Trail Association, maintaining area trails, is a member of St. Therese's Parish Council, and is a CASA volunteer, working to advocate for foster children. She completed her first 5K run in February, and enjoys reading, doing yardwork, hiking, scuba diving and time spent with her first grandchild, Joseph.

When asked why she joined the PRT Board of Directors, she said, "I think there are so few newspapers available and I think that the PRT has grown so much, I just want to be a part of it. I wanted to see how I could be of service, as well."



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Perin McNelis

Perin was born in Burlington, VT, but moved with her family to Tucson when she was very young. She describes her younger self as a serious ballet dancer who was part of Ballet Tucson, appearing in the Nutcracker Suite "every single year." She went on to study dance at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

She continued to dance professionally in Los Angeles, performing at the Getty and Broad Museums, at theaters and at galleries. At the same time she helped run a nonprofit community dance program, worked in nonprofit arts administration and as a landscaper.

She went back to college, taking science courses before coming to Patagonia in 2015 as an intern at Borderlands Restoration. She fell in love with this area and has been here ever since.

Perin is now the Native Plant Program manager at Borderlands. She recently earned a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University and will start work on a master's degree in natural resources this spring.

"Patagonia is my forever home," she said. Perin and her partner, Travis Gerckens, are building a home outside Patagonia. Perin credited Gary Nabhan's writing as having influenced her choices. "His writing drew me back home," she said. She also praised Francesca Claverie as an inspiration and as a mentor.

"I love this place," Perin said. "The PRT is such a pillar in the community and I feel like being involved with the PRT is a great way to feel connected with my community and be of service."



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Carrie White

Carrie White, her husband Dave Lumia, their dog and their nine cats moved to Sonoita in 2023 from the Phoenix area.

"We both like quiet and peace," she said. "We love the rural environment."

Carrie, who is originally from Jerome, AZ, studied journalism at the U of A. After graduation she worked as a journalist for the Eastern Arizona Courier in Safford, for the Verde Independent and for Texas Tech University. She and Dave then worked for the Mesa Tribune, where she was the food editor, travel editor and restaurant reviewer.

Carrie switched careers after going back to school to earn a Master's degree in exercise and wellness from ASU.

She recently retired from her position as organizational well-being coordinator for the City of Goodyear, a position she held for 6 ½ years. During her time in Goodyear, she focused efforts on developing a culture of wellness in the workplace.

Since moving to Sonoita, Carrie has been writing for the PRT, volunteering at the Bowman Stradling Heritage Center, and is looking forward to joining the Crossroads Quilters.

When asked why she decided to join the board of the PRT, she responded, "I think civil discourse is very important today and I think the PRT reflects that. I really feel that giving back to your community is a responsibility. And the best way I can give back is donating my time and expertise to the local newspaper."

Want to Keep Up With the News?

Access *all* of the PRT on your phone, tablet or computer
at patagoniaregionaltimes.org



Students Ready Cars for Auction



Photo by Dottie Farrar

Johnny Fields works underneath a car during the PUHS auto repair class.

By Dottie Farrar

A recently restored car set for auction on March 15 in Patagonia comes with a twist.

The automobile—a silver, four-door 2008 Dodge Avenger in beautiful condition, minimum bid \$2,000, purchase is tax deductible—wasn't worked on by auto mechanics.

Instead, it was completely restored, from top to bottom, by students at Patagonia Union High School.

The Avenger will be the third vehicle restored by PUHS students that's been brought to auction in the last two years.

It's all part of an auto/welding shop program that originated in a conversation two and a half years ago between PUHS Principal Kenny Hayes and history teacher Jeff Gudenkauf.

Hayes mentioned to Gudenkauf that he would love to see a shop program at PUHS, utilizing an old storage building that was then being used to "store everything that didn't have anywhere else to go." Gudenkauf replied that he was an Army-trained certified registered mechanic and would enjoy the challenge of establishing a program.

Nate Mershon, a Navy-trained certified welder, and Elliot Coddling, an Army-trained computer programmer, joined Gudenkauf as the necessary staff, and the program was underway.

Next, the old storage building was cleared and completely retooled. There are now two tool rooms, one metric and one standard; a large equipment room, which holds a pressure washer, generators, a compressor and other equipment; an office, paint room, and foyer with safety equipment, such as goggles and vests; and two large auto bays to accommodate two projects at once.

"We installed a four-post lift with an internal jack just two weeks ago," said Gudenkauf. "We also have a two-post and recently acquired a laser

balancer and tire machine. Best of all, all of this equipment is grant and/or donation driven and doesn't cost the taxpayers a cent."

Auto Shop at PUHS is a two-year program. Auto Shop 1 and Auto Shop 2 currently enroll 12 students, 10 male and two female. The students are sophomores, juniors, and seniors, ages 15-18. Gudenkauf is working to encourage more female participation. "It would be great if everyone knew how to change the oil in their car," he said. This year he is speaking with eighth grade students to build interest in taking the classes in high school.

Students are presently working on the fourth car in the auction series. Two have been sold at auction in the past two years, a Mazda is on the lift being worked on, and the Avenger is outside in the parking lot awaiting its turn at the block. A Jeep Cherokee is "in the wings." Each car that is sold funds the reworking of the next car up.

The first-year students start with a review of the car they will rebuild. As a group they create a vision of what they want to do. They then prepare a budget based on the projected auction value, the cost of needed repairs and what they can add within their budget. A spreadsheet is prepared and maintained on expenditures for parts and other expenses.

"All projects are student-driven," said Gudenkauf. "They take the car apart and put it back together."

The first car rebuilt and auctioned was an old police car in tough shape donated by the city of Nogales. Work included gutting and redoing the interior, rebuilding the engine and the suspension. This redo raised \$7,100 at auction.

Right now, students are rebuilding a four-door Mazda sedan. They are installing such extras as undercarriage lighting coordinated via Bluetooth with a sound system which changes colors

See Auto, p.17

\$2.16 Billion Hermosa Project Rolls Forward

By Marion Vendituoli

The Hermosa Project continued to advance on several fronts over the past month. The announcement that the Board of South32 had voted to fund the project with \$2.16 billion, the public release of the Mine Plan of Operations submitted to the Forest Service, and Santa Cruz County's hiring of Stephanie Smith, a contractor to help the County craft a legally binding Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA), all took place since the end of January.

The approval to fund the Hermosa Project's mining of zinc, lead and silver at the Taylor Deposit in the Patagonia mountains was released on February 14. The Hermosa Project "received Board approval of \$2.16 billion in funding to develop the zinc-lead-silver deposit at its Southern Arizona project site," according to the company's press release, which stated that this funding represented the "largest private investment in Southern Arizona's history." The decision on manganese mining at the Clark Deposit was not included in this announcement.

The company has stated that it plans to hire 80% of its workforce from residents in Santa Cruz County, where an estimated one-third of the residents are living below the poverty level. "Hermosa-related economic activity is expected to nearly double Santa Cruz County's property tax base, providing funding for public schools, services, and community college," according to the press release.

Patagonia School Superintendent Kenny Hayes, who is a member of the South32 Hermosa Workforce Development Taskforce, credited the mining company for its support of Patagonia schools. "South32 has been generous with funding projects for the school including providing funding for our CTE program and improving school safety," he wrote to the PRT.

Opponents, however, believe that the mining project poses a serious threat to the environment and the health and safety of residents.

"What they are saying to us is a classic Trojan Horse," Carolyn Shafer, chairman of the environmental activist group, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, said. "It's only looking at one economic factor in this project."

Shafer cited concerns over water and air quality, the discharge of up to 6.4 million gallons of water daily into Harshaw Creek, traffic, health, safety, and the destruction of habitat. PARA has brought legal actions against state agencies for failure to follow state statutes, failure to follow Clean Water Act regulations, and against the National Forest Service for providing exploratory drilling permits "without consider-

ation of the cumulative impacts."

On January 30, South32 made public their "Critical Minerals Exploration and Mine Plan of Operations," a document submitted to the Sierra Vista Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. Included in the 215-page document are the company's plans for utilizing public Forest Service land to construct a 7.5-mile access road, a tailing storage facility, up to 26 drill pads for exploratory drilling, two infiltration basins, and up to six wells.

It is important to note that South32 is not obligated to provide plans for their 600 acres of privately held land where the mines and much of the infrastructure are presently being built. (The PRT has posted the Mine Plan of Operations,, as well as a synopsis prepared by Kat Crockett, at patagoniaregionaltimes.org)

On February 20, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted to contract with Stephanie Smith, of Tucson and Patagonia, to represent the County in crafting a "Good Neighbor Agreement" that could potentially be signed by South32. Other signatories may include the City of Nogales and the Town of Patagonia.

A Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) could ensure that the mining company puts safeguards in place to protect the health and safety of the residents, as well as mitigating environmental damage. Potential benefits for the signers might also be included in the agreement. Optimally, the GNA would be written so that the community parties can enforce the company's obligations, and it should be required that the agreement be honored by any subsequent owners of the mine.

District 3 Supervisor Bruce Bracker defended the County's decision to hire a contractor without advertising the position and accepting applications. "Many times the county is lambasted for bringing outside people in," he said. "Stephanie came to us highly recommended and she is a member of the local community."

Smith's job description includes "The coordination and execution of a framework "Good Neighbor Agreement" (GNA) between the mining operator South32 and Santa Cruz County, Arizona," and "The coordination of Santa Cruz County's role in the Hermosa Mine FAST-41 NEPA process pertaining to mining operator South32's operation in Coronado National Forest."

"The misconception here is that the contractor will be writing the agreement herself," Bracker said. "She will create an outline and a process that we will be engaging the community with."

See Hermosa, p.10

BRN Revamps BECY Program



Contributed photo

Jordan Sene, the new director of the Borderlands Restoration Network's youth internship project, will be overseeing a newly updated program.

By Bob Brandt

Now in its 12th year and under new leadership, a revamped edition of Borderlands Restoration Network's Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) program is ready to deploy ten borderlands area youth in a variety of work-study settings as sustainability and ecology interns.

Up to now, BECY has been offered as a six-week summer internship experience. This year, under new director Jordan Sene, the program's schedule and content have been substantially updated. Instead of working five days a week for six consecutive weeks during June and July, the interns will begin their BECY assignments during the latter part of the school year and finish before the end of June. The interns will see increases in both their hourly rate of pay and the number of weeks they work in the program. Their new pay rate is \$15/hour and the program will run for a week longer than it has historically.

In late March, they will work with BRN's watershed restoration crew installing rock structures that help prevent soil erosion and restore native streams. Saturdays in April will find the interns working in the Patagonia Arts Center's Arts Ecology Program, during which they will design and create a mural on structures at Deep Dirt Farm. (Deep Dirt was recently acquired by BRN from its founder, Kate Tirion.)

During the final weeks of the school year and through June, the interns will visit ranches and environmental organizations in Southern Arizona to learn about a broad range of sustainable living and ecological principles and practices. The list includes The Canelo Project, Sky Island Alliance, Tumacácori National Historic Park, T4 Ranch, Las Milpitas Farm, Watershed Management Group and The Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve.

The BECY interns will assist Friends of Sonoita Creek volunteers in monitoring the health of Harshaw and

Sonoita Creeks. They will also tour South32's Hermosa Mine site and learn of possible environmental degradation consequences of mining operations in a briefing presented by the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance.

The interns will work from 7am-3pm, do field work in the morning, break for lunch and then spend the afternoon in structured educational activities or working on their personal reflection projects. The interns will present their projects during a graduation ceremony to be held in the Tin Shed Theater on June 27. The event will be open to the public.

Sene said finding the money to support the \$100,000 BECY program year after year is challenging. This year's program is funded entirely by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control Foundation.

Sene brings considerable BECY-related experience to her BRN position. Following her graduation from Rio Rico High School in 2018, she accepted a BECY internship that summer. As it was for many of the program's nearly 200 graduates, BECY was a transformative experience for Sene.

"I always wanted to be an educator and I had decided to follow in the footsteps of my favorite teacher and become an English teacher," Sene said. "But BECY changed my perspective, so I changed my major from English literature to sustainability and ecology."

While pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Arizona State University, Sene worked part-time while attending classes and full-time in the summer assisting former BECY director Caleb Weaver.

Sene recently received a Master's in Sustainable Solutions from ASU. On January 1, she was named BRN's Educational Programs Manager, putting her in charge of not only BECY but all BRN educational programs.

For more information about the BECY program, email Sene at jsene@borderlandsrestoration.org.

New Teacher Joins Elgin School



Photo by Dottie Farrar

Dr. Jerome Ramirez has joined the Elgin School faculty in January after teaching in the Philippines, Myanmar and Vietnam.

By Dottie Farrar

Dr. Jerome Ramirez, the new middle school language arts teacher at the Elgin School, began teaching his sixth, seventh and eighth grade students on January 3.

"My students are amazing and way beyond my expectations," he said in a recent interview with the PRT. "It's like heaven. There are no problems. They are well-behaved, respectful and have a thirst for knowledge."

Dr. Ramirez is the last of the four international teachers at the Patagonia and Elgin Schools to arrive and assume teaching duties. Unable to find suitable candidates locally, the public schools in Elgin and Patagonia have filled teacher vacancies through international recruiting.

Dr. Ramirez has been teaching for 20 years, beginning in 2003. His most recent position was at the largest international school in Vietnam.

He was born and raised in Cebu City, an industrial city on the second largest of the Philippine Islands. He is the youngest of three children in a family whose members are mostly educators. His grandmother, promi-

nent in the Department of Education, encouraged him to become a teacher. Ramirez was an academic scholar and received a tuition-free college education, earning a BA in English and a BS in education, before going on to earn a doctorate in education.

After two years of teaching at a private school, Dr. Ramirez was encouraged by his grandmother to move to public school teaching where, he said, "The work is stable, and you can rise through the ranks." In 2016, he "topped out, being one of the top two out of 9,000 people who took the National Exam for School Principals. I studied hard, mostly at cafes at the malls."

Dr. Ramirez became a vice principal, and by 2017, was the breadwinner for the family. He began to contemplate his future, thinking, "Something has to change. I have this dream that I want to buy my parents a house and a car. The only way to bring my dream to reality is to become an international teacher where the salary is higher than in the Philippines."

Dr. Ramirez relocated to Myanmar to teach at the Horizon International

See Teacher, p.17



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF



Governor Katie Hobbs Proudly Endorses Hathaway's Reelection for Sheriff

"Sheriff Hathaway is a dedicated public servant who always puts his community above politics. His family's deep roots in Santa Cruz County, and his respect for Southern Arizonans, make him an exceptional leader. I'm proud to support Sheriff Hathaway, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside him."

- Governor Katie Hobbs

In addition to Governor Hobbs, the following persons enthusiastically endorse David Hathaway for Sheriff: Congressman Raul Grijalva, former Sheriff Alfonso Bracamonte, and State House Representative Consuelo Hernandez.

PAID FOR BY HATHAWAY FOR SHERIFF

"The Patagonia Regional Times does not endorse political candidates, specific legislation or ballot measures."

Basketball Squads Wrap Up Successful Seasons



Photo by Dave Lumia

Six seniors were part of the Lobos' state tournament qualifiers (left to right): Elizabeth Regan, Aliyah Gallardo, Heaven Day, Ayla Kennedy, Jenny Vasquez and Janelle Valenzuela.

By Dave Lumia

The trend line for the Patagonia High School basketball season was one of a steady upward climb.

Both girls and boys teams overcame shaky starts to achieve a measure of success greater than the previous year.

For the Lobo girls, who lost three of their first four games, it was qualifying for the 1A State Tournament for the first time since 2016. For the boys, it was recovering from six consecutive losses in November to qualify for the 1A Tucson Southeast/Northwest Super Regional.

Postseason play ended with first-round losses for both teams, but both teams could point to noteworthy improvement.

The Patagonia girls were seeded 14th in the state tournament and suffered a 51-30 first-round loss to third-seeded Fort Thomas on Feb. 6. Emma Lewton led the Lobos with 11

points, Brianna Majalca scored six and Jenny Vasquez added five.

The Lobos finished with an 11-6 record in games factored into the state rankings and 14-10 overall. They were challenged by a difficult schedule. They were one of five teams from the 1A Tucson Southeast Region to qualify for the state playoffs. Region rival St. David went on to win the 1A state title and finish with a 27-2 overall record.

The Lobos will be losing three senior starters: Jenny Vasquez, Heaven Day and Janelle Valenzuela. But they have two key building blocks in sophomores Lewton and Majalca. Lewton earned second-team all-region honors, while Majalca, Vasquez and Day all earned honorable mention.

The Patagonia boys finished with a 13-14 overall record and 10-7 in games factored into the rankings—a three-win improvement over 2023. Their season ended with an 80-31 loss to Desert Christian in the Super Regional



Photo by Dave Lumia

The Patagonia boys team will lose these four seniors next year: (left to right) Andres Hoyos, Leo Nunez, Isaiah Ruiz and Arturo Magallanes.

on Feb. 1. Leo Nunez had 10 points and Arturo Magallanes scored nine in the loss.

Coach Nate Porter acknowledged that the Lobos were in over their heads in the Super Regional, which featured three of the top four 1A teams in the state—eventual champion The Gregory School, and state semifinalists Desert Christian and Baboquivari.

"It was a brutal super regional this year," Porter said. "Those three teams were way better than anybody in 1A basketball."

Porter was most pleased with the steady growth shown by the Lobos throughout the regular season, which included five victories in their final six games and a third-place finish in the Tucson Southeast Region.

"The team goal was to make the Super Regional," he said. "We knew we had to keep getting better to get there, and we did that. We'd like to have had a better performance in our last game of the year, but as a whole, we over-achieved our individual talent level. It's a good statement for the team."

The boys lose four seniors from this year's team. Nunez was second-team

all-region and Magallanes earned honorable mention, but the strength of the team was its depth, and Porter sees a promising future.

"Our goal is to continue to get even better," he said. "Six kids who are juniors will be coming back, and we had some freshmen and sophomores get their feet wet."

Returning for their senior seasons next year will be two players who earned all-conference honorable mention—leading scorer Diego Carranza and DJ Castro—along with Johnny Fields, Enoch Sedam, Sebastian Padilla and Gabe Nunez. Younger players who will be counted on to continue their development are 6'2" sophomore Gavin Arbizo and 6'2" freshman Kannon Shore, who showed significant improvement as the season went on.

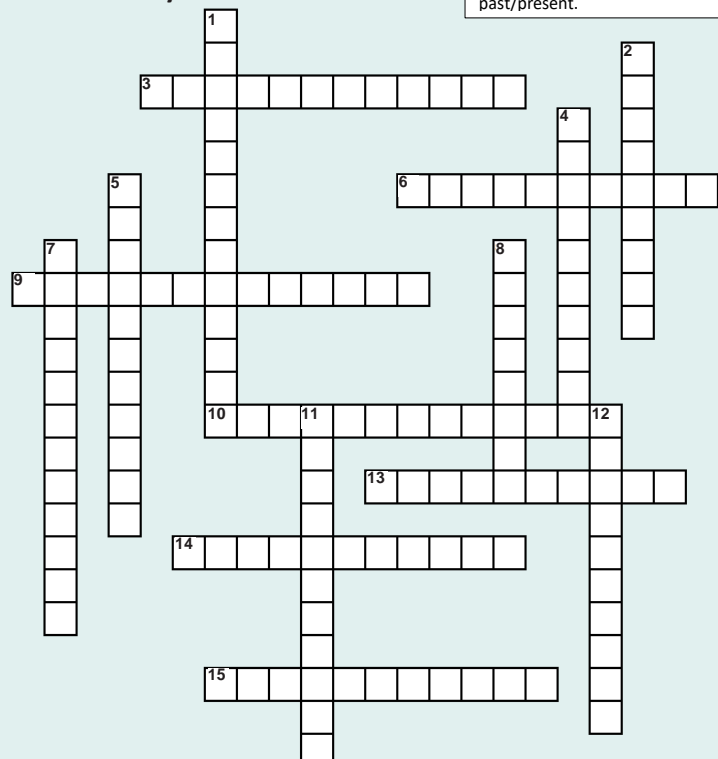
"[Shore] has got a great shot," Porter said. "He's got room to get taller and stronger, and he knows that. If he does, he can really be something."

Porter said the offseason routine will include weight training, a skill development program and summer league competition in Tucson.

"I hope to see them putting in the work," he said.

Famous Local People - Part 1 By Carrie White

When asked for famous local people, PRT staff offered up folk who were born here & made a local impact. Others were born here & made a national impact. Others, national figures, moved here. Individuals are past/present.



Stumped? See Solution, page 23

Across

- 3. No drinking problem here.
- 6. For 37 years I cared for people and animals.
- 9. A veterinarian, the Empire was my first ranch account.
- 10. I founded the Museum of the Horse.
- 13. My kidnapping triggered the Chiricahua Wars.
- 14. No legends in summer, spring or winter.
- 15. It's not fiction. I knew Hubert Humphrey.

Down

- 1. Patagonia history? My family has it.
- 2. I can help you identify local plants.
- 4. I'm the Johnny Appleseed of Arizona.
- 5. I hold the high school football record for most points scored - 688.
- 7. My backyard is 25,000 acres.
- 8. I served as a Senate page for Au H2O.
- 11. I like getting lost in space.
- 12. Forget the King of Beers. I'm the grandfather of local wine!

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Lobos Baseball Excited for Fresh Start This Spring



Photo by Dave Lumia

The Lobos gather around the dugout for some preseason instruction.

By Dave Lumia

You might think, coming off a 2023 baseball season in which the Patagonia Lobos lost all 15 of their games, that enthusiasm for the new season would be in short supply.

Well, think again.

“Actually, it’s been a very pleasant surprise,” coach Ricardo Padilla said. “I’ve coached a number of years, and I’ve never seen this much excitement from a group of kids.”

“You would have thought that last year, we didn’t win a single game, that these kids wouldn’t want to play. But it’s surprising. They wanted to come back. They’re very excited to play right now.”

Padilla realizes it will take more than enthusiasm and excitement

to reverse the fortunes of a winless program. It’s a start, but Padilla and assistant coaches Ralph Padilla (his brother) and Ryan Shore understand it’s going to take a lot of basic training.

“It’s hard at this level,” Padilla said. “A lot of them haven’t played much baseball. At the high school level we should already know the basics, but what we’re having to do right now is teach them the basics.”

“There’s not much Little League down here. It’s not like back in our days. We had Little League, we had Senior League, we had everything. We played all the time.”

The Lobos had only one senior on last year’s team. This year there are three: Isaiah Ruiz, Arturo Magallanes, Garret Mathews, all of whom are be-

ing counted on as team leaders. Junior Johnny Fields is another of the team’s leaders and was their top hitter a year ago.

The roster numbers 16 – more than 20 percent of the school’s enrollment – including one girl, sophomore Lulu Donnelly.

“We’re looking better than we looked at the end of last year,” Padilla said. “They’re a year older. I think they’re a year stronger. They’ve grown up a little.

“Having 16 kids is a big deal. They’ve canceled in years past because of lack of interest.”

With the help of his assistant coaches, Padilla wants to make sure that doesn’t happen again: “We want to build the sport back up here in Patagonia.”

Padilla will have to mix and match his lineup. Ruiz, for instance, will play center field, catch, pitch, or do whatever’s needed.

“A lot of these kids, we can play them a lot of places,” he said. “What killed us last year was errors, after error, after errors. That’s what we’re

working on most.”

“We scored a lot of runs, but we gave up way too many more. Defensively we struggled. That’s always been the problem here. It goes back to the fundamentals. It’s a difficult game, mentally it’s tough. There’s so many moving parts.”

Pitching goes hand and hand with defense, and that may be the bigger challenge.

“That’s the one spot that worries me the most,” Padilla said. “A lot of kids don’t like to pitch. They know it’s tough. We play these other schools and they’ve got kids that are throwing 80 (mph) plus. We don’t have anyone throwing close to that.”

Patagonia has a smaller enrollment than any team on their schedule, but Padilla is hoping that the Lobos’ renewed enthusiasm translates into something more tangible.

“We want to win,” he said. “That’s our number one goal. We want to win enough to maybe even make it to the state tournament.”

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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

Notes From SEFD

Fighting a Fire - Part One



The Elgin Bridge Fire threatened homes and burned 2,149 acres in May, 2022. File Photo by Marion Vendituoli

By Eddie McArthur

In 2023 Sonoita-Elgin Fire District (SEFD) responded to 82 wildland fires and several vehicle and structure fires. When a fire breaks out, how are we notified and what happens then?

All 911 calls in Santa Cruz County go to the SCC Sheriff's Office (SCCSO), though calls originating close to the border of Pima or Cochise counties may first go to another Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and then be transferred to SCCSO. The SCCSO is the PSAP for all dispatches within Santa Cruz County except for the City of Nogales. While SCCSO is able to provide the essential information needed to get SEFD started on a response, their current staffing and infrastructure model limit what we receive.



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When a call comes into SEFD, there are typically four firefighters on duty. In some months, there are an additional two seasonal firefighters for wildland fires. The Fire Chief will also respond. The type and size of the fire will determine what other equipment and personnel may be needed. Rarely is it known at the outset just what we are facing, and the team will bring all their gear.

Once on scene, the Incident Commander must make timely decisions about who (more personnel, other agencies, etc.) and what (equipment suited to the type and size of the fire) to call in. (The Incident Commander may be the Chief or a captain and is the person in charge.) In the case of a wildland fire, the Arizona State Dispatch will be notified, and will dispatch State resources and coordinate Federal resources. We often need help from our neighbors and will call on Patagonia, Whetstone and Rincon Valley responders. In turn, we may be called upon by those same agencies to assist in fighting fires outside our district.

The Incident Commander is also tasked with determining if evacuations need to be ordered, but cannot order those. The Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency Management at SCC are notified and make the actual evacuation notifications, including sending personnel door to door.

None of this happens instantly. In the time it takes to start door-to-door notifications, the need for evacuations may have passed or may have become more urgent. Because the various responders do not all use the same

See Fire p.19

Spring Into Action at the Community Garden

News Release

If you haven't been to visit the Patagonia Community Garden in awhile, you'll be surprised! We have vibrant green winter veggies growing in our new raised container bed along Smelter Avenue. The beautiful ceramic flower plate sculptures adorning the fence are the creations of Jan Herron and Gama Leyva. The garden in front of the Buddha is dug up and ready for new plantings. Our restored greenhouse is full of seed trays and seedlings. Several winter gardens are thriving.

We're working diligently to remove the invasive Bermuda grass from our monsoon basin plots, and reclaim them as growing spaces. Our fruit trees are all pruned and ready for spring. A new pollinator garden is being planted. The rich soil is soft and fertile and ready for spring planting. Sounds enticing, doesn't it?

How did all this transformation happen? Under the co-management of David Fain and Mary Sky Schoolcraft, over the past ten months the PCG has added over a dozen active gardeners, and a half dozen volunteers who come

to help out. And there's plenty of room for more! No previous gardening experience required. Even if you don't want to grow food in the garden, there's always many other garden projects that need volunteers.

What's it cost to join the Patagonia Community Garden? A \$5/month fee gives you access to water, compost, manure, and a container or plot. Garden members are also expected to volunteer five hours a month towards helping weed and maintain the common areas of the garden. About once a month there is a Garden Work Party where all gardeners are invited to come together to tackle a garden project, and enjoy the camaraderie of gardening together. Many hands make light work!

The Patagonia Community Garden is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit public organization, governed by a board of directors. The Board has newly created openings, so if you're interested in helping with this aspect of the garden, please apply. The Board is responsible for the annual fundraising event, the famous Pie Auction fundraiser held the second week in September. The Board has decided to use the funds raised from the previous Pie Auctions to build a bathroom and storage shed in the garden. This will be used primarily for group events in the garden.

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

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Priest (Cont.)

soccer. Simon played at the national level. "Every position in defense," he proudly says. Then came seminary. "Soccer played a major role in keeping me in seminary. I was boosted in spirit because I loved soccer so much." During his nine years in seminary, Simon did one degree in philosophy and another in theology.

Then, after serving as a priest for 11 years, his religious order, the Nigeria-founded but worldwide Via Christi Society, sent him to the United States in 2019, to Tucson.

Asked about life in Nigeria, Father Simon quickly smiles, "There's joy in the African Church. Real happiness. Music. Africans are naturally dance-oriented. Music is not separate in life. Like food, it's part of life. Dance is there...real dance. Like when you clean the swimming pool with a net, good music and singing mop up the destructions, clear the ground for you to connect. Mass has music that's danceable, so joyful.

"If you go to Nigeria, you'll begin to move your body," he laughs.

He offers more. "In Nigeria you have different tribes, 250 languages. Sometimes you have divisions, but kids grow up together, go to elementary school together. No division there, no 'Muslims,' 'tribes,' 'Christians.' It's highly diversified and that's a blessing, a gift. In diversity you have the hand, head, heart, but one body. Even in the world you have diversity—plants, people—we are better off together."

Here in Patagonia, Father Simon likes, besides reading, to walk, watch soccer, meditate, "just be alone and stay quiet," and talk to people. And, of course, "I love music. I like music based on my mood. Sometimes I stay alone and want secular music, like R&B. I love it. If I'm in a gathering or restaurant, I like Mexican music, like La Bamba. The joyful spirit reminds me of Nigeria."

As for his vocation, he says, "I don't relate to my work as priest as routine. It is life. I want people to know God to give them peace.

"We see each other as an image of God. There is a spiritual power that comes from connection with God. You forgive or keep helping someone who rebuffs or harms you not because the person deserves it, but because your relationship with God gives you patience and encouragement to find an inner sweetness in yourself."

He adds, "I believe so much in what we can do. My philosophy is we can work wonders. That's what Jesus gave us. It's not miracles. It's love. It's the cord that keeps people together. When people share they'll say yes, we'll do anything."

He is looking forward to what might come forth in this new setting. And along the way, if anyone is curious to look up "The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari," or better yet, "The Imitation of Christ," the 15th century meditative book read worldwide by Hindus, Muslims and yogis, you know where to find someone who would happily discuss it—or anything else—with you.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

February 14, 2023

In Call to Public, Keith Dennis, Executive Director of Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) explained some of the complexities of the Community Development Block Grant funding program, to which the Town of Patagonia is interested in applying.

The Federal program starts with Housing and Urban Development. It is administered at the state level by the Arizona Department of Housing and serves communities like low-income, senior citizens and migrant farm workers in rural areas. SEAGO's territory includes Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties.

The program supports utility and road infrastructure and has a second level of "Colonia" set-aside funding for "shovel-ready" projects, ones that are designed and ready for going out for construction bids. Patagonia previously used this funding for a waterline project in town in 2017.

After Dennis' presentation, a public hearing was held, bringing an array of ideas from citizens.

Cornelia O'Conner, for the Elementary School Board, suggested a renovation project for the living space building at Old Main, now the Museum property. It could provide two living units and related site amenities, as a remodel of an existing structure on the northeast side of the property.

Philip Brister, for the Senior Center, suggested the Center needs to consolidate and rearrange its food storage devices, refrigerators and freezers, possibly by remodel or possibly by the addition of an add-on walk-in freezer.

Maggie Urgo spoke about the need for fast and reliable internet service, including its place in emergency response communication. She also mentioned the need for a large community center, on the scale of the backyard of Cady Hall, which is overfilled by events such as Voices for the Border's "Celebremos" event. Still speaking generally, she also spoke of the need for improving dirt roads in town, perhaps by the chip-seal method.

Elvia Gallaher, speaking for Community Homes of Patagonia (CHOP), spoke of the need for affordable housing. The UA School of Architecture is working with CHOP on the site plan for the property they own on Third Avenue, known as "Gopher Fields."

Manager Robinson expressed the Town's interest in affordable housing for a Harshaw Ave. property of about five acres, for which he is negotiating with South32. An important first step is to get the property served by town water and sewer systems, which he sees as a good CDBG project

The application process will proceed for much of 2024, with Dennis' guidance and more public communication and events.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to Our Schools

Every year, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) evaluates each school in the state and assigns a letter grade to that school. These letter grades, A to F, are based on a variety of factors including state assessment results, English learner assessment results, attendance, special education metrics and graduation rates. The ADE also looks at students' readiness for their next educational steps, whether to high school or to college and careers.

We are happy to share with you that both the Patagonia Elementary School and the Patagonia Union High School were graded as "A" schools this

year, and that the Patagonia Union High School was the only high school in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties to qualify as an "A" school.

Although we are proud of both schools' ratings, we are even happier to have another reason to commend our Districts' outstanding teachers and staff. They are dedicated to making sure that every student receives the learning opportunities and support he or she needs to be successful in school and in life.

As our Districts' mission says, "We are a caring community, nurturing and empowering both academic and individual excellence."

Ron Pitt, PUHS Board President
Nancy McCoy, PES Board member

Patagonia Church Thrift Shop Benefits Local Nonprofits

News Release

The Patagonia Community Church Missions Committee reports grants given from its Community Thrift Shop 2023 revenue to ten local charities: \$800 to the East Santa Cruz Food Bank, \$800 to the Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department, \$600 to Patagonia Youth Enrichment Program, \$500 to CHOP Home Improvement Program, \$500 to Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center, \$1000 to Nogales Crossroads Mission,

\$500 to Patagonia Creative Arts Association, \$500 to Senior Citizens of Patagonia, \$500 to Patagonia Museum and \$500 to the Patagonia Library.

The Community Thrift Shop recently celebrated its 40th anniversary of providing very low cost household items and clothing for the local area.

It is known as a destination throughout southern Arizona. It is run entirely by volunteers from the church and the whole community. It is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am-1pm and people are welcome to come in to browse, meet friends and neighbors, and know that they are sending all funds, except for utilities, back into the community and charities like the list above.



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Hermosa (Cont.)

Bracker pointed out that the GNA should involve three communities, the Town of Patagonia, the County and the City of Nogales. When asked why Nogales has shown no indication that it is interested in the GNA to date, he said, "The door is open for them to come to the table to participate in this agreement."

Objections to Smith's hiring were raised by members of the audience at the February 20th meeting. Shafer asked the supervisors to table the appointment. As she explained in a subsequent interview with the PRT, she feels that the GNA should be put on hold. "Potential agreement negotiations with South32 for such an agreement should not occur until after the NEPA process is complete," Shafer said. (The NEPA process, which will begin in May, requires the permitting agencies to review submitted paperwork and comments and concerns from the public to determine the environmental impact of the project.)

"The county was moving ahead without being informed about the results of the work of the NEPA process, the NEPA comments that should inform the negotiations," she added. "You can't negotiate any agreement unless you know the value of our natural resources and our quality of life."

When asked to comment on PARA's concerns about creating an agreement before the NEPA process had been completed, Bracker responded, "We need to get this process started." The suggestion to wait for the NEPA process to play out "comes from a single attorney that is advising PARA. We are not sure we feel that way."

Patagonia town officials, however, feel that it is in the best interest of the Town to hold off on crafting a GNA.

"I think the town is going to wait until we get through the NEPA process to be a signatory," Town Manager Ron Robinson said. He used as an example the fact that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality does not take into account the downstream effects of water discharged from the mine site and the potential for pollutants to contaminate the watershed. "We are slowing down the roll so we don't get caught having to build a treatment plant," he said.

"There's going to be an advisory group that will be working through the NEPA process with the town and council, with watershed experts, the town engineer, and Flood and Flow Committee members," Robinson added. "We are doing our due diligence. We're just not being loud about it."

Patagonia Mayor Andy Wood concurred with Robinson. "It's a work in process," she said.

"Stephanie Smith is crafting whatever she's crafting from the County perspective," Wood said. "I can't speak to what the County is doing. We realize the agreement is important but it is not a magic bullet. It's a long-term effort. We felt we would have more direction after the NEPA process. We're not rushing into something where we might regret not having adequate protections for the Town of Patagonia. We want to make sure that what's included is appropriate language and protections that are sustainable for perhaps 60 years and beyond."

Editor's note: Stephanie Smith is the wife of PRT Assistant Editor Jay Babcock.



How a Puppy Becomes a Bird Dog



Photo by Dave Brown

Pancho, an English pointer puppy, is a new addition to the pack at Dave Brown's house.

The Arizona quail season came to a screeching halt on February 11, which left bird hunters with a case of wondering what to do next. Like other wingshooters hoping to extend the season, a friend and I went for a two-day hunt in New Mexico because their season remains open until the 15th.

As usual, reality catches up and then sets in. It's time to start planning other seasonal activities. It's also a great time to get a bird dog puppy, which I did in the form of a 12-week-old liver and white English pointer that we named Pancho.

The time frame logic on this is that I can start getting him ready for when bird hunting season rolls around again in the fall, as he will be mature enough to start hunting, provided the training I do now sets him up for success down the road.

Our training will be kept extremely light with an emphasis on Pancho learning to 'come' when his name is called (he already does this) to 'kenel' (go inside a dog crate on command) and to stay with me (not get lost) when we start going out on fun

runs with the big dogs.

On our fun runs, Pancho will be introduced to gun fire via a .22 caliber starting pistol. He will learn to associate the bang with good times as I will fire it while he is running around exploring. There will also be walks through town to get him used to more sights and sounds. He will be meeting all kinds of really nice people which helps in his socialization and again generates confidence in different surroundings.

When he turns four months I will introduce him to planted pigeons. What he gains from this is that birds are extremely fun and he can use his nose to smell and eventually point them.

The short term goal will be to set Pancho up so that he will be hunting this fall in Montana and Saskatchewan.

The long term goal is to develop a bird dog that I can brag about for the rest of his life, at the same time creating a lot of great memories for myself when he moves on. I'm looking forward to Pancho's adventures!

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An Inexpensive Nod to St. Patrick's Day

By Carrie White

We all know someone who grabs face cheeks and coos over cuteness.

That was "Aunt Odie," aka Leota Gatlin.

Leota, wife of Albert A. Gatlin of the Z Bar Ranch in Patagonia, used to apply her pincers to nephew William Gatlin even after he returned from World War II. So remembers William's wife, Betty Gatlin, now age 99.

"She loved my husband," Betty said. Odie also loved poker. And she must have had an affinity for Red Flannel Stew, her contribution to the 1951 Cowbelles Cookbook, "Roundup Recipes."

The use of canned corned beef, or corned beef hash, is an anomaly here. The cookbook's Soups and Stews chapter calls for a variety of fresh beef parts—heart, liver, marrow gut, brains, tongue, kidneys.

Anatomy lesson? No. Cowboy eats. It's called "thrifty."

But when you consider that corn-ing meat takes several days, a canned solution seems understandable. Instant. Normal. Predictable when you have to get a meal on the table quick.

And let's just put it out there, a 15-minute St. Patrick's Day dish.

Back to Leota.

From all telling, the second wife of

Albert A. was a hoot and a holler.

"I'm a two-cow woman," Leota has been quoted as saying. "Well, that's what my husband gave the Apaches to leave me alone."

This and other reflections from Leota are featured in the Patagonia Historical Museum's Voices of the Past exhibit. She talks about dancing until dawn at Cady Hall, then returning to the ranch for chores.

Work hard, play hard: that's ranch life.

One of those work duties would have been cooking. But that should be divided into two categories. Foods served at home, with a hearth and four walls. And those dished out of a chuckwagon, a campfire at your feet and a ceiling of stars.

Leota's dish—Red Flannel Stew—belongs in the former group. Primarily the only canned food taken on cattle drives would have been evaporated milk, according to "Roundup Recipes" authors Bonnie and Ed Peplow.

"Modern city cooks would call it totally impossible to carry six weeks' provision for 50 hungry men out into the desert without refrigeration," the Peplows write. "But the answer lay ... in dried foods ... and salted meats. Then there was lard and potatoes, which could be kept pretty well, and, then, when it was available, canned

cow."

Cowbelle Lou Apperson agrees with the nix on canned food when traveling light and feeding frugally. She's packed panniers for backcountry and knows that less is more.

"Weight and the fact that cans need to be packed out make this a non-option," she said.

But at Z Bar Ranch, canned foods could have been a lifesaver, a quick meal starter, for Leota. And relatively inexpensive. Back in 1951, a can of corned beef would have set you back pennies. Today, depending on the brand, \$6.

Red Flannel Stew
2 tablespoons butter or lard
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 can corn beef or corn beef hash or 1 ½ cups boiled meat
1 can kidney beans or home-cooked frijoles
1 can tomatoes or tomato sauce
1 small can red chili sauce
Melt shortening. Fry onion. Add meat, beans, tomatoes and chili. Salt to taste. Bring slowing to boiling point. Simmer 10 minutes. Serve hot. Serves 6.

Leota Gatlin
Z Bar Ranch, Patagonia



Photo courtesy of the Patagonia Museum

Leota Gatlin described herself as a 'two-cow woman.'

A copy of Roundup Recipes can be viewed at the Bowman-Stradling History Center located at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 3142 S. Hwy 83, Sonoita. Handouts of recipes printed in the PRT are free. 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.

March 7th, 2024

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Patagonia's New Recycling Program Off to a Good Start

By Bob Brandt

After two months of operations, it is already clear that the Town of Patagonia's new drop-off recycling program has been well received.

Town intern Summer Smith has been keeping tabs on the level of participation and the volume of recyclable items accepted at the facility located behind the post office. She reported that on most Thursdays, nearly 100 vehicles are driven to the recycling area where several town personnel and Patagonia Recycling Task Force volunteers unload the recyclables and place them in the two roll-off containers supplied by Republic Services, one for cardboard, the other for mixed recyclables.

Not surprisingly, all businesses in town participate in the program, made particularly attractive because town personnel pick up the cardboard at the business locations.

Through February 1, 7.29 tons of recyclables have been processed through the program, an average of more than a ton every week.

Through the first nine weeks of operation, patrons have donated \$1,371, an average of \$152 per week. According to Town Manager Ron Robinson, the donations are being used in part to offset expenses such as gloves, vests and a shade canopy for volunteers but more importantly, to help keep the program affordable for the town. Even with donations, Robinson estimates the program will cost the town about \$15,000 annually in town labor and payments to Republic Services to transport and process the recyclables.

All indications thus far are that the program is wildly popular. Town personnel and volunteers uniformly report positive feedback about the service. Expressions of thanks and gratitude are frequent, and the donations are a good sign that those who use the program really appreciate it.

Republic Services Municipal Programs Manager Emma Reyes, who attended the first several weeks of operation, is so pleased with the program that she is suggesting it as a model well suited to other small towns in her Southern Arizona district.

Garden Guides

Some Sage Advice - Part II

By Mary McKay

The botanical name *Salvia* comes from the Latin name 'salvare' which means to save or to heal, alluding to the medicinal properties of the plant. Salvias come in the form of shrubs, or subshrubs and are usually perennial here in zone 8. All salvias have highly aromatic leaves and tubular flowers that come out in spikes ranging in color from blue, scarlet, purple, pink, white, or yellow. Even the common sage used for cooking blooms incredible blue flowers in spring.

Salvia is a diverse genus of plants with over 900 species from various regions around the world and nearly every continent. They play an important role in supporting pollinators. Their tubular flowers are particularly attractive to hummingbirds, but also to bees and butterflies. Heat, drought, and full sun don't bother most salvias too much, especially the ones native to Mexico, the Mediterranean and the southwest United States, as they have evolved with these conditions.

Salvia elegans, aka pineapple sage, is a striking plant known for its bright red blooms and pineapple scented foliage. It can be used to flavor teas and salads, while the flowers can be used as an attractive garnish. Size is 4'x3'. It prefers full sun to part shade and well-drained soil. Water regularly, especially during dry, hot periods. Hardy to only about 20° but is worth replanting every year. Container or in-ground planting? Yes!

Salvia officinalis, aka garden sage or common sage, is prized for culinary and medicinal use. Common sage is a perennial herb with height of 3'x3'. Hardy in zones 4-10. It prefers well drained soil and full sun. Blossoms are blue to purple, occurring in spring. Can dry out between waterings. Container or in-ground planting? Yes!

Salvia coccinea, aka tropical sage, scarlet sage, or hummingbird sage. Grows 3'x2' feet tall and wide. The flowers are particularly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. Water regularly especially during dry, hot periods. Hardy to 20° but worth replanting every year. Container or in-ground planting? Yes!

Salvia microphylla, aka baby sage,



Contributed photo
'Hot Lips' sage flower colors vary seasonally.

little leaf sage, hot lips sage or Graham's sage. Adorned by distinctive, brilliantly colored flowers that make 'Hot Lips' salvia a special selection. Blooms from spring until hard frost in fall. The plant makes a small shrub with age and thrives in poor soils with plenty of heat and sun. Hardy to 0° and grows 3'x4' tall and wide. Prefers moist and well drained soils. Container or in-ground planting? Yes!

Salvia chamaedryoides, aka Mexican blue sage or germander sage. Grows 2'x3' tall and wide. This small, drought-tolerant, grey-leaved salvia, forms a nice mass of upright branches, topped with true cobalt-blue flowers from early summer through early fall. Prefers full sun and a well-drained site in the border or rock garden. Hardy to 0°. Planting in-ground is best but containers are okay.

Salvia clevelandii, aka Cleveland sage or chaparral sage. The small gray-green leaves have a very strong herbal fragrance, as do the whorls of purple flowers. It is native to chaparral and coastal sage scrub in southern California, where it survives on annual rainfall alone. Plant Cleveland sage in well-drained sites in full sun. In-ground planting is best for this plant as it can reach size of 4'x8' tall and wide.

Salvia greggii, aka autumn sage or cherry sage. *Salvia greggii* is a most popular, usually evergreen, sub-shrub. It likes full sun to part shade. Grows 3'x3'. Very attractive to hummingbirds and other pollinators. Hardy to 0°. Very heat tolerant but needs water 1-2 times per week especially during the hottest and driest time of year. Containers or in ground? Yes!

There are so many other sages that are worth planting in your gardens that I could go on and on.

Any hardy sages can be planted now. Come by the nursery to see what sage selections you can find. Happy winter into spring gardening!



Mary McKay
520-604-2540
kmmckay810@gmail.com
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Growing roots in Patagonia

Dreams Are Still Dying Near Patagonia

By Robert Gay

On the day before Valentine's Day this year, another of Alvaro Enciso's simple wooden crosses was planted near Patagonia.

Yellow among the vivid red manzanita branches, it memorializes the passing of 26-year-old Juan Villegas Chilala, whose body had been found October 18 in upper Temporal Canyon.

The forces driving him to such a risky journey might have been the economic desperation of poverty, cartel violence in his world, corrupt local government, or increasingly, the effects of climate change on local agriculture, shelter and livability, or some combination of these forces.

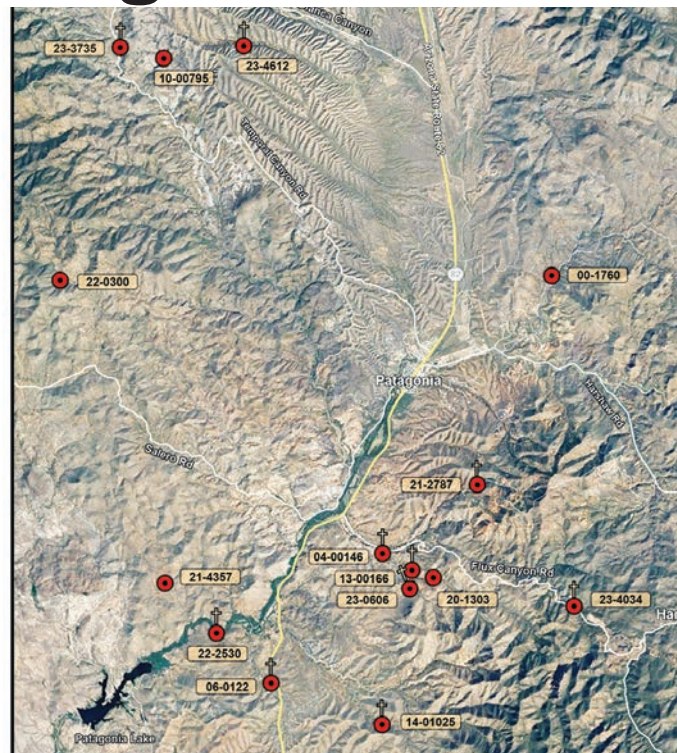
This Temporal Canyon death site is among 16 that are mapped within seven miles of Patagonia. (See map above) It's a significantly more local view than the eastern Santa Cruz County map that the PRT published in October 2022, showing roughly a hundred cases. The SC County map is, in turn, a small portion of Humane Borders' red dot map for the whole of Arizona, now showing 4,177 cases between the Douglas area and Yuma.

Enciso's 'Where Dreams Die' project is his continuing empathetic response to the deaths, as he remains focused on the mission of memorializing deaths that occur at places that would otherwise be soon forgotten by history.

All death sites have their own unique features. Two cases in this local map were unidentified, and of the remaining 14, three were female and 11 male. Among them were no children or teenagers, with the youngest being 23 and the oldest 61. The most recent date of discovery for the red dots shown here is December 28, 2023, up Little Casa Blanca Canyon. A cross was planted there in mid-January.

Migrants naturally choose their routes to avoid detection, so the red-dot crosses are generally not visible from paved roads. In the broader region, "vehicle events," i.e. crashes, have caused deaths near the roadsides. East of Sonoita on SR 82, near milepost 36, a group of eleven brightly colored crosses is hard to miss, and SR 83 has two individual sites and two group sites near the pavement at Milepost 45.

In the updated map for the Patagonia



Map by Robert Gay

Red dots mark the death sites of migrants near Patagonia

nia area, the one cross near pavement sits along SR 82 as you head toward Nogales, on the right shortly past the T4 Ranch.

Eleven of the 16 red dot sites have been memorialized with crosses over the ten years of Enciso's 'Where Dreams Die' project. On the map, these are indicated with a cross symbol added to the red dot. Most are in Coronado National Forest. Access to a couple on private land has been facilitated by permission from ranchers.

Of the five sites without crosses, one doesn't yet have private owner's permission for access, and three others are simply too hard to get to.

The fifth location that lacks a cross has been memorialized in a different way. It's in a steep and ledgy wash about two miles north of Salero Rd., and has been documented by a 360-degree interactive video made by documentarian Alyssa Quintanilla. For her, this technique lets viewers directly experience the texture and feel of the places the various deaths occurred. Later this year, Quintanilla plans to post the video on her site, vistasdelafrontera.com/map-1, joining the many other pins she's placed for migrant death sites in southern Arizona.

The Flux Canyon area has five sites, four marked with crosses. One body, discovered this past November, is high on Flux Canyon Rd., about a half mile down Alum Gulch from the Hermosa Project property. The other four bodies are lower in Flux Canyon, near the residential area, three of which were accessible for cross placement. Preservation of all five of these locations will very likely be in the NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) discussions of South32's application for a new access road through the Coronado

See Dreams, p.19

Glimpses Into Our Past

The Crittenden Cemetery

By Alison Bunting

The town of Crittenden, located about three miles north of Patagonia, was created around 1882 when the New Mexico & Arizona railroad established a stop to serve the local mines and nearby ranches. Most of the town's buildings were located on the west side of today's SR 82; the railroad depot was on the east side. The Crittenden Cemetery is located on private property on a small hill southwest of where the town buildings stood. Approximately 12 graves are evident at the cemetery, most of which have headstones. [State of Arizona. Historic Property Inventory Form for Cemeteries and Graves, 2012]. The names (in bold) and brief biographies of those known to be buried at Crittenden follow. Photos of the cemetery and the headstones can be found on Find a Grave (findagrave.com). Special thanks to Cami Schlappy who shared her research and photography of the Crittenden historic area.

Eight of the graves at Crittenden Cemetery hold the remains of four generations of the pioneer Smith family (see the August 2021 PRT for more information on the Smith fami-

ly). **John Smith** (1843-1916) opened the first store in Crittenden and, with his wife

Helena (1855-1935), built and operated the Smith Hotel. They had three children: Helene, Oliver, and Emeline. Born in 1894, **Emeline** died in infancy on March 28, 1895. **Helene Smith** (1889-1976) married **Charles Edwin May** (1875-1960) in 1913. Charles was a mining engineer in Bisbee and the couple lived in Bisbee for a year before returning to the Smith family home in the old hotel building. [Tucson Daily Citizen, 5/30/1963]. Charles and Helene's two daughters, Vivian and Argenta, were raised in Crittenden. **Vivian May** (1914-1995) married **Richard Davis** (1907-1971) in 1933. Richard worked as a carpenter for the Southern Pacific Railroad and the couple lived in El Paso, TX for many years. They had no children. Argenta May attended the Seventh Day Adventist nursing school in Los Angeles where she married Herbert Saunders and had one son, **Don E. Saunders** (1940-1969). The Saunders moved to Tucson about 1942 where Don graduated from the University of Arizona with an engineering degree. Don was only 29 when he died; he was survived by a wife and three children.

Newspaper articles document one of the earliest burials at the Crittenden Cemetery. **Swan "Frank" M. Peterson**, age 33, was killed in 1885 while carrying the mail between Crittenden and the nearby mining camps (see the February 2022 PRT for the full story). Born in Sweden about 1852, Frank had recently married Mary Donagri.

Peterson was buried on July 25, "on the rising ground back of the town." [Tucson Citizen, 7/27/1885]. There is no headstone for his grave.

Susan Allie Perrett's gravestone records her death on July 26, 1886 - age 18 years, 7 months, and 24 days. Her parents, Abraham and Lucinda Perrett, and six siblings had moved from Texas and were ranching a half mile south of Crittenden. [Arizona Weekly Citizen, 10/23/1886]. The family stayed in Crittenden until at least 1897 before returning to Texas.

Ione Hutton Piper, age 53, died March 1, 1908. Born in California in 1854, Ione married George Piper in Crittenden in 1893. George was born in Maine in 1845 and arrived in Arizona around 1880. He mined in the Patagonia district and had a 160 acre homestead near Crittenden.

The 1900 U.S. Census has George and Ione living in Los Angeles where he was working as a stationary engineer. George remained in Arizona until at least 1913 when he was shot by the



Photo by Alison Bunting

The headstone for Susan Allie Perrett in the Crittenden Cemetery records that she died at age 18 years, seven months and 24 days.

Greaterville school teacher when he mistook her house for that of a friend and tried to enter late one night. [Tucson Citizen, 1/16/1913]. He survived the encounter and by 1920 was living in Minnesota where he died in 1936, age 91.

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- Sacrifice zones are a moral stain on the nation. No community should have to trade its health to fuel the prosperity of another.

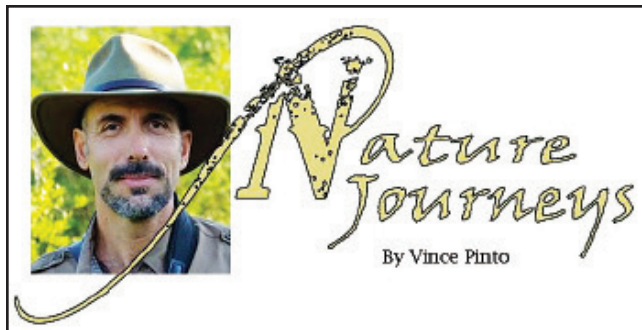


While Patagonia is at the heart of mining activity by Australian mining company South32 and Canadian exploratory company Barksdale Resources, all of Santa Cruz County is a frontline community that will be impacted in the next century by proposed mining.

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

Learn more at PatagoniaAlliance.org





Ferocious Fauna

In late December an aficionado of wildlife caught a stunning image of an adult jaguar prowling the Huachuca Mountains via his remote trail camera. About a month earlier the same cat had been photographed in the semi-connected Whetstone Mountains to the North.

Thinking about that wild felid, I began to ruminate on Earth's mega-predators. While in other parts of the globe such deliberations might include reptiles (crocodilians, Komodo dragons, a few species of huge snakes) and fish (various sharks), here in south-east Arizona our topic is confined to mammals—the coyote can perhaps be included, along with black bear, mountain lion and, of course, the very rare jaguar.

As the ever-growing human population—now crushingly large at 8.1 billion people—taxes our fragile planet with its finite resources, often the first species to vanish from the landscape are mega-predators. In the not-so-distant 1800s, Arizona was home to a breeding population of jaguars, as well as healthy numbers of both Mexican wolves and Mexican grizzly bears. How quickly things have changed.

Given their position at the apex of various food chains, such large predators often require far too much wild land in an increasingly anthropogenically altered world. We have transformed beasts that once served as symbols of nobility and strength into villains and ecological boogymen who commit unsanctioned acts against our

own enterprises. A wolf pack mugging a cow. A mountain lion menacing a lone hiker. A black bear having the audacity to raid a cabin for its food. Criminals one and all, with news headlines bearing witness to their offenses. Yet, the larger violation surely would be the continued diminishment of such toothy

beasts until—as in so many corners of the Earth today—they become mere memories.

Why should we care about species that can and occasionally will attack us, as well as threaten our industry? One compelling reason is that their presence indicates a high level of ecological health. Given the extreme degradation of various habitats on the Earth, at large and also within our own Sky Islands region, mega-predators represent an ongoing source of environmental hope. If they are still here, then surely the species they consume and most other ones lower on the food chain still have a decent shot of thriving.

The aforementioned jaguar validates all of our conservation efforts to date. It continues to stitch together a living from our remaining habitats and wildlife corridors.

A second and perhaps equally valid role that these ferocious fauna serve is to keep us in our place. A temporary check on our egos.

Having been up close and personal with cougars, coyotes, black bears and American alligators (among others), I can attest to the alteration of my heartbeat and the transformation of my mind. In such circumstances, if I don't play my cards right, I might well become another flavor of meat. Scary? Perhaps. Thrilling and transcendental? Absolutely! I've never been more alive than at such moments.

Truth is, the danger to humans from



Photo by Vince Pinto
A female mountain lion near Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary

these flesh-eating creatures is often highly overblown. Wild carnivores tend to avoid our troublesome presence like the proverbial plague. Whenever we rarely spot them, they usually are hightailing it in the opposite direction.

Rather than suffer a continued depletion of our mega-predator populations, I advocate for more stringent protection of our still wild and semi-wild landscapes. Livestock grazing pressure, mining, large-scale agriculture, and other sources of habitat destruction must be reined in. More land must be protected as federal wilderness. Our backyards should contain good habitat for native species. The paradigm of use and abuse must stop in an effort to salvage our still high levels of biodiversity in the Sky Islands.

I even envision a near future when Mexican wolves radiate out from their White Mountains/Gila stronghold to reclaim long-lost territory in our corner of the state. Elk have expanded out from that very region, bolstering prey populations that support our local mega-predators. In the

same way, a return of grizzly bear to the Sky Islands would be an ecological coup, once again allowing us to claim a "complete ecosystem" with few or no missing species.

Such areas of the globe with these bragging rights are, not surprisingly, tourist hotspots. Thus, the final reason to protect and allow large carnivores to flourish is tourism dollars. We can strive to emulate the thriving nature-based tourism in Yellowstone with all its toothy creatures. A lucrative and hair-raising prospect, all in one fell, carnivorous swoop!

Vincent Pinto and his wife, Claudia, run RAVENS-WAY WILD JOURNEYS LLC, their Nature Adventure & Conservation organization devoted to protecting and promoting the unique biodiversity of the Sky Islands region. RWWJ offers a wide variety of private, custom-made courses, birding & biodiversity tours. Visit ravensnatureschool.org

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LET'S GO GET STONES

A United Nations of Stoners

By Keith Krizan

For the second time in my rock hounding life, I went to the Tucson Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Showcase this year. Showcases are probably a more apt description. There are five distinct shows at different locations for different durations that take place beginning mid-January and run through mid-February.

If you could subtract all of the people from all of the venues around town, you would be left with a wondrous display of rocks and minerals that the term "eye candy" does not begin to describe.

Some are small and delicate pieces of worked emeralds wrapped in silver and fashioned into jewelry and displayed under lock and key. Some are huge slabs of marble breccia cut and then polished smooth, glassy, and inviting to the touch, that could easily serve as a coffee table.

Then there is the amethyst that I am so thrilled to find when I am hounding, which can be measured in centimeters. Here there are geodes, mounted on sturdy iron bars, split in half and splayed open to resemble amethyst butterfly wings—if butterflies ever grew to four-foot lengths.

I once spent a morning collecting at Washington Camp, high up in the Patagonia Mountains, below the pass on Duquesne Road. I was fascinated by the tiny cubes of iron sulfide—pyrite—that I was finding there. After a while, I had enough to fill an entire matchbox.

At the show I see another example of iron sulfide, the same chemical composition, but with a different crystal structure, called marcasite. This cluster of crystals measures 18x12x10 inches and is heavy enough to command its very own iron bar display system.

So much for my matchbox collection.

As beautiful and awe-inspiring as the rocks are, the experience is made even more fascinating by the people who bring it all together: the vendors of vanadium, the merchants of manganese and the salesmen and saleswomen of selenite. Lots of selenite.

At a point in history where we seem intent on settling our differences and solving our problems through the miracles of saltpeter, ammonium nitrate and enriched U-235, all sorts of people come to Tucson to hawk their wares so that minerals might give some aesthetic pleasure.

It is from around the world that they come to tell the story of their rocks, and, hopefully, sell some.

At Gem Avenue, I talk with Haroon Sait, from Charlotte, North Carolina. He has been coming here as a buyer for ten years and as a seller for four. Haroon is originally from India, as is most of the stock in his store.

Josh Colbaugh is part of a father-and-son team where he is the fourth-generation purveyor of material at Kingman Turquoise in northwest Arizona. He does two Tucson shows a year as well as the Rodeo Shows in Las Vegas. He is standing alongside bins

of turquoise priced at \$500 per pound. He smiles, slightly, when I comment that there must be at least \$500,000 worth of rocks at his booth. There are, in fact, millions of dollars here. Josh tells me that Europeans prefer clear turquoise and that Americans like it mixed with a matrix.

Noor, of Noor Gems, is here for his first show. He has tables full of attractive blue lapis. The lapis lazuli that was inlaid on the magnificent gold funerary mask that King Tutankhamun wore for his trip to the after-world may well have come from Noor's hometown of Badakhshan, Afghanistan, where mining of the mineral began 7,000 years ago. The lapis lazuli mined there reached Egypt around 3,000 BCE.

Noor says that since the Taliban took over there has been no further digging at the family mine but that two emerald mines in Panjshir are now working. It takes two months and many export/import licenses to get the stones into the U.S.

When I am finally ready to leave, I feel as if I have kept a promise I made to myself. Last year I bought a flat—a 10"x15" cardboard box—that contained nine mineral specimens. In it were things like calcite, green apophyllite, amethyst, stilbite and heulandite, all from Maharashtra, India. They came cushioned in sticky foam, resting on a bed of newspaper. The paper was printed in Hindi, with ads and photos similar to what you might find in an American daily. Because that flat has sat, unmolested, under my dresser for



Photo by Keith Krizan
Adam Kelliher, of Rubble Rock and Gem, pictured here at the recent Tucson gem show with a massive piece of jade, claims to have the largest rock shop in Canada.

the past year, I vowed not to buy any rocks from the show this year.

Near the show's exit is Hussein. He and his wife are tending their business, Aflica Minerals. They have lots of something he calls geo-calcite from Morocco. Hussein tells me that they have brought 20,000 kilos to the show.

There is an astonishingly white geode cut open in one of their flats. I buy the single geode. It comes wrapped in a newspaper that is printed in Arabic. It too has ads and photos similar to what can be found in any Western daily.

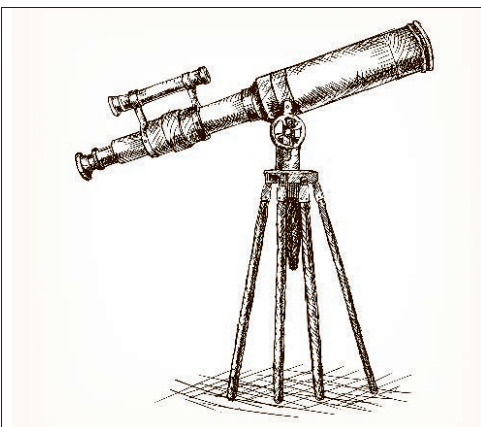
It is a small victory but this year I have kept my purchases to \$5.00.

Now if only I could find a place to display this rock.

Keith Krizan can be contacted at therealkbkkbk@gmail.com

STARSTRUCK

The Lesson of the Hyades and Aldebaran



By Harold Meckler

Let's take a drive. No car needed. No tolls. Leave your wallet behind. Let's plan it for around March 10, but if you're busy and not available, you can go it alone for another week or so before a full moon lights up the sky. And, if need be, you can even wait until the first week of April—when the sky is dark once again—to go on this spin.

With just a glance, let's drive just

to the west and a little "above" the constellation Orion. That is where we find a group of stars in the shape of the letter "V." The giant red star, Aldebaran, shines distinctly within the "V" and marks the eye of Taurus, the Bull. All those points of light around Aldebaran are part of an open star cluster called the Hyades.

A star cluster is a group of stars that were formed at the same time and have been gravitationally bound together through time. Open clusters contain fewer members than the much denser, and older, globular clusters.

The Hyades is about 600 million years old and, at 153 light years away, it is the closest open cluster to Earth. In comparison, the beautiful Pleiades, another open cluster, is 440 light years away. While the V-shaped group seems to occupy a rather small piece of the sky, from end to end it spans ten light years, or about 58 trillion miles.

Interestingly, Aldebaran is not part of the family. It is simply in our line of sight. Indeed, it's hard to miss the mighty red giant. After all, it is approximately 44 times bigger than the sun

and one of the brightest stars in the night sky. For me, though, it is also a reminder that shiny objects, if we allow them, can pull us away from the bigger picture.

In space, with such vast distances, it's easy to see how objects seem close together even when they are light years apart. Knowing this, we can zero in on Aldebaran while realizing that something even more extraordinary lies beyond it: hundreds of stars that have been entangled for hundreds of millions of years.

With amazing instrumentation, we can observe black holes at the heart of blazing quasars billions of light years away that were just waiting to be discovered once we looked past the stars in our own galaxy. For all who look at the sky, there is the knowledge that there's a whole lot more than what is revealed to us through light-polluted skies.

Space seems to always provide a lesson. Shiny objects like Aldebaran deserve our attention, but shouldn't detract us, shouldn't make us forget that there is much more to see and to understand. There are times to narrow

one's focus but, often, it's the broader, wider view that serves us best.

Today, there are so many diversions to deal with, so many "breaking news" pieces that pull our gaze away from such existential issues like climate change. Some are designed to do just that, to be shiny objects that take advantage of our natural inclination to learn more about something new, something that makes us forget—if only for a short time—about the crises that rage everywhere.

So, this month, as I take that drive to Aldebaran and then further out to the Hyades, I'll find a place to put aside the shiny objects, to push back against those that want me to think that some mundane matter, some manufactured event, or some piece of misinformation is somehow more important than national or global concerns that have existed for decades, or even longer.

We're being bombarded with shiny objects. None match Aldebaran. None can hide the magnificence of the Hyades.

Harold Meckler can be contacted at glusk@proton.me

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Teacher (Cont.)

School. After one year he returned to the Philippines for a few months, where he was certified as a principal.

He went back to Myanmar for three years, but the deteriorating political situation there compelled him to move. Friends and colleagues persuaded him to relocate to Vietnam, a beautiful country with a low cost of living. He contracted with the Bin School, the largest private school in Vietnam, as well as an English as a Second Language school.

"It has always been my dream to be in the U.S. ever since I was young," Dr. Ramirez said. "While in Vietnam I began applying to American schools. At the same time, I applied for a visa and was given a J1, basically a teacher exchange visa. While I was offered positions in the U.S. I didn't want to accept any until I got my H1 visa which would allow me to stay."

Everything came together for Dr. Ramirez when both the offer from the Elgin School and the H1 visa solidified.

After completing his commitment in Vietnam in December, Dr. Ramirez flew to Hong Kong where he boarded a 14-hour flight to California and then flew on to Tucson. He was greeted at the airport by Elgin School Principal Mary Faley, who drove him directly to his apartment in Sierra Vista.

Dr. Ramirez said his experience with living in different settings and working with people of different nationalities has made the adjustment to living and working in southern Arizona easy.

"There has been no culture shock," he said. "People here have been welcoming and supportive."

Dr. Ramirez is presently sharing an apartment with his colleague Aisel Gaviola, splitting the bills and the

cooking and sharing a "pre-loved" 2014 Honda CRV. He has obtained his driver's license and has met other Philippine teachers living in Sierra Vista.

The only difficult moments were in the period before he got the Honda, when he and Gaviola were carpooling with a woman teaching in Nogales. He had to get up at 3:30am to be ready for his ride so that everyone could make it to work on time.

Dr. Ramirez is grateful to many people for his easy transition to living and teaching in our community. First and foremost, he thanks Principal Mary Foley for all her assistance and her trust and confidence in him. He also thanks the Board and parents who have been so welcoming and supportive, and the substitute teacher who taught his classes for the fall semester, who put name tags on all the desks so he could quickly learn his 50 students' names.

To the community, he said, "Thank you for approving my position. For taking a leap of faith. I thank God, above all, for the opportunity. I prayed for this, and He allowed it to happen. I will do my best in my capacity to deliver the best education I can to my students. No child left behind."

Dr. Ramirez's long-term goals are to remain in the U.S., learn how things are done here, and eventually find a role in Arizona's Department of Education. In a year or two, his family will come for a visit, and return home. He will visit them as his financial position improves.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ramirez is spending his free time expanding his networks, reading, and enjoying Netflix—especially Korean dramas.

And, he said, he would like to learn some sports from his students. Maybe football.

Auto (Cont.)

and surges in time to the music.

Tinting windows is a new skill they have learned, along with combing junk yards for parts. "They've learned to recycle cars," said Gudenkauf. There are new wheels, tires, and unique, red-tinted rims. "The Mazda will be a one-of-a-kind, original vehicle ready for car shows," said Gudenkauf.

The Auto Shop students are looking forward to a great turnout for the auction of the Dodge Avenger on March 15, a major fundraiser for the auto-welding program.

Donated by an anonymous woman from Patagonia, the Avenger was in "fair" condition when the students be-

gan restoration in January. Twelve students in the school's auto and welding classes spent 21 man hours each for a total of 252 hours of work on the project. The beautifully restored Avenger now sits at the PUHS parking lot to the west of the auto shop at the school, awaiting its lucky new owner.

All money for expenditures, donations and grants are handled by PUHS Club Skills USA in compliance with Arizona law regarding taxpayer donations to public schools. The students are all members of Skills USA and compete with other schools at the State level.

Funds raised will pay for transportation, food and lodging needed for travel, in addition to funding the next car project.



Photo by Dottie Farrar

Jeff Gudenkauf helps Johnny Fields with a repair to the Mazda that the class is restoring.

What Is That??

Curios From the Patagonia Museum

By Leslie Schupp

This is a battered statue on the "teacher's desk" in the Patagonia Museum. (Our imagined teacher collects old bronzes of presidents and Indians.)

It is, according to Google Lens, an antique Bronze sculpture of a corsair by Eutrope Bouret (French 1833-1906).

Corsairs were privateers, authorised to conduct raids on shipping of a foreign state at war with France. Because they were acting on behalf of the French Crown, if captured by the enemy, they could claim treatment as prisoners of war.

If he wasn't missing half his leg, his sword and with a smashed nose, he could be worth something on Ebay. Our teacher, however, just thinks he's handsome.



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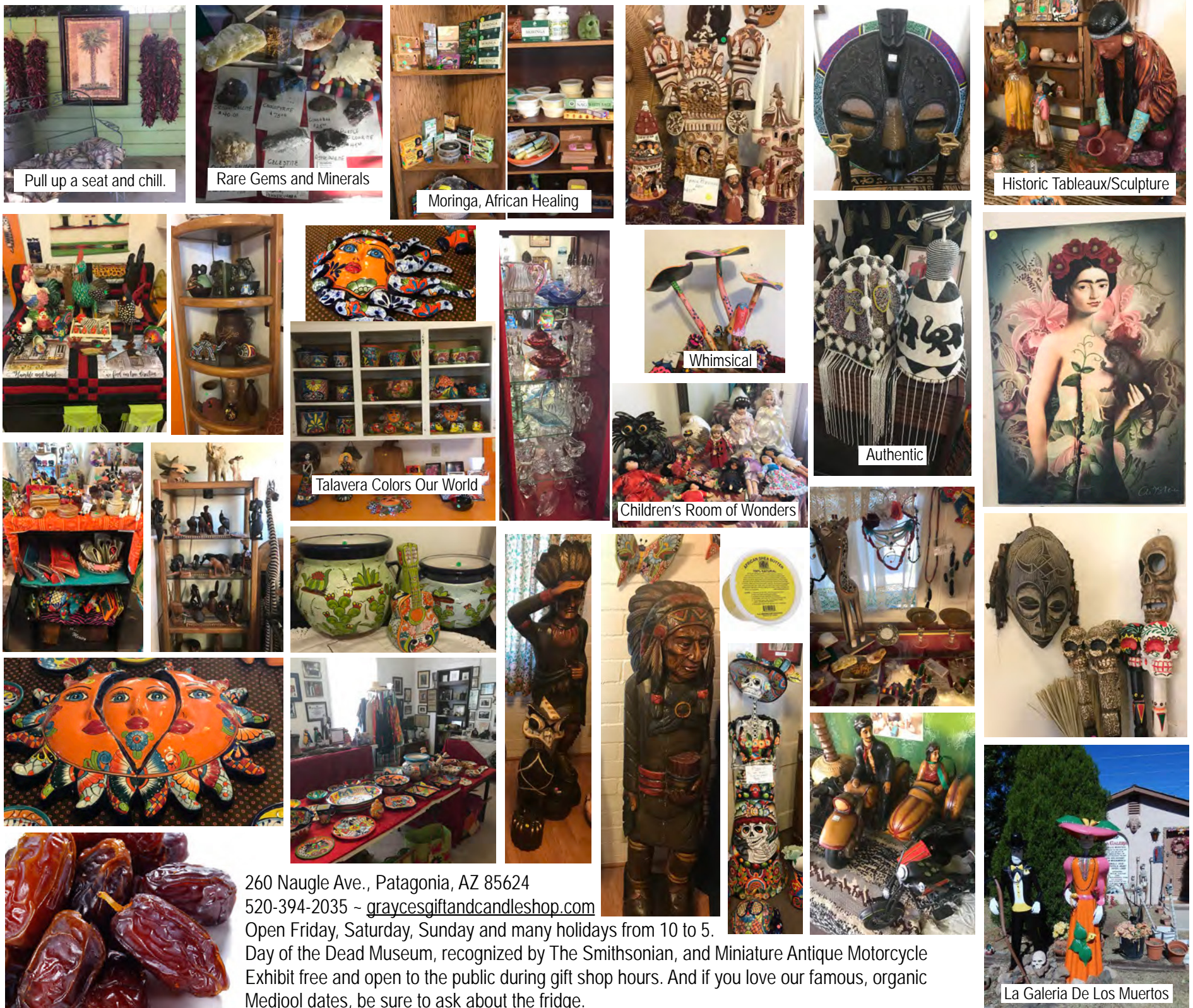
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Day of the Dead Museum, recognized by The Smithsonian, and Miniature Antique Motorcycle Exhibit free and open to the public during gift shop hours. And if you love our famous, organic Medjool dates, be sure to ask about the fridge.

Dreams (Cont.)

National Forest.

One of the Flux Canyon sites, in the grasslands south of the residences, is where Enciso's scouts found small body parts that had not been included in the remains retrieved by law enforcement for transport to the Pima County Medical Examiner's office (PCOME). Identifying papers were in a wallet and backpack nearby, allowing tracking the migrant's sister's address to a town in western Oaxaca State in Mexico. These discoveries were conveyed to the PCOME, which would have led the consulate to be notified, who in turn contacts the families. This process brings them the tragic news that can nevertheless bring some emotional closure to them. For the whole team participating in this particular cross placement, it was a sobering and powerful moment about the reality of life in the Borderlands.

Circling back to Temporal Canyon, Juan's dream ended roughly six miles north from Patagonia, at an elevation

of about 5,000 feet. Further confirming the location were clothing and food containers as well as a pair of bright purple latex gloves presumably discarded by the law enforcement team who had recovered the body. Dr. Jennifer Vollner, a forensic anthropologist with the PCOME, confirmed what happened after their examination of the remains: "We did end up identifying this individual as a collaboration with the Mexican Consulate here in Tucson and with the family's cooperation. We were able to release this individual to a local funeral home to be repatriated."

This site was under the spreading limbs of a fair-sized oak, a place cattle clearly also like. The slope above the road commands a postcard view of the summits of Mt. Wrightson and Josephine Peak. Always empathetic with the lives his crosses memorialize, Enciso quietly speculated on the end of this particular migrant's dream: "To get here from the border, he'd probably have walked for about a week," Enciso said. "This beauty would have been his last look at the world."

Fire (Cont.)

communication systems, delays and errors sometimes happen. In a perfect world, we'd all be on the same system.

If resource needs exceed what is available locally, we make a "Declaration of Need" indicating that we have exhausted all our resources and need more. Both Arizona and the Federal government have fire budgets. Aerial

services are provided by private contractors who are paid through either State or Federal budgets.

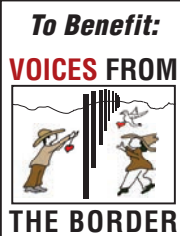
All this happens at the speed of, well, wildfire, and under conditions of huge stress. In Part Two, we will take an actual fire and walk through how all this played out in real time.

January, 2024 stats: 12 fire calls, 29 EMS, and 18 calls for other services.

Sat. March 16 Tin Shed Theater, Patagonia

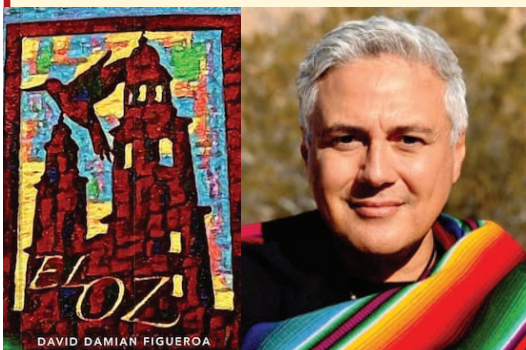
Tickets \$20: includes a complimentary copy of David Damian's book *El OZ*, "a Latino twist to a classic children's tale," & tapas

Shura follows Shura Wallin, an octogenarian black belt in karate who leads by example. Her unwavering commitment inspires hundreds of other humanitarians to provide life-saving aid to stranded migrants crossing the harsh Sonoran U.S./Mexico border near Nogales.



Shura Wallin will be present along with David Damian Figueroa, the film's Co-Director

"David Damian's passion for social justice is derived from his experience as a child farm-worker in the agricultural fields of southern Arizona...In 2010, UCLA established *The David Damian Figueroa Papers* and cited Figueroa as influential in shaping Latina and Latino popular arts through his film, television, music production, and publicity work."



4:00 PM – cash bar, tapas, and book signing

4:45 PM – film and Q&A discussion.

A different take on the border with David Damian, Shura, and others.

Circle Z (Cont.)

ranch in 1926, Circle Z has access to hundreds of miles of trails and is known for its many horses, most of which are bred, raised and trained on the ranch. The total acreage of Circle Z, including leased land, is about 7,000 acres, plus a 3,500-acre conservation area.

Diana's concerns include the construction of roads that will disturb roughly 140 acres of land. She anticipates dust from road construction blasting impacting air quality. Circle Z has 20 trails that cross over the area where South32 plans to build the primary road which will connect the Project with SR82 south of Patagonia, just north of the Patagonia Lake entrance and less than two miles from the entrance to Circle Z.

"There is [going to be a road] running right through what we do," Diana said. "We have had a special permit on that land for as long as I can remember. How am I going to be able to navigate trails safely? How is the National Forest going to keep us safe? They're not even saying what kind and size trucks they're looking at. There's a lot of deep canyons out there, so how are they going to navigate those?"

And then there's water, always an issue here.

Diana is concerned about the water that will be discharged from the mine. South32 expects that up to 3.4 millions gallons per day of groundwater will be treated and discharged into Alum Gulch, Harshaw Creek and two newly constructed rapid infiltration basins.

"This is not a sustainable use of our

precious water," Diana said. "How can we say that it's okay to dewater our aquifer so they can get in there and make money? Nobody knows what's going to happen to that water because the geology is too complex. That's taking a risk on our lives and the future of our water in a state where we're desperate for water. I have a hundred horses. How can I safely make sure that the water is plentiful and won't be contaminated?"

And then there's dust. How will that impact air quality?

"There is plenty of dust in the air when we don't get rain that causes my horses to cough," Diana said. "What happens if the dust is laced with manganese? Will our guests be safe? It's a health risk that a country like ours should not be taking."

Over the past 150 years or so, the Circle Z Ranch has survived Apache raids, the depression, two world wars, the recession and two pandemics. Now the Nashes feel that there is a new threat looming over this historic ranch.

"My overall reaction to the plan is surprise at the enormous scope of this mine," Diana said. "I knew it was big, but after reading the plan, it's going to change life as we know it here, much more than I really had anticipated."

"During the next two years our residents, our county, and our state need to pay serious attention to protecting our precious communities, streams, mountains, and businesses that sustain this area. I have been engaged and will continue to be engaged with lawmakers, scientists and the community."

Snake Versus Snake



A diurnal ring-necked snake (left) attempts to capitalize on a nocturnal nightsnake making a daytime appearance in Temporal Gulch. Both these creatures have a mild venom secreted through enlarged rear teeth...no danger to you. A 20-minute struggle ensued between these small (~2 feet and thin) snakes, both coiling around vegetation for leverage in the tug-of-war of life and death. In the end, the nightsnake pulled away to rethink its choice to tour the Sky Islands by day. (Photo and text by Eric Herman)

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

PUHS Senior Spotlights

This month the PRT begins our series of profiles of the PUHS senior class of 2024. Look for more profiles of these talented and interesting young people in upcoming issues of the PRT.



Heaven Day

By William Botz

At Patagonia Union High School, Heaven Day is an exemplary student. She excels in every subject, and her favorite subjects in school are English and poetry. Her favorite teachers are Mr. and Mrs. Hayes. She serves as a Gear Up mentor, a National Honor Society member and president of the student government.

Growing up in Patagonia, Heaven has been involved in various community organizations, including the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, Patagonia Community Church and Produce On Wheels in Sonoita. Her leadership abilities are unmatched, and she is a great example for her friends and peers.

Heaven has participated in many sports, including playing basketball, managing and playing volleyball, playing softball as a sophomore, and managing baseball last year. Practicing with her teammates is one of her favorite memories from high school, and the highlight of her years here is making it into regionals for basketball and volleyball.

Her plans for the future are to continue her studies at Pima Community College to get an associate's degree and then transfer to a university to study pediatric medicine. Heaven has big dreams for her future: she wants to work as a pediatric physical therapist because she wants to help children.



Dante Nelson

By Chriselle Fajardo

Dante James Nelson grew up in Cheney and Spokane, Washington. He is an only child. At age 16, he traveled 1,571 miles with his mom, leaving his family and friends to move to Patagonia.

When he arrived he was not only faced with leaving his friends and family behind but also received a climate shock. Arizona's heat was very different from Washington's cold and rainy weather. Even though moving here wasn't easy, Dante fell in love with the beautiful sunsets that Patagonia has to offer and is considering staying here in Arizona.

Dante doesn't spend much time with school extracurricular activities because his music and video games keep him busy, but this year he was the soccer team's manager. For the past two years, Dante has been taking fitness and weightlifting as an elective. He excels in this class and he would say it is the class he most looks forward to.

Dante is moving on to the next chapter of his life, saying goodbye to all the great memories in high school but preparing for the bright and successful future he has ahead.

Dante plans to work for Border Patrol. He is currently working on his application to secure a position.



Jenny Vasquez

By Aliyah Gallardo

The strong, independent Jenny Vasquez spends most of her free time on the ranch with her family and friends. Vasquez is inspired by her two older brothers, Jose and Julian Vasquez. She says they have been her biggest role models growing up and she looks up to them.

At school Jenny is an amazing athlete who is committed and works hard. During her time at PUHS, Jenny has participated in volleyball and basketball for four years, and softball for one year. She has been involved in FFA for two years, National Honors Society for three years, and has been a Gear Up mentor for one year.

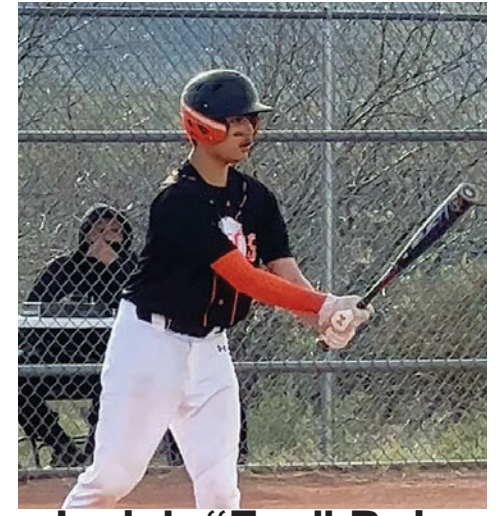
Jenny's favorite memories are when Mr. Hayes fell while playing in a basketball game during a pep rally her junior year, and going to the Williams tournament in basketball her senior year. Her high school highlight is winning Homecoming Queen her senior year.

Jenny's favorite teachers are Mr. and Mrs. Hayes. She said, "Mr. Hayes has always pushed his students to do the best of their abilities, and helped everyone achieve their goals." Mrs. Hayes is one of the sweetest teachers she ever had. "She was always there for all of her students and would do everything in her power to get us the best education, and opportunities," Jenny said. Her favorite subjects are English and poetry.

Jenny's plans for her future are to attend the University of Arizona and continue her studies. She imagines herself successful with a good job living out in the middle of nowhere on a little ranch with lots of dogs and her horse.

Her piece of advice for the underclassmen?

"Don't take your time in high school for granted, join as many clubs and sports as possible, and have fun."



Isaiah "Zay" Ruiz

By Jenny Vasquez

Growing up in Tucson, the cheerful and joyful Isaiah Ruiz is moving onto the next chapter of his life. As a little boy his whole world had been playing baseball and in a couple of months he will be playing his last game, left with memories, endless laughs and friendships.

When Isaiah first moved to Patagonia High School it didn't take him long to realize he loved it. Immediately bringing joy and spirit to Patagonia, he was looked up to by many underclassmen.

As Isaiah is ready for the next big step in his life he has decided to continue his studies with Pima Community College and get a degree in Liberal Arts. This comes as no surprise for those who have known Isaiah. He has always been a very curious person, looking to help and communicate with others.

Isaiah says that a huge part of his motivation while attending high school, and his reason to keep going, has been his coach Mr. Porter. "Porter has always pushed me to do better and always believed in me," he said. Isaiah said Mr. Porter is the reason he has a love for basketball and the reason he became a better player.

Isaiah has been a big part of Patagonia athletics. He has played soccer, basketball and baseball. He has been a big part of his team as team captain for both soccer and basketball. Isaiah has a way of encouraging others to keep going and to do better in everything they do by keeping his team in the game and determined to win. Outside of school, Isaiah enjoys doing activities that keep him in nature as well as keeping him in shape.

Isaiah is leaving a legacy at Patagonia Union High School where many students looked up to him and many teachers enjoyed his presence and determination in their classrooms. They look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in his future and wish him the best.

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PUHS Senior Spotlights



Andres Hoyos

By Edwin Ibarra

Andres Hoyos grew up in Patagonia. He is the man of the house, reserved and a hard worker. His favorite sport is basketball—he played all four years of high school. Andres likes to be out spending time with his friends. His time in school he liked clothes, shoes and to be well dressed.

The time Andres spent in the classroom he was very easy going and was well liked. He was good at keeping

good grades and would stay focused on his work.

His favorite teachers were Mr. Mershon and Mr. Porter. They had the biggest impact on him but in different ways. Mr. Mershon helped him get better and learn things more in depth about welding. Mr. Porter helped Andres grow in basketball and enjoy it while also putting in hard work to get better.

He enjoyed his class of welding with Mr. Mershon. That was time well spent. Andres's plans after high school is to go to UTI for welding and get certified. I am sure what Andres chooses to do he will be successful.

His friends were very close to him and he never failed to make any of them laugh.

His main role model and person he looks up to and admires is his mom. She was his main support system and he loves her deeply. She is a big role model for him because she is independent, hardworking, and she has always been there for him. There is no doubt that she will be there for him, motivating, encouraging, and supporting throughout his journey and UTI.



Tallen Simpson

Tallen Simpson enjoys riding his bike, fishing at Patagonia Lake, and going to rodeos. His plans next year are to continue being awesome!

Tallen's favorite teachers are Mrs. Gortarez and Mrs. Marta and his favorite class is P.E.

One memory that Tallen will remember forever about his time at Patagonia High School is when he attended junior prom with his best friend, Shelby.

Tallen says the highlight of his high school years has been going to basketball games and cheering on the Lobos with his mom and all his friends.

In ten years Tallen imagines himself being a cowboy on a ranch. If he was to give one piece of advice to underclassmen it would be simply, to be happy.

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Ask an Engineer Bridge Design

By Lance Dean

Dear PRT reader, thank you for your question, "In my travels I have noticed a number of different bridge designs for roadway and train tracks. My question is: What are the important factors to consider in bridge design (beam, trestle arch or truss)?"

In simple terms a bridge must resist the bending forces created by any load on the bridge. This load is not only that from a train or vehicle, but must also include the weight of the bridge structure itself.

When you were a child you probably placed a plank down to cross over a stream. The plank alone sags in the middle. When we walked onto the plank it sags the most when we approach the middle. At this point, all the wood fibers along the bottom of the plank are in tension and the wood fibers along the top are in compression. All bridges follow this example in design; the top members must be in compression and the bottom members in tension to withstand the bending forces of the load; longer bridges and heavier loads cause higher tension and compression forces. The most economic and practical way to address these heavier loads is to create an upper compression member separated

from the lower tension member. With simple comparison of any two similar bridges, the one with taller structure will be either carrying a heavier load or spanning a longer distance.

The upper compression member and lower tension member do all the heavy work and all the smaller diagonal and zig-zag members just hold the main members firmly in position so they don't accidentally twist or buckle.

In your question you used the term "beam" which in our example would be the simple wooden plank. The terms trestle, arch or truss are just different terms for various designs where the top compression member and bottom tension members have been separated.

I would envision the simple bridge structure crossing Babocomari Creek in Elgin as a simple truss (uniform; not very tall). The old train bridges on the railroad to Nogales were high enough for the train to pass through between the top and bottom members, allowing the main compression members to be quite small. The Burro Creek Bridge on Highway 93 north of Phoenix is a good example of arch construction with all the traffic driving along the top compression members.

Questions and comments may be submitted directly to me via email to: askengineerprt@gmail.com. Responses will be given in subsequent issues of the PRT in this column, "Ask an Engineer."

Community Homes of Patagonia Hosts Annual Meeting

News Release

On Thursday, March 21, at 5:30, Community Homes of Patagonia (CHOP) will host its Annual Membership Meeting for its members, supporters, and those interested in learning about the local grassroots nonprofit's mission at Cady Hall.

It will be a great opportunity for everyone in attendance to learn more about the Gopher Field Affordable Housing (CLT) Project.

During the Annual Membership Meeting, attendees will be updated on the accomplishments of CHOP's programs, nominate and vote in new director(s), pay membership dues, and learn more about the phased approach CHOP is taking to build affordable, safe, decent, and energy-efficient single-family homes on Gopher Field in Patagonia.

As a town, affordable housing is a priority that needs to be addressed. You'll learn how you can be a part of the solution at the meeting.

CHOP's mission is to support the diversity and vibrancy of the Town of

Patagonia by providing quality, affordable housing opportunities to low- and moderate-income people in the community. Affordable housing opportunities, home repairs, and homebuyer education are

our focus.

"Since 2007, CHOP has given homeownership support to working-class people in Patagonia," said Tod C. Bowden, CHOP Board President. "Our goals are to make homeownership a reality for income-qualified people in the community who wish to live where they work and to help homeowners maintain their long-term assets."

CHOP is an open-membership charitable organization. Its members are vital for decision-making, committee work, and financial support. Annual dues are \$10/person, \$20/multi-person household, or you can volunteer in place of membership dues.

"I grew up in this special place and I'm lucky enough to be a homeowner because of the guidance and support I received from CHOP," said Mandy Montañez, CHOP Director. "I served on the board for eight years because I want others to have the same opportunity."

For more information call Tod C. Bowden at (520) 394-9051, Text Elvia Gallaher at (520) 455-7207, or email: chopatagonia@gmail.com.

The Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts

Benderly-Kendall Opera House,
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MARCH Schedule

MARCH 3: 3pm - Santa Cruz Singers - Fauré Requiem
A Community Concert
Suggested donation \$10 at the door

MARCH 10: 3pm - William Feasley Internationally known classical guitarist William Feasley performs works from his latest album "Diferencias" by Nasrvarez, Bach, Mudarra, Domeniconi, Madlem, McCoy Turner, and Tarrega.

MARCH 25: 3pm - Ear Palace Salon Society Ensemble
"Winter, Water, and a Lonely Shepherd" - An exclusively Schubert program featuring Clare Demer, soprano, Diana Schaible, flutist and Mari Tomizuka, pianist.

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 TIN SHED THEATER

JANUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

MARCH 16 - Shura "Shura" follows Shura Wallin, an octogenarian whose unwavering commitment inspires humanitarians to provide life saving aid to stranded migrants crossing the board near Nogales. Shura Wallin will be present, as well as David Figueroa, the film's co-director.
4pm - Cash bar, tapas and book signing.
4:45pm - Film and Q & A discussion
Tickets \$20: Includes complimentary copy of David Damian's book "El Oz" and tapas.

Dates and Times Subject to Change

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

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

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Solution for this Month's Crossword

KPUP Broadcast Schedule SPRING 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.



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MLS # 22401767 12 BLACK OAK DRIVE

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