

# Patagonia Regional Times



NOVEMBER 2024

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CANELO, ELGIN, PATAGONIA AND SONOITA

VOL. 14 ISSUE 9

## Paton Center Manager Shares Plans for Popular Birding Site



Photo by Dottie Farrar

**Tom Brown, Site Manager and 'Bird Person' at Patagonia's Paton Center for Hummingbirds.**

By Dottie Farrar

On a beautiful morning last month in Patagonia, Tom Brown, Site Manager of Audubon's Paton Center for Hummingbirds, talked about how he approached his job.

"My mission statement is: This is always going to be Marion Paton's Backyard," Brown said. "There is a tranquility and a serenity here that isn't found anywhere else. Audubon is currently doing a major restoration at the Paton Center. My job is to take this project over, manage the restoration, do the scheduling, obtain all the necessary permits, and manage the Center as a business. And I am at the same time the 'Bird Person.' I want to accomplish Audubon's goals that they hope to achieve here, and my personal goals align with Audubon's."

Brown animatedly spoke about Audubon's current major renovation of the former Paton home. Phase one involves replacing the roof, followed by renovating the interior spaces to include rooms for the preparation of hummingbird food, cleaning and

refilling the feeders, a gathering place for volunteers and a meeting room for 30 people. And there will be a new space to accommodate a gift shop that will offer violet crown hummingbird T-shirts, hats and mugs.

Completion of this work was originally estimated to be around the first of the upcoming year, but due to the vagaries of renovating a 109-year-old house, there have been minor delays. For example, one of the original rafters was found to be made of old picket fence pieces and others were made of scavenged pieces of wood. "This house was built of scraps of wood," laughed Brown. He hopes the work may be complete by Valentine's Day.

Additional renovations include the construction of two ADA public bathrooms, the septic system for which has already been installed. Then, down the road from the current entrance, a new parking lot will be built without cutting down any of the existing trees. This area will be the future entrance to the Paton Center, curving through

See Brown, p.15

## Civil Case Moves Forward Against Former Treasurer, Criminal Charges Not Yet Filed

By Marion Vendituoli

Liz Gutfahr, who served as Santa Cruz County Treasurer for over a decade, may eventually be serving time in a very different setting for her alleged embezzlement of \$39 million from the County treasury.

More than six months have elapsed since Gutfahr resigned from her position after evidence of her alleged embezzlement came to light. Many residents have expressed their frustration with the apparent lack of progress in this case.

The timeline for criminally prosecuting her is in the hands of the FBI at this point, but on August 1 the County initiated a civil complaint in Pima Superior Court in an effort to recover at least some of the stolen money. On Sept. 12, the County's complaint added Gutfahr's son and daughter-in-law, Davian and Ana Karena Gutfahr, as well as several business entities that

were controlled by the Gutfahr family.

Both a criminal and civil case involve two sides, a plaintiff and a defendant. In each case, evidence is used to determine guilt or innocence. In a criminal case, the government is the entity that brings charges against the defendant, which may result in jail time. A civil case can be initiated by a private individual or entity. In the Gutfahr case, the plaintiff is Santa Cruz County. "She was accused of a crime through the civil courts," SCC Supervisor Bruce Bracker said in a recent interview with the PRT. "We're not responsible for justice. That's up to the FBI."

There is no indication of when criminal charges may be brought in this case. The wheels of justice turn slowly. One only needs to look at the case of former SCC Assessor Felipe Fuentes who, in 2022, pleaded guilty to felony

See Gutfahr, p.3

## Community Halloween Party at the Sonoita Fairgrounds



Photo by Marion Vendituoli

Five-year-old DeAnn S. won the costume contest for her age group at the Halloween party. Partygoers enjoyed pumpkin bowling, marshmallow towers, a pumpkin carving station, bobbing for doughnuts, cotton candy, costume contests, hot dogs, face painting, and, of course, candy.

## 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.

**Managing Editor:**  
Marion Vendituoli  
editor@prtnews.org

**Assistant Editors:**  
Nisa Stover Talavera  
prtasted@gmail.com

Jay Babcock  
prtadast@gmail.com

**Ad Manager:**  
Nisa Stover Talavera  
prtads@gmail.com

**Bookkeeper:**  
Cynie Murray  
prtbookkeeper@gmail.com

## Contributing Writers

Bob Brandt	Dave Brown
Alison Bunting	Lynn Davison
Cassina Farley	Dottie Farrar
Linda Jade Fong	Robert Gay
Patra Kelly	Keith Krizan
Dave Lumia	Eddie McArthur
Pat McNamara	Mary McKay
Harold Meckler	Vince Pinto
Mary Tolena	Carrie White

## Board of Directors

Kathryn Schrag.....	President
Mollie Wright.....	Secretary
Kay Pitt.....	Treasurer
Cassina Farley	Chip Fears
Elvia Gallaher	Jac Heiss
Bekki Jaynes	Perin McNelis
Emmett Rahn-Oakes	Carrie White

## Submissions

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

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

# THE PRT NEEDS YOU!

November marks the beginning of the Patagonia Regional Times' annual fundraising campaign, that time of year when we ask you, our readers, to help us continue our mission to provide local news here in eastern Santa Cruz County.

The staff and board of the PRT have worked hard to implement innovations and expansion of services to support our mission to serve and engage our community. But a free press isn't free.

The PRT is a nonprofit newsroom that depends on donations and grants to be able to continue bringing you local news and information that would otherwise go unreported. With every dollar you contribute, you are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors, our children, our nonprofits and our small businesses.

Our volunteer citizen journalists and staff have worked hard this past year to bring you unique local stories. The PRT was the first to break the news about school and fire district funds missing from the County treasury and we are the only news organization to report on the historic chapel and cemetery in Lochiel that are now in danger of being sold in an effort to recoup some of the County's stolen money.

We have kept our community informed about local elections by hosting live candidate forums, Zoom interviews and profiles in the PRT, all of which we also

included in our voter guide on our website, along with information about ballot initiatives, where to vote and important election dates.

We brought you coverage of the County's tourism initiative, coverage that resulted in the County firing their outside consultants and turning over the discussion to local residents. We told the story of the impact of the Hermosa Project on a local guest ranch. We provided coverage of high school sports, our fire departments and local nonprofits. We printed obituaries. And we do this all at no cost to our readers.

Our weekly e-newsletters continue to deliver news and community events, and we have expanded our coverage of breaking news in eastern Santa Cruz County. We reported on wildfires, road closures, environmental stories, news alerts from the Sheriff's office and notices from the County.

Our website continues to grow. In 2023, we were excited that we had 157,000 website views. To date in 2024, incredibly, there have already been more than 204,000 views, a 30% increase in views in less than a year. PRT staff also share many of our articles, as well as breaking news, on social media.

We couldn't have done any of this without our readers' support. Our reporting is community driven and community funded. In other words, we wouldn't exist if it

weren't for you.

For the fifth year in a row, the PRT has been selected to participate in NewsMatch, a national matching-gift campaign that drives donations to nonprofit newsrooms like ours around the U.S.

Here's how our fundraising campaign works: NewsMatch will match donations given in November and December. This can either be a one-time donation or a recurring monthly donation. The bottom line is, no matter how you donate to the PRT before the end of 2024, your donation will be doubled thanks to NewsMatch. That's a big deal for the PRT.

Will you make a donation to the PRT? Just think of the impact that could have—not just for our newsroom, but for our community.

We need to raise at least \$30,000 from our donors before the end of December. If you have supported the PRT in the past, thanks for your continued support. If you have not yet donated to the PRT, **now is the time.** We hope that you will consider helping us to continue the work of bringing you your local news by participating in our NewsMatch campaign.

Trusted journalism like ours has never mattered more. Give today and double the impact of your donation. Send a check to: P.O. Box 1073 Patagonia, AZ 85624. Or donate online at: patagoniaregionaltimes.org/donate

## Nominate Your Neighbor

The 3rd annual **PRT Good Neighbor Award** will recognize the efforts of residents who are making exceptional contributions to our communities.

Do you have a good neighbor? Are there any unsung heroes in your community? Perhaps somebody has gone above and beyond the normal call of duty during these challenging times. Whether he or she has provided care and support for others, is always on hand when needed, performs acts of kindness, is an active volunteer in the community or has simply been a friendly face around your neighborhood, you can nominate them for the **PRT Good Neighbor Award**.

The winning stories will be shared in the February, 2025 issue of the PRT and online.

### **NOMINATION CRITERIA**

1. Nominee must reside in Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia or Sonoita.

2. Nominations are open until Dec. 30.

If you know someone deserving of this recognition, please nominate them by providing the following information:

**Your Name:**

**Your Contact Information:**

**Your Good Neighbor's Name:**

**Your Good Neighbor's Contact Information:**

**Why is this person a good neighbor?**

Please share a short story about what this person means to the community and what they have done to make our community a better place. The more details you share, the better. (limit 100 words)

The winners, and their nominators, will be presented with gift certificates to local businesses.

You can mail your submission to PRT, PO Box 1073, Patagonia AZ 85624, or email to editor@prtnews.org.

# Patagonia Library Begins 'Reset'



Photo by Sarah Klingenstein

**Five of the nine artists who painted the mural in the newly remodeled teen room at the Patagonia Library: (from left) former Interim Library Director Kayla Miller, Gisa Krueger, Jacqui Treinen, Andrew Botz and David Krest.**

**By Sarah Klingenstein**

What's happening at the Patagonia Library these days, besides the usual new bestsellers, author book talks and the recent snazzy remodel of the Teen Room? Importantly, there have been changes in leadership that are still evolving, ever since the retirement of longtime Library Director Abbie Zeltzer in 2019 after 25 years of service. Now, according to Town Manager Ron Robinson, "the Patagonia Library is going through a 'reset' as we prepare to hire a new Library Director."

Small-town libraries have been called "community anchors" and "community meeting rooms." The Patagonia Library is filled with resources for knowledge and enjoyment, with collections of books, DVDs, magazines

and online resources like Libby for digital book checkout and Kanopy for films and magazines. It traditionally presents programs for children, youth and adults, and offers technology resources.

The library is managed and funded in large part by the Town of Patagonia, with monetary contributions by Santa Cruz County and the Friends of the Library. This year, the Town's Library budget is almost \$250,000 with an additional \$35,000 from the Friends, which goes into the purchase of books and materials.

The County had verbally promised to cover around 17% of the Library's budget, an increase from previous years, with the extra going to salaries. But in the end the County only came

through to cover 10%. This will impact what the Town can offer to applicants for the Director/Manager's position.

A bit of history is helpful to understand where we are today.

Soon after Laura Wenzel took over the reins following Zeltzer's departure in 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic closed the library's doors. Staff began working from home and taking turns working in the library alone two days a week, keeping the library going through remote checkouts and other support for the Town's readers and media users. While making the best of a pandemic-library world, Wenzel worked toward her Library Support Staff Certification (LSST). This program, which is run through the American Library Association, offers coursework and competency-building for staff in situations where a community does not employ a master's-degree level director.

When Wenzel resigned in 2022 to pursue another position in the community, Kayla Miller, a library assistant at the time, was hired as Interim Library Director. While running the Library, Miller developed youth programs and designed and oversaw the remodel of the recently opened Teen Room, including a mural painted by local artists. She earned the LSST certification but left the Library this August to move to Tucson and pursue further education.

After three leaders in the last decade, Robinson believed that the library would benefit from a reset. "Staff is brilliant and they know so much about the inner workings," he said. "They are a town asset."

He asked Summer Smith to temporarily step into the role of Library Administrator. Smith was hired by Town Council a year ago as Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, and as such, can be asked to work in any department.

Smith said, "I have come over to the library to prepare for a new director.

Standardizing procedures has been a goal, and staff has been leading in training one another. There have been maintenance and repair needs, so I have been working with the Public Works Department. The Library Advisory Board is helping me to update the Library Policy book. There's a lot to do."

"We plan to advertise the job opening starting in mid-November," Robinson said. "We now understand what we need in a leader. I see the job as consisting of two parts: director and manager. The director's side requires the skills and knowledge of a librarian: managing the library collection and the circulation desk, designing programs and working with staff to run them. There is also the essential back-of-house work: budgets, employee reviews, procurement, grant writing, maintenance of the Library building, etc."

Former Friends of the Library Board member Marilyn Majalca has been observing and participating in the Library since before its current space was built.

"I think the people who have supported this Library for years have created a place that people have admired," Majalca said. "We should ask, 'How was the Patagonia Library named Library Journal's second-best small library in the country?' and focus on what it was that earned us that distinction. Over the years, the Friends raised money for expansion of the facility, and we worked with Abbie as she showed us what a quality collection looks like, and what programs could benefit the whole community."

"The Library is an essential service to the community for many reasons, and good leadership requires library science knowledge, management skills, consistency and a curiosity about the community being served. We should seek the most qualified person possible for the job."

## Gutfahr (Cont.)

wire fraud charges after being investigated by the FBI for allegedly receiving bribes from a local landowner. Two years since his guilty plea, he has yet to be sentenced.

Phoenix-based MCA Financial Group was appointed by the Superior Court to act as Receiver to manage Gutfahr's properties and assets. The Receiver was given the go ahead to seize and sell the assets of Gutfahr and her husband David Gutfahr on Sept. 20, after Gutfahr did not contest the County's request to take over the properties. "The beauty of the Receiver is that we don't have to auction off [the assets]," Bracker explained. "The only way counties can sell it is by auction. A receiver can sell at market price."

When asked if the County was looking for ways to preserve the De

La Ossa family chapel and cemetery in Lochiel that Gutfahr had purchased in 2021, Bracker said, "We're trying to see if there's a way we can protect it. Is there a way to preserve this? You don't sell off history."

On Oct. 16, the County received permission from the Court to appoint a temporary receiver to manage "all property owned or controlled by Davian and Ana Gutfahr," according to the County's Oct. 25 press release. According to American Express credit card statements, the Gutfahr family charged \$4,886,480 to their credit cards over the past ten years. Liz Gutfahr charged \$2.49 million, and daughter-in-law Ana Gutfahr charged \$1.9 million. The Receiver concluded that "These charges were almost entirely paid for by monies misappropriated from the County."

The Board of Supervisors released a statement that "The recently released

summary of expenses paints a disturbing picture of extravagance and disregard for the trust placed in the former treasurer. This behavior is unacceptable and stands in stark contrast to the values we uphold."

More assets may be unearthed as the investigation continues, but at this time, according to the Receiver's Report issued by MCA on Oct. 21, the estimated total net amount that could be recovered is between \$10.203 million and \$12.662 million—about a quarter of the amount missing from the treasury.

In the interim Receiver's Report, several assets were listed, including nine improved properties, estimated to be worth between \$9.7 million and \$11.9 million; eight undeveloped properties, valued at between \$96,750 and \$118,250; Gutfahr's interest in two limited liability companies, valued at between \$100,000 and \$120,000;

396 head of cattle, which were sold at the Marana Livestock sales, netting \$657,000; 15 horses; personal property valued at \$25,000 to \$75,000; and 16 vehicles worth between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

The report lists a total of 44 vehicles owned by the Gutfahrs, including nine seized by the FBI in April. "The remaining Gutfahr Vehicles not yet in the Receiver's possession are in the process of being secured by the Receiver for the benefit of the Receivership Estate," according to the report.

The Receiver is also working to recover property owned by the Gutfahrs in Mexico. The report stated that "The Receiver has initiated the process for obtaining legal control of the Mexico real property, however, given the complexity of Mexico's real property ownership laws, this process will require time to complete."

# Historic Patagonia Adobe Destined for Renovation



Photo courtesy Santa Cruz County Assessor's Office

The front of the Valenzuela two-story adobe as it appeared in 2010.

By Carrie White

Long gone is the laughter that once filled the 100-year-old house at 289 Duquesne in Patagonia.

Smells too have receded, aromas associated with everyday meals and holiday feasts.

In disrepair, the two-story adobe would, it seems, be headed for demolition.

Until Kevin and Mary McKay stepped in with the goal of restoration. Call it an act of love—or craziness—the local couple recognized the structure's significance to both the town and the family who built it.

The Valenzuelas.

Deep roots.

"I've cried over this house," said Ann Mihalik. "It means so much."

Ann, along with Denise Heiss, are Patagonia residents and great-granddaughters of Valentine Valenzuela who built the house with the help of family members around the turn of the century. Valenzuela was a force in the community, carving out a living from mining, ranching and running a meat market. He was also proprietor of the Patagonia-Lochiel Stage Mail Line, the workday involving 14 hours on horseback.

"My family came here, and most families [that did], were industrious" said Mihalik. "They were looking for a way to get past where they had been. Everyone had ten things [going on]. You gardened. You built your home."

Which is what the Valenzuela family did, when its patriarch, born 1851, arrived after a stint on a Colorado River steamboat and employment in Phoenix and Tucson.

The date of the actual two-story construction can't be nailed down. But from historian Alison Bunting's research we know that it may have been built when a house fire in 1909 destroyed the family homestead not far from current day Patagonia.

That the adobe is an Arizona rarity was underscored by R. Brooks Jeffery, University of Arizona professor emeritus of architecture. He noted there are only a handful of two-story adobes in existence.

"The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was interested in the Valenzuela house as far back as the early 2000s when I brought this to their attention," Jeffrey said. He cited three components that flag the house as "significant":

- Architectural uniqueness – two-story adobe

- Association with a historical family - the Valenzuelas
- The risk of collapse or demolition by neglect

That the condition of the house is tenuous does not escape the McKays. Kevin is a contractor—McKay's Custom Home is his business—so he knows red flags. But he also loves historic buildings and has worked on numerous projects, including an old assay office in Duquesne, which is now a residence.

"The first thing we have to do is make sure the roof is sound," Kevin said. They also need to secure the doors and the windows to keep out the elements. That will allow restoration work inside.

Mary McKay is a trained horticulturist, owner of Patagonia Plants, and an occasional columnist for the PRT. While she appreciates the history of old structures, she also admires the vegetation that surrounds them. In this case, Indian fig cacti which have been on the property since Valentine and his family lived there.

What the cost of restoration will be is anyone's guess at this point, as the building's integrity has not been thoroughly vetted. Chris Schragger, an archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service, agreed to evaluate the structure. Schragger has extensive experience pre-

serving and restoring adobe structures for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

His findings were mixed.

Positive: The adobe bricks are above grade, supported by a rock foundation. Meaning, the walls have not been exposed to as much potentially damming moisture as they could otherwise have been. The remaining north and south roof gutters have helped keep rain away from further deteriorating mud bricks, bricks probably made on the property.

Not so great: Mold. Age damage to adobe bricks. And the question of the building's structural integrity. Schragger plans to return for further assessment. After that, the McKays may have a better idea of the restoration cost. To be considered are grants—state and federal—that may be available. Something else to think about: pursuing a National Register of Historic Places designation. A lot of unanswered questions before work can begin.

Back to Schragger and his initial inspection of the house. One thing eluded him on his first visit—how did people get to the second floor as there is no evidence of an internal or external staircase?

Pattie Holbrook Oliver knows the

See House, p.8



Photo by Carrie White

U.S. Forest Service archaeologists Susan Bierer (left) and Chris Schragger examine the residence's adobe walls.

kathy tudor

# design

**Kathy Tudor**  
Graphic Designer  
Local resident, neighborly rates.

**980-949-1071**  
tudor.kathy@live.com

Logos | Branding  
Newsletters | Brochures  
Menus | Flyers  
Business Cards  
Publication Layout  
Banners | Photo Editing  
Multimedia Ads | Prepress

**Get the Patagonia Regional Times delivered to your home or mailbox**

**\$50/year (10 issues)**

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

# Sonoita Cyclist Wins at Mt. Graham Hill Climb

By Eddie McArthur

62-year-old Robert Fleckenstein, of Sonoita, won a first-place ribbon in the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Mt. Graham Hill Climb on Sept. 22. Fleckenstein competed in the ten-mile climb, which takes place over the most difficult portion of the 20-mile course up the mountain, with over 3000 feet of elevation gain.

He won first place in the 60-64 age group by finishing the course with a time of 1:20:46. "I shaved 7.5 minutes from my time last year," Fleckenstein said. "For me that was a huge gain." Fleckenstein bested 12 riders in his age bracket. Approximately 100 riders competed in the race.

Ranked as the toughest bike race in Arizona, the Mt. Graham course has been described as relentless. The overall climb gradient is 6.6% with extended sections at 10%. In cycling terms, "gradient" refers to the steepness of a section of road. (For comparison, Mt. Lemmon averages a 4.9% gradient.) The road up Mt. Graham is ecologically equivalent to traveling from Mexico to Canada, from desert scrub to pine trees.

The starting line for the race was near the Arizona State Prison Complex near Safford, AZ, which could perhaps be viewed as a metaphor for the punishment to come.

Training for an event like this requires dedication. Fleckenstein, who has suffered both a broken collar bone and a concussion while riding, trains on both paved and gravel roads around Sonoita and Patagonia. His favorite local routes are gravel biking to Lochiel and biking the 60-mile round trip ride to Parker Canyon Lake and back. "There's no shoulder there, but very little traffic," he said. "And there is a 4,000-foot gain in elevation." He wears a Garmin device to track his speed, distance, elevation and GPS position.

Doing a tough virtual ride once or twice a week, using a "virtual climber," helped prepare him for the Mt. Graham climb. He also lost five pounds over the three months preceding the event. "Gravity is not your friend when climbing on a bike," he said. "The lighter you can be, the better off in the sustained effort of a long climb."

Fleckenstein, who owns five bikes, does six races a year, competing in

New Mexico and California as well as Arizona. He is a member of the Summit Velo racing team in Tucson.

Fleckenstein began his riding career when in lifeguard training in high school. "I fell in love with riding my bike and I've been doing it all my life," he said. He started competing in triathlons in college, a sport that includes biking, running and swimming.

He is focusing on his triathlon training for now, having competed in two triathlons this year, one in Tucson and one in Phoenix, both of which he won in his age bracket. His current goal is to compete in the U.S.A. Triathlon Nationals in Omaha next June.

Older cyclists, like the 84-year-old man that completed the climb up Mt. Graham this year, keep him motivated to continue to train and race. And Fleckenstein will most likely be back



Contributed photo

**Robert Fleckenstein rides to victory in the Mt. Graham Hill Climb.**

next year to once again climb Mt. Graham. "I just enjoy the physical part of it, I've always liked that," he said. "I'm really blessed to still be able to do it, so why quit?"



Photo by Carrie White

Master Weaver Elsie Bia demonstrates the art of Navajo weaving as part of the opening of the Getzwiller Navajo rug exhibit at the Bowman-Stradling History Center at the Sonoita Fairgrounds on Oct. 12 and 13. The exhibit will remain at the Center through December.

## AtoZec

biology and nepa services






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

**LITTER IS PREVENTABLE!**

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

# A Woman of History

## Anne C. Stradling and Her Lasting Legacy



Photo by Susan Cruz

Participants in the Anne C. Stradling DAR Woman in History ceremony in Patagonia. (From left) Back row: DAR chaplain Shirley Bailey; German Quiroga, Patagonia Historical Society; Bob Bergier; Pattie Oliver; Carrie White, Bowman-Stradling History Center; and Claire Thaemert. Seated: DAR members Debbie McWhorter, Carol Rilling, Amber Douglas, and Sally Lovorn.

### By Alison Bunting and Carrie White

Anne C. Stradling has been recognized posthumously as a 'Woman in History' by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Lady Bankersia Chapter (Tombstone).

A ceremony to commemorate the distinction was held Oct. 5 in the Patagonia Park. Plaques acknowledging the honor were presented to German Quiroga, Patagonia Historical Society, and Carrie White, Bowman-Stradling History Center, Sonoita.

"Anne has made, and continues to make, a positive global impact by preserving the past when she donated artifacts to the Hubbard Museum of the American West and providing for the future through the Anne C. Stradling Equine Foundation," said DAR member Debbie McWhorter of Benson.

Stradling, who died in 1992, spent some 30 years in Patagonia with her third husband, Floyd Stradling.

Originally from New Jersey, Anne was born in 1913, the daughter of Kenneth Baker Schley and Ellen Habersham Rogers. Family money came from Rogers Locomotive and Bethlehem

Steel. Kenneth was also president of the New Jersey Far Hills Hunt Club.

But Stradling rejected her societal ties, preferring a rough-and-tumble Western lifestyle.

She did not, however, relinquish the money that comes with privilege. In 1960 she opened the Museum of the Horse in Patagonia and in 1969 financed the construction of the Stage Stop Inn.

While the Museum of the Horse closed in 1985—the majority of its contents went to the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso, N.M.—her legend continues in her adopted hometown.

"She was one of the dearest people I ever met," said Lucy Mihalik of Patagonia in a 2017 PRT article written by Bob Brandt. She chuckled, he wrote, recalling Anne inviting her and husband Paul to the Stradling home "for a little snort."

During the Oct. 5 ceremony, other local residents gave remembrances of a colorful woman who, along with husband Floyd, is interred at the Patagonia Cemetery.

MILDRED DAULTON PUNDT  
NOVEMBER 4, 1929 - AUGUST 8, 2024



Mildred Daulton Pundt of Lake Charles (Moss Bluff) Louisiana, passed away peacefully at age 94, on Aug 8, 2024 at The Atrium in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

During her final year and a half of life, she enjoyed her time in assisted living and was cared for and loved by the staff and fellow residents at The Atrium and was visited regularly by her daughter Linda who lived nearby.

Mildred, born Nov 4, 1929 in Oklahoma City, grew up in Patagonia and in 1952 graduated from Good Samaritan Nursing School in Phoenix.

While in nursing school she met her husband Ralph Carl Pundt, a navy sailor, on a blind date. They married in 1952 and in 1954 moved to Lake Charles where they enjoyed a wonderful life together raising their children and traveling the country and camping in their RV.

She spent her career as a registered nurse and was a blessing to her patients beyond the hospital doors.

A few years after Ralph's death on Aug 8, 1994, she rekindled a friendship at a high school reunion with Verne Steen who had also lost his spouse. They became companions and enjoyed

their golden years together for 20+ years before his passing in April 2022.

She is also predeceased by her parents, Claudia Lee Bradburn Bradsher and Luther Franklin (Frank) Daulton, stepfather John Bradsher and three siblings, Richard, Glenna Patricia and Robert Leonard Bradsher.

She is survived by three children, Daniel Carl Pundt (Mary Ann), Gary Lee Pundt (Cassandra), and Linda Pundt Shields (David); four grandchildren, Christy Pundt, Bryan Pundt, Sara Shields and Michael Shields; and two great grandchildren, Ella and Evan Pundt.

She always acknowledged God's blessings in her life and lived her life in a way that she was a blessing to many. She will be greatly missed but is now at peace in God's loving arms and reunited with many loved ones and friends.

A celebration of her life was held Oct 13 in Jones State Park where years of memories were created with family and friends.

Online condolences may be made at [caruth-hale.com](http://caruth-hale.com)

 **LOPEZ HOUSE CALLS**  
In-Home Chiropractic Care  
We come to you!  
**520-357-1711**  
[www.lopezhousecalls.com](http://www.lopezhousecalls.com)

Treasures from around the corner & around the world

**global Arts GALLERY**  
& Lillian's Closet

520.404.3490 • 315 McKeown Ave • Patagonia, AZ • 520.394.0077

 **Angel Wings Thrift & Gift Shop**  
22 Los Encinos Rd.  
Sonoita, AZ  
Thursday thru Saturday  
10:00 - 2:00  
Like us on Facebook!  
Donations Accepted During Shop Hours

# HUNTING SEASON



By Cassina Farley

I always walk with my eyes to the ground, a habit I learned from my dad. My sister and I were taught from a young age to walk quietly and deliberately, keeping our eyes to the ground to prevent any sounds.

My dad, the hunter, dragged us little girls through some of the roughest terrain in Santa Cruz County in search

of the elusive white tail buck, armed with our own canteen belts and backpacks. My father insisted we carry our own gear, refusing to hear our complaints about the weight or awkwardness of a canteen belt too large for our kid bodies.

We tracked quickly through canyons and tall grass without a word. We tried hard not to step wrong or make a sound. We had to keep up and not complain. I remember walking and trying not to let the water in my canteen slosh, my heart pounding, trying to please my dad. Then he would hear a sound and freeze. Our job was to freeze, too.

Slowly he would crouch down and we would follow suit. Quietly he would steady his binoculars and scan the grassland or hillside looking for the source of the sound that most of the time we never heard. I just listened to my own breathing and tried to focus on all the sounds. If we were lucky, my dad would hand us the binoculars and point in the direction of the sound.

We would then do it again for miles and miles. Once, as we crouched down on a hillside eating our poorly packed lunches, my dad went silent. We kids slowly scrambled back as he carefully pulled the rifle from his back and

steadied the scope. 3-2-1-CRACK!

The walk back to the truck was a loud, victorious march. Finally, we were allowed to breathe. Once we were all piled into the truck, my dad and his buddies tracked down his kill and we all stood over it in awe. My dad pulled out his Polaroid and we all posed with this once living creature.

Back at camp, the deer was dressed, the men would drink, and we kids would play with the recently detached deer hooves.

Fall deer hunt was a ritual in my childhood followed by the spring javalina hunt, with a few elk hunts in between. Crouching and crawling through mesquite bosques in the freezing morning hours while learning to keep your arms close to your body to avoid thorns was common knowledge for us kids.

At one point in my life I was a pretty good shot with a rifle. As I got older, I decided that playing with dead ani-

mal hooves wasn't my idea of a good time anymore and I started going on the hunts less and less. My little sister remained my dad's hunting buddy, but she eventually learned to go out on hunts with one of the less serious dads so she could breathe a little easier.

My dad remained serious about hunting until his last. Sometimes, when I'm out for a walk alone, I test my skills. I slow my breath and walk carefully. I walk silently listening to my surroundings. If I hear a sound, I freeze. I then get my bearings and pivot in the direction of the sound. Slowly I crouch down, and I scan my surroundings until I find it.

For a brief moment I am ten again and my hand is holding onto the sleeve of my dad's camo jacket, his orange and white Ford pickup truck is waiting in the distance, and I am at peace.

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

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



# YOUR LOCAL INSURANCE TEAM

Call for a bundle quote today!



**Gordon Purvis, Agent**  
Gordon Purvis Agency Inc

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

Contact Me



**HOME | AUTO | LIFE | BUSINESS | FARM & RANCH**

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

## House (Cont.)

answer. Partially. As a youth, Oliver visited Carolina Valenzuela Montoya's second floor clinic for school immunizations. Carolina, who inherited the house with Valentine's passing in 1945, was one of his 15 children and the district's first public health nurse. Access to the second floor, Oliver said, came by way of a staircase positioned at the front of the house. A small platform gave way to the clinic.

A photo circa 2010 shows a second-floor access out back.

"There could be a couple of potential reasons for this," Jeffrey said, addressing the two staircases. First, in order to maximize internal space, second floor approaches would be placed outside. Also, if a house had multiple purposes—and residents—it would be practical to have multiple access points.

In addition to the staircase, another structural feature missing today is the bridge linking 289 to a neighboring property once occupied by Antonio and wife Virginia (Corral) Valenzuela. Antonio was Valentine's eldest son. And his daughter, Maria de la Luz (Lucy) Mihalik, 97, still enjoys recounting memories of "the Big House" with her daughters.

One such memory involves the bridge which ran between the two

houses. Also, a match and a dog.

"Grandpa Tony would go down to the Lopez Pool Hall and shoot pool," Ann said. Lucy—Ann and Denise's mother—would stay with Carolina at 289 until it was time to go to bed. To help guide her way across the bridge, she was given a match. Which she didn't initially light.

"She was a little girl. She was scared," Ann said. As Lucy made her way home, match unlit, an event happened that she's never forgotten. Moonlight reflecting off a white dog just up ahead. That light guided her way, safely to the door when she lit the match. The dog was gone.

To this day, Lucy believes "someone" was watching out for her. Perhaps mother Virginia, who died in 1934.

That Carolina, called "Carrie," entertained often is widely recognized. "My mother has such great memories," Denise said. "So many parties! A few drinks, singing, dancing and laughing."

If anyone important came to town, they'd dine at 289. A long table was set up downstairs. "If there was overflow, they'd just use one of the rooms upstairs." It didn't matter what its daytime function was. In the evening it became a dining room.

In the backyard, a garden provided sustenance for the family. In reality,



Photo by Carrie White

**Ann Mihalik, Kevin McKay, owner of the property, and R. Brooks Jeffrey discuss the house, its history and its future onsite in Patagonia.**

it did much more. It gave migrants passing through an opportunity to earn a meal and a place to camp. Ann remembers Carolina talking about the rakes that would be handed out to travelers to enable them to earn those basic needs. Charity with dignity.

With Carolina's death in 1972, the house became the property of David L. Valenzuela, another Valentine offspring. He never lived there. Rather, it was rented out.

Mary McKay remembers coming to the house in the early 2000s on an ambulance call. Inside, a 2006 calendar hangs on a kitchen wall. A bathroom

medicine cabinet retains articles of previous residents—Vaseline, razors, cold medicine.

The granddaughters have no artifacts from the house. No china. No artwork. No silver.

But in reality, Valentine left the family with more than trinkets. He instilled in his descendants the importance of hard work, education, kindness and a love of community.

289 is a beacon to those values. Let laughter and music return.

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



**ANITA MORENO**

Santa Cruz County Recorder  
2150 N. Congress Dr. Ste. 101  
Nogales, AZ 85621

520-375-7990 [www.santacruzcountyaz.gov](http://www.santacruzcountyaz.gov)



## Important Election Dates 2024

**October 7, 2024:** Voter Registration Deadline / Update Voter Registration

**October 9, 2024:** Early Voting Begins / Early Ballots mailed

**October 25, 2024:** Last Day to Request an Early Ballot to be mailed

**October 29, 2024:** Recommended Deadline to Mail Back Your Ballot

**November 1, 2024:** Last Day to Vote Early in Person (deadline 7:00pm)

## November 5, 2024 - Election Day

**November 10, 2024:** Last Day to Cure an Early Ballot

# Familiar Face Takes Reins as Lobos' Girls Basketball Coach

By Dave Lumia

For nearly the past 50 years, Michele "Chele" Shadrick has experienced the ups, downs and everything in between associated with Patagonia High School basketball.

It seems she can't get enough.

After 16 years on the sidelines – cheering on the Lobos as a grandparent and a fan—Shadrick is returning to the bench this year as coach of the Patagonia girls' basketball team.

She previously coached the Lobos from 1999 to 2009, but that's not even the tip of the iceberg.

No, that traces back to the late 1970s, when she played three seasons for Patagonia and about which she still feels strong emotions. "I loved it," she said. "We went to state every year. The first year we lost to Salome by six points. I was heartbroken."

By 1992 she was a volunteer coach at the former Patagonia Grammar School, then coach at Patagonia Middle School before progressing to high school coach in 1999.

Shadrick takes the reins from Ralph Padilla, who retired after coaching the Lobos for the past 16 years and leading them to a 14-10 record last year and their first state tournament appearance since 2017. Shadrick will be assisted by her grandson, Isaiah Ruiz, a recent PUHS graduate.

"I missed it," Shadrick said. "I made a lot of different connections with the players in different capacities.

"I'm excited and a little nervous at the same time. It's a fresh start for all of us as we get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses, as well as (my) coaching style. I am hoping that we will all work together and strive to be a cohesive team."

Shadrick chuckled while acknowledging that she's known some of her future players since teaching them in preschool.



Photo by Dave Lumia

**Chele Shadrick is coming back to coach the PUHS girls basketball team.**

Practice begins on Nov. 4, but exactly how the roster shakes out is yet to be determined. Many of her top players won't join the team until the conclusion of the volleyball season—and the Lobos are well positioned to advance into the state tournament.

Returning players Emma Lewton, Brianna Majalca, Alexis Fimbres and Ximena Gonzalez are all key contributors to the volleyball team.

"I've seen them play. I've seen what they're capable of doing. And I'm excited about that," Shadrick said.

"I won't know for sure until I get them out on the court, how they all work together. I'm hoping that because of the success the volleyball team has had, that energy level will translate. I'm excited."

The boys team will also begin practice on Nov. 4 under head coach Nate Porter. Four seniors graduated from last year's team that finished with a 10-8 record. Porter said he expects the team to be better offensively than a year ago, but ball-handling is a concern with the loss of point guard Arturo Magallanes.

The Lobos' season officially begins on Nov. 20 at Sequoia Pathway Academy in Maricopa. Their home opener is Nov. 22 against Lourdes Catholic.

The early season schedule also includes two tournaments: The Boyd Baker Tip-Off tournament at The Gregory School from Nov. 25 to Nov. 27 and the Coach Edgar Brown Holiday Basketball Tournament in Williams from Dec. 5 to Dec. 7.



## The Waterfowl Migration



Photo by Dave Brown

**Specklebelly geese flying back to their evening roost near Cabri, Saskatchewan.**

Every year I spend the fall up on the prairies of southern Saskatchewan, usually arriving in early September, then leaving (hopefully) before the temperatures plummet.

I'm up here guiding waterfowl and upland bird hunts, or at least that is my excuse to be non-stop outside. Our bird dogs have had plenty of contact with sharptail grouse and Hungarian partridge, with one of the highlights being ten-month-old Pancho pointing at his first wild birds.

The Big Show for us and many of our clients that travel to Cabri, Saskatchewan (pop. 300) is the waterfowl hunting which usually picks up in late September as things cool down up north, which is the Arctic and Boreal Regions of Canada and the United States, namely Alaska.

This region is the staging area for the central flyway. The birds here will eventually end up in Texas, but before that they take advantage of the food sources found here, which for the most part are "leftover" peas, lentils and a variety of grains that somehow missed the combine during the harvest.

First to come down are the lesser sandhill cranes, traveling from as far away as Siberia, then snow and specklebelly geese start showing up in vast numbers. Each cold front pushes

birds out and new birds in. It's sort of perpetual motion with a winged twist. Once mid-October rolls around, lesser Canada geese along with a multitude of ducks arrive. The lessers are a number of subspecies, including dusky geese that hail from Valdez, Alaska. For the most part, the ducks are very colorful, mature mallards, pintails and American wigeon.

We spot the fields that the birds are feeding in, then go in the next morning or that evening to set up our decoys and blinds. Eventually strings of geese fly out from the roost and (hopefully) check out our setup. They call and we call back, hoping that they will come in and land. Some buy our decoy spread and land.

Our clients shoot as they come in, and my Labradors BooBoo and Molly get busy retrieving downed birds, which, given the limits placed on each species, is a small amount of the million-plus birds that are heading out to feed.

We savor the moment, witnessing enormous rafts of geese, cranes and ducks that are flying around the vast prairie sky. The hunters agree that being part of witnessing this phenomenon is well worth the price of admission as they soak up the experience of the fall waterfowl migration.

**ARIZONA STANDARD**

AZ Standard Office: 275 W. McKeown, in the Ovens courtyard  
 Phone: 520-394-5374  
 Email: [Community@arizonastandard.com](mailto:Community@arizonastandard.com)  
 Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm, or by appointment

## Join the PRT Press Core

**Why do we call it the Press Core?**

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

[patagoniaregionaltimes.org/join-the-press-core/](http://patagoniaregionaltimes.org/join-the-press-core/)

# Two Patagonia School Boards See Vacancies

There are no school board candidate elections on the November ballot for the Sonoita or Patagonia school districts, as the candidates that did throw their hats into the ring for vacant seats were all running unopposed.

For the Sonoita School District, which oversees the Elgin School, new board members Aaron Thomas and Dave Naugle will join returning board members Harry Dotson, Tony Fennell and Nancy Webster in January. The

Sonoita Board is the only one in the area to have a full complement of members.

The Patagonia High School District Board will be operating with four members—Brandon Doles, Joe Haas, Ron Pitt and Paula Schaper—starting in January, with one vacant seat that Patagonia Superintendent Kenny Hayes would like to see filled. This district includes Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin.

The Patagonia Elementary School District Board, which oversees the Patagonia Elementary School, will have

only two members—Nancy McCoy and Marilyn Miller—starting in January if no one steps up to fill the remaining three available seats.

“We can do it with only two people,” Hayes said. But he described it as less than ideal, as fewer people are making decisions that affect the entire district. Logistically, it can be difficult, he noted, saying, “Those two people can never talk to each other ever because of open meeting laws.”

Hayes encourages residents to apply to be on the high school or elementary school boards, as new school board members can be appointed. “Serving the public schools of the region is one of the more fulfilling

ways to give back to your community,” Hayes said.

Anyone who is considering serving on a school board “needs to contact the County School Superintendent’s office and let them know they are interested,” Hayes said. “They need to write a page on why they are interested in being on the governing board. If they are interested, or have questions, they can reach out to me. I can be their middleman with the County if they would like, as well.”

School boards typically meet once a month. Board duties include hiring the school superintendent, creating policies, and approving the school budget.

*Returning and new board members for the Patagonia and Sonoita School districts responded to a request from the PRT for a brief bio and their reasons for volunteering to serve on these boards. Some of the information has been edited for space.*

## Sonoita School District Board Members



**Harry Dotson**

Following a career in the US Army and a subsequent career in higher education my wife, Kathryn, and I bought a home here in Sonoita in 2014. We have lived here full time since 2016.

Since my retirement I have made an effort to volunteer and in some small way give back to the community. To that end I served a four-year term on the board of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association. I am now in my sixth year of service on the Governing Board of the Sonoita Elementary School District and am currently serving as the President of the Board. I also volunteer for the Distance Education Accreditation Commission as an accreditation evaluator of online universities. I also attempt various wood-working projects using only hand tools with varying degrees of success. I am currently enjoying the Chiefs’ march towards a Super Bowl three-peat.

I earned a BA (with Honors) from the University of Texas at Arlington utilizing the GI Bill degree and a MS degree from Kansas State University.

I serve on the Governing Board because I believe wholeheartedly in the value of public education. Public education is an integral part of the foundation upon which our nation has been built. It is a great equalizer and helps lift our citizens up. I have found it very gratifying to interact with staff and faculty of our district and most importantly to watch the students grow and succeed.



**Tony Fennell**

Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, I grew up immersed in a community that instilled in me values of resilience and hard work.

In 1999, I left Chicagoland to pursue higher education at Eastern Illinois University and joined the Illinois National Guard as a Chemical Operations Specialist.

After graduating in 2003, I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry before embarking on an 18-month deployment to Iraq. Following my first deployment I transitioned into being a Military Intelligence officer, where I continued to serve in four additional combat deployments over two decades.

I earned a Master’s degree from Southern Methodist University, but most importantly was supported throughout this whole time by my childhood sweetheart, who became my wife and the mother of our three children. Together, we moved over a dozen times in 24 years, adapting to each new place until we finally settled in Sonoita, Arizona, marking the end of my service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Shortly after retirement I joined Nemean Solutions as the corporate Senior Program Manager and continue to greatly enjoy supporting our servicemembers in this latest chapter of my life.

I have served on the Sonoita Elementary School District Governing Board since 2001.



**Dave Naugle**

I am looking forward to serving the Sonoita Community again after serving on the School Board during the time that the existing school facility was built and put into service. Then my employer relocated me back to Maricopa County. My wife and I are retired now and moved back to Sonoita last year.

My desire is to ensure the school properly meets the needs of the community and reflects the values of the community.

Yes, Naugle Avenue in Patagonia is named after my grandfather’s cousin.



**Aaron Thomas**

I have three kids who attend Elgin School. I am currently the Vice President of the Santa Cruz County Fair Board and the president of our local little league as well as a coach. I have volunteered at the school as an assistant baseball coach.

I look forward to being a voice for our school as someone who is well versed in policy decisions, but more importantly as a parent and as a community member so that we can continue to make our school a great place to work and to grow the minds of our youth.

I have degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Agricultural Business and Economics. I am currently a real estate investor and an engineering consultant.



**Nancy Webster**

“Teaching is a way of life!”, or so said my collage advisor upon my graduation from George Washington University with a master’s degree in curriculum development and early childhood education. How right she was!

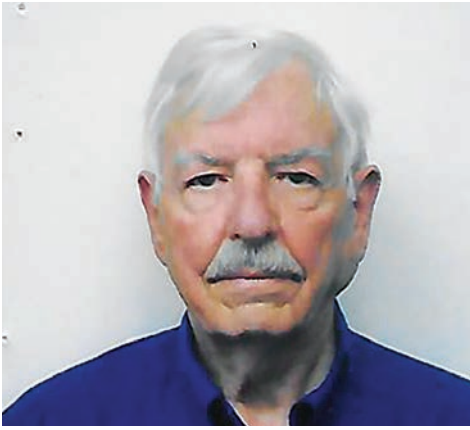
From then until my retirement, I have had the privilege of teaching children from nursery school through third grade in private and public schools, was an aide in a special ed self-contained classroom, and volunteered in a school for autistic children and an inner-city school in Philadelphia.

I lobbied on the Hill for educational issues and was a national spokesperson for parental involvement in public school education.

As President of the Inner School Council in Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania, I presided over a coalition of nine public schools PTA’s.

I knew it was time to retire when I bent down to tie an usher’s shoelace at church one Sunday. Teaching IS a way of life.

# Patagonia Union High School District Board Members



**Ron Pitt**

I am currently in my tenth year on the governing board of Patagonia Union High School. I serve on this board because the youth of today are our citizens of tomorrow. It is imperative that we provide the best possible education to these individuals to enable them to become productive, contributing members of our society.

I grew up on a ranch in central Montana. Following receipt of my bachelor's degree in accounting, I served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Chile for three years and in the U.S. Army for two years. After earning my graduate degrees in accounting, I served on the accounting faculties of Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University.

In 2011, after we retired, my wife Kay and I purchased a home in Elgin and moved to this area.



**Brandon Doles**

I am 42 years old and currently have three kids (10, 8, and 6) attending Patagonia Elementary School.

I was born in Blythe, CA but spent most of my childhood in the Pheonix area. I met my wife Audrey Doles in college while attending NAU.

Audrey is the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Patagonia Elementary. I am an accounting and tax professional.

Audrey and I have owned the Gathering Grounds for over a decade. I currently work at Borderlands Restoration Network as their bookkeeper and have self-employment work in the tax and accounting field.

I think that the vote/oversight is important on the Board because it is difficult to find Board members, especially at a small school.



**Paula Schaper**

Paula Schaper is Multimedia Program Director for art and science nonprofit Mat Bevel Company and CEO/President of WestWordVision, a full-service marketing and media company located in Patagonia, AZ. She received a Bachelor of Music in Harp Performance from University of Michigan

She's passionate about helping young people realize their full potential in life and career through creativity and education. Paula led the effort to create 'The Universe Within,' a science, technology, engineering, art and math curriculum to benefit youth in Santa Cruz County. The program is inspired by Mat Bevel Company founder Ned Schaper's world of Bevelodom.



**Joe Haas**

I've proudly called Patagonia home for nearly five years. A change in my career brought me to this town, but above all, I'm a dad, husband, and a Midwestern farm kid at heart. Early on, I learned the value of hard work, the strength of a close-knit community, and the importance of a good public school system. I believe our teachers and administrators are a pillar of strength in our society, and active community engagement is crucial to the success of our children. I've enjoyed serving on the PUHS board for the past year and look forward to the future achievements of the incredible kids who call our piece of paradise in rural southern Arizona their home.

## Patagonia Elementary School District Board Members



**Nancy McCoy**

Before moving to Patagonia, I was an elementary school teacher, teaching at both public and private schools.

I became involved with the School Board because I believe in the importance of education for all children. Being on the board is a way to support the school district in providing the best education possible for our community youth.

It has given me the opportunity to look at education from another perspective which is an overview of everything the administration needs to do to keep the District running successfully.

I've served on the Patagonia Elementary District Board for five years, and feel fortunate to be part of this school community.



**Marilyn Miller**

I joined the Patagonia Elementary School Board in 2020.

My whole career has been in education, from teaching English as a Second Language to Vietnam War refugees to working in universities with faculty to developing USDA leaders.

My siblings attended school in Patagonia, as did my nieces and nephews. And now, my great-nieces and nephews attend the elementary school and high school.

Serving on the elementary school board has been an enjoyable way to use my background and give back to the Patagonia schools.



**DON'T LET  
THE FLU  
STOP YOU  
GET YOUR  
FLU SHOT!**

Schedule your appointment today!

520.281.1550

mariposachc.net



# PUNHS HOMECOMING 2024



Photo by Journee Hayes

Homecoming Volleyball Royalty 2024 (from left): Seniors Alexis Fimbres, Meghan Aguilar, Lizbeth Balderrama and Arihanna Pelayo, Junior Lulu Donnelly, Sophomore Amaya Somoza and Freshman Nicole Cabrera.



Photos by Marion Vendituoli

## She Stopped By

By Patra Kelly

*She stopped by  
after perusing  
and musing  
upon recent articles  
and books offering  
nothing illuminating,  
yet written in a manner  
releasing her mind  
from the restraints  
and constraints  
of reason,  
stirring a deeper,  
intuitive knowing.*

*She said the paradigm  
of time is dying  
and we are all moving  
outwards  
as everything is  
expanding  
and spreading like liquid  
thickening,  
covering surfaces,  
collapsing structures  
built from human illusions  
and delusions,  
dissolving us into something  
we cannot imagine,  
where we are all part  
of everything  
together.*

## Native Grasses

Vincent Pinto & Carrie White

Grasses are critical for area wildlife. They provide ground cover for rodents and food for herbivores, like pronghorn and deer. For man, they hold the soil, preventing erosion. Good luck finding these 20 native grasses.

B C A N E B L U E S T E M D T C P P Z P  
 B I G F L O W E R E D T R I D E N S A L  
 P L G W F D J T O B O S A V A U C G A A  
 G J H B N A S Q K Q V W S I R A B H R I  
 Y N W U U E I N D S R S H N I E T T I N  
 B Z H S B H D Y T S G H X E Z T O H Y S  
 N U B H T E E W O A D Z U M O I A X T B  
 L Y G M N L O E L R I X O E N U N K L R  
 S W E U X G A S K G W N L S A Q S Y I I  
 Q G N H K N T Y O H O B Q Q C S P B A S  
 B B W L G A S F D C L I B U O E I L T T  
 L L J Y Y T G A S T F G U I T M D A L L  
 D F U R Y S R S N I T S L T T Y E C E E  
 R J O E L C A C Y W A A B E O L R K R G  
 O V E B G R M U R O I C P X N R G G R R  
 Z J E U G R A O R V L A A H T U R R I A  
 Y A H R Y E A Z I Y N T N K O C A A U S  
 H X E A U E U M K H I O I E P W S M Q S  
 Q E C I H U S B A W P N C A R L S A S L  
 D E W P L A I N S L O V E G R A S S H U

## WORD LIST

- ARIZONACOTTONTOP
- BIGFLOWEREDTRIDENS
- BIGSACATON
- BLACKGRAMA
- BLUEGRAMA
- BULBPANIC
- BUSHMUHLY
- CANEBLUESTEM
- CURLYMESQUITE
- DEERGRASS
- PLAINSBRISTLEGRASS
- PLAINSLOVEGRASS
- SIDEOATSGRAMA
- SPIDERGRASS
- SQUIRRELTAIL
- TANGLEHEAD
- TOBOSA
- VINEMESQUITE
- WITCHGRASS
- WOLFTAIL

Stumped? See Solution, page 23

# Glimpses Into Our Past

## The Valenzuela Family - Part 2

By Alison Bunting

Luz Rabago Valenzuela (1828-1909) and her husband Valentine had eleven children (six boys and five girls). Luz was born in Mexico in 1858 and arrived in Arizona about 1880, with her mother, Guadalupe Rabago, and sister Jesusita. According to family stories, Luz met Valentine when he was working on a ranch near the Mission San Xavier. She died young, age 51, leaving six children under 18. Her obituary noted, "During her long illness she showed herself what she had ever been, amiable, bearing her suffering with angelic patience and entire submission to the will of God." [Arizona Daily Star, 3/16/1909]. This article focuses on Valentine and Luz's daughters. See the November, 2024 'Glimpses' column for a review of the lives and contributions of their sons.

Luz Valenzuela (1885-1953), the eldest daughter, never married and lived in the family home her entire life. She worked as the bookkeeper for The Corner Store, owned and operated by her brother Valentine Jr. She was 24 when her mother died, and no doubt helped to raise her younger siblings and cared for her father. Her obituary

noted that she "was active in church work and charities...and for a time was the local registrar of vital statistics." [Arizona Daily Star, 12/20/1953].

The next three daughters, Amalia (1892-1952), Carolina "Carrie" (1893-1976), and Maria (1896-1967) became nurses, all graduating from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Phoenix. Carrie graduated first (1921), followed by Amalia (1924) and Maria (1927).

Before becoming nurses, Amalia and Maria both worked for The Corner Store as assistant bookkeeper and clerk, respectively. Amalia and Maria never married and lived together in the Phoenix area pursuing careers as a school nurse (Maria) and private duty and industrial nursing (Amalia). [Arizona Republic, 11/6/1948].

Carrie married Isaac Montoya (1895-1960) in 1927; they had two children: Jose and Caroline. The family lived in the Phoenix area where she worked as a public health nurse. In 1934 Carrie was appointed as the Santa Cruz County public health nurse and returned to Patagonia with her children to work and help care for her father. Known affectionately as "Mamma Carrie" she provided essen-



Photo courtesy of Lucy Valenzuela Mihalik

Amalia, Carolina and Maria Valenzuela on horseback, circa 1905.

tial medical care from an office on the second floor of the Valenzuela family home at 289 Duquesne Rd. and home visits. "She provided midwife training for many communities and worked tirelessly to reduce infant and maternal deaths." In 1979 her contributions were honored when the Patagonia health clinic was renamed the Carrie Valenzuela Montoya Health Center. [Arizona Daily Star, 10/4/1979].

Guadalupe Valenzuela (1902-1988) was the youngest Valenzuela child. She became a teaching sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet: Sr. Maria Louisa. She first taught at Saint John's Mission in the Gila Indian Community in Komatke. By 1940, she had transferred to California to St. Boniface Indian School in Banning and later taught in the Los Angeles area and lived at the provincial house.

Why did only one of the five marry? Another family story suggests that their mother advised them not to marry, an unusual recommendation for the times.

Amalia registered to vote on July 27, 1914, to participate in the first local election after Arizona women were granted the right to vote. [Patagonia Regional Times, 6/4/2021]. By 1916 Luz and Carrie were registered and the entire family often went as a group to vote.

The sisters made significant contributions to their communities as nurses and teachers, and through church and charitable activities. They helped raise nieces and nephews and inspired several to pursue careers in health care.

Special thanks to Denise Heiss and her mother, Lucy Valenzuela Mihalik, for sharing family stories and photos.



Photo courtesy of Lucy Valenzuela Mihalik

(From left) Amalia and Maria Valenzuela pose with their rifles, with Val Sr. standing behind them, sometime in the 1920s.



### Chill & Grill



Freezer Full of Meat!

Win a varied selection of locally ranched meat. One lucky winner will receive:

- Free standing, 5.0 cubic foot freezer
- More than 50 pounds of various cuts of meat
- At least one "grill" pack of beef steaks to be included

\$10  
Donation

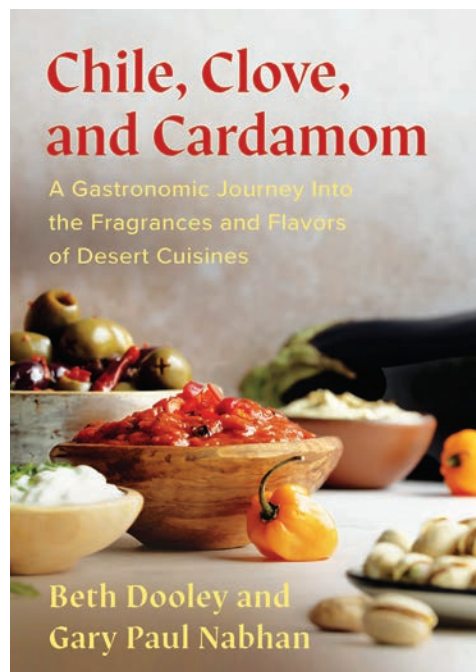
The Fine Print: Must be at least 21 years of age to purchase tickets. Total value approximately \$1,000. No more than 2,000 tickets will be sold. Winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for prize pick up. Proceeds support Mountain Empire Rotary Club programs in our community. Drawing will be held Thursday, December 19, 2024.



Rotary  
Mountain Empire Rotary Club

# Exploring Desert Flavors From Home and Abroad

## A Culinary Carpet Ride



**Chile, Clove, and Cardamom**  
*A Gastronomic Journey Into the Fragrances and Flavors of Desert Cuisines*  
 By Beth Dooley and Gary Paul Nabhan  
 (Chelsea Green Publishing)  
 \$34.95, Kindle \$33.20  
 (Available at Red Mountain Foods, Patagonia.)

By Carrie White

What makes “Chile, Clove and Cardamom” a valued addition to the kitchen shelf isn’t simply delicious, accessible recipes, and beautiful photography.

The latest tome from James Beard-lauded authors Gary Nabhan and Beth Dooley speaks to the future of cooking and how we can and could be eating given water scarcity and warmer climes.

But the cookbook goes beyond that potentially stark scenario and touches on why we should be eating closer to the earth. Which is for our health.

“Look at the indigenous people. They were healthy until colonization,” Dooley said in a phone interview. Where native cultures once ate from the land—appropriate to environmental conditions and evolutionary con-

structs—today’s meal options, for all of us, are contrived and homogenized.

Dooley, a Minneapolis food writer and teacher, and Nabhan, a Patagonia ethnobotanist, challenge us with this book to reclaim our food heritage and, in doing so, our health. For this, we must look at history, the spice trade and migration that is part of our human history.

“As much as I like to celebrate things that are grown locally, this book was a wake-up call in that food has traveled around the world—seeds on the wings of birds and on the shoes of people from other places,” Dooley said.

Plants and people adapt to a plethora of conditions which result in the creation of dishes that are different yet similar. Take a baked eggplant dish ordered in an Armenian restaurant near the Lebanon-Syria border. The dish arrives and, instead of the anticipated moussaka knockoff, it’s a food identical to chiles en nogada—Mexican stuffed peppers in a creamy walnut sauce. The waiter guarantees it is the eggplant dish, aubergine substituted for the chile pepper.

That’s how the food world works—ceviche in Mexico is escabeche in the Canaries. Different but same.

So that cooks aren’t left to their own devices, “Chile, Clove, and Cardamom” includes a prescription for building a desert pantry. You learn about “aromatic triads,” complementary threesomes of herbs and spices that bring flavor to meals. And there’s a section on online sources for desert ingredients, although you may be surprised what can be found at the local market. Dooley was.

“I had to go out and seek out some of these spices,” Dooley said. She found many at her Minneapolis Co-op. That experience—ingredients under our noses—is not dissimilar from that fact that many of us “walk over” more than 250 Sonoran Desert edible

species.

However, some of those plants are not what people want to eat given our contemporary palate, said Carolyn Niethammer, the Tucson author of “Cooking the Wild Southwest: Delicious Recipes for Desert Plants.” Niethammer appreciates how Dooley/Nabhan were able to fuse contemporary cuisine with, perhaps, unfamiliar flavors.

“Anybody who is willing to go to a cookbook like this is going to be willing to make a foray with one new ingredient,” Niethammer said. “The recipes look good.”

As a “gateway into desert cuisine,” Dooley recommended ‘starter’ recipes like Spiced Orange Chicken, Sticky Lamb Ribs and Turkey Tacos.

“Explore,” Dooley encouraged. “Don’t be afraid. You can be a world traveler in your own kitchen.”

Following is a recipe from “Chile, Clove, and Cardamom.” It is printed with permission from the publisher.

### Turkey Tacos (Tacos de Guajolote)

This recipe for turkey carnitas, or “little meats,” can be made with any meat, but it’s a great way to dispatch a leftover Thanksgiving turkey or a roast chicken. Be sure to sizzle the meat until it’s nicely browned and super crisp. Serve on corn tortillas and top with your favorite prepared or homemade salsa, chopped onions, cilantro, and lime.

2½ to 3 cups cooked shredded dark turkey meat  
 1 teaspoon dried oregano  
 ½ teaspoon ground cumin  
 Coarse salt  
 Freshly ground black pepper  
 Zest and juice of 1 navel orange

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice  
 1 white onion, chopped  
 5 garlic cloves, smashed  
 1 cinnamon stick, broken into 2 pieces  
 1 bay leaf  
 ¼ cup sunflower oil or any neutral oil  
 Warmed corn tortillas  
 Chopped white onion, chopped fresh cilantro, lime wedges, and cranberry salsa (optional toppings)

In a nonstick skillet, combine the turkey, oregano, cumin, and salt and pepper to taste, and toss to coat the pieces. Add the orange zest and juice, lime juice, onion, garlic, cinnamon stick, and bay leaf and toss together. Drizzle the oil over the meat. Set over medium-high heat, bring to a boil, reduce the heat, and simmer until the liquid evaporates. Increase the heat and cook the turkey, pressing it down on the skillet, until it begins to brown. Break it up and continue cooking, stirring, until the pieces brown and become crisp, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove and serve with tortillas, garnished with the desired toppings. Serves 4.

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



Photo courtesy of Chelsea Green Publishing  
**Gary Nabhan, of Patagonia, co-authored the new cookbook focused on desert cuisines.**

**Local & regional art, gifts, jewelry, books & more!**  
**Open Every Day 10 - 4**

**PATAGONIA TRADING POST**

317 W. McKeown Ave, Patagonia AZ 85624  
 520-394-2100 / [www.patagoniatradingpost.com](http://www.patagoniatradingpost.com)

**Community Foundation for Southern Arizona**

**The Community Foundation for Southern Arizona connects donors to the causes they care about. Learn about our initiatives, affiliates, grant programs, awards, events, webinars, and giving opportunities at [cfsaz.org](http://cfsaz.org)**

## Brown (Cont.)

trees and exiting further down the road. A new birding trail has already been established and is “a big hit,” said Brown. ADA trails will lead back to the Paton Center and to the nearby Nature Conservancy site. All that will be visible from the road will be the entrance and four ADA parking spaces; the rest of the 18 spaces will be camouflaged by trees. The present entrance will be fenced off and flowers will be planted in the old parking lot. “More flowers for more hummingbirds and butterflies,” Brown said.

Overseeing this big project while still being the Bird Person, greeting and interacting with all the visitors, requires a large skill set, and Brown has these skills in spades.

“I am one of those people who never settled in one occupation,” Brown said.

Brown grew up in central Oregon, studied at the University of Oregon, and was sent by a company he later worked for to Seattle where he met his future wife, Jeanne Walker, who was living on a sailboat. They married, he moved onto the boat, and he studied marine electronics at Washington State. They eventually embraced the sailing life and set sail for Canada, exploring the area for a few years. Their next adventure was to sail offshore down to Mexico where they lived on

the boat near La Paz, Baja California for eight years. While they were there, they opened a boat parts and repair shop. Walker got into canvas repair, and a mechanic and diver were hired to clean boat bottoms.

The couple also operated a bird guiding business they named Focus on Feathers, which taught people to take bird pictures. Brown was a bird lover and photographer from the age of 14 when he got his first camera, a Leica M3. Walker is also a wildlife photographer. They took people on tours of one to two weeks, instructing them in the finer skills of wildlife photography, mostly birds. “I mostly shoot birds, but if other wildlife appear, I’ll take it,” Brown said.

Eighteen years was a long time to live on a boat, so they sold the sailboat and the businesses all in two weeks and traveled all over the world. “We would fly into a country, rent a mini-motor home and explore for a month or two before moving on,” Brown said. Next the pair explored all 11 Western states in a 5th wheel, looking for a place they might eventually call home. Friends in Tucson convinced them to live there, which they did for two and one half years.

Destiny called when Brown ran into Luke Safford, Director of Engagement for Tucson Audubon. Their meeting led to the two leading field trips at Sweet-

water in Tucson for two and a half years. Meanwhile, Brown and Walker, who had never owned a home, felt ready to find their own place. They were both from small towns and shared small town values. They began looking around Patagonia, Elgin and Sonoita, hoping to find a small, affordable home. Everything they saw was too expensive. Then an internet search directed Brown to a property in Salero Ranch, south of Patagonia. It too was above their budget, but when it didn’t sell, the owner drastically lowered the price, and Brown jumped. For the next 12 months the two of them worked seven days a week, from dawn to dusk to finish the house, which had only a roof and walls when they bought it.

By this time Brown had been visiting the Paton Center for years. “I’ve always had a passion for this place,” he said. Funding for the renovation project at the Paton Center had been budgeted for nine years. Many meetings had taken place to formulate the goals of the project. A new Director for Tucson Audubon, Melissa Fratello, took office. She and Brown had the same vision for the Paton Center project, and he was hired as Site Manager in May, 2022.

Along with all the renovation work, Audubon and Brown share the same vision. Birds need three things: food, water and shelter. “We are doing all we can to provide these three things,” Brown said. “We are clearing invasive species but need to find the balance between what’s good for the birds and what’s good for the environment.

“This little mini-spot right here is truly one of the best spots in the world for birders. It’s a huge deal. Southeast Arizona is truly magical. About two to three hundred people a day from around the world come right here to experience what we offer. An added benefit to the community is that these birders have coffee or lunch in town and many stay at the hotels, often for a week.

“I have tracked the visitors for the last 15 months, and we average visitors from 41 states and nine countries every month. This past June saw 49 states and 21 countries represented. The majority come from Mexico and Canada with Scotland third, followed

by Japan, the UK and the Netherlands, then the rest of the world.

“Two weeks ago, I received a call from a gentleman asking if he needed a reservation to visit the Paton Center. I replied that no, we are wide open. He then said that he and three other men were coming from Iceland to see the violet crown hummingbird.

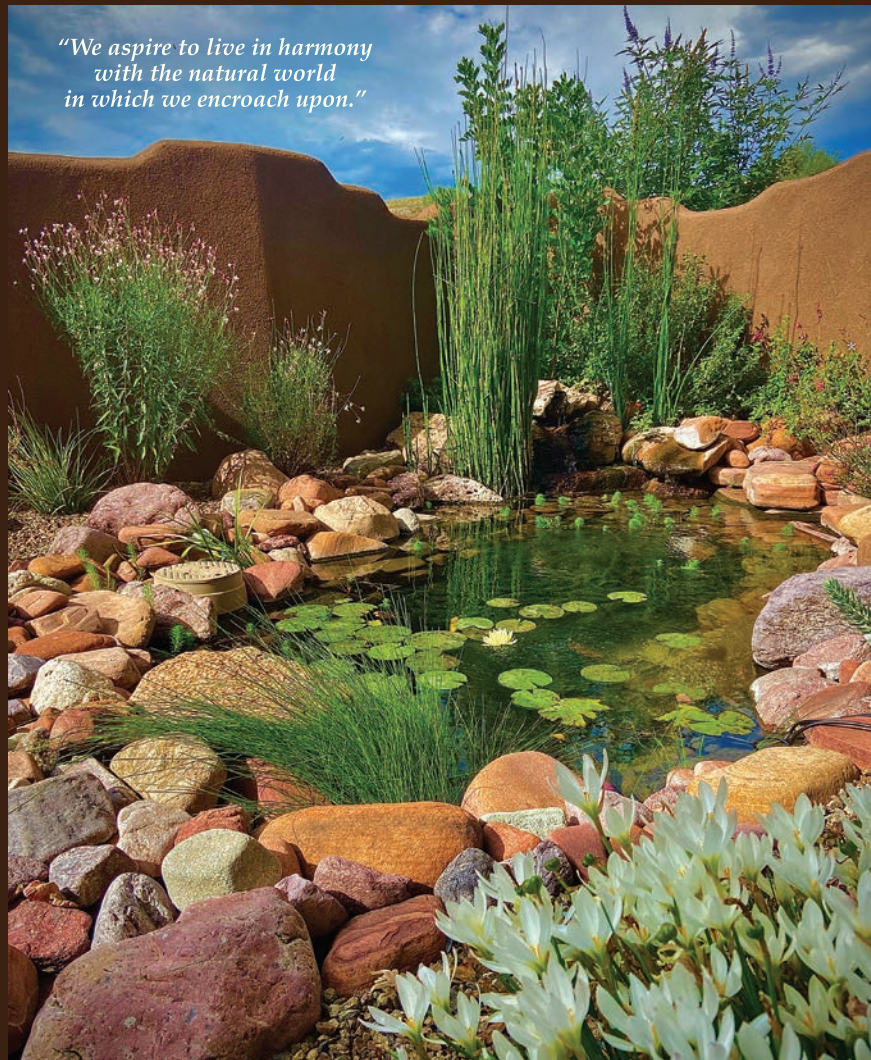
“I am impressed every day by how knowledgeable birders are, both from away and local folks, about the birds and habitat,” Brown said. “It makes me love being here, providing the best possible experience for our visitors, without affecting the habitat.”

Asked about his most noteworthy memories of his time at the Paton Center, Brown related two. The first is of all the time he’s spent seeking permits at the federal, city, and county levels—endless hours of paperwork. His favorite punching bag is the Federal Floodplain Use Permit, which he has filed many times.

The second most spectacular memory took place in January and February of 2024. One of the very large pecan trees near the Paton house had mysteriously not dropped its fruit in the fall when all the other pecan trees on the property had. The tree was covered with thousands of pecans. Hungry woodpeckers found this bounty, and soon the tree was feeding downy woodpeckers, which had never been recorded in this area before, as well as red nape sapsuckers, northern flickers, Arizona woodpeckers, acorn woodpeckers, ladderback woodpeckers and Gila woodpeckers.

However, these birds only ate the meat from the fruits, leaving the rest behind. Soon this food was discovered by the smaller birds including Cape May warblers, yellow rump warblers, yellow Crowns and titmice. “We could have put out bleachers, there were so many birdwatchers here,” Brown said. “There have been a lot of other sightings, but this was truly an amazing thing.”

Brown extended thanks to Patagonia Town Manager Ron Robinson for all his help with the permitting, the Dirtbags for their trail building, the Paton Center’s volunteers, and Tucson Audubon for their support.



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

## LOVING SPRINGS FARMS

LANDSCAPING | IRRIGATION | GENERAL CONTRACTING

lovingspringsfarms.com (520)860-0373 ROC 342933

## Patagonia Regional Times

Journalism like this can't exist without reader support

DONATE NOW

[www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/donate](http://www.patagoniaregionaltimes.org/donate)

# Following a Dream Leads Family to Sonoita



Photo courtesy of Fred Bohm

The Bohm family out on a hunt in Idaho. From left: Greta, Hazel, Pistol, Braker, Fred and Atlas.

By Eddie McArthur

When Fred Bohm started a side business designing upscale cleaning kits for hunting rifles in Denver, he probably never envisioned it would lead to relocating his family to Sonoita and a major career and lifestyle shift.

In 2015, Fred and his wife Hazel had just bought a house and were expecting their first child. At that time, he was working as a successful specialist in motion design for a Denver ad agency, as well as a photographer for various hunting related activities. And he had his gun cleaning kit venture. When Hazel asked “When do you think you’ll ever see your family?” Fred undertook a major re-evaluation of his lifestyle choices. “Working for someone else is hard,” he told the PRT. “Working for yourself is hard. You have to pick the one you love.”

Having grown up hunting, hiking and fishing with his dad and older brother in New Jersey, Fred realized that he was most interested in preserving legacies—that owning firearms that had belonged to his father and grandfather, and the memories those guns bring forth in him, was important.

He decided to keep his ad agency job, but add “soft goods” to his little business. He would produce hunting related items that were worthy of being passed along to family members.

His mother Kathy agreed to sew fabric prototypes of the soft goods—gun cases, bags, etc., that would ultimately be produced in leather and canvas—and Hazel would help with books.

Marketing was initially through Amazon, and Fred was somewhat surprised to see the business take off quickly. In 2016, when the ad agency

insisted he cancel a scheduled photography trip to do graphics for a Super Bowl ad, Fred gave notice and risked going full-time with the little business he named Sage & Braker after his two hunting dogs. (Braker is still with him, now partnered with a young dog called Pistol.)

Everything operated out of the Bohm household, with the small third bedroom becoming office and sewing space and their single car garage converted to warehousing. Things grew, with Sage and Braker producing precision stainless steel and brass cleaning picks—as well as a cleaning spray that contains no harsh chemicals—while continuing with gun cases and carry bags. Fred obtained warehousing and fulfillment space in Denver where shipping of orders occurred. The risk of leaving the ad agency began paying off, and, along with his continued professional photography, the little family was doing well.

Still, he and Hazel wanted a lifestyle more in sync with their values. Online marketing was directed to avid hunters, especially those seeking upland game, guides and shooting enthusiasts. Sales were 99% online with a small percentage through high-end gun stores, so they didn’t need to stay in the Denver area.

“We wanted out of the city and wanted to give our kids the type of experiences I had as a child,” Fred said. That meant a small town, outdoor life and community. The family began a months-long journey across the West looking for their perfect spot. Boise was a contender, but ultimately Sonoita won out.

Fred was aware that the Sonoita area welcomed lots of upland game hunters, especially those seeking the Mearns quail, fitting well with both his business and personal values. He and Hazel began looking at properties in this area. They settled on a local property that even included three mini horses to the delight of children Atlas and Greta.

In May, 2022, the Bohm family became Sonoita residents. The

kids quickly joined the local sports scene and enrolled in Elgin school. Fred made trips back and forth to Denver for the business and continued his photography and hunting pursuits.

One year later, wanting both to quit driving back and forth to Denver and to reduce warehousing costs, Fred purchased the building that formerly housed the Vineyard Café and began a full gutting of the property, doing most of the interior work himself. Shortly after, Fred’s mom Kathy moved into the casita at Fred and Hazel’s home where she continues to sew soft goods prototypes.

Now he has office space, as well as room for warehousing and order fulfillment. There is a lounge area where hunters will be free to bring their dogs, sip coffee and tell tall tales. During prime hunting season 20 to 30 guides bring their clients from all over the world to this area. They will all be welcomed at Sage & Braker after a day of hunting.

Although no retail sales will occur from the space, the Sage & Braker line is on display. Those initial cleaning kits have been joined by a full range of products to clean and maintain firearms. An in-store display is made of the back end of an old pickup with products like the Range Bag, which are meant to open wide and be used while in the field, displayed on the open tailgate.

Fred’s marketing is online, much of it via Instagram. Sage & Braker functions on a day-to-day basis without much drain on Fred’s time. He is able to devote a great deal of time to his two children and the lifestyle dream they pursued in coming here.

When asked what’s next, Fred says that incorporating the children into his travel and hunting is already starting. When Sage & Braker needs an employee to handle order fulfillment, that may well become a first job for one of the kids.

The lifestyle dream that led to big risks is paying off and the Bohm family foresees many years in Sonoita.

Visit [www.sageandbraker.com](http://www.sageandbraker.com) for more information and to view their full line of products.

**Little Woods Enterprises, LLC**

- landscape prep
- site clean-up
- material hauling

(insured and bonded)

520-699-4894  
lwe85624@gmail.com

**NEWS TO DIE FOR**

MURDER AND MAYHEM AT THE TUCSON INDEPENDENT

A NOVEL

ROBERT E. KIMBALL

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

**EASTMAN EQUINE**  
Integrated Equine Bodywork

Maria Eastman  
Masterson Method Certified Practitioner MMCP

Serving SE Arizona

**(307) 250-2711**

**JOSH UMFLEET**  
REALTOR®

520-604-1658

# Notes From SEFD

## Planning for Changing Circumstances



By Eddie McArthur

Fire prevention in our communities is always at the top of our goals. We are increasing our review of construction plans, code enforcement, and the related services we offer. Evaluation of properties for fire safety is done without charge, and we maintain a list of persons and/or companies who will do tree trimming or removal, weed control, etc.

The emergency services we provide to our communities is being constantly re-evaluated. We have begun work to make use of the land near Elgin that was donated to SEFD. When it became necessary to replace an engine, we sought out one that is also capable of being a water tanker, as availability of water is always an issue. That unit is scheduled to be delivered before year-end and will aid us in having water available where needed.

Our communities are evolving. Weekends and holidays see a huge increase in traffic, which can and does result in an increase in incidents. The number of times we have concurrent calls for service have increased. In addition, mining operations becom-

ing established in the area also add to the potential for both number and severity of incidents. We have bicycle races, bird watchers, people pulling horse trailers, and weekend visitors to wineries. Each of these alone, and in combination, puts added pressure on all local resources including SEFD.

This area has a low population density which results in limits on our tax revenues. We are exploring other opportunities to increase our income stream. We obtained, and put to use, one grant and hope to receive other grants. We are looking into using an experienced grant writer to help in this. While some fire districts are supported by nonprofits such as an "auxiliary," we have not had that benefit as yet. We'd love to see community members start a program of that type.

In looking at ways we can handle increased needs for services, we undertook a comprehensive evaluation of how we are operating. Many of you participated last year in the strategic planning process with the goal of a clear path forward for SEFD. We are committed to putting into practice the many items that came out of the pro-



Photo by Tricia Flaherty

SEFD Captain Kevin Bowman coordinates a helicopter transport.

cess and have already begun doing so.

The plan emphasized the safety of our firefighters, their training and equipment, and the compensation we provide as being a top priority. We approved a significant increase in pay levels as well as additional training opportunities. We have improved the area where our members sleep, cook, and workout. We have initiated ongoing meetings with members to ensure

that we meet their needs and listen to their concerns.

Having a strategic plan in place enables us to look at how to best serve our communities in our planning and budget. If you'd like a copy of the strategic plan, stop by the fire station during business hours, and we will be happy to provide one to you. If you'd like an electronic copy, let us know and we can email that.

SANCTUARY AT  
*Sonoita Creek*  
**CAMPGROUND**  
376 Pennsylvania Ave. | Patagonia, AZ 85624  
sanctuaryatsonoitacreek.com  
Reservations on [HIPCAMP.COM](http://HIPCAMP.COM)  
**520-237-5003**

•Sunday Service  
10:00 a.m.  
•Thrift Shop  
Fri & Sat 10-1  
•Spiritual Roundtable  
Zoom Wed 4:30  
WATCH FOR 2023  
CENTENNIAL EVENTS!  
**PATAGONIA COMMUNITY UMC**  
387 McKeown • patagoniaumc@gmail.com • 520-394-2274

**Zulas**  
A NOGALES TRADITION  
SINCE 1950  
Supports Local Journalism  
982 N Grand Ave, Nogales, AZ 85621  
Only 18 miles away Open every day 7:30 am - 3 pm

**Homegrown Instruments**  
Beginning Lessons  
Ukulele, Guitar,  
Native Flute Sales  
**Zach Farley**  
**520-216-0258**

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

Cera Lynn M.Ac. O.M. L.Ac. Aesthetician  
CHINESE MEDICINE  
Acupuncture • Acu Injections • Pain Syndromes  
Laser & Light Therapies • Anti Aging Skincare  
**520/398-9886**  
www.spazen.net      cerafina1903@hotmail.com

**THE PONYTAIL HAIR SALON**  
241 S. 3rd Ave ~ Patagonia, Arizona  
Wed. ~ Thur. ~ Fri.  
\* By Appointment  
(520) 394-2347  
\*Leave Message  
Charlee Farley ~ Owner

**TERRASOL**  
Camping for Hikers, Cyclists  
& Van/RV Travelers  
**520-987-0770**  
TerraSolaz.com  
terrasol.az@gmail.com  
542 Harshaw Ave  
Patagonia, AZ 85624

**JPI Jeanne Peterson Insurance**  
LICENSED BROKER  
♦ Medicare Advantage Plans    ♦ Medicare Part D Plans  
♦ Medicare Supplements       ♦ Medicaid/AHCCCS Plans  
♦ Individual Short Term  
Proudly Serving Southern Arizona  
**(520)455-5464**  
Cell: (520)237-3284 | Fax: (520) 455-5463  
PO Box 1244 Sonoita AZ 85637

# LET'S GO GET STONES

## Progress and the Demise of the Billie D



By Keith Krizan

The Oxford English Dictionary defines progress as: Advancement to a further or higher stage...usually to better state, improvement. But one man's progress may be another's downfall. Just look at the Billie D Mine near Patagonia.

The Billie D is a former gold mine that sits on an unnamed hill in the Palmetto Mining District in the Patagonia Mountains. Its last owner of record was a former rancher from Mesa named Max Ritterath.

Arizona mining was, for at least sev-

eral generations, a mostly small, Mom and Pop type of operation. Even the mining camps that first formed around the mineral strikes, and then grew to become the boom towns with stamp mills and post offices resembled nothing so much as a floating craps game with players and characters moving from place to place as the richest and easiest to extract materials gave way to thinner ores.

All the while, worldwide production was soaring. In 1850, 50,000 tons of copper were produced. In forty years, that number had increased to 500,000 tons. In 1930 annual copper output was over 2,000,000 tons. Gold followed a similar trajectory going from 20-25 tons per year in 1848, to 920 tons by 1930.

Mining underwent enormous changes during this period. In 1867 Alfred Nobel, a Swedish chemist and engineer, invented dynamite. Minerals could be blasted and mucked out of mines quicker than could be done by pickaxe and shovel. Obtaining minerals gradually went from being a labor-intensive enterprise to being a capital-intensive enterprise. Mom and Pop were about to get the boot. Progress?

When economic activity slowed and the Great Depression set in, many of the smaller mines were beneficiaries of Federal Government help via the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act of 1931. Founded by President Herbert Hoover, it effectively served as the discount lending window of the

Federal Reserve Board. Between 1932 and 1957 it provided financial support to state and local governments and made loans to, among other businesses, mines.

The Mining Journal for August 30, 1937 announced that Max Ritterath had been approved for a \$20,000 loan for his mine in Santa Cruz County, Arizona. The money was used to construct a crossover tunnel between two existing shafts, but it failed to uncover a hoped-for new vein of ore. Progress?

By 1939 Ritterath was desperately seeking new capital for The Billie D. A potential source was George M. Church of Fort Worth, TX. Church was an oilman and not adverse to taking risks for unseen rewards in the earth.

Hopes for this deal were squashed, however, at an October, 1939, meeting in Nogales when a mining engineer hired by Church, delivered a pessimistic report on the mine. The meeting was over in five minutes and Church was on his way. Progress?

Ritterath then turned to California



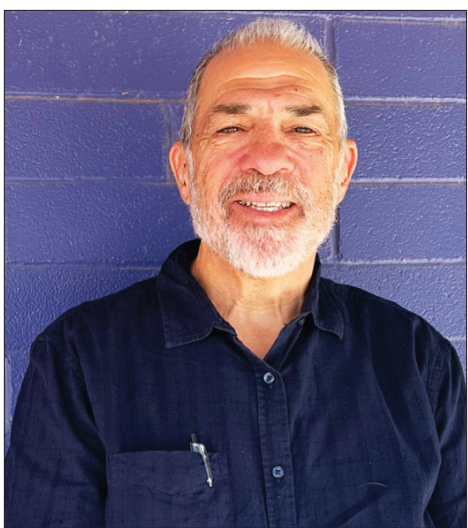
Photo by Keith Krizan

The entrance to the Billie D Mine in the Patagonia Mountains, pictured here, has been barred off.

attorney, Gordon F. Cronkhite, who represented potential investors. J.S. Coupal, director of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) was pressed upon by the California attorney to produce another, definitive engineer's

**See Billie D, p.21**

## STARSTRUCK Answers



By Harold Meckler

If nothing else, this election season has caused me to look even more at the sky for answers. Now, I really don't think I'm going to find them hidden behind some star or nebula or alongside a speeding comet, but the search has been so revealing, that I have, actually, found the very answer that's been eluding my grasp for so long.

Just like it's the journey and not the destination that often provides the substance of any foray, so the search

for answers in the heavens has provided me with as much therapy as I would have had with the best therapist. If the goal is to better manage whatever life throws at us, the stars—at least for me—are always worth returning to.

This month, stretched out from horizon to horizon are quite a few naked eye sights that can turn any evening into a well-deserved adventure, though the only steps needed are through my back door. As my gaze darts from one object to the next, I can't help but be transported far away from the divisions and the mistrust and the violence to places where those words and those feelings and those actions have no meaning. And, for just a few moments, I'm able to sidestep the madness to something, well, pristine.

The full moon arrives in the middle of November, so observations must be planned for when it doesn't bathe the sky with too much light, hiding so much of what the sky has to offer. Of course, the Moon can be a mission unto itself.

Here are some things I'll be looking for: the goat star Capella; Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus the Bull; the Pleiades open star cluster; the Andromeda galaxy; the constellation Cassiopeia;

the three stars of the Summer Triangle; the haziness of the Milky Way; and the Big Dipper pointing the way to the North Star, Polaris.

The universe is unfathomably old but from our vantage point it can appear unblemished, free of any of the dings and scratches that can accumulate through life. As ancient as it is, it seems to be new and undiminished. That's the advantage of just looking with our eyes and not with the help of the incredible machinery of modern astronomy. Under the magnifying glasses of telescopes that can reveal information we could barely imagine a few years ago, we see a great deal of the chaos that has been unfolding for 14 billion years. There is a time to marvel at that view. But, that time, for me, is not now.

Instead, starting in the northeast, I'll first admire Capella, the alpha star of the constellation Auriga, one of the brightest in the sky. Then, I'll stare at red Aldebaran and try to trace the outlines of a giant bull. I'll turn to the Pleiades, taking in the beauty that has drawn others throughout the ages. I'll try to follow a line from Cassiopeia's "W" to a faint smudge that I know to be a massive galaxy—Andromeda—with its trillion stars. I'll spin around

as I pinpoint Deneb, Vega and Altair, three stars long used as guideposts for sailors before the age of GPS. I'll try not to get dizzy as I look straight up at the aptly named Milky Way. And I will peer out over Mt. Wrightson as I use the Big Dipper to spot Polaris and the way north. A free phone app—there are many to choose from—ensures I'll never lose my way.

With each glance I'll learn that all of it is much more than an escape. Rather, it's a reminder to keep trying, for as long as I can and for as long as conditions allow, to not just find, but also to willingly accept what is still possible, even when there is so much turmoil that we have brought upon ourselves.

The answers, I've learned, are not to be found in the stars nor in the searching, though I very much enjoy the ride across the heavens. They are in every exclamation that leaves my lips, in every utterance that marks another fleeting internalization of awe. All of the answers, after all, come from within, and tell me who I am and who I want to be. I hope to keep finding them.

Harold Meckler can be contacted at [byaakov54@gmail.com](mailto:byaakov54@gmail.com)

# Patagonian Completes Biography of Legendary Ornithologist

By Bob Brandt

Part-time Patagonia resident Dr. Gregg Gorton, a retired psychiatrist, has spent the past 20 years researching and writing a biography of ornithologist Ted Parker, who left an indelible impression on members of this community who shared his love of nature in general and birds in particular.

Parker's death in 1993, mourned throughout the birding world, occurred just a few weeks after Gorton's interest in birding took flight while taking his five-year-old son Jedd on a bird walk in a national wildlife refuge in Philadelphia "to get him out in nature."

Gorton's reading of Parker's obituary in the New York Times sparked a fascination, not just with birding but with birding by ear, something with which his classically trained musical ear resonated. "I was blown away by learning that Parker could identify over 4,000 birds by sound alone," Gorton explained.

In 2004 Gorton reached out to Parker's family to gauge their interest in his proposed biography. With their blessing, he began a more focused effort to contact people who knew and worked with Parker. His research has been met with almost universal acceptance and cooperation. "When I say 'Ted Parker,' the door opens," he said.

In a sense, ever since his death in that Ecuadorian jungle, Ted Parker has been a posthumous companion on Gorton's personal birding journey. Fascinated with Parker's outsized place in the birding world, Gorton gradually picked up bits and pieces of Parker's life until he realized that he might fill a significant void in the annals of famous ornithologists by publishing a biography of this legendary figure.

From his early childhood, Parker displayed an unusually intense interest in nature, an amazing ability to identify birds and other creatures from their sounds alone, and an insatiable thirst for knowledge about the flora and fauna that surrounded him. At age 12 he was accepted as a member of the Lancaster County Bird Club and was giving lectures to friends and neighbors in a makeshift lecture area in the attic of his home.

As time passed, word of Parker's knowledge of birds and his almost magical ability to identify them from their vocalizations alone amazed even

prominent ornithologists. While still in high school, according to Gorton, he "stunned the nascent birding world" by identifying 626 species in one year in the lower 48 states and southern Canada, breaking the old record of 598.

So impressive were Parker's birding knowledge and skill that, at age 21, he was invited to join a team of ornithologists from the Louisiana State University's prestigious Museum of Natural Science on an expedition to explore the birds of Peru.

It was the first of his many excursions to Peru, Ecuador and other Central and South American countries in his relentless push to document everything he could hear or see about the neotropical birds of that hemisphere. His singular focus on that mission over the next two decades earned Parker the admiration, respect and appreciation of ornithologists and naturalists around the globe.

One such admirer is Sonoita resident Kelly Fleming, a self-taught naturalist, accomplished birder and fervent defender of wildlife. Sharing Parker's insatiable thirst for knowledge of birds and their habitat, as well as his preference for learning in the field rather than in the classroom, Fleming enthusiastically signed up for Parker-led birding expeditions to Peru and Ecuador.

With obvious fondness, she remembers Parker as a somewhat reluctant but patient and gifted leader who had "an immense ability to focus on everything around him...and see in this teeming whole every individual contributing thread."

Patagonian Dr. Ron Pulliam, Borderlands Restoration Network founder and conservationist, also knew Parker well. Pulliam took Parker on as an assistant in his research project on sparrows in the 1970s when Parker was pursuing an undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of Arizona.

It took seven years for Parker to get his undergraduate degree, but that was just fine with him because this leisurely pace meant he was also able to work with Pulliam in the borderlands of southern Arizona, as well as continue his LSU-sponsored excursions to study neotropical birds in South America.

Pulliam recalled an incident that nearly resulted in both his and Parker's deaths as the small plane



Photo by Paul Donahue

**Ted Parker in a canoe recording a bird at Explorers Inn, Madre de Dios, Peru in 1978.**

in which they were passengers lost power over a river in a mountainous region of northern Mexico. Pulliam was sure they were going to perish but the pilot was able to pull the plane up just before it crashed and get them home safely.

Sadly, Parker's good fortune on this occasion didn't hold, as he died in 1993 along with three others when their plane went down in a heavily forested area of southwestern Ecuador.

Gorton's research has gained him recognition among today's most respected ornithologists and birding royalty. On Facebook, readers can virtually attend his hour-long lecture on the life of Ted Parker delivered six years ago to an audience of birding au-

thorities and former Parker colleagues at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

The lengthy process of gathering the essentials of Ted Parker's life is essentially complete and Gorton is now in search of an agent to connect him with an appropriate publisher.

Those who love birds, who wish to protect threatened species and landscapes, or just find inspiration for accomplishing something meaningful in their lives should look forward to getting their signed copy of "The Bird Genius Who Tried to Save Nature: Ted Parker—Legendary Birder, Ornithologist and Conservationist."



## The Lending Shed

The Lending Shed is a charity project sponsored by Family Health Care Amigos which provides durable medical equipment including wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, rollators, toilet risers, bedside commodes and adult incontinent supplies to those who need them. Free of Charge. Ask the Store Clerk about all of our services.

520.297.7065

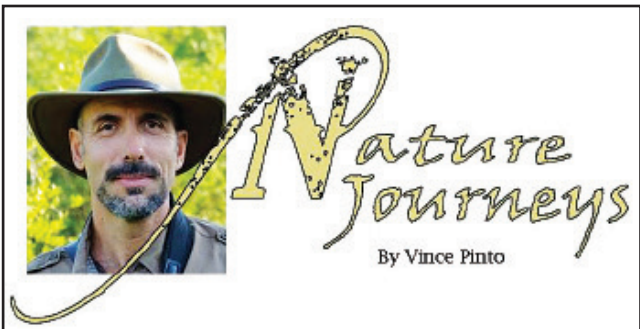
Inside the Purple Elephant at  
325 McKeown Avenue  
Thursday-Sunday  
10am-3pm  
fhamigos.com



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



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



# Competition and Biodiversity

They say “variety is the spice of life”—a cliché clearly befitting our Sky Islands biodiversity. Within North America our region entertains more species than in any comparable area north of Mexico. More birds, mammals, reptiles, ants, bees, etc.

Why do we have so many species in the Madrean Archipelago?

A multitude of factors have conspired to create this wild cornucopia. Our relatively low latitudes, diverse topography, proximity to a good number of disparate biomes or major habitat types, and our climate patterns all factor into the impressive number of Sky Island species.

Over the great spans of evolutionary time, competition has also played a key role in diversifying various species. This truth is most evident in closely related species—ones that look so similar that we sometimes are challenged to sort them out while being left to wonder how they coexist in our region.

Our darkling or “tip-up” beetles are a prime example, with many different types making a living in local habitats. By my reckoning, no less than seven species roam Raven’s Nest Nature Sanctuary. All are black, flightless beetles that wander in plain sight over the ground. Most are scavengers—nature’s janitors—consuming organic tidbits they scavenge.

Look for a few species rummaging around red harvester ant nests at dusk. Note any differences in size, shape, or behavior. Seemingly one, more abundant, species could get the job done, yet we have many. Clearly, competition for limited resources has led to diversification of these tank-like beetles, as they diverged into species that use resources in overlapping yet different ways.

Similar look alike invertebrate species abound in our area. Butterflies, moths, ants, bees, flies, grasshoppers, and many other groups all contain “sister species” that are strikingly similar—each hammering out a living in a slightly different way.

Birds provide an easy way to see how competition has led to resource partitioning in the Sky Islands. Three species of flycatchers are emblematic in this respect. The smallest, the dusky-capped flycatcher, inhabits wooded areas from our low-elevation riparian forests, all the way up into our conifer-

ous forests. The medium-sized ash-throated flycatcher makes a living mostly in our deserts, mesquite woodlands and riparian zones. The large brown-crested flycatcher does deserts and riparian zones.

All three species can coexist along local waterways if there is sufficient wooded cover and enough old woodpecker cavities to nest in. There, their differences in size, beak proportions, and behaviors allows them to exploit overlapping, yet sufficiently disparate subsets of our hyper-diverse invertebrate fauna. Direct competition can sometimes be witnessed, as one species of flycatcher chases another.

Mammal species have likewise been driven by natural selection to varying habitat use and behaviors that afford coexistence. Until at least the 1930s, our region hosted not only American black bears, but also Mexican grizzly bears.

Small birds able to split up resources is one thing, but how did the two widely ranging bear species work things out until people saw fit to, unfortunately, exterminate the grizzlies? For the most part, it seems that our local “grizz” exploited low to mid-range habitats, where they relied heavily upon digging up rodents with their out-sized claws. Former large colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs and other ground squirrel species were likely food sources. They also scavenged carcasses and ate a broad spectrum of plants.

Black bear also consume some of the same food, yet generally in higher habitats. There, they were able to resort to arboreal escape tactics should



Photo by Vince Pinto

**An ash-throated flycatcher watches from a perch at Raven’s Nest Nature Sanctuary. This species is one of three flycatchers that live in the Sky Islands region.**

they directly encounter a grizzly, which rarely scale trees. Variable habitat use, differential exploitation of food resources, and discretionary retreats all played a part in affording a living to our two bear species.

Other examples of strikingly similar species abound in the Sky Islands—ones that seem redundant yet which have evolved slightly different ways of exploiting our natural resources. Two species of patch-nosed snake, three species of mud turtle, three types of spiny lizard, eight kinds of whiptail lizards, nine species of rattlesnake, 27 bat species, 28 sparrow varieties...The list goes merrily on. Clearly it’s not only governmental regulatory agencies that

dislike monopolies.

The next time you venture outdoors, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife species that up till now you may have assumed are one and the same. Look for structural and behavioral differences and see what you come up with. Make it into a competition of your own!

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

**Sonoita Realty - “Knowledgeable, Trustworthy & Local”**  
**Professional Realtors serving the Mountain Empire since 1991**  
[www.sonoitarealty.com](http://www.sonoitarealty.com) - email [info@sonoitarealty.com](mailto:info@sonoitarealty.com)  
**Call Us at 520-405-1800**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## True Kinship

I am not a family man. My mother took us, her three kids and dad, from a large extended family including aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, friends, neighbors, animals, places and things in Rochester NY and moved, lock stock and barrel, to the mountains of Colorado with little money in a 1937 Ford named Comet, towing a 4 x 8 ft. open trailer. I was five years old. We all adapted to our new secluded way of life in the mountains of Colorado.

Every chance I got I escaped into the valley below our cabin. There I found companionship and delight among trees, rocks, flowers, streams and coyotes, bear and elk. We spoke the same language. I had no interests other than what I found to be soothing and in the mysteries of nature. It was nature with whom I felt a kinship. I felt safe and cared for. Mother Nature made me who I am now.

Now, virtually 80 years later, living in the high desert, there are many opportunities to experience the connection with nature. Early this morning around 4am, I listened to the coyotes' exchanging howls and staccato yips, a familiar language without words, a language that our ancestors, the American Indians knew. I find delight in watching Mother Javalina and her babies parading outside my window and laughing at Raven's antics. Gazing high into the clear blue sky, I am effortlessly, gracefully riding the currents with Vulture.

After the hot, dry season, when the grass is turning gold, the monsoons arrive nurturing body, soul and land in the Sky Islands of Arizona. Storms bring high winds; heavy rain, hail, flooding, and cool green lushness covers the mountains and valleys. Kinship.

David Krest  
Patagonia

## Movement Is Natural

I was reading John Washington's provocative and persuasive book, "The Case for Open Borders." Nice mindset. No fear. Clear thinking.

Then I heard Kris Kristofferson had died. I played his 1968 vinyl recording of "To Beat the Devil," a song that preceded "Me and Bobbie McGee" on the album. Kris quoted the devil:

"If you waste your time a talkin' to the people who don't listen to the things you are sayin', who do you think's gonna hear? And if you should die explainin' how the things that they complain about are things that could

be changin', who do you think's gonna care? There were other lonely singers in a world turned deaf and blind who were crucified for what they tried to show, and their voices have been scattered by the swirling winds of time, 'cause the truth remains that no one wants to know."

The truth? How about simplicity, sustainability, generosity...peace.

Movement, within borders and across borders, is natural and inevitable. It's not about the journey, it's the destination, respect for the place.

Doug Morris  
Sonoita

## Billie D (Cont.)

report on the mine. Promises of bringing investment dollars to Arizona, and even by Ritterrath to relocate his home back to Arizona, were made in exchange for a favorable report.

Miles M. Carpenter, who worked for Coupal at the DMR, was tasked with making the report. Ritterrath was anxious for approval. Money was waiting in the wings. But the field engineer's disappointing report of May 10, 1940, sounded the death knell for the Billie D.

The last we hear from Ritterrath is in a 1946 mine owner's report where he was shown planning for the future of the mine, stating that a "mill will be installed to reduce ore for shipping." On line 17 of the report he wrote of

the Billie D, "Not for Sale. I use my own Capital."

Several weeks ago, on I-10, I saw, parked at an exit ramp, a haul truck bed so huge, with a capacity for perhaps 350 cubic yards of heaped material, that it was going to take up more than two lanes whenever it got back the road.

On a recent visit back to the Billie D, I posited that for all the years of toil there, for all of the dangerous blasting and digging, all the calculating and effort, and all of the sweat, the waste rock pile that was left behind just might fit into just one or two loads of the modern dump truck. Progress?

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

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

Please send your letter, in MS Word, to [prteditor@gmail.com](mailto:prteditor@gmail.com)

## ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

In the October issue of the PRT, Maria Eastman's phone number was listed incorrectly. Her correct number is 307-250-2711.

We apologise for this error.

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

# ELECT JOHN FANNING DEMOCRAT



## Santa Cruz County Supervisor, District 3

Paid for and authorized by Friends of John Fanning

### Experienced.

- Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District Governing Board (Chairman)
- Community Outreach & Co-Curricular Coordinator, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District
- Principal and Assistant Principal, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District
- Athletic Director, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District
- Principal, Sahuarita Unified School
- Rio Rico Community Center / Rio Rico Property Owners Association Board (President)
- First Thing First Regional Council Member
- Santa Cruz County Prosperity, Vision and Action Plan Steering Committee

### Dedicated.

- SCVUSD # 35 District Administrator of the Year
- Friends of SC Valley Most Influential Educator Award
- NASSP / MetLife State Principal of the Year
- A+ School of Excellence Recipient (CTMS)
- AZ State School Superintendent Advisory Board
- Mt. View After School Athletic Club Volunteer
- A+ School of Excellence Recipient (Anza Trail)
- ACA Basketball Coach of the Year

### Leadership.

- Rio Rico Rotary (President)
- Santa Cruz County United Way (Spokesperson)
- Hermosa Advisory Panel (South32 Mine)
- Sinclair Trust / SCV Hall of Fame / Jando Meza / Rio Rico Rotary Scholarship Committees
- Healthy Families / Healthy Youth Pilot Program
- SCVUSD #35 Foundation Board
- Sahuarita High School Hall of Fame

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

# TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

By PRT Staff Reporters

## September 23, 2024

The Town approved a request by Scott Ramsey and Christie Pennington for a Use Permit allowing four RV sites at their homesite at 126 Harshaw Av in Patagonia.

A resolution was adopted, approving proposed increases in fees for municipal solid waste collection and disposal.

By Proclamation, the month of October was officially declared by the Town as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and "Domestic Violence Month."

## October 9, 2024

Ron Reibslager's resignation from the Town Council was accepted, and Gary Retherford was appointed to fill the vacated seat. Due to Covid, Retherford was not at the meeting, but will

be sworn in at the following meeting.

In Call to Public, Robert Gay gave a little background related to the Agenda Item on "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

Keith Dennis, of the Southern Arizona Governmental Organizations Group (SEAGO), presented the background of the Community Development Block Grant program and its possible future with the Town. He clarified that the survey process that followed the 2020 US Census had shown the town to be 1/10 of one percent short of the now-required 51% low and moderate income households, in order to qualify for the program. He noted that tiny increment was much smaller than the margin of error for surveys of this type. Dennis believes there are ways to add to or replace the survey data for the town and expressed a willingness to help represent itself as qualifying, during the needs assessment process.

He added that the town might also be eligible for a second SEAGO grant type, the Colonias Set-aside Grants.

In the discussion that followed, Mayor Wood asked several questions of Dennis, on topics ranging from the "countability" of the town's many part-time residents, clean energy projects, SEAGO grant assistance with fiber optics serving residents, and whether non-resident school kids could be counted. The Mayor and Council thanked Dennis for the extensive and clear presentation.

An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Santa Cruz County and the Town of Patagonia was approved. The IGA sets up a support payment plan for the County to provide \$25,000 annually to the library, to be paid quarterly upon submission of a written bill and corresponding quarterly library report.

By proclamation, the Town declared October 14, 2024 as "Indigenous Peoples' Day," noting the removal of

"Squaw" from road signage on Salero Road.

## October 23, 2024

Town Manager Robinson reported that he would be meeting with the McKeown Ave. road project construction contractor, Hunter Construction, in a pre-construction conference.

Magistrate Bracamonte swore in new Councilor Gary Retherford.

The Little Food Pantry, which has been at the front of the Library for many years has fallen into disuse and become a disposal spot for rotten food and used clothing, an unfortunate ending to a benevolent community idea. Councilor Finch explained that the pantry had not been a Food Bank project, but that a couple had generated it. Finch had fairly recently spoken with the surviving member of the couple, and no emotional ownership of the project had been expressed, so the pantry's removal will not accidentally generate any hard feelings.



**We Would Like to Thank Our Sponsors TerraSol and Circle Z For Their Generous Support of the PRT**  
Become a Sponsor Today.  
Contact Nisa at prtasted@gmail.com



# WATER IS LIFE | DON'T MINE IT AWAY

Australian mining company **South32** plans to remove up to 6.6 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER A DAY from beneath the Patagonia Mountains.

*That's the equivalent to*  
**10 OLYMPIC-SIZED SWIMMING POOLS**  
*7 days a week, 365 days a year!!!*

Arizona's already suffering from drought and has an uncertain water future.

**PARA** works for **YOU** to hold mining companies and agencies accountable to ALL applicable laws.

**PROTECT THE PATAGONIA MOUNTAINS**

Follow Us On:

TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER, AND LEARN MORE, GO TO:

## WWW.PATAGONIAALLIANCE.ORG

# The Santa Cruz Foundation For The Performing Arts

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

## November Schedule

**NOV 7: 3pm - Daniel Linder, pianist** Concert pianist Daniel Linder once again graces our venue with his extraordinary ability to make the piano sing. Daniel is a versatile pianist, chamber musician and teaching artist.

**NOV 21: 3pm - Phillip Alejo and Rie Tanaka** The duo of Phillip Alejo, double bass/voice, and Rie Tanaka, piano, offer a delightful pairing of instruments and voice in a program rich with poetry, culture, rhythm and emotions. Enjoy the music of Spanish composer Manuel de Falla and contemporary music from California by Jose Vargas expressed in the songs of Chicano poet Francisco Alarcón.

Prepaid admission is \$30 - adult or \$15 - student. You can pay online until noon on the day of the concert (using your preferred credit/debit card or PayPal) or by sending a check to SCFPA PO Box 873, Patagonia AZ 85624. Tickets purchased at the door on the day of the concert are \$35/\$20 (if seats are available)

Visit [www.scfpapresents.org](http://www.scfpapresents.org) for more information

# THE TIN SHED THEATER

## NOVEMBER 2024 Schedule

**NOVEMBER 12 - 7pm:** Club Theater presents "Arsenic and Academics," written by Kayla Miller. (Club Theater is a free-to-the student, grant funded after school program for kids 9 - 16.)  
Free

**NOVEMBER 29, 30 - 10am - 4pm:** 22nd Annual Patagonia Holiday Art Walk- Tin Shed Theater presents holiday movie favorites.

\*Dates and Times Subject to Change\*  
If you would be interested in sponsoring upcoming events, please contact Cassina Farley at 520-394-9369.  
Visit [www.patagoniacreativearts.org](http://www.patagoniacreativearts.org) or 394-9369 for more information.

## Want to Keep Up With the News?

Access all of the PRT on your phone, tablet or computer at [patagoniaregionaltimes.org](http://patagoniaregionaltimes.org)



The Arts  
Opinions  
Local News

Breaking News  
Our Archives  
COMMUNITY STORIES

Current Issue  
OBITUARIES  
Environment

# CLASSIFIEDS

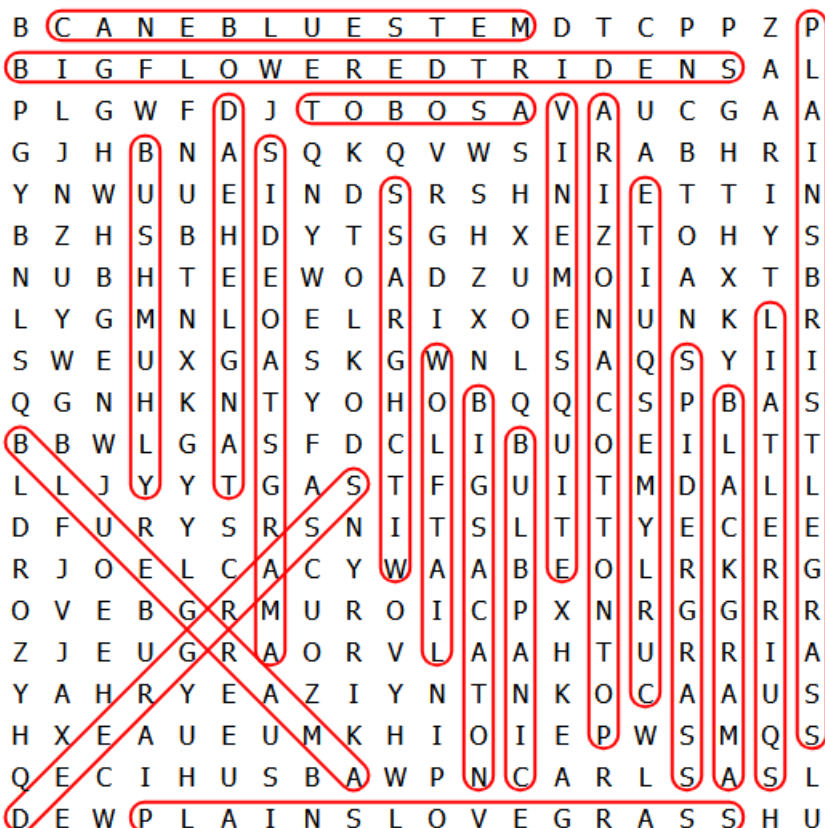
SONOITA SELF STORAGE+RV/BOAT STORAGE RENTALS  
5x10, 10 x 10,10x 20. 520-455-9333 or 520-455-4641.

To place a classified ad in the PRT,  
contact Nisa Talavera  
[prtads@gmail.com](mailto:prtads@gmail.com)

## Solution for this Month's Word Search

### Native Grasses

Vincent Pinto & Carrie White



## SIMPLIFY FITNESS

### at The Duquesne House

Simplifying fitness at any age for any stage  
Private and semi-private sessions  
Call (310) 993-7425 for a free consultation

**Rick T. & Bekki Jaynes**  
**NASM Certified Personal Trainers**

## KPUP Broadcast Schedule

### FALL 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.



**\$849,000**

**SONOITA CUSTOM ADOBE ESTATE**

MLS # 22410746 13.22 ACRES

Incredible home filled with unique, luxurious features. 3674 sf, 3Bd/2.5Ba plus Bonus Room & 3-car garage. Views. Room for horses. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335



**\$789,000**

**SUSTAINABLE PATAGONIA HOME**

MLS # 22417350 20 ACRES

WOW! GORGEOUS Remarkable custom home built by an engineer and his artist wife. Green features, AAC block & adobe. 3Bd/2Ba with studio. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335



**\$399,000**

**CLASSIC MID-CENTURY RANCH**

MLS # 22415940 6.85 ACRES

Designed by famous woman architect. Classic features with updates throughout. 3Bd/2.5Ba, views, located in Beatus Estates, Nogales. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335



**\$545,000**

**COZY ELGIN LODGE**

MLS # 22402743 1490 HWY 83

Perfect for a large family or group of friends. Large 3181 sf, 5Bd/4Ba home w/garage/workshop. Great vacation rental. Borders Nat. Forest CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271



**\$499,000**

**COMFY PATAGONIA HOME WITH POOL**

MLS # 2222110657 297 DUQUESNE AVENUE

Extensively updated with new pool, remodeled kitchen & baths, new furnace & A/C. On 2 lots, 2 car garage & big yard. Great in-town location JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335



**\$250,000**

**2 LAND PARCELS ABOVE PATAGONIA**

MLS # 22422409 PROCTOR LANE 24 ACRES

STUNNING land with gorgeous views. 2 parcels—one is 16.56 ac & other is 7.59 ac. Can be sold separately. No HOA. Good access. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335



**\$595,000**

**CUSTOM SONOITA HACIENDA**

REDUCED! MLS # 22401767 12 BLACK OAK

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



**\$38,500**

**LAKE PATAGONIA 4+ ACRES WITH WELL**

MLS # 22229949 111 LADO de LOMA

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



**\$512,000**

**LAKE PATAGONIA CUSTOM SANTA FE**

MLS # 22327009 25 JAVELINA COURT

Lovely custom home w/2Bd/2Ba, Great Room, office. Private well, views JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

PATAGONIA: 327 McKeown Avenue, Patagonia, AZ

next to Gathering Grounds

Jean Miller, Owner, Designated Broker

Long Realty Sonoita/Patagonia

Direct 520-508-3335 Office 520 394-2120

jeanmiller@longrealty.com



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