

Patagonia Regional Times



MARCH 2026 SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CANELO, ELGIN, PATAGONIA AND SONOITA SINCE 2009 VOL. 16 ISSUE 3



Photo by Dave Lumia

Josh Woods (center) celebrates with catcher Patrick Rodhe (left) after recording the final out in Patagonia's victory over San Miguel.

Lobos baseball opens season with back-to-back victories

By Dave Lumia

A year ago, 14 losses and 60 days were sandwiched between the only two victories for the Patagonia High School baseball team.

For the 2026 Lobos, the separation was less than 24 hours. Let's call that a step in the right direction.

Patagonia opened its season with a 12-8 over San Miguel on Feb. 25 and followed that up with 14-4 win over San Simon a day later.

"A 2-0 week feels really nice," coach Ryan Shore said. "I like winning a lot more than losing."

The Lobos had 10 players in uniform for the season-opening victory and nine for win No. 2 – with one player sidelined by illness – so it's truly been all hands on deck. Shore likes the fact that they've been able to keep their focus and not let their mistakes compound, and that their batters are putting the ball in play and forcing the action on their opponents.

In the win over San Miguel, Patagonia had eight hits and forced the Vipers into 10 errors. Against San Simon, seven Lobos had hits, and they walked nine times with only five strikeouts. "Definitely a big emphasis for us is not striking out as much as we did last year," Shore said.

Junior Kannon Shore, the coach's son, pitched the first five innings in the season opener, and sophomore Matt Young finished up. Shore struck out 10 and gave up only two hits, but three walks, a hit batter and a throwing error led to four runs in the third inning.

"Overall, I thought he did great," Ryan Shore said. "He's still so tall and lanky that sometimes the mechanics get a little bit out of whack, but I think the strength and conditioning work he's put in this year have really helped a lot."

See **LOBOS BASEBALL**, p. 18

The fishes and loaves story at the Community Church Thrift Shop



Photo by Linda Jade Fong

A visitor from Tucson having fun in the Patagonia Community Church Thrift Shop, where she and her friends enjoyed their treasure hunt of "unbelievable clothes and household goods at unbelievable prices," and were impressed to see the list of charities their purchases were helping to fund.

by Linda Jade Fong

Why have Georgette Larrouy and Lars Marshall volunteered for decades at the Patagonia Community Church Thrift Shop even though they don't belong to the United Methodist congregation? They say it has to do with seeing firsthand a fishes-and-loaves story and the circle of generosity – and laughter – rippling through the community.

The Thrift Shop at Patagonia Community UMC Church continues to share its revenue by providing grants to 17 local nonprofit organizations and programs. Ron Pitt, chair of the PCUMC Missions Committee, announced that the latest yearly revenue figure for the Thrift Shop was \$23,156. Only a small portion goes to the local church and is used to help cover utilities.

See **THRIFT STORE**, p. 20

Patagonia Regional Times

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 News Bulletin and on our website.

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

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Pilar Martinez takes the reins at the PRT

By Carrie White

Reliability is a quality you expect from a doctor, a pilot, an engineer.

It is also something you should look for in a journalist – a nonpartisan, unbiased presenter of facts.

Pilar Martinez bears that standard as a writer who has worked for The Associated Press, the Arizona Daily Star and the Tucson Citizen. Following her print career, she served as director of campus communications and later senior director for strategic communications at the University of Arizona. She retired from that latter post in 2025.

Now she joins the Patagonia Regional Times as managing editor, a job just south of her Tucson birthplace.

“Thanks to the leadership and vision of my predecessor, Marion Vendituoli, the PRT is a solid newspaper overall,” Martinez said. “It covers the things that matter to eastern Santa Cruz County. And, because of its volunteer writer base, it reflects a diverse array of voices, backgrounds and perspectives.”

Martinez’s interest in journalism and writing started at an early age, a symptom of her innate curiosity.

“When I was a freshman in high school, a very special teacher – Margaret LaDue – walked me over to the school newspaper office and introduced me to Dave Cosgrove, who was the teacher for the student newspaper and yearbook.” A semester later she joined the newspaper. A semester after that, she was editor.

“When I started at the UA, there was no question about what my major would be: journalism!”

But the profession almost lost her to law, an aspect that still plays a part in her life today.

“I covered trials for the AP and the Arizona Daily Star and briefly considered law school when I was trying to escape from Midwestern winters,” Martinez said. Her stints with AP were in Phoenix and Omaha, Nebraska.

She began volunteering as a mediator in 2006, and received a Master of Legal Studies with an emphasis in alternative dispute resolution from the UA James E. Rogers College of Law in 2016.

Since taking over as PRT’s managing editor, there are a number of observations she has made based



Photo by Dave Lumia

Pilar Martinez, the new managing editor at the PRT.

on her increased time spent here: the area’s natural beauty, the kindness and warmth of the people, and the rich history eastern Santa Cruz County enjoys.

And again, the writing staff of 15-plus volunteer citizen journalists speaks volumes as to the level of engagement and commitment that people calling this home have for the area.

“The PRT does an excellent job reflecting the communities it serves with a nice mix of news, features and sports,” Martinez said.

That it fills an important place in the hearts and minds of residents is not lost on her.

“Aside from being watchdogs, newspapers in rural areas cover local issues and efforts that would never receive attention from bigger media outlets,” Martinez said.

And it is her mission to continue delivering reliable, accurate and interesting stories to the residents of and visitors to Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia and Sonoita.

To that end, she invites readers to share story ideas by emailing editor@prtnews.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The responsibility of citizens

We are citizens and responsible for our governments – national, state, and local. As citizens, we face an important problem: a president who does not execute the laws passed by Congress, a Congress that does not pass laws and budgets to address issues citizens want addressed, and a Supreme Court that does not hold the president and Congress to constitutional standards.

We citizens are responsible for the process of self-government.

The remedy for this problem is not political parties, not nonprofit organizations. The remedy is working together in small groups to engage in self-gov-

ernment by assuring our elected representatives are held accountable.

Larry Spears
Sonoita

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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, please email your article or letter to editor@prtnews.org. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

Local News Matters

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Building compassion is focus of new program for middle schoolers

By Sondra Porter

The origins of a local empathy project are as simple and complex as the idea of empathy itself. A conversation between friends became an idea for an event that has grown into a multiyear collaborative project involving three nonprofits and Patagonia middle school students.

The idea started with Cassina Farley, who is an art teacher and director of the Creative Arts Center, and India Aubry, who works with Voices from the Border. They were talking about how people need to feel and understand what others are going through. They noted signs of a lack of compassion in the actions of so many people in our country. Aubry called it an “empathy deficit.” The two women pondered whether they could possibly do something to help local youngsters understand and develop more empathy.

Thus, the Empathy Project was conceived.

Farley was hooked on the idea from the beginning. “The first installment of the project we self-funded. I believed at the time when we cooked it up that it was important to move forward regardless of funding,” she recalled.

“I had just seen a compelling movie called ‘White Bird’ that was inspired from true stories of kindness and rescue during WWII. We decided to arrange a showing at the Tin Shed,” Aubry said. “It was all organic.”

They enlisted the help of Kate Peake, the Patagonia middle school English teacher, and Anna Coleman, director of the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, or PYEC.

A natural fit

“The Empathy Project is a natural fit with our middle school ELA standards and curriculum,” Peake said, referring to English language arts standards for Arizona students. “The ‘White Bird’ film and book provided new perspectives for students to explore resilience in history and apply it to their own lives while also evaluating the ways authors and artists collaborate to share the human experience.”

The first event came together successfully on Jan. 30 and included a movie with family activities before the showing.

Before the event, Peake introduced “White Bird” in novel and graphic novel



Photos by Sondra Porter

Anna Coleman (right), director of the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center, is a member of the core group that created the Empathy Project.

form to her middle school students, and also showed them the film. Students had conversations about what the characters went through and what motivated them. After the movie, the students took a field trip to the Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center. The museum is dedicated to celebrating the history of Jewish life in Southern Arizona as well as sharing stories of resilience similar to the ones in the movie.

As PYEC director, Coleman readily accepted the offer to be involved.

“Learning how to acknowledge another person’s feelings, struggles and experiences without judging and holding space for one another when needed are key growth points for each of our kids,” she said.

Buttons, hearts, squares

The community activities set up before the film included button-making, decorating hearts with messages for the community, and designing quilt squares. The squares are to become part of Voices from the Border Welcome Quilts, which feature squares

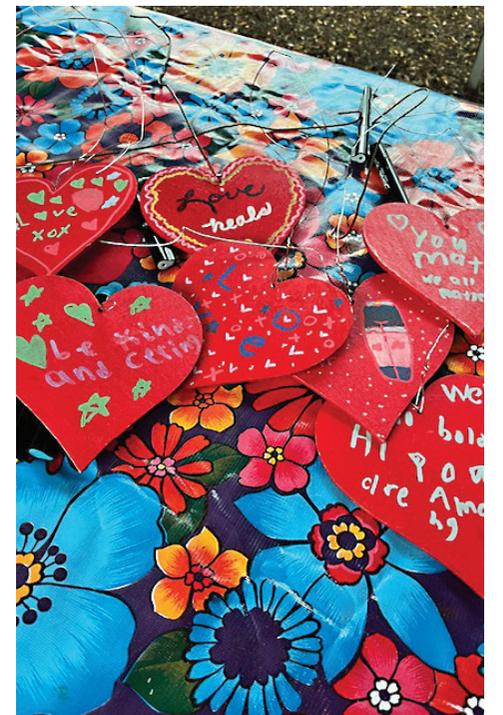


Left: Levyana Doles displays the heart she made. Right: Participants decorated hearts during a community activity.

created by schoolchildren sharing messages of hope and empathy to asylum-seeking children.

The refreshments along with the hearts were supplied by the PYEC.

“I loved watching the movie attend-



ees decorate the wooden hearts with positive messages to spread out into the community,” Coleman said. “The hearts were a project that we (PYEC)

See EMPATHY PROJECT, p. 19



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New law strips planning committee's authority

By Dave Lumia

When the Patagonia Planning and Development Committee met on Feb. 10 to discuss amendments to the subdivision chapter of the town code, committee members were startled by news that surfaced during the meeting's call to the public.

Townpeople Bob Proctor and Lonnie Goff informed the committee that, as of Jan. 1, much of its authority to review and approve development plans had been stripped away. House Bill 2447, signed into law by Gov. Katie Hobbs last March, requires municipalities to authorize administrative personnel to "review and approve site plans, development plans, land divisions, lot line adjustments, lot ties, preliminary plats, final plats and plat amendments without a public hearing." The bill also requires the adoption of objective, quantifiable review standards that are clearly defined, measurable and free from subjective judgment.

According to published reports, the motivations for the bill were to expedite and streamline the development process. But for a town as small as Patagonia, that essentially places these responsibilities in the hands of one person: Town Manager Ron Robinson.

"It's crazy," Robinson told the committee. "They're putting more work on us and not allowing the public to have a voice."

Robinson said Patagonia and other smaller municipalities have been working with lobbyists to reverse the law or provide exemptions based on population – for example, towns and cities of fewer than 50,000 residents.

Doing away with public hearings, in particular, struck a nerve among the committee.

Georgette Laurroy suggested the committee draft a resolution that "states clearly that we do not agree with this because it just doesn't work for us."

'Totally inappropriate'

Proctor told the committee he considered the new law "totally inappropriate" and unfair to the town manager.

"I think the public has a right to voice their opinion," Proctor said. "One of the things that's special about our community, we're very close, everybody knows almost everybody and we work together. I hope that we can be able to continue this in the future."

Robinson spoke with the PRT after the meeting adjourned to express his

concerns with the law.

"It just puts more work on one person," he said, adding that Planning and Development Committee members "do a lot of volunteer work on behalf of the town."

The town would still require public hearings for rezoning requests, general plan amendments and conditional use permits.

While the law doesn't necessitate disbanding the committee, Robinson said it might make sense to dissolve the six-member committee and create a community development advisory board under the authority of the town manager's office, as opposed to a subcommittee of the Town Council. That could still allow for public input without violating the public hearings prohibition.

"You know our town – everybody wants to have a voice, and it just cuts them out and makes them mute," Robinson said. "That's unfair. So, under my office, it's a totally different animal."

Committee responsibilities

Subdivision review has been within the Planning and Development Committee's purview, but such developments are rare in Patagonia, and the committee's responsibilities are diverse.

The town website states that the committee is responsible for "identifying and evaluating the unique factors influencing the character and locations of development in the town. The Committee shall give attention to both existing conditions and to potential and desirable changes."

Other responsibilities include revising the long-term town plan, zoning regulations and maps, and serving as an advisory body to the Town Council on "all planning and development matters."

Coronado Ridge

While the new law adds a layer of uncertainty regarding future development in Patagonia, uncertainly also

lingers over a subdivision that was approved by the Town Council in January 2019.

Coronado Ridge Development Corp., owned by Martin Short of Carmel, Indiana, was hit with a cease-and-desist order from the Arizona Department of Real Estate on Jan. 27, 2025, prohibiting it from selling or offering for sale any parcels within the 16-lot residential subdivision. Coronado Ridge was ordered to file a Subdivisions Disclosure Report – 25 consumer disclosures relating to improvements installed by the subdivider – and to date that has not happened.

The ADRE said the order remains in full force and effect, and it has not received an application for a disclosure report from the developer. Short did not respond to an inquiry from the PRT regarding Coronado Ridge's intentions for the property.

Construction has continued on at least two houses within the development, though they cannot be offered for sale under the current order – and it's unclear whether they could ever be sold, given the hurdles Coronado Ridge must overcome.

The area in question is on the northern end of Roadrunner Lane and east of Second Avenue. No final plat has been recorded with Santa Cruz County, which is required by the Subdivisions Disclosure Report and should have precluded the issuance of building permits. In addition, Coronado Ridge has not obtained a report from the Arizona Department of Water Resources demonstrating an adequate 100-year water supply, which is a requirement of Patagonia's Mandatory Adequacy Jurisdiction Ordinance. With no assurance of an adequate water supply, the subdivision would be illegal.

Laurie Monti, chair of the Planning and Development Committee, recommended that the town explore asking the Department of Water Resources to participate in a public forum regarding water adequacy.

Cemetery Trail gets narrated audio walking tour

By Mary Tolena

People enjoying the popular Patagonia Cemetery Trail can now listen to audio narration as they follow the trail to learn about the area's human and natural history, and the flora and fauna that live along the trail.

The "Patagonia Trail Nature Walk" audio tour can be downloaded for free from the TravelStorys app. As you walk, the app shows your location on a map and automatically plays informative segments at 10 points along the way. The trail is 1.1 miles out and back.

The story starts at the new ramada at the south end of Doc Mock Park, across from the trail entry point. Here, you will learn about the earliest inhabitants of this land – the Hohokam and Subaípurí – and the Spanish, Mexican and Anglo American people who came later.

From there, you cross the street to the entry gate to behold the giant mesquite tree that towers overhead. Well, half of it still does. Sometime during last summer's late monsoon, the tree split, and one half now lies on the ground pointing north. It is still alive, though, and continues to offer habitat and dramatic flair to the woodland scene.

As you meander farther along the

trail, you'll hear about the natural features of the trail and surrounding landscape. Eventually, you walk up the gently sloped trail to the cemetery gate, where spectacular views of the Sonoita Creek watershed and Patagonia await.

The Cemetery Trail narration was the brainchild of Kathy Pasierb, a longtime Patagonia resident and a founding board member of Friends of Sonoita Creek. Pasierb worked for many years as a naturalist in the San Francisco Bay area before coming here, and taught high school and middle school science in Santa Cruz County.

"An audio version of an interpretive nature walk had always been a vision of mine that would lead people to learn, appreciate and wonder about the natural world," Pasierb said. She first discovered the TravelStorys app through its program about Las Cienegas National Conservation Area north of Sonoita, then realized it could bring her vision to life for the Cemetery Trail.

Pasierb submitted a grant request to the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, which provided half of the money to buy the app that is used to create the audio tour as well as audio equipment. She wrote the script and recorded the audio. The project took a year and a half from conception to finish.



Photo by Mary Tolena

Longtime naturalist Kathy Pasierb had always wanted to create an audio experience that would inspire wonder about the natural world.

"It was quite a challenge because writing that script was like writing a novel. I went back a dozen times to make sure I had all the facts straight and make sure that my voice sounded good," Pasierb said. "Now that it's over, I'm so relieved ... I just love the way it turned out."

In typical Patagonia fashion, collaboration has been key to the entire Cemetery Trail story, starting with its origin in 1992, when Lucia Nash, owner of Circle Z Ranch, donated land to The Nature Conservancy to add to the Sonoita Creek Preserve. The deal included a conservation easement for the 36-acre parcel on the east side of the highway, where the Cemetery Trail now runs.

Over the years, the trail has been improved and maintained by volunteers from The Nature Conservancy, the Mountain Empire Trail Association, Borderlands Restoration Network, Friends of Sonoita Creek, The Patagonia Museum and the Dirtbaggers volunteer trail crew.

Folks from those organizations and the town of Patagonia helped with the audio tour as well.

"Collaboration was key to making this project become a reality and I am grateful to the people who helped,"

Pasierb said. She received assistance from audio technician and Friends of Sonoita Creek board member Nathan Shumway. David Christiana, the organization's treasurer, made sure the grant requirements were on track.

Help also came from The Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve manager, Aaron Mrotek, and local historian German Quiroga.

The Town of Patagonia furnished the sturdy benches placed along the route; they were installed by John Hughes and his Dirtbagger friends.

Other planned improvements included the installation of signs with QR codes linking to the TravelStorys app at the park ramada and trail entrance, and a new wheelchair-accessible gate being built by Murphy Musick.

Not planning to hit the trail soon? App users can listen to the tour, or read a transcript of the narration, from any location.

"Friends of Sonoita Creek is delighted to offer this educational and fun tour to local residents and visitors alike," Pasierb said.

"I hope that people will enjoy walking through this green space and learn about the unique features of our watershed and the natural world it supports."



The Patagonia Regional Community Fund will begin accepting scholarship applications January 1, 2026 and closes March 16, 2026.

Scholarships are available for high school seniors or adults returning to school at community colleges, four-year universities and career or technical schools. Apply by March 16.

Through one application, you will also be matched to any of the other 90 ACF scholarships for which you qualify.



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Notes From SEFD



Firefighters form union

By Eddie McArthur

Acting Capt. Tim Hart of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District, the newly elected president of the United Firefighters of Sonoita, says formation of the new chapter of the International Association of Firefighters was driven by a need for advocacy for full-time firefighters and increased unity and cohesiveness among the members.

"It's a special relationship," Hart said. "We basically both live together and work together."

Hart emphasized that unionization was not driven by conflict between the firefighters and management, citing a great relationship with SEFD Chief Marc Meredith.

Retention of firefighters has long been an issue at SEFD, as it is with other small, rural agencies. Hart said the union membership hopes to address this problem, in part by solidifying the chain of command. A problem or

complaint from a firefighter will first be brought to that firefighter's captain. If the captain is unable to resolve an issue, only then will the issue be brought to the chief. The hope is that a more formalized plan for conflict resolution will bring both clarity and cohesiveness among the firefighters.

The new union went through a rather long process to obtain its charter from the International Association of Firefighters. Participation in that larger organization gives local members access to numerous benefits that could not be obtained locally. Political advocacy supporting issues like mental health, cancer prevention and additional training are now possible. In addition to Hart as president, Local 5597 has elected Mike Terzich as vice president and still looks to fill the secretary/treasurer position.

While previous attempts to unionize failed, this one succeeded because "it was just the right time," Hart said. The

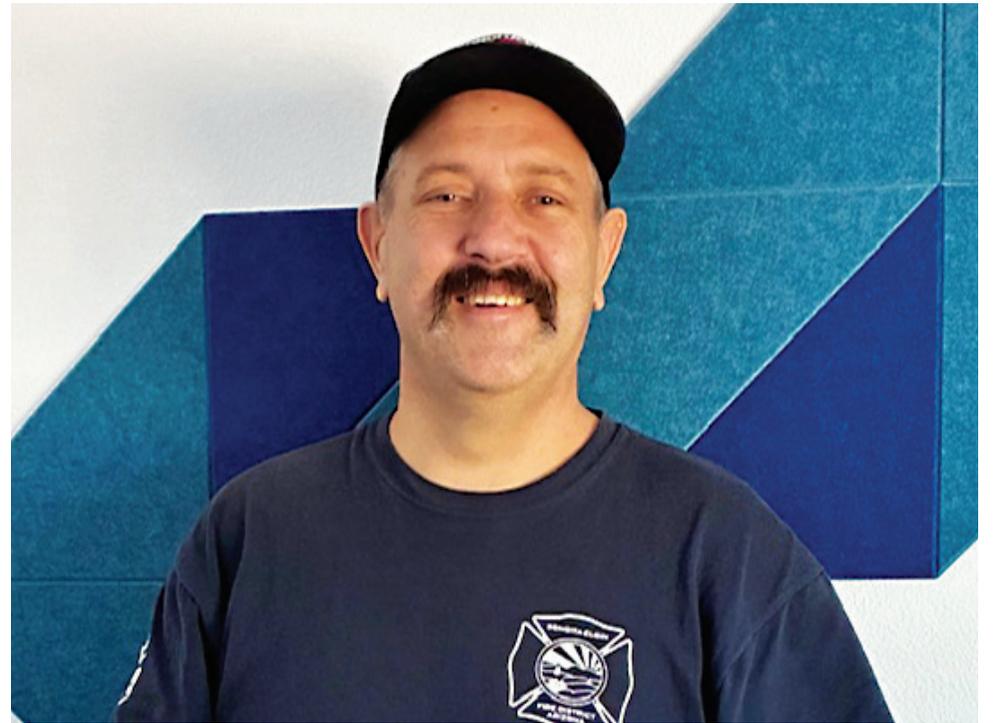


Photo by Eddie McArthur

Acting Capt. Tim Hart is the newly elected president of the United Firefighters of Sonoita.

union has 10 members. New hires will hopefully increase that number. When a new hire comes from another agency with firefighting experience, they are eligible immediately. For those new to fire service, there is a 90-day wait.

Future plans for the union include possible fundraising for improvements to the Sonoita-Elgin Fire Station and increasing pay rates, which could enable some firefighters to live in the area. At present, none of the firefighters live

in the district, mainly due to housing costs.

Along with fund raising, the group is contemplating adopting a local charity. The new Union Local 5597 creates a foundation for further development of professionalism and stability among our firefighters.

Eddie McArthur is a member of the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District Board of Directors.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Feb. 11, 2026 – Regular Meeting

- Mayor Andrea Wood reported on a very successful science fair by the elementary school students on Feb. 11.
- Zay Hartigan, chief of the Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue, reported that the department responded to 22 calls during the previous month. These included 17 medical calls, two not in Patagonia, two public assists, a landing zone event by the clinic, one smoke report and one structure fire.
- The mayor and council voted to approve the renaming of Forrest Road, whose name had mistakenly been written as Forest Road.
- In new business, the mayor and council gave approval for Antonia Garcia, with Croppers Auto of Nogales, to set

up three vehicles near the Doc Mock Park gazebo at Fourth Avenue for a Feb. 21 event. The organizers will pay the \$225 regular park use fee for the event, which will raise money for auto shop program at Patagonia Union High School.

Feb. 25, 2026 – Regular Meeting

- During the Call to the Public, Carolyn Shafer – a longtime member of the Flood and Flow Committee – noted that the Forest Service had not responded to a request made years ago for a comprehensive groundwater study to serve as a baseline understanding of local watersheds before mining at the South32 Hermosa mine begins. Shafer also mentioned that the year ending in August 2025 was

the sixth hottest on record and that long-term regional drought is continuing. She urged the town and other local government entities involved in the negotiations with South32 over the Community Benefits and Protections Agreement to be sure that strong protections for water are an integral part.

- Also during the Call to the Public, Alex Johnson asserted that, from the residents' point of view, South32 has accountability for potential water toxicity and questioned whether it skirted regulations in obtaining a permit adjustment from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. He said the company's most recent public presentations lacked specifics of water quality monitoring and the company's responses to exceedances. He recommended keeping corporate accountability on Town Council agendas.
- The mayor introduced Carmen

Fuentes, the new deputy town manager and community specialist. Fuentes described her 30 years of experience with Santa Cruz County government, including stints with planning and zoning, the county clerk's office, and Human Resources.

- Geohydrologist Chris Gardner gave an update on his recent water monitoring in Harshaw Creek. He asked the council to request increased testing of discharged water as well as dye tracer studies.
- The mayor and council approved rental of a 5-acre parcel on Harshaw Road to Destination Trail for the Arizona Monster 300 race. The parcel will be used for race headquarters and the finish line for the race, which runs from March 27 to April 3. Destination Trail will pay \$3,600.

See TOWN COUNCIL, p. 15

Sheriff's



Blotter

Mar. 1: A 911 text alert was received from Patagonia Lake reporting that an underage person had been involved in an incident of domestic violence and was bleeding from the nose.

Feb. 20: A caller from Patagonia

reported they had found their father deceased.

Feb. 16: A caller from Patagonia reported that an inmate at the county jail violated a protection order by calling the reporting party at home.

Feb. 12: A caller from Patagonia reported an incident of domestic violence with an ex, who left the residence in a truck with the caller's phone.

Feb. 11: A deputy called to request a call card in reference to a possible aggravated assault by a male subject on SR 83 in Sonoita.

Feb. 6: A deputy requested a call card for a vehicle accident with no injuries at Papago Springs Road and SR 83.

Feb. 5: A caller said a person in the

Harshaw area was having a nervous breakdown and had taken 12 Tylenols.

Feb. 4: A caller from Sonoita reported a trespassing incident on their property, which they caught on video. The caller requested a deputy.

Feb. 3: A caller from Patagonia said they were in a vehicle and encountered a male subject who seemed disoriented and was following the caller in his vehicle. The caller requested a deputy.

New musical turns classics into an original

By Mary Tolena

A new musical, “Roll On, America! Hard Travelin’ Songs of Woody Guthrie,” will make its debut at the Tin Shed Theater starting Friday, March 13.

Created by producer Terry Stanford and director Jean Ann Foley, the play features 11 actor-singers from the local area, and weaves together vignettes of Woody Guthrie’s life and songs into a narrative arc.

Stanford, who lives in Patagonia, was first inspired to bring the songs and stories of Woody Guthrie to Patagonia after a chance online exchange with an old friend. The friend, who lives in Silver City, New Mexico, had been impressed with a local production of a musical that featured Woody Guthrie songs. Stanford started imagining doing something similar in Patagonia.

“I got all excited but didn’t know anything about putting on a production,” she said. “I just thought this sounds really cool.”

Soon after, Stanford happened to sit down next to Foley at the Patagonia Lumber Co., where they had met and talked briefly just once before.

Stanford shared her idea spark, and added, “but I don’t have much of a theater background.”



Photo by Mary Tolena

The cast rehearses “Roll On, America! Hard Travelin’ Songs of Woody Guthrie.” From left: Terra Wright, Francesca Claverie, Sarah Klingenstein, Krysa Kobryner, Melanie Morrison, Tami Blakely, Laurie Monti, Benji Kryzs, Mike Hogan.

Foley thought, “Ding, ding, ding. I do!” She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in speech and drama, a Master of Fine Arts in acting and directing, plus a doctorate in educational research and curriculum design. Foley, who is building a house north of town and plans to relocate here from Flagstaff, thought, “Wow, this is a way I could contribute.”

“It was a weird synchronicity that happened around the table,” Stanford recalled. “We barely knew each other, and we both just felt an electric shock!”

For logistical reasons, they were unable to use the script for the play

that ran in Silver City. They decided to create a new show by blending songs and Guthrie quotes in a series of vignettes set in a hobo camp in the 1930s. Stanford took the lead on script research and writing.

The hobos sing and speak about the hard times of the Depression, and their experiences trying to make their way to California.

“It’s got angst and lovely, joyful times,” Foley said. “The songs carry it through. It’s sweet.”

Once they had a draft script, they ran it by Jacob Chattman, a profes-

sional actor, screenwriter and friend of Stanford’s. “He helped us polish the script, and was actually going to be Woody,” Stanford said. But he had to pass on the part because March is a busy time for auditions in Los Angeles, and he needs to be there.

Without Chattman playing the lead character, Stanford and Foley had to rethink their approach. They decided that all the hobos would take turns being the voice of Woody, wearing the Woody hobo hat to designate when they were playing him.

See ROLL ON, p. 20



Photo credit: Wendy Islas

WATER PROTECTED. MINING REGULATED.

We live in a desert, yet Arizona law gives the mining industry extraordinary exemptions that allow massive groundwater pumping with little oversight or accountability. As drought deepens, these loopholes put watersheds, rural communities, and future generations at risk.

Examples of Mining’s Water Law Loopholes in Arizona

Hardrock mining receives special treatment no other industry gets, including:

- Unlimited groundwater pumping in most of rural Arizona, with no requirement to prove long-term water sustainability.
- Minimal oversight of mine dewatering, even when it disrupts groundwater and surface water connections.
- Weak pollution safeguards that allow contaminated water to be discharged under outdated regulations.

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Why Water Is Life Matters Now

PARA has launched the Water Is Life campaign to close these loopholes and modernize Arizona’s water laws before more damage is done.



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GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

The PRT Good Neighbor Award recognizes people who voluntarily build a better community in Canelo, Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia. We asked our readers to nominate someone they knew who was a "good neighbor." Thank you for sending in your nominations for the 2025 Good Neighbor Awards. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Cassie Baker

By Pat McNamara

Kathryn Leas' letter to the PRT nominating her neighbor Cassandra "Cassie" Baker for our annual Good Neighbor Award was one of the most persuasive we have ever received.

"Cassie and her husband Spike welcome others into their home," Leas, of Sonoita, wrote, "hosting dinners, helping people move, and assisting with maintenance projects. At a moment's notice, Cassie will help watch other local children. She volunteers at 4H events, and helps locals sign their kids up for 4H. She is a go-to when it comes to local people having minor issues with their animal wellness – many go to her for tips and guidance on farm animals. And Cassie has a Facebook blog, 'Baker's Dozen Acres,' where this past holiday season, she encouraged other farm owners to post their Amazon wishlists so that others could gift them with various items they may need and be unable to obtain themselves."

The Bakers moved to Sonoita from Florida five years ago to be near Cassie's father. Born in Tucson, and remembering the summers there, Cassie was a bit hesitant to return to Arizona. But her father convinced her to try it here in the Sky Islands. Settling on 12 acres with their Dorper sheep, goats, chickens and a pig or two, the Baker family found contentment on their homestead. "It's beautiful here!" Cassie says. She's glad they made the move.

And so is the community, which has benefited from Cassie's time, expertise and countless acts of kindness.

Mother of five children ages 10 and under, Cassie is also caretaker of the family's menagerie of farm animals, while running a business looking after Airbnbs with husband Spike, who's a local handyman and kids soccer coach. Cassie homeschools the family's three school-age children, Hayden, Sophia and Roan. (Two-year-old Amelia and 5-month-old Gavin are too young to start their academic endeavors.) "I



Cassie Baker

love teaching!" Cassie says, having been introduced to it in Florida during the COVID epidemic. Her hobbies, Cassie says, "include things we do because we have a farm: cheesemaking, baking, canning and so on."

And then there's crochet. The Facebook blog. And raising butterflies with the kids every year, attracting them with the native milkweed plants purchased from the Borderlands nursery in Patagonia.

"You would think Cassie and Spike have their hands full as is," neighbor Leas wrote in her nominating letter to the PRT, "but no, they are always willing to assist whenever someone else needs a hand. I have firsthand experienced all of these acts of kindness personally."

How does Cassie find the time and energy to be so giving? The answer is simple.

"When we had a barn fire shortly after moving here, the community rallied to help us get back on our feet," Cassie says. "And just before Amelia was born, we were given a ton of baby item donations.

"I help where I can."

Patra Kelly

By Clare Bonelli

Patra Kelly coordinates all the drivers for the Patagonia Senior Center's completely volunteer-run transportation service for eastern Santa Cruz County. Sometimes she's digging to find drivers, sometimes she's dealing with people who do not get that if there are no drivers available, there is nothing she can do about it.

She goes on the trips to Nogales to pick up food for the center and spends much of her time at the center, just keeping things going.

Patra just helps people.

One time, a regular lunch patron signed up for cell service with a company that claimed to, but didn't, have service in Patagonia. Patra spent hours on the phone getting that straightened out for him.

"Patra is an unsung heroine who goes about her work without seeking any attention and without any pay," said Maggie Devries, one of four people who nominated Patra for the Good Neighbor Award. "Through her daily presence in the Patagonia Senior Center, I have seen her help multiple people who have had sudden/acute changes in their health, such as a stroke, and those with chronic conditions, such as cancer. She finds out what is needed and then helps them get what they need. In addition, she manages the Senior Center ride program, so seniors can get to their medical appointments. In some cases, without Patra, they would not be able to access medical care."

Patra, Devries added, also shops for people who can't get to the grocery store themselves.

"I hope Patra can be recognized for all that she does for our community," she said.

Patra's husband, Chuck, offered more reasons that Patra deserves recognition.

"Patra is a gifted poet. She never says a word against anyone. She always has a cheerful disposition. She enjoys meeting and helping people. She loves Patagonia and the people who live here. She has never been singled out for praise," he said.

Some interesting facts about Patra:

- She grew up on a cattle ranch in Idaho.
- After college, she went to Bogota, Colombia, to teach at a school alongside Franciscan nuns. That's how she met Chuck. The two were married by a Lakota Sioux medicine man during a



Patra Kelly

Sundance ceremony.

- While living in New Jersey, Patra and Chuck taught in a parent-run cooperative school and lived with their daughter, Michele, a few blocks away in a mansion that they turned into an intentional community.

- After Patra and Chuck moved to Oregon, she delivered mail and taught dance to children, performing stories told through movement and dance.

- Patra and Chuck moved to Patagonia in 2005. Patra became a writer for the Patagonia Regional Times, at first simply helping then-editor Donna Reibslager answer emails.

- Patra enjoys writing poetry and has developed an interest in quantum physics, which she says "reminds us that nothing is separate. I am fascinated that elementary particles do not exist by themselves alone but by interconnecting with all things. As in the microcosm, so in the macrocosm, all beings are entangled. No being can exist alone, and separateness is an illusion. I find this consoling as I age."

"I wholeheartedly concur with the nomination of Patra Kelly for the GNA!" Leslie Breuninger wrote in her nomination. "I've known Patra for around 50 years and can attest to what an asset she is. Her quiet resilience, willingness to become involved, and commitment to her community is a natural part of who she is on the planet. Often her poetry or essays reflect that community. She is a deep thinker, has a wonderful sense of humor and is a great dancer. Who could better reflect Patagonia?"

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Man in a van



By Cassina Farley

Years ago in Patagonia, there was a man who had a business on that now abandoned lot at the far west end of town that happened to be right next door to my great-grandmother's house. The business was called Ben's Bargain Yard. It was a collection of junk covered in rust. You might have found a car part or an office chair if you looked close

enough.

The piles of junk were stacked in rows to create trails that all led to a trailer that Ben lived in. Up against the trailer were giant barrels filled with water dogs or salamanders, and he was always more than happy to let curious little girls take a look. This of course was a huge no-no and we were cautioned very loudly to stay away from there. We didn't see anything wrong with hanging out with a creepy old man in a junkyard.

Now I know that his barrels of water dogs were the equivalent to puppies in a van. But back then we saw no danger. Whether or not Ben was a bad guy is unknown, but I can guarantee that the whole town kept an eye on him because selling junk and advertising free water dogs could only mean one thing, right?

Prior to Ben and his junkyard, a man sometime in the early '80s had the audacity to drive into town in a van.

He didn't approach anyone that I know of. He didn't rob the market or drive drunk. He simply drove into town and parked. It wasn't too long before the marshal made contact with the man and escorted him out of town. His only crime was being a man in a van.

There are other stories of people being escorted out of town to the county line in Patagonia history. Times have changed and the number of strangers visiting and moving to town are so numerous that the "old watch" can no longer keep track. As a reaction to this, kids have disappeared from the streets, mostly due to hypervigilant parents.

It has only been recently that we have seen a shift in kids roaming like they used to.

We can't escort all the strangers out of town (or can we?) but we can keep our eyes out for the kids here in Patagonia and beyond. They deserve a childhood filled with bike riding and fort building.

My grandma would make us a lunch and push us out the door so that she could clean the house in peace and watch "Days of Our Lives" uninterrupted. We often found ourselves eating cheese sandwiches in a shady part of the creek plotting our next move. My grandma knew we were safe thanks to the watchful eye of the community.

We need a nation of people who keep an eye out for the children whether they are ours or not. This includes those who have grown up and been forgotten. We can't let those in charge turn their backs to them.

"The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality."

— James Baldwin

Cassina Farley can be contacted at cassinaandzachfarley@msn.com.

The aging writer

By Marshall Beaty

As we age, we tend to reminisce more about close friends from the past who no longer share our lives – especially those from high school. The reason I chose the high school years is that they mark the first departure from the intimate closeness of friends. Sometimes the separation is temporary, but often it is permanent. You may never see them again, and sometimes you hear of their death as the final departure. As a writer, I often seek out those memories for comfort, which brings a story to life more vividly in the present.

That ache I describe is both profoundly personal and universally human. The philosophy of aging often collides with the quiet grief of social drift – the way time reshapes relationships, leaving us with only echoes of the people who once defined our youth. Aging is not merely the accumulation of years. It is the slow erosion of what life once was. The present becomes a sanctuary, a place where the people we once loved still laugh, still linger, and remain connected to us.

The truth is that many friends from high school through early adulthood vanish – not always by death, but by disinterest or necessity. Life pulls us in different directions, and the shared language of youth becomes foreign. You reach out, hoping for a hello, but meet silence. It is not rejection – it is absence. And the void created by absence leaves no room for forgiveness or

a second chance.

As a writer, this absence becomes material I use to revisit the past for comfort and companionship. A story needs imagination: the ache of a missed connection, the warmth of a remembered laugh, the sting of a letter never sent or received, a portrait of the first love who never returned, a remembered scent that resurrects past dreams of a place and time. The characters I create are often composites of those who left without saying goodbye. In writing about them, I give them – and myself – a second chance to relive the past. Aging teaches that not all friendships are meant to last, but all friendships are meant to shape us. Even those who disappeared left a memory etched in the heart. Writing brings them back, through imagination.

To wait for fragments of a former life to return is vanity. Yet as a writer, I have come to know the actual value of words – their power to satisfy in the moment. That is the haunting truth. What I strive to express in my writing is the yearning to reclaim lost dreams, knowing full well that the act is both impossible and profoundly spiritual. There is a peculiar vanity in hoping, yet it is not foolishness to hope. It is the secret rhythm of a writer's imagination.

I do not chase reality; I re-create it. I bend the past into a story, not wishing it to return. The satisfaction is not in the outcome, but in the moment the word lands – just right – on the page. By the stroke of ink, it becomes resur-

rection and release. To others, it may seem tedious and a waste of time. But to me, as a writer, it is a pleasure. There comes a time in every writer's life when the past whispers louder than the present – not in words, but absences. The friends who once filled my youth with laughter and reckless dreams now pass silently into the margins of my aging memory. They cannot say hello, call or write. You reach for them – not out of desperation, but from a longing to connect. You hope, just for an instant, to capture a piece of the life once shared. But that hope for the aging writer is vanity. Not the vanity of admiration, but the vanity of resurrection. Only I, as a writer, understand its worth. I do not chase reality; I re-create it in words from memory. I place words in a story not for applause, but for self-satisfaction – for the moment when ink and

words become connected to what was lost. The characters I resurrect are not inventions; they are echoes of the friends and family members who have vanished. They live on in memory.

Aging is not a curse, only an open window to the past. It shapes my vision, letting me see beauty in the present and poetry in silence – even regret. And so I write – to be read, to remember, and to be remembered. In the end, aging shapes your perspective, regret becomes poetry, silence becomes a story, and romance lives not in what was, but in what could have been. I do not wish the past to return; I only capture the past in words.

I stroke words onto the page not for applause, but to satisfy – it is the haunting work of recapturing old memories, my constant companions, as I continue to age as a writer.

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Botz tunes up, turns on the school music program

By Sondra Porter

With the new Patagonia music teacher, Nick Botz, taking over the program in January, changes in the form of new philosophies along with reintroduction of some old opportunities are in the works. Just into his first semester of teaching, Botz is already looking forward to building a sequence for students and showcasing what has been happening in his music classroom.

Botz brings a particularly apt background to his new job as a K-12 music teacher. Not only will he receive a Bachelor of Music in music learning this spring from Arizona State University, but he also attended and graduated from Patagonia schools.

Based on his early assessment of students in the program Botz says “everybody was completely at the ground level in terms of music fundamentals, so that is where we are starting.”

And he already sees that foundation forming as he works with students.

Botz uses a student-centered approach that is all about waking up the music in students. “We wake up their singing voices,” he said. “We wake up their attention to beat and rhythm things, just by playing a bunch of games and using interactive activities.”

The teaching philosophy Botz is bringing to students is known as the Kodály Method, which originated in Hungary.

“This is a music education philosophy that says children learn music first with their voices, and with instruments second,” he explained. “They learn music through play. So, with the younger children, it's almost entirely singing based. I still like introducing instruments around third to fifth grade.”

Botz possesses extensive musical experience and a love of a variety of instruments. Playing stringed instruments is one of his talents. He plays and has taught violin.

“I am majoring in classical guitar. I play piano. I played in steel bands in college. I have been in vocal choirs and a mariachi group, where I played accordion, so I know things with strings, keys, or percussion,” he said. “I can

kind of pick up wind instruments, brass and woodwinds. But they are just a different animal.”

When Botz attended Patagonia schools, much more was going on in the program. The bad news is that the program has lost many of its activities, while the good news is that all the instruments – ukuleles, steel drums, band instruments – are still in the classrooms, just waiting to be awakened.

He is enthusiastic about the possibilities.

“That's kind of the strategy going forward. Once we have the fundamentals this spring, I'd like to keep using string instruments to reinforce fundamentals in the fall semester, and bring steel pans in during the spring semester,” he said, recalling an event called the Field of Steel that Patagonia High School students used to attend.

“All the schools in Southern Arizona learn the same music. They all come together, and it's like this huge orchestra of percussion instruments,” said Botz, who has been in contact with the organizer. “It's an amazing experience, so that's why spring is my target for steel band.”

Botz also has visions of allowing kids to use their own creativity for forming vocal groups, jazz bands or rock bands. He would like to see more connections with all the music expertise that is in our community.

Botz views returning to his old high school as an opportunity to give back to the community. “I still know all the teachers here,” he noted. “The best thing about coming back is coming back to the community where I saw a certain need, and now I have studied enough to start working on fulfilling that need.”

In addition to being a good opportunity, Botz feels this is a good position for him. He likes the advantages of teaching in a place that is not already programmed the way most larger music programs are.

“As a high school student, I thought we had a program at this specific school that offered a lot of agency and independence,” he explained. “Just



Photo by Sondra Porter

Nick Botz, a graduate of Patagonia schools, follows a teaching philosophy in which students “learn music through play.”

imagine going to a band program at a huge school that goes to a festival every year. There's not a lot of agency because everything you do is kind of part of a routine,” he said. “But I recognized as a student here that the music program was kind of unique, because a very small group means that you get to rotate through a lot of different areas of knowledge and refine your learning to whatever your interests are. I thought that was cool.”

When he got to college, he felt music education was not focused on small schools. He believed and accepted that the university was preparing him for a different experience.

Then Patagonia Public Schools Superintendent Kenny Hayes called Botz asking if, since he had graduated from PHS, he would consider a job in Patagonia.

“I had to tell him, ‘No, I haven't graduated. But I do need to fulfill student teaching hours,’” he recalled. “And so that's how I got set up here this semester. This is my student teaching, and then I'll get my certificate at the end of the semester.”

With Hayes as his mentor, Boltz meets with ASU music education faculty members online, along with other students in the program.

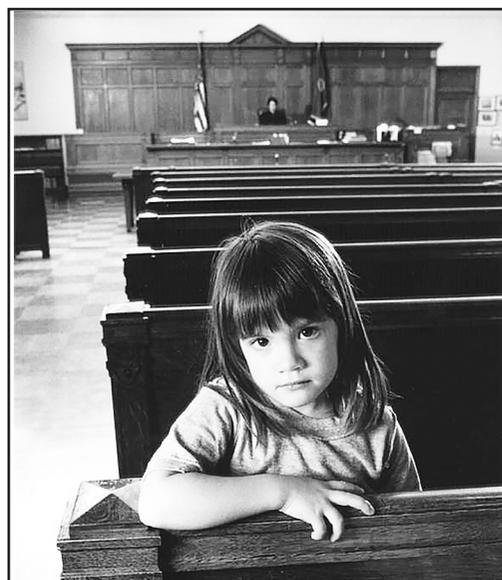
“Those are my opportunities to chat with people from the music education world, and then I have all my mentors here from elementary education and Mr. Hayes.”

Hayes is pleased Botz returned as a music teacher.

“We are excited to have Mr. Botz join our staff at the school. He was an exceptionally talented student and musician here in Patagonia. We believe he is a great addition to the Lobo family and our arts program,” Hayes said, adding that “it's fun and ages me horribly to have another former student return as a colleague.”

The school's first music concert under Botz's direction will be May 6. He knows that his first concert may be a bit low key, given their starting point, but he is not worried about what they will produce.

“It is going to be an achievement just having a concert,” he said.



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Great Trees of Eastern Santa Cruz County

The western sycamore on the way to Gardner Canyon

By Kat Cudney

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree

In my early childhood, I chose to recite the poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer for a school talent show. All these years later, it occurs to me that I have had a favorite tree in nearly every town I've lived in. It's not that I look for a favorite – it starts out as a subtle introduction between the tree and me, an almost incidental curiosity, that gradually develops into a beckoning and a relationship of sorts, if one can indeed have a relationship with a tree.

I was 5 or so when I fell in love with a massive eastern sycamore in New Jersey. I think at the time it represented stability, strength and peace in my otherwise chaotic life. I would sit under it and watch the birds, the squirrels, and the leaves twirling to the ground in the fall. Then, there were delicate but not fragile weeping willows, massive 200-year-old white oaks, a particularly intimidating honey locust with its 8-inch thorns, and my first and only sassafras tree when we lived in Tennessee.

And out here in Arizona, it's a western sycamore in a small pull-off on the way up to Gardner Canyon in Sonoita that claims most favored status. It has a welcoming presence that somehow offers serenity, a reprieve from what feels like a growing turbulence around us.

Since I'm a nature artist and avid birder, I probably first noticed this tree because of the intriguing color variations of its trunk. My first memory of the tree was when I was headed up Gardner Canyon in 2016 to try to find a red-headed woodpecker, which is rare for these parts. Since then, I'll always pull in to have a look at it to see if it's



Photo by Kat Cudney

This western sycamore in Sonoita won the heart of Kat Cudney, a nature artist and avid birder.

hosting any birds before heading further up the canyon. Over the years, I've seen various birds in that mini-grove but probably only photographed the sycamore once or twice. I believe I took this photo in 2023, when I was watching a juvenile pair of Harris's hawks, a somewhat unexpected species for those parts.

Trees can be grounding and healing. Call me crazy but that's why I love them. It feels almost poetic that my connection to trees has come full circle back to a sycamore – this time a western sycamore. I, too, think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.

DO YOU KNOW A GREAT TREE?

Submit photos (or artwork!) and a description of your favorite tree to prtadast@gmail.com. It can be any tree on public or private property in Eastern Santa Cruz County. (You don't have to disclose the tree's exact location unless you want to.) Tell us what makes the tree great: maybe it's the tree's size, shape or age; or its leaf color; or the animals and insects who inhabit it; or the special events or family traditions associated with it; or perhaps something more personal. Whatever it is, share it with us. Let's celebrate our area's natural splendor and heritage!

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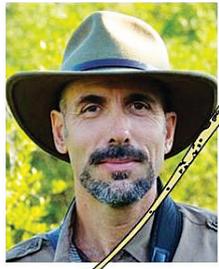
Protecting water quality means constantly looking for better ways to do things. At Hermosa, we use innovation and technology to mitigate any potential risks toward the environment. We're building something new here, for the community we live and work in."

- Betty, Environmental Compliance Manager



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Build your own national park, part II

By Vince Pinto

This is the second installment in a series. The first article appeared in the February issue of the PRT.

Being an Earth steward to our two diverse Sky Islands Nature Sanctuaries has been the most rewarding experience of my life.

Starting in 1993 at the 50-acre Raven's Mountain Nature Sanctuary – located in the eastern foothills of the towering Chiricahua Mountains – I embarked upon a path of healing the land to the benefit of native species. The lessons learned there served me well upon acquiring the 42 acres of Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary near Patagonia Lake State Park and the rugged landscape of the 9,500-acre Sonoita Creek State Natural Area. Decades of daily hands-on and intimate interactions with the land have taught me valuable, practical and transformative ecological restoration lessons, as I have endeavored to protect our world-class Sky Islands biodiversity for future generations. Now more than ever, resilient habitats on private property of all sizes are vital links in the chain of local wild lands – key pillars of our biodiversity.

Our guiding vision has been to create a resilient nature sanctuary with self-sustaining habitats – a key puzzle piece in the mosaic of ecosystems that together comprise the Sky Islands region. Improving the overall ecological health of the area for generations to come has been our maxim, a goal bolstered by the strategic location of Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary in the heart of the Sky Islands. We strive to serve as a template of ecological restoration practices aimed at protecting, enhancing and artfully managing our diverse habitats.

Upon our arrival, the 42 acres initially bore the unequivocal damage of previous livestock grazing despite having been fenced since the year 2000. Degraded habitats called for our urgent ecological restoration work, addressing years of previous mismanagement. After initially assessing the health of each habitat – mesquite/acacia woodlands, grasslands, canyons, ocotillo forests,

and arroyos included – my initial ecological assessment resulted in management strategies to promote optimal levels of biodiversity among various taxa. In short, we wanted the preserve to flourish with as many bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, invertebrate, plant and fungi species as it could support!

Since habitat loss is a leading cause of species extinction, we committed to strategically planting native species, clustering them in “habitat islands,” which minimizes water usage, while removing all non-native ones. Our long list of restored native species includes: netleaf hackberry, velvet ash, Arizona cypress, scrub oak, alligator juniper, Arizona rosewood, western soapberry, ocotillo, evergreen sumac, wild cotton, desert honeysuckle, various succulents, and many others that collectively provide food, cover and nesting sites to a broad spectrum of wildlife.

Additionally, we sustainably manage the land's natural resources via our ongoing reuse of logs, dead tree branches, and dry brush. We repurpose them as mulch in our restored habitats and create water-retaining berms in our habitat islands that conserve water and minimize soil erosion. We employ our in-ground compost pile – filled with food scraps and select dead plant parts – to improve soil health, providing nutrients to all of our plantings. Using a “nature first” mentality, which drives our every action, we always choose a low-tech approach to ecological restoration, avoiding bulldozers and other heavy machinery in favor of hand tools and a good workout.

One of the foundations of ecological management for optimum biodiversity is watershed restoration. No matter your location, your land is part of a broader watershed that along with others collectively drains our region. One key principle in our watershed restoration at Raven's Nest has been to install gray water systems, redirecting and recycling the water from showers and sinks into an effective, passive irrigation system that benefits neighboring native vegetation.

On a larger scale, both passive and active rainwater harvesting and con-



Photo by Vince Pinto

Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary, looking toward the Patagonia Mountains.

servation techniques, carefully built throughout our preserve, will continue to greatly benefit a broad spectrum of native plants and wildlife far into the future. The seminal passive rainwater harvesting principle of “planting” otherwise runoff water into the ground via earthen berms, swales, check dams and habitat islands deeply soaks the ground at Raven's Nest after every rain or rare snow event. The resulting flourish of vegetation serves as a foundation for our diverse wildlife populations.

Actively collected rainwater also supports our organic orchards, edible gardens, and five thriving wildlife ponds that we created. A 20,000-gallon rainwater harvesting system on the lower part of the preserve – positioned near our Sky Islands Discovery Center – collects rain from the building's 2,000-square-foot metal roof, eventually cycling it back to support our ecological restoration efforts.

Overall, the efficient use and reuse of water throughout Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary has led to a breathtaking ecological transformation since our arrival in 2008. Harvested rainwater keeps our restored wildlife habitat thriving while filling our wildlife ponds. The ponds in turn allow terrestrial species to drink and bathe, while aquatic species use them as breed habitat. Collected rainwater has successfully rehabbed a formerly catastrophic, razed area, restoring a part of the land that had been used as a vehicle turnaround prior to our arrival.

Throughout the years, our dedicated efforts have created a firewise landscape. By systematically removing dead branches on many of the hundreds of trees in our woodlands, we have minimized wildfire threats – management actions that will bear benefits for decades. Supporting our fire prevention strategies, we have artfully carved a 6-mile nature trail system, affording access to every habitat in the preserve and aiding our ecological monitoring efforts. Bottom line? The more time you spend outside in your landscape, the more educated your management

decisions become.

Our overall ecological restoration efforts at Raven's Nest have revegetated disturbed areas, bolstered native plant populations, improved various wildlife habitat, helped to recharge the aquifer, supported and built up pollinator populations, and created diverse floral, faunal and fungal communities for generations to come. You can do the same. All it takes is a deep desire to help the Earth and a commitment over time.

One of the many rewards of building your own national park includes keeping species lists – a key management tool to help you monitor wildlife populations. Thus far at Raven's Nest Nature Sanctuary, we have recorded 170 bird species, 36 mammals, 26 reptiles, six amphibians, 57 butterfly species, and 20 damselfly and dragonfly species. Memorable biodiversity rewards for ecological restoration efforts have included: ornate box turtles, Gila monsters, mountain lions, common gray foxes, bobcats, white-tailed and mule deer, collared peccaries, gray hawks, Mexican ducks, regal horned lizards, elf butterflies, Sonoran desert toads and golden eagles searching for prey.

Every national park obviously has rules, so you should also know what NOT to do. Do NOT let your pets run roughshod over your habitat or chase/kill wildlife. Do NOT let livestock, especially cattle or horses, destroy your habitat. Do NOT feed wildlife, including birds, as the practice spreads diseases. Instead, let your native plants feed various species in accordance with their co-evolution.

Thank you for supporting our biodiversity at a time when habitat destruction is rampant.

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

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Old Baldy Trail

By Wayne Tomasi

The Old Baldy Trail received its name from its proximity to Old Baldy, which was the original name for Mount Wrightson. Because of its proximity to Tucson, the Old Baldy Trail is a popular hiking trail. It's also the shortest route to the summit of Mount Wrightson.

The trail is 4.2 miles long with an elevation gain of approximately 4,000 feet. The trail begins up an old wagon road on the southeast side of the Roundup Parking Area at the end of the Madera Canyon Road. The trail is interesting as well as very useful because it provides access to a multitude of appealing destinations, such as Baldy Saddle, Mount Wrightson, Josephine Saddle and the Santa Rita Crest. It also can be used to access the Crest, Agua Caliente, Vault Mine, Carrie Nation, Josephine Canyon, Super and Temporal Gulch Trails to complete loop hikes.

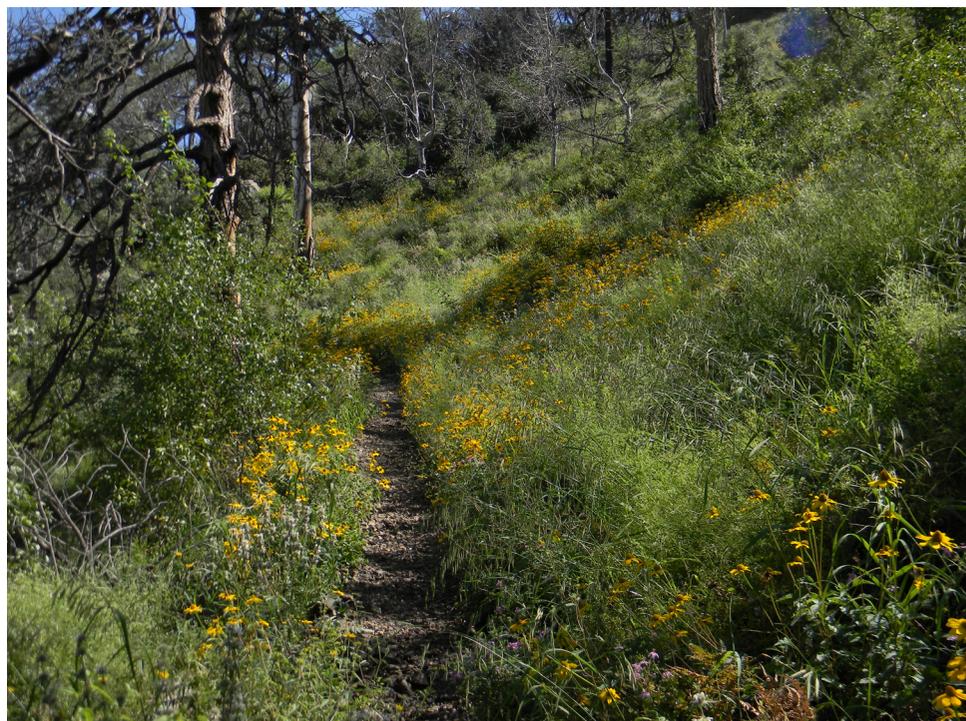
The trail begins somewhat uneventfully for the first three-tenths of a mile and then veers sharply left and heads east up a mild grade. After passing a wilderness boundary sign, the trail continues into the long southeast arm of Madera Canyon. You hike approximately a mile up the trail before you come to the first real switchback. The lower section of the trail is never extremely steep; however, it climbs steadily over its entire length and seems to be almost continuously contouring around small drainages and recesses. As the trail approaches Josephine Saddle, the switchbacks become shorter, more abundant and steeper. Josephine Saddle is a convenient stopover for weary hikers needing to catch their breath and eat a snack. The saddle is also a logical place for less adventurous hikers

to turn around and head back to their vehicle.

The Old Baldy Trail leaves Josephine Saddle on the same path as the Super Trail. The trail beyond the saddle shows abundant evidence of heavy use and is basically a shallow trough for a substantial distance. The trail plods up a steady grade for two-tenths of a mile to an elevation of approximately 7,200 feet, when you come to a signed fork in the trail where the Super and Old Baldy trails split. There is no sign identifying which trail is in which direction (the Old Baldy Trail continues straight ahead while the Super Trail veers to the right).

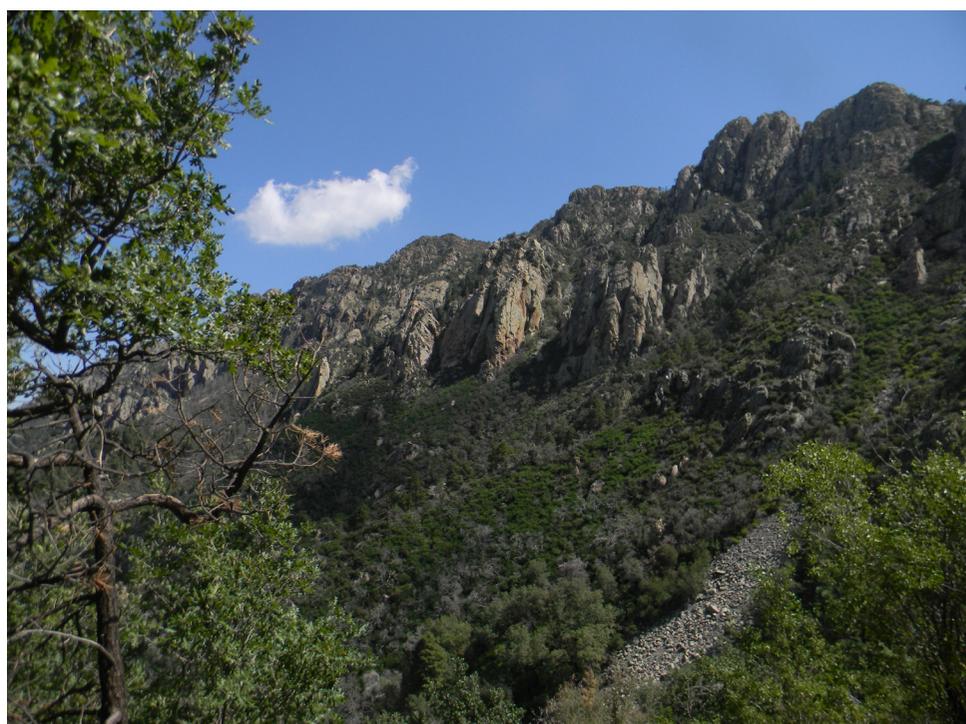
For the next 0.4 miles, the trail continues on a well-groomed path up a gentle slope, passing through a pleasantly shaded forest to a large clearing on a point. From the clearing, the trail continues through a densely wooded area that I found surprisingly overgrown with grass, especially considering how much traffic the trail has. The narrow footpath continues up a grassy southern exposure on a series of short, steep switchbacks to a second point, where the trail levels off below Bellows Spring.

Look for a sign at the spring next to a small, half-filled stone and mortar basin. There is a pipe sticking out of the brush and suspended over the basin with barely a trickle of water dripping from it. If you are a curious person, follow the pipe through the bushes a few feet to where another pipe comes down from above. I hesitate to call Bellows Spring a spring because there is a strong flow of water falling over a 15-foot-high precipice about 75 feet above the trail. I would call the source a creek. Just below the falls, an



Photos by WayneTomasi

Trail above Josephine Saddle.



Upper section of the Old Baldy Trail below Baldy Saddle.

open-ended pipe protrudes out of the rocks with a substantial flow of water filling a natural rock basin directly beneath it. Another pipe transports the water from the rock basin through two meticulously placed pipes to the cement basin. A rather ingenious arrangement.

The half mile of steep zig-zagging trail between Bellows Spring and Baldy Saddle is covered with a maze of New Mexico locust, a small tree with pink flowers. Other than passing several interesting rock outcrops covered with lichen and one fairly large boulder field, the remainder of the trail to Baldy Saddle closely resembles a dilapidated stone staircase. The path is barely wide enough to walk over without rubbing against thick brush growing along both sides of the trail. The switchbacks become shorter, steeper, and more numerous the closer you get to Baldy Saddle. Someone told me there were over 30 switchbacks.

The Old Baldy Trail officially ends at a junction with the Crest and Super trails on Baldy Saddle, which is the highest saddle in the Santa Rita Moun-

tains. Baldy Saddle is a fine place to stop, rest, catch your breath, snack and enjoy the spectacular views to the east and west. From the saddle, you have several choices: hike north on the Crest Trail to Florida Saddle, south to the summit of Mount Wrightson, east down the Super Trail, or turn around and hike back the way you came up.

Before I hiked up the Old Baldy Trail, I accessed the saddle from several of the trails on the east side of the range. On several occasions, I looked down at the Old Baldy Trail and suspected it was a difficult walk through a gnarly maze and my suspicions were correct. In my opinion, the Old Baldy Trail is the most difficult route to Baldy Saddle. The only advantage it has is its length – it is the shortest route to the saddle.

Wayne Tomasi is the author of "Exploring the Santa Rita Mountains," which includes extensive descriptions of virtually all of the trails on the east side of the Santa Rita Mountains, as well as lesser-known remote routes. The book is available at the Patagonia Library or it can be purchased from the author.

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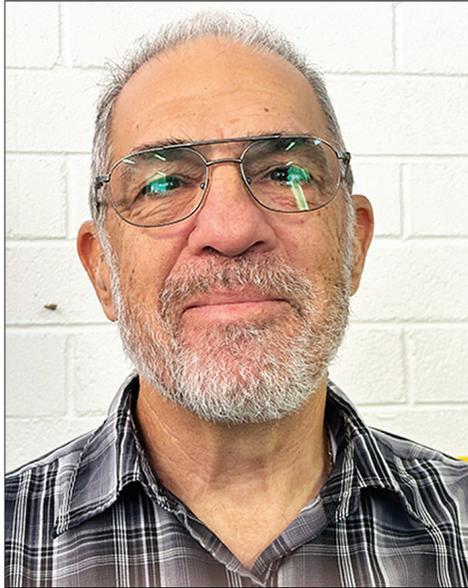
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STARSTRUCK

The telescopes searching for life beyond Earth



By Harold Meckler

Somewhere, on a perhaps still undiscovered planet, life exists. I'm sure of it. I hope there will soon be confirmation. I hope it's intelligent life, but I'll settle for the most simple forms, for plants, for flowers, for anything that has a cyclic existence.

Let me tell you why. It has nothing to do with any religious beliefs or a quest for scientific knowledge, and it's not because some may want to somehow rush to that planet if ours becomes inhospitable. It's beyond all of that.

My father loved the opera. He couldn't always grasp the lyrics, but he knew the plots and the themes and he understood the characters. The operatic world was far removed from his own, but it helped him appreciate the contours of each of his days. What he heard and saw on those stages – and later listened to on tapes and CDs –

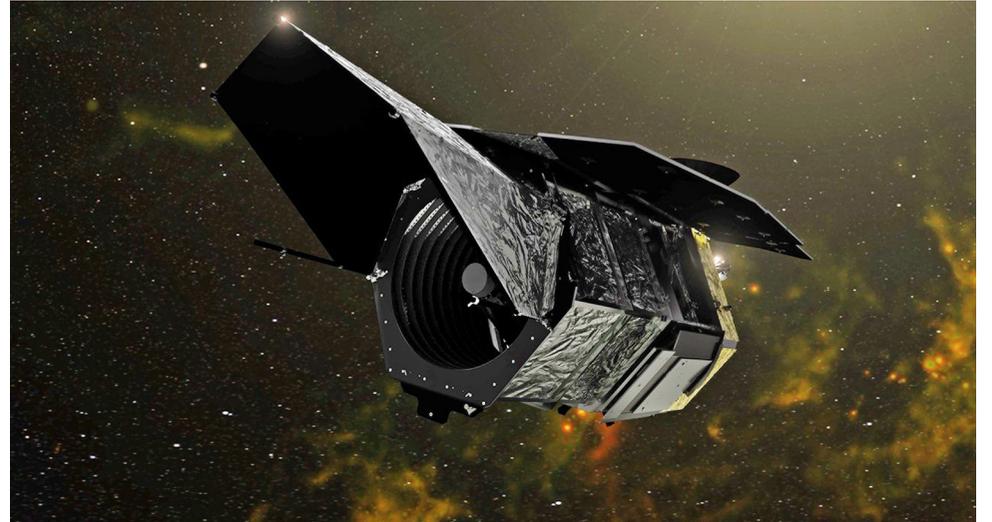
was possibility. Possibility is the wonder and the awe one experiences upon accepting the notion that horizons, even if drawn to keep us at bay, also serve as a challenge to propel us forward.

Finding life elsewhere won't just mean we're not alone. It won't just mean that we may have to rethink entrenched ideas. It will, instead, tell us that whatever limitations we have encountered, whether forced upon us or much too willingly accepted, can be defeated. And, in that moment of discovery, we'll know that all of the external or self-imposed machinations that have been used to keep us afraid, to keep us apart, and to keep us from seeing the inherent connections between every living thing on Earth no longer hold sway.

Indeed, when the announcement is finally made, possibility will take precedence over everything.

The Hubble, James Webb and Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, telescopes are space-based observatories that are bringing the moment of discovery, of possibility, closer. Next year, the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope will join them. It will be able to block starlight, making it easier to directly observe planets outside of our solar system, known as exoplanets, and will be able to quickly survey immense swaths of space that can lead to the detection of countless new worlds that might support life.

The Extremely Large Telescope, currently under construction in Chile, is expected to be fully operational in 2030. It will study the biosignatures of



NASA

The Nancy Grace Roman Telescope is about the size of a school bus.

exoplanets, determining which have oxygen and other gases that form the building blocks of life as we know it. When completed, its primary mirror will be nearly 130 feet in diameter.

Meanwhile, TESS has already identified some 20,000 objects as possible exoplanets. That information enables the Webb to provide further analysis, potentially adding to a growing list of alien worlds.

Looking even further ahead, the expected launch around 2040 of the Habitable Worlds Observatory, or HWO, promises advanced technology with ever greater analytical ability than any of the telescopes that have come before it. In a universe of billions of galaxies, some of which contain hundreds of billions of stars, the HWO is either going to confirm what the Webb or the ELT have found, or it will be the first to definitively announce that life may be

even more abundant than we could have imagined.

Oh, we will most definitely learn that life exists elsewhere. But we don't have to wait until then to begin to redefine horizons, to begin to focus not on what separates us, but rather on everything that binds us together. We can begin to fully accept that and recognize the value of everyone and everything. We don't have to wait to make possibility our watchword. We can begin to live as if we've already found life on some unimaginably distant piece of rock orbiting a star not unlike our own.

I'm hoping, and choose to believe, that extraterrestrial life will help us take a new look at our own. For all of the magic that exists in the people and places that make up our home, we can do so much more to bring that magic closer, to make it the source of what will enable us to zoom past all limitations.

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TOWN COUNCIL (Cont.)

- The mayor and council approved a liquor license requested by the Patagonia Community Garden for an Earth Day fundraiser for general garden support and for its scholarship fund. The event will be held at the garden, at Smelter Avenue and Fourth Avenue, on April 22.
- German Quiroga, president of the Patagonia Museum board of trustees, spoke about an upcoming visit by the "Road to 250: Arizona Traveling Museum," which commemorates Arizona's history since the United States was founded. The mobile museum will visit Patagonia on March 7.
- The mayor and council adopted Town Ordinance No. 26-02, which amends Administration Section 3-3-1, regarding procurement procedures, and Section 3-2-3, regarding special appointments of attorneys to represent the town in specific cases or issues.
- Council Member Francesca Claverie announced that there would be a benefit at the Patagonia Lumber Co. on March 1 for Keith Spooner's bird-inspired sculpture in the Town Park.

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Glimpses Into Our Past

Southern California – Arizona

Beef Cattle Tour

By Alison Bunting

In the late 1940s and early '50s, Western Livestock Journal organized "beef cattle tours," primarily in California, to share operating practices on successful ranches and introduce new sources of registered breeding stock. In September 1949, the tour came to Arizona for the first time and spent a day in the Patagonia/Sonoita area, visiting five ranches. Thirty participants from California and Nevada on the cattle tour bus were joined or met by many Arizona cattle growers along the way. Alex MacDonald, former head of the Animal Husbandry Department at the California Agricultural College and western field representative for the American Hereford Association, provided expert commentary.

The first stop was the Greene Cattle Co. in the San Rafael Valley, where the manager, Marshall Hartman, introduced their purebred registered Herefords. The Greene Cattle Co. was established in 1903 when William Greene purchased Colin Cameron's San Rafael ranch. Herefords have been the preferred cattle since Cameron's time.

Next came the nearby Heady & Ashburn ranch, where co-owner Marshall Ashburn noted that 90% of their ranch work was done with trucks. Tom Heady, who for 40 years managed the Greene Cattle Co., began building this ranch in about 1914 by purchasing land adjacent to his father's homestead. In 1929, in partnership with his son-in-law Marshall, the ranch began to focus on registered Hereford cattle.

The last stop in the valley was the Vaca Ranch near Patagonia, whose stock included Brahman and crossbred females. Calves born on the Vaca were finished in California. The Vaca was created by Clyde McPherson starting in the 1920s through the purchase of land owned by early homesteaders including the Gatlin brothers. It was named the Vaca Ranch after McPherson's death and was owned by Bill Janss of Los Angeles at the time of this visit.

Harold Thurber, owner of the Singing Valley Ranch north of Sonoita, hosted a lunch for tour participants and more than 300 guests. Arizona Gov. Dan Garvey was in attendance, and everyone enjoyed the chuckwagon lunch served under a great tent. Thurber's registered Hereford bulls were on display in the nearby corrals. As reported in the September 1949 issue of the Arizona Cattlelog magazine (page 62), MacDonald noted that "men like Harold Thurber are making a wonderful contribution to the cattle industry and to the State of Arizona. These cattle have the natural fleshing, the conformation and the quality we want to see." Thurber began ranching in Sonoita in 1932 and assembled a ranch that included more than 1,400 deeded acres and 10,000 acres of leased land.

The last stop was the Empire Ranch, which focused on breeding commercial Herefords "that are a little more compact, rugged, but smooth, cows that will give plenty of milk to raise good, quick growing, sturdy calves that will in turn go into the pens and do a good job for the man that feeds them." The Empire Ranch was founded in 1876 and the Boice family purchased it in 1928. Frank Boice, owner/manager, also described his innovative mesquite control operations: "There is no way to stop mesquite now except by artificial methods. When it is removed the grass increases two to three times," he was quoted as saying in the same issue of Arizona Cattlelog (pages 63-64).

During the 1949 tour, several ranches reported sales of their stock and the publicity in local newspapers no doubt raised the visibility of their offerings. Western Livestock Journal found that the tour was so popular and successful that they scheduled a return trip in 1950. Two changes were made in the 1950 schedule: Lunch was sponsored by the Heady & Ashburn Ranch, and the Empire Ranch did not participate.

Alison Bunting can be contacted at alisbunting@gmail.com.



Contributed photos

(Above) The 1949 California-Arizona Cattle Tour crowd inspects Thurber's registered Hereford cattle. (Below) Biscuits are served up for lunch at Harold Thurber's Singing Valley Ranch. Photos courtesy of the Bowman Stradling History Center.



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Lobos have high hopes for boys tennis season

By Dave Lumia

The start of the 2026 high school tennis season brings a mixture of emotions for Patagonia Union High School coach David Clovesko-Wharton.

The Lobos veteran coach has high hopes as he watches over the pre-season practice of his six-player boys team, featuring four returning players.

"We got a great turnout," Clovesko-Wharton said. "I think we have our best chance in a while."

The state of the girls team yields the opposite reaction. "It saddens my heart," he said. "We just couldn't field a team this year."

Patagonia managed to compete with a two-player girls team last year, but only junior Isela Cervantes returns, and with no newcomers to join her, the season had to be scrapped, though Cervantes is still getting practice reps with the boys team.

"She's just being as accepting and amazing about it as you could imagine," Clovesko-Wharton said. "She's like, 'I just want to play, I want to stay in shape, I want to learn, I want to stay on the team.'"

The boys roster is full, and it's led by seniors Jaxon Yslava and Skylar Sanchez. Also returning are juniors Alex Ruskowitz and Louis Reyes. They're joined by two newcomers: senior Lenin Albarran and sophomore Jorge Sotello.

Yslava is in his third season as the Lobos' top singles player, but Sanchez

SCHEDULE OF GAMES

March 7 – HT Clothier Invitational, at Duncan
March 12 – at Duncan, 3:30 p.m.
March 13 – at Pima, 3:30 p.m.
March 18 – The Gregory School, 3:30 p.m.
March 26 – Andrada Polytechnic, 3:30 p.m.
March 31 – at St. Augustine, 3:30 p.m.
April 2 – St. David, 3:30 p.m.
April 7 – at Morenci, 3:30 p.m.
April 9 – Desert Christian, 3:30 p.m.
April 13 – Benson, 2 p.m.
April 16 – Tombstone, 2 p.m.

usurped the top ranking for part of last season.

"Jaxon is our emotional and strategic leader," Clovesko-Wharton said. "He's got all the shots, but Skylar did hold the No. 1 position for about half of last season."

Clovesko-Wharton said preparations have been greatly aided by a majority of the team participating in off-season workouts. "One or two times a week, it really kept them tuned up," he said.

The Lobos hosted Duncan on Monday in their opening match, and they travel to Duncan on Saturday for the HT Clothier Invitational. Seven of their 11 regular season matches will be played on their home court.

"I'm hoping we get a couple of individuals to state this year," Clovesko-Wharton said. "For our three seniors, I want them to just enjoy the year and show some mentorship throughout. We've got some skill this year."



Photo by Dave Lumia

Senior Lenin Albarran follows through on a serve.

LOBOS BASEBALL (Cont.)

The Lobos scored two runs in the first inning – sparked by a leadoff triple by freshman Troy Hawkins – and built up a nice cushion with five runs in the second and four more in the third. Junior catcher Patrick Rodhe led the offense with three doubles. Six of the nine starters had at least one hit, and six Lobos scored runs.

"It's fun having the first batter of the game, a freshman, leading off with a triple," Shore said. "Nice way to get him started. Overall, I think the guys did a great job of putting the ball in play."

Patagonia had to come from behind against San Simon. The Lobos trailed 4-1 entering the bottom of the third before turning the lineup over almost two full turns while erupting for 11 runs.

"The bottom of the order really came through for us," Shore said. "We're doing such a better job of grinding out at-bats."

Rodhe and Hawkins led the offense with three hits apiece, while Marco Vasquez and Young each drove in three

SCHEDULE OF GAMES

March 6 – Baboquivari, 3:45 p.m.
March 10 – Fort Thomas, 3:30 p.m.
March 20 – San Manuel, 3:45 p.m.
March 24 – at Hayden, 3:45 p.m.
March 25 – Valley Union, 3:45 p.m.
March 27 – at Duncan, 3:45 p.m.
March 31 – Ray, 3:45 p.m.
April 6 – St. David, 3:45 p.m.
April 10 – at San Manuel, 3:45 p.m.
April 13 – at Valley Union, 3:45 p.m.
April 16 – at Baboquivari, 3:45 p.m.
April 20 – at San Simon, 3:45 p.m.
April 22 – Duncan, 3:45 p.m.
April 24 – at St. David, 3:45 p.m.
April 27 – at Fort Thomas, 4 p.m.

runs.

"No real big hits. It was all station to station – single, single, single, walk, putting together good at-bats," Shore said.

Hawkins got the start on the mound and struck out seven while allowing four runs. Senior Miguel Albarran, filling in for the ailing Diego Padilla, got the last five outs.

"It was not planned," Shore said. "Diego got sick the night before, and we had to scramble a bunch. Miguel



Photo by Dave Lumia

Coach Ryan Shore congratulates Troy Hawkins after his leadoff triple against San Miguel.

was tough enough to get in there, and he pitched great. It was pretty spectacular for sure."

The Lobos will be back in action with home games on March 6 versus

Baboquivari and March 10 versus Fort Thomas.

"We've got some things to clean up, but it's a nice way to start the season," Shore said.

EMPATHY PROJECT (Cont.)

started at the beginning of COVID shutdown, but since we couldn't gather the youth, they sat in a box until India and I met regarding the Empathy Project." Coleman likes the collaboration. "Our PYEC youth have their own personal voices and Caitlyn and I strive hard to hear each message and support, guide, and cultivate it effectively. The Empathy Project aligns with this focus," she said, referring to Caitlyn Coleman, program coordinator at PYEC.

Plans to expand

Farley plans this first event to be just the beginning, with more activities happening this summer and in the fall.

"I've included this new project into our Learning Through the Arts programming. This will join our Art Makers, Club Theater and Summer Art Camp offerings and will add a literacy component back to our programming," she said.

Peake is enthusiastic about continuing and expanding the project. "This year we included the seventh and eighth (grades) in the project and have potential plans to expand to the sixth next year," she said.

Coleman also wants to continue working with the project.

"I'm so thankful India and Cassina included the youth center in the project," she said. "I've always enjoyed collaborating with the local organizations and seeing how the whole community benefits, not just the youth. We are honored to be a part of this beautiful project!"

So now comes the hard work of finding funding.



Photo by Sondra Porter

The Empathy Project grew out of a desire to help youngsters understand and develop empathy.

Farley is already working on that: She recently submitted a grant to the Patagonia Regional Community Fund seeking funding for the Learning Through the Arts programming, and plans to seek out funding specifically for the Empathy Project.

Each of the collaborators encourages anyone who is interested in supporting the project financially or in any other way to contact the nonprofits involved. They have a mighty task ahead, and it is everyone's chance to show a bit of empathy.

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THRIFT STORE (Cont.)

This year's grantees include:

- Patagonia Schools art and music programs
- Patagonia Youth Enrichment Program
- Patagonia Regional Aquatic Center
- East Santa Cruz County Community Food Bank
- Patagonia Volunteer Fire Department
- CHOP (Community Home of Patagonia) Home Improvement Program
- Patagonia Creative Arts Association
- Senior Citizens of Patagonia
- Patagonia Museum
- Patagonia Library
- Community Christmas Gifts
- Senior Sustenance
- Mat Bevel Company
- Agua Prieta Fuente de Vida
- Voices from the Border
- Patagonia Community Gardens
- Sonoita Fire Victims

The Thrift Shop is run completely by volunteers, including co-managers Nell Richie and Kyle Carey, who continually come up with ideas like raffles and giveaways to further add to the treasure hunt fun for shoppers.

"People donate items, giving from the heart. We get to sell to folks who appreciate and need them, and we use that money to benefit such a diverse range of people.

"It's a circle of generosity. I love being a part of it," said Marshall, a 10-year volunteer.

He chuckled, "I don't buy renters' insurance anymore because I found I was buying everything I needed at the Thrift Shop: household items, knickknacks, clothing!"

"I like to make it a party, have a lot of fun," he added, talking about



Photo by Linda Jade Fong

Lars Marshall (left), a 10-year volunteer, and Georgette Larrouy, a 20-year volunteer, at the cash desk for the Patagonia Community Church Thrift Shop, where they say they get to experience the fishes and loaves story every time on duty there and, in Lars' words, "make it a party."

working at the cash desk. "One man said, 'I've never enjoyed shopping with my wife so much.'"

"I adore working at the thrift shop," echoed Larrouy, a 20-year veteran. "I get to see people from the community and say hi to people I wouldn't necessarily see or talk to. It draws people from everywhere, all parts of the community.

"I'll think of something I need, like a new kitchen towel or showerhead,

and in a few weeks, it'll show up. I've heard many people say that what you need will show up.

And people are always telling me about the compliments they, like me, get from the Thrift Shop finds in clothing."

Some customers, she said, might purchase only a 50-cent T-shirt or a 10-cent spoon.

"No worries. That's the loaves and fishes," she happily tells them as

she points to the posted list of local charities that benefit from every purchase, referring to the biblical story of feeding the multitudes from just a few fishes and loaves of bread.

The Patagonia Community Church Thrift Shop, 387 McKeown Ave., is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. Volunteers are always welcome on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. to help sort and organize.

ROLL ON (Cont.)

"It's a core theme or frame for the musical that we all have Woody inside of us," Foley said.

Melanie Morrison, Patagonia songwriter and leader of the Tanagers band, is musical director for the production. She helped recruit singer-actors from the pool of singers from past Tanagers community singing nights.

The 11 actors in the play are Terra Wright, Francesca Claverie, Sarah Klingenstein, Krysa Kobryner, Melanie Morrison, Tami Blakely, Laurie Monti, Benji Kryzs, Mike Hogan, Jacob Masterz, and Rochelle Raya. Instruments are played by Kobryner, Morrison, Monti, Hogan and Raya.

"The play also is very personal to Jean Ann and me," Stanford said. "My dad was a Dustbowl refugee who rode a freight train from Oklahoma to Cali-

fornia. He worked in the farm fields for \$1 a day, and was an orphan. Jean Ann is from Oklahoma, and her dad was also an orphan. So we had that instant family history connection."

"When we first started, it really did feel like we were honoring our dads," Foley continued. "Talk about hard traveling – you know, they didn't have anything.

"My dad stayed in Oklahoma, but had no parents, nothing. And had some hard traveling being passed around to relatives. Yeah, some of them were really mean."

"The idea of love kept coming up as a core element" for the show, Foley said. "Woody's love for community and for his country."

"And the down-and-out people, the hobos," Stanford added.

"Woody didn't stand on the sidelines," Foley said. "He was engaged with all of it. He picked fruit and he

rode the trails and the rails."

"He worked alongside them," Stanford went on. "He slept in the hobo camps. He slept with thousands of different hobos. He traveled to all 48 states and most of the seven seas. He was a traveling man who couldn't stay still, even when he was married and had a family."

One of the other reasons they wanted to do the play, Stanford said, was to showcase local talent. "It's fun for the friends, the family, the neighbors, to come out and support the actors," she said.

"It's risky for several of them who have never sung on stage in this way," Foley added. "The singers have been able to sing with a microphone and perform. But it's a bit of a stretch to be on a theater stage. And, man, they're just doing it!"

Stanford had particular praise for Morrison, who arranged Guthrie's

songs into a play.

"We couldn't have done it or do it without Melanie," Stanford said. "She deserves all the credit for bringing this thing together."

Guthrie emphasized lyrics and storytelling, and kept chord structures simple to keep them accessible to everyone. "Anyone who uses more than two chords is just showing off," Guthrie used to say.

In "Roll On, America!" each singer-actor will portray what Guthrie's music means to them. In Morrison's view, Kryzs's delivery is most similar to Guthrie's style. "Even though he's only 14, Woody comes through in a lot of ways."

"Roll On, America! Hard Travelin' Songs of Woody Guthrie" will play March 13-14 at the Tin Shed Theater. There is a \$5 suggested donation; proceeds will benefit the Patagonia Creative Arts Association.

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

March Schedule

March 8 - The Crux Duo – A Benderly Concert Event Embark on a musical journey through time, place, and spirit with **Fanya Lin** and **Jackie Glazier** as the piano and clarinet take center stage. The Crux Duo's program of French classics from the 20th century moves seamlessly to the 21st with an exciting new clarinet concerto. Opening the program, Fernande Decruck's lyrical Cantilène(1933) is followed by Olivier Messiaen's haunting Abîme des Oiseaux (1941), written in a prisoner-of-war camp and filled with both silence and bird-song. Francis Poulenc's witty yet poignant Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (1962) brings elegance and charm. It concludes with Jenni Brandon's Fin de la Tierra: Land's End (2023), a vivid exploration of the landscapes and wildlife of the southern tip of Baja California in the Sonoran Desert, where desert meets sea at the edge of the earth.

A concert worth the trip! Make your reservations soon.

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 875, Patagonia AZ 85624. Tickets purchased at the door on the day of the concert are \$40/\$20 (if seats are available)

March 14 - Classical Jazz at the Opera House – The Showcase Series At the inaugural Showcase Series event, two internationally acclaimed musicians – pianist Armen Donelian and saxophonist Armen Hyusnunts – will perform works from the American Songbook, Jazz Standards, treasured Armenian Folksongs, and their own original compositions.

The Showcase Series events are individual concerts that feature world-class musicians on tour, as well as outstanding performers from Tucson and surrounding areas.

Prepaid admission is \$20 – adult or \$10 – 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 875, Patagonia AZ 85624. Tickets purchased at the door on the day of the concert are \$40/\$20 (if seats are available)

March 22 - Ear Palace Trio – A Benderly Concert Event Here is your opportunity to attend a premiere performance!

Internationally acclaimed Canadian violinist Gregory Lewis, member of the prestigious Callisto Quartet, joins pianist Mari Tomizuka and double bassist Ken Marrs for this concert. The program will include violin sonatas by Mozart and Schumann, as well as works by Haitian composers, and the Arizona premiere of "Tremulous", a work that evokes the quaking of the Aspen leaves, dedicated to Gregory Lewis, Ken Marrs, and Mari Tomizuka, by American composer Maggie Olivio.

Come and be the premiere audience!

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 875, 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 for more information

WORD SEARCH

Sheriffs of Santa Cruz County

By Carrie White

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

Santa Cruz County got its first sheriff – William Barnett – in 1899, the year after Patagonia was founded. He was appointed to the post but then resigned that same year.

Only one sheriff – George White – has been killed in the line of duty. White died in an automobile accident transporting prisoners on July 13, 1922.

All totaled, the county has had 19 sheriffs. Can you find them in this clover?

Middle initials have been excluded and the space between first and last name removed.

Word List

William Barnett (1899)
Thomas Brodrick (1899-1900)
Thomas Turner (1901-1904)
Charles Fowler (1905-1906)
Harry Jackson (1907-1910)
William McKnight (1911-1916)
Raymond Earhardt (1917-1920)
George White (1921-1922)
Harry Saxon (1922-1928)
Harry Patterson (1929-1930)

Victor Wager (1931-1932)
Harold Brown (1933-1938)
John Lowe (1939-1958)
Robert Connor (1959-1962)
Ezekiel Bejerano (1963-1977)
Jamie Teyechea (1977-1984)
Alfonso Bracamonte (1985-1992)
Tony Estrada (1993-2020)
David Hathaway (2021-present)

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Opportunity to Object to the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project

The Coronado National Forest (CNF) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project. The Draft ROD selects the following combination of components from Alternative 2 – Proposed Action and Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action:

- **Access Route:** This component consists of proposed construction of the Primary Access Road for most mine traffic, as described under Alternative 2 – Proposed Action. The Selected Alternative includes the proposed Primary Access Road instead of continued use of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 49 (South Harshaw Road), NFSR 58 (North Harshaw Road), and the Cross Creek Connector.
- **Tailings Storage Facility:** This component consists of proposed construction of tailings storage facility 2 (TSF2) and underdrain collection pond 2 (UDCP2), with associated roads, drainage controls, and fencing. The proposed TSF2 and UDCP2 are described under Alternative 2 – Proposed Action. The Selected Alternative includes the proposed TSF2 and UDCP2 instead of the Alternative 3 TSF and UDCP and their associated roads, drainage controls, and fencing.
- **Power Source:** This component consists of proposed construction of a 138-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line segment on National Forest System (NFS) land, as described under Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action. The Selected Alternative includes the proposed 138-kV overhead transmission line segment on NFS land instead of the primary power source supplied through use of natural gas generators and compressed natural gas delivered on site by heavy trucks for the life of the mine.
- **Water Discharge Method:** This component consists of proposed discharge of treated water from water treatment plant 2 (WTP2), including water from mine dewatering beneath NFS land, directly into Goldbaum Canyon and Mowry Wash South through discharge control structures on NFS land, in addition to the current discharge on private land into Harshaw Creek, as described under Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action. The Selected Alternative includes direct discharge of treated water instead of construction of two rapid infiltration basins on NFS land receiving a portion of the WTP2 discharge.
- **Other Selected Components:** The Selected Alternative includes components common to Alternative 2 – Proposed Action and Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action, including aspects of underground mining; underground dewatering; the groundwater management program; the mineral exploration program; construction of short- and long-term temporary access roads (ST-TARs and LT-TARs) for access to site facilities on NFS land; upgrade of existing NFSRs; installation of monitoring wells; and installation of fencing, as described under both Alternative 2 – Proposed Action and Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action.
- **Additional Mitigation Measures and Management Plans:** Additional mitigation measures, management plans, and project design modifications intended to reduce surface disturbance and reduce adverse effects to natural and cultural resources have been incorporated into the Selected Alternative. These additional mitigation measures and management plans are described in Appendix A, Mitigation and Monitoring, of the Final EIS.
- **Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Groundwater-dependent Ecosystems and Water Wells:** A draft Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Groundwater-dependent Ecosystems and Water Wells was released in tandem with the Draft EIS. This plan has been refined to incorporate mitigative strategies, including nature-based solutions, within drainages that are proposed to receive direct discharge of pumped and treated groundwater. Other aspects of the updated and revised Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Groundwater-dependent Ecosystems and Water Wells include mitigative strategies for seeps and springs that are connected or potentially connected to regional groundwater, mitigative strategies for potentially affected groundwater wells, and reporting requirements. An authorization would be required for implementation of this plan on certain parcels having acquired land status within Goldbaum Canyon. This plan is included as Appendix M of the Final EIS.

The project was reviewed for consistency with the Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The consistency evaluation (included as Appendix B of the Final EIS) demonstrated the need for 31 exceptions to the Forest Plan for components from Alternative 2 – Proposed Action and Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action that are incorporated into the Forest Service's Selected Alternative. The project-specific amendment to the Forest Plan would except the activities approved as part of the Selected Alternative, including the TSF2, 138-kV transmission line, and the Primary Access

Road, from specific Forest Plan desired conditions, standards, and guidelines, as identified in Appendix B of the Final EIS. The Responsible Official is Kerwin S. Dewberry, Forest Supervisor for the CNF. The proposed project is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218 Subparts A and B.

The proposed project details, Final EIS, Draft ROD, and supporting documentation are available online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/coronado/projects/65668>. Additional information can be obtained from Dan O'Toole, Project Manager, at daniel.o'toole@usda.gov.

How to File an Objection and Timeframe

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment, in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be addressed to the Reviewing Officer, Southwestern Regional Forester, filed via the project website, email, mail, express delivery, or messenger service to 333 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Objections delivered by mail must be postmarked by the closing day of the objection filing period and received before close of the fifth business day following the end of the objection period. Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html).

Electronic comments are preferred and can be submitted on the project website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/coronado/projects/65668> (under the heading "Get Connected," select Comment/Object on Project). If the comment function is unavailable for any reason, electronic comments may also be submitted by email to: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov. If submitting comments by email, please put "CNF Hermosa Critical Minerals Project" in the subject line.

Objections to the Final EIS, project-specific Forest Plan amendment, and the Draft ROD for the proposed project must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in the Daily Territorial, the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. A copy of the legal notice will be posted on the project website (link provided above) once published.

Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

1. The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
3. When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the National Forest on which the proposed project will be implemented;
5. A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the Reviewing Officer to consider; and
6. A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the Reviewing Officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

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Solution for this month's Word Search

Sheriffs of Santa Cruz County

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

KPUP Broadcast Schedule Spring 2026

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"

Sun: 1pm: Sunday Classical Connection

Daily Shows: StarDate: 9am & 5pm/Best of the Oldies: 1pm to 2pm/
BirdNote: 6am and 10am/Growing Native with Petey Mesquitey: MWF at 7am, Sunday at noon/
Feature Story News (FSN.com) Mon – Fri. 8am, 12pm and 6pm, Sat. 8am & 6pm, Sun. at 8am
Patagonia Weather Forecast: Every odd hour.

The Tin Shed Theater Patagonia Creative Arts Assn. March Schedule

March 7, 2 p.m. – Voices from the Border presents the documentary "Samaritans." Admission is \$5 at the door. Discussion with filmmaker following the screening.

March 13-14, 7 p.m. – Live theater production of "Roll on America! Hard Travelin' Songs of Woody Guthrie." Admission is \$5 at the door.

Wicked Weekends

March 21, 4 p.m. – "Wicked"

March 28, 4 p.m. – "Wicked: For Good"

Wicked-themed mocktails for sale at both events.

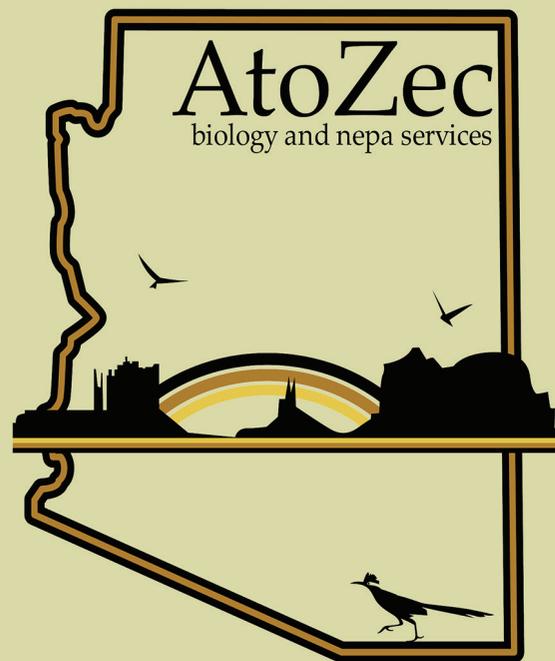
Suggested \$5 donation at the door. All ages welcome.

March 13, 14 and 15 (7pm, 7pm, and 2pm) Live Theater- "Woody Guthrie's Roll on, America!" Directed by Jean Ann Foley, produced by Terry Stanford, musical director Melanie Morrison. "Woody Guthrie's Roll On, America!" is a musical ensemble featuring many of Patagonia's talented musicians and vocalists, paying tribute to the life and music of America's most iconic folk singer, Woody Guthrie. The performance features some of Guthrie's most beloved songs, written while he rode the rails and traveled the dusty back roads with his people—Dust Bowl refugees fleeing poverty in Oklahoma in search of a better life in California. Guthrie's music carries enduring messages of justice, equality and compassion for people facing hard times—messages that still resonate powerfully today.

\$5 at the door *Dates and Times Subject to Change*

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

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



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PATAGONIA HOME WITH EXTRA LOT

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Extensively remodeled 3Bd/1.5Ba home with new flooring, cabinets, countertops & appliances. Extra lot with lots of future potential. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

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Split level home on the outskirts of Patagonia, bordering the Nature Conservancy. 2Bd/2Ba, Great Room, large kitchen + Casita. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

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LAKE PATAGONIA LOT WITH WELL—14.7 ACRES

MLS # 22532047 262 CIRCULO MONTANA

Beautiful mountain views, Ready to go with building pad in place and capped private well, Private yet close to shopping and services, JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

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LAKE PATAGONIA CUSTOM HOME

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Dramatic Great Room with soaring ceilings. 3Bd/2.5 Ba with separate office & 2 garages. 2 Private wells, mature landscaping, lovely views. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

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VIEW LAND ABOVE PATAGONIA

MLS # 22422417 PROCTOR LANE 16+ ACRES

STUNNING land with gorgeous views of Red Mountain. 16.56 acres. Can be divided. Private, yet near Town. No HOA. JEAN MILLER 520 508-3335

\$385,000



THE CAFÉ IN SONOITA

MLS # 22523141 3280 HIGHWAY 82

Commercial property. Was a well-loved restaurant. Still almost ready to go with kitchen equipment and furnishings. Lots of room to expand. CHERYL VOLK 520 975-7271

\$595,000



LAKE PATAGONIA RANCH

108 STODDARD WAY 26.1 ACRES

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\$425,000



CASAS ARROYO SONOITA

MLS # 22519385 91 CASA ARROYO ROAD

Flocks of birds visit this lovely hill top home. Split level, 2Bd/2Ba, 2 car garage. Gated community w/greenbelt. Community pool. BARBARA HARRIS 602 826-4026

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jean-

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