

## Front Yard Farming, continued

three-year-old Madi. By then school is over and the family comes back in focus.

“Sometimes I can get the kids to come out and help me,” she says, “and they do a lot of work around here, but they have lots of other things that they think are more important. So did I once.”

One of the other things that Summer does think is important at this point in her life, is having some knowledge and say about what goes on in school. She is the newest member of the Patagonia Elementary School Board of Governors, an

unsung volunteer position that requires meetings, reading policy documents, and attending workshops.

Are there enough hours in the day for Summer to be a farmer, mother, wife, and school board member? Obviously the answer is “yes.” She and Sasha are enlarging the garden and there’s talk about leasing some land for Dirty Girl Farmette to expand and keep on growing.

In Patagonia, you can find their produce at Red Mountain Foods, and they now have a website: [www.dirtygirlfarmette.com](http://www.dirtygirlfarmette.com).

## NEWS BRIEFS

**A video camera** has been installed at Paton Center for Hummingbirds. You can watch the hummers and other birds at [tucsonaudubon.org/hummingbirdcam](http://tucsonaudubon.org/hummingbirdcam).

**Patagonia’s Municipal Court will hold a jury trial** in Nogales on October 6, 2015. It’s the first time in recent memory that the local court has summoned a jury. The trial was first scheduled for August 21, but summons were sent to post office box holders, some of whom don’t live within town borders. New notifications have already been sent out.

**Ike Isakson, Patrick Hatfield, and Ivan Mingura**, Patagonia Volunteer Firefighters, and a truck, have gone to help fight the wild fires on the West Coast. They started in California and when last heard from, were near the Canadian border in Washington.

**Annette Koweek**, Elgin’s eighth grade science teacher, has been named Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Rural Schools Association.

**Two new members** are being sought by The Sonoita Elementary School District Governing Board to replace Gary Brown and Alan Neal, who have resigned. Potential candidates should submit a letter of interest to the county superintendent’s office: 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales, AZ 85621

**Volunteers are needed** for all sorts of jobs at the Fall Festival, to be held the second weekend in October. If you can help, contact Bonnie Macclean at Ovens of Patagonia or call her at 520-308-0963.

**Ten gardening seminars** will be held through a grant received by Patagonia Library, five in English at the library and five in Spanish to be held in Nogales at Mariposa Health Center. A schedule will be posted in October.

**Fireflies** have recently been seen at night by several people in town. According to entymologist Liz Bernays, this is very unusual, as they are usually found in other parts of the country where there is high humidity...which we have been experiencing lately.

**Borderlands will expand its Earth Care Institute (BECY)** into a year-long youth business skills program, thanks to a rural development grant it received from the Dept. of Agriculture. They will partner with the PUHS agricultural program.

## New Mining Bill Introduced

By PRT Staff

Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), together with 16 co-sponsors, recently introduced the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act of 2015, in an effort to address the nation’s backlog of abandoned mine cleanups and to ensure that taxpayers get a fair share from public lands mining. The number of hardrock abandoned mine lands (AMLs) that will require cleanup is 7,700 – 31,000. Federal estimates of the cost to clean up abandoned mines are as high as \$54 billion. In addition, mining companies currently pay no royalties for hardrock minerals they take from publicly owned federal land.

The bill would:

- End the antiquated patenting system that allows companies to purchase mineral-containing public land for as little as \$2.50 per acre
- Establish strong reclamation standards and bonding requirements to make sure taxpayers don’t pay for cleanups if a company skips town or goes bankrupt
- Establish an 8 percent royalty on new mines and a 4 percent royalty on existing mines to bring a fair return to American taxpayers
- Use those royalties and money raised by newly established pollution fees to clean up abandoned hardrock mine lands across the country
- Provide clear authority to federal land managers to reject a proposed mine if it would unduly degrade public lands or resources
- Protect wilderness study areas, roadless areas, and wild and scenic rivers from mining
- Empower state, local, and tribal governments to petition federal authorities to withdraw certain areas from mining in order to protect drinking water, wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources, or other important values