

Mission Village

VOICE

Hoppy Days

Aileen and Erik Ehn talk
agriculture, growing hops
and a strong community

— See page 10

Stars & Sights

Astrologer Jeanne Alkire's
journey leads to insight,
clarity and empowerment

— See page 12

SBHF NEWS

Binational Health Week Celebration

Celebrating Latino Culture, Promoting Well-being, and Honoring Our Mexican Physicians

On Thursday, October 9th, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, the San Benito Health Foundation will be hosting a Binational Health Week Celebration at its location, 351 Felice Drive, in Hollister, CA.

The free event is an initiative of the San Benito Health Foundation in partnership with the Consulate General of Mexico in San Jose to recognize the XXV Annual Binational Health Week. Binational Health Week was created in 2001 to raise awareness of and respond to the unique health care challenges of Latinos living in the United States and Canada. Since its inception, BHW has evolved into one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being

of the underserved Latino population.

SBHF's President and CEO, Rosa Vivian Fernandez stated, "We want to recognize our local Latino families and provide a fun celebration highlighting Latino culture and health. We also want to honor our Mexican physicians from the AB1045 program. San Benito Health Foundation is fortunate to have a total of five bilingual physicians from Mexico working at our clinic. These highly trained doctors have enhanced SBHF's quality of care in family medicine, pediatrics, diabetes, and mental health."

The San Benito Health Foundation is a Community Health Center providing Medical, Dental, Vision, Behavioral Health, and WIC services for underserved populations in San Benito County and surrounding areas since 1975. Our facility is located at 351 Felice Drive, Hollister CA 95023.



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SAN BENITO HEALTH FOUNDATION
Community Health Center



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BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

Thursday, October 9th
3pm-7pm

351 Felice Drive,
Hollister CA

Join us for a celebration of life and community health!

Free Food
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San Juan Bautista Historical Society Luck Museum Open House

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11am - 2pm

Our archives are housed in a 1919 poured-in-place concrete Mission Revival service station!

sjbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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A quote for our readers

“October is a
symphony of
permanence
and change.”

– *Bonaro W.
Overstreet*

On the cover

“June Beetle” by Melissa Steele-Ogus. For more information about the artist, see page 17.



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#BOOKWORM

Dungeons & Dragons & Diwali

By Leanne Oliveira

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

- Indian Author Arundhati Roy

Happy Fall! National Cookbook Month is observed every October. I

love to cook all foods, so one of my favorite hobbies is "cookbook recipe mining." Since I haven't won the lottery or married a hockey player - yet - I can't afford to pay full price for a cookbook that I only plan to browse. (I'm talking to you, Phaidon's *Portu-*

gal: The Cookbook, \$55!) Thus, I like to source cookbooks from thrift shops, booksales, friends, family, and libraries. If you have a cool cookbook, send it my way! I'd love to look through it.

When I lived in Upstate New York in

2019, I lost a Pad Thai recipe that I'd been perfecting for years, so my pandemic project was to digitize all my recipes into a working Word document with a clickable Table of Contents. I add a recipe to my digital cookbook and save the hard copy onto an index card in a real life heavy AF original library card catalog. (As one does.) Now if I want to find recipes with "garam masala," I just do a CTRL+F search and BAM! Dinner.

Speaking of garam masala, I recently bought FIVE Indian cookbooks for under \$20 at online used bookshop BetterWorldBooks.com. Why? I've been re-watching all my favorite old Bollywood films while devouring every dish served by Hollister's new Indian "restaurant" (i.e. Valley Pizzeria) on weekends and was thus invested in finding some great Indian recipes - and this month is a perfect time since 10/10 celebrates Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights!

Little known fact: My Bollywood fascination started with the extensive VHS collection of Hindi films many moons ago at the Gilroy Library. Thanks to libraries, I now get to watch Bollywood streaming free (Hoopla, Kanopy, etc) AND download Indian cooking classics. Happy Fall cooking, bookworms!

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

The National Association of



Leanne Oliveira

Black Bookstores (NAB2.org) has just launched. A nonprofit organization that aims to support and promote Black booksellers, NAB2 was founded by Kevin Johnson, the owner of Underground Books in Sacramento who is also a former professional basketball player and a former mayor of that city.

CLUB BOOKWORM (est 2016)

Last month, my old buddy Aida Rocha chose Amanda Knox' memoir *Free*. This month, fellow fab librarian Jillian Wilson chose *The Unmothers* by Leslie J Anderson and will host her discussion at Vertigo's Goth Night on 10/24. Loved last year's event!

COUNTY LIBRARY (HOLLISTER)

Chair Yoga (seniors), Dungeons & Dragons gaming, a "Death & Donuts" book club, and spooky holiday events? Yes, please! More at SBCFL.org.

FRIENDS OF THE SBC LIBRARY

In addition to the monthly sale behind the Library (10/11 at 9 AM-11:30 AM - holiday books and treats!), the Friends are also hosting a witchy book craft class on 10/14 at Crave Wine Co. Tickets: SBCFriends.org.

HILLS BOOKSTORE

Catch a ticketed event with author Michelle Chouinard (*A Serial Killer's Guide to San Francisco*) 10/5, a Cat Crew California Adoption Event 10/26,

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The Friends of the San Benito County Free Library would like to invite you to a night of book folding fun!

Tuesday, Oct. 14th
6:00-8:00 P.M.

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*All materials provided and program instructor led.
The Friends is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and funds raised go to support programming at the library.
www.sbcfriends.org. (831) 205-1651



Leanne takes a selfie with beloved children's book character Pete the Cat at the Watsonville Library.

author Walter Williams 10/10, and Trick Or Treat Street Downtown Event 10/31. Info: hillsbookstore.com.

KING/SENDAK HANSEL & GRETEL COLLAB

Stephen King was recently contacted by the estate of Maurice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*) to collaborate on a retelling of Hansel and Gretel featuring his writing and Sendak's unpublished drawings, which were initially intended for a 1990s opera production of the tale. Sendak died in 2012.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

October offers Banned Books Week, American Archives Month, National Friends of Libraries Month, National Book Month, Reading Group Month, Medical Librarians Month, Graphic Novel Writing Month, and National Cookbook Month. Also: 10/1 Postcard Day, 10/5-10/11 Mystery Series Week, 10/6 Mad Hatter Day (Hint: See hat!), 10/11 Myths & Legends Day/Kraken Day, 10/16 Dictionary Day/Noah Webster's Birthday, 10/18 Newspaper Comic Strip Appreciation Day, and 10/19-10/25 Friends of Libraries Week plus "TeenTober."

LITERARY TEAS

#Bookworm reader Jennifer Coile reported that Simpson & Vail Teas are offering a specially-blended literary tea collection featuring Poe, Shakespeare, Thoreau, Dickinson, and more! Check them out at SVTea.com.

NEW RELEASES

History Matters is a posthumous collection of David McCullough's speeches, interviews, and essays on the importance of history. Also: Dan Brown's newest Langdon thriller, Elizabeth Gilbert's memoir, and an ode to the World Wide Web (RIP Webcrawler!) Visit tinyurl.com/BookwormOct25 for Oc-

tober releases.

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a Reference Librarian at the Watsonville Library and is on the Friends of the SBC Library Board. Contact: oldfashionedolive@gmail.com. Leanne is also an alumni of San Benito Leadership Institute, which is always recruiting at <https://linktr.ee/sbleadership>. ■

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REACH

REACH San Benito Parks Foundation invites you to the 6th annual Anza Trail Moonlight Walk

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
at the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

REACH San Benito Parks Foundation is thrilled to host the 6th Annual Anza Trail Moonlight Walk on Sunday, October 5, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. This family-friendly event has become a beloved tradition, welcoming community members to experience the trail's beauty under the glow of the moon and stars.

The evening will be highlighted by San Ben-

ito County astronomers, who will once again provide a special nighttime stargazing opportunity near the summit of the trail. With the moon rising at 5:57 p.m. at 96% illumination and the sun setting at 6:42 p.m., guests will enjoy a breathtaking "Golden Hour" atmosphere as they hike.

Before You Arrive

Parking attendants will be stationed at the entrance of Old Stage Road. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged.

The walk is moderately strenuous (1-2.5 miles uphill, 2-5 miles total). Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended.

Please bring your own water bottle, dress in layers for the cool evening, and bring flashlights with a red filter only to protect night vision.

Families are welcome and dogs on leash are permitted.

Guests are asked to be off the trail by 8:00 p.m. to account for all participants.

This magical moonlight adventure is a wonderful way for families and friends to connect with nature and one another.

See MOONLIGHT WALK, next page



THE 6TH ANNUAL ANZA TRAIL MOONLIGHT WALK

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5, 2025 | 5:00 PM
AT THE JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



San Benito County astronomers will provide a nighttime stargazing treat again near the summit of the trail!

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

-  Parking attendants will be stationed at the entrance of Old Stage Road.
-  Bring a water bottle, wear walking shoes and dress in layers for the cool evening.
-  The moon will rise at about 5:57pm with 96% illumination while the sun will set at about 6:42pm.
-  All folks will be asked to return by 8:00pm in order to account for all participants.





Latino Generations committee members Hilda Baldovinos, Ana Maria De Alba, Lizett Peña Rodriguez, Vita Castañeda-Morgan, Elvira Robinson, Larry Barr, and Lupe Maldonado.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Latino Generations Scholarship Fund empowers future leaders in San Benito Co.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. In San Benito County, the Latino Generations Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation for San Benito County is doing that by investing in the next generation of leaders.

Launched in 2016, the fund has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to more than 100 local students, thanks to the dedication of community leaders and donors. This year alone, 10 students received scholarships, ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500, helping them pursue higher education and, ideally, return to give back to their communities.

A successful fundraising brunch marked the start of the season on September 06, 2025, at Paine's Restaurant, marking another step toward building a thriving Latino network centered on education, mentorship, and community pride. From its founding members to today's organizers, lawyers, educators, business owners, and community leaders, the group reflects the wide range of professional opportunities available to Latino youth, showcasing the diverse paths they can aspire to and achieve.

The impact is deeply personal to both the

students and the committee board members. Antonio Lara, studying early childhood development at CSU Sacramento & working with second-grade students, aims to influence younger generations. Adriana Perez, a CSU-Monterey Bay graduate, went from working at Hollister Super Market to interning at the White House. Yasmin Martinez, now a University of Louisville graduate, overcame a grueling three-city daily commute in high school and now urges students to claim the opportunities they deserve.

Scholarship recipients often say the support goes beyond mere financial assistance. It is validation that their community believes in their potential. As President Lizett Rodriguez Peña says, "We are creating pathways for students to become tomorrow's community leaders."

As the fund approaches its 10th anniversary in 2026, organizers are preparing a major celebration. Donations are welcomed throughout the year, with a special fundraising campaign taking place in November for Giving Tuesday. To support the cause or learn more, visit Community Foundation for San Benito County - Latino Generations Scholarships at givesanbenito.org/latino-generations-scholarships. ■



Community
Foundation
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY



MVV ēvz dräp

Visitors welcome, just not when I'm around.

Old friend 1: Hi, I've been meaning to drop by and visit.

Old friend 2: You can visit anytime, just make sure I'm not home.

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE Community Bulletin Board

Community Action Day on Oct. 25

Join us for a Community Action Day in San Benito County! When: Saturday October 25th, from 9:00am-12:00pm (Lunch provided at 12pm). Where: San Benito County Historical Park, 8300 Airline Hwy, Tres Pinos, CA. RSVP Required: Contact cameron@rcdsanbenito.org

Community Action Day is an opportunity for community volunteers to beautify the County Historical Park by planting a native plant pollinator hedgerow and removing non-native invasive plant species. These native plants will provide habitat for bees, butterflies and songbirds. This opportunity is made possible through partnerships at the state and local level, including: Point Blue Conservation Science, San Benito Resource Conservation District, San Benito County Resource Management Agency, San Benito County Historical Society, San Benito REACH Parks Foundation, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, and more.

Wood Stove Change Out Program now open

The Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) has launched its 2025–2026 Wood Stove Change Out Program (WSCOP), giving residents in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties the opportunity to improve home comfort, protect neighborhood air quality, and receive cash incen-

tives by replacing old wood-burning heating devices with cleaner alternatives. Through the program, homeowners can replace non-EPA-certified wood stoves, fireplace inserts, or open-hearth fireplaces with MBARD-approved, EPA-certified devices such as: Low-emission wood or pellet stoves/inserts; Electric stoves/inserts; Ductless mini-split heat pumps.

Propane and natural gas units are not eligible.

To qualify, applicants must use a non-EPA-certified wood stove, insert, or open-hearth fireplace as a primary heat source and reside in a low-income or disadvantaged community. Households outside of these areas may also be eligible if they meet Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) criteria.

Incentives available: \$2,500 for wood, pellet, or electric stoves; \$5,000 for ductless mini-split heat pumps

MBARD has allocated \$200,000 for the 2025–2026 program. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until fully distributed.

"This program makes it easier for families to upgrade to cleaner, healthier heating options while reducing harmful wood smoke in our communities," said Richard A. Stedman, MBARD Air Pollution Control Officer.

For eligibility details or to apply, visit www.mbard.org/wscop ■



Help plant a hedgerow at San Benito County Historical Park on Oct. 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Moonlight Walk, continued

Organizers remind participants that the event is best enjoyed with preparation, warm clothing, and a spirit of exploration.

About REACH San Benito Parks Foundation

REACH San Benito Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to uplifting parks, trails, community facilities, and recreation programs across San Benito County. Guided by a volunteer Board, REACH

collaborates with local agencies, nonprofits, and community groups to secure grant funding, lead capital projects, and expand access to recreation opportunities for the entire community.

Event Information

For updates, please visit: www.reachsanbenito.org

For questions, call or text Kim Johnson at 831-673-0665 or Valerie Egland 831-601-5154 or email info@reachsanbenito.org. ■



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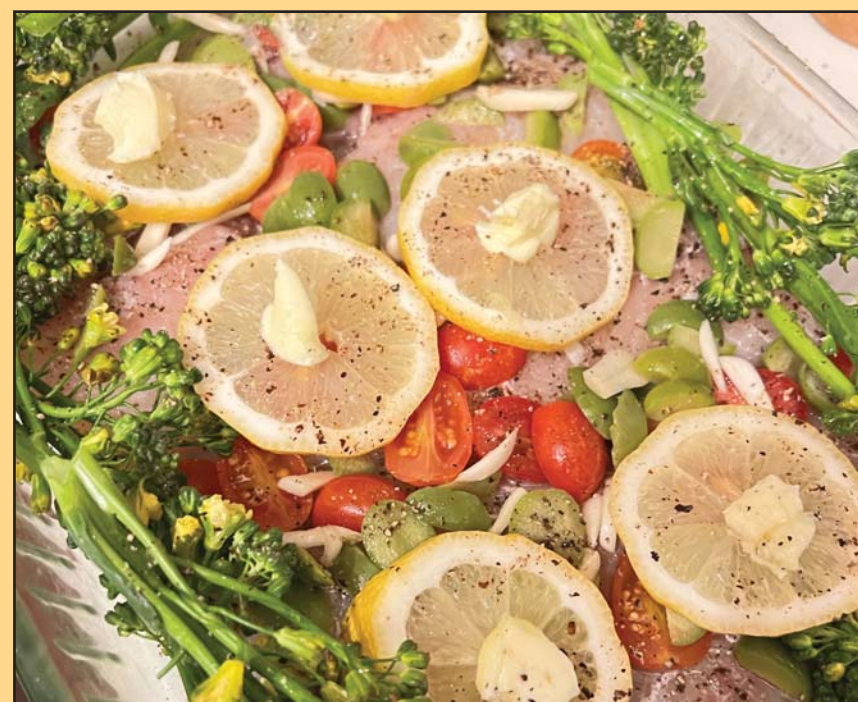


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WILL COOK FOR WINE

Oven-Baked Haddock with Broccolini and Tomatoes

By Chef Liz

Haddock has a delicate flavor with a slightly sweet, nutty taste, and a fine, flaky texture. You can also make this dish with cod, which has a firmer, more muscular texture with a mild, slightly sweet and saline flavor.

Broccolini, sometimes called "baby broccoli" or "tenderstem broccoli," is a hybrid of standard broccoli and Chinese broccoli (gai lan). It features long, slender stems with small, delicate florets and a milder, sweeter flavor than traditional broccoli.

Together, with fresh cherry tomatoes and buttery olives, this dish makes a quick and healthy mid-week meal. Serve with a green salad and crusty sourdough.

Ingredients

- 4 haddock fillets (6 ounces each)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup pitted, roughly chopped green olives, such as Castelvetrano
- 1 bunch broccolini
- 1 large lemon, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, sliced
- 4 sprigs thyme
- 1/4 cup butter, softened

Method

- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- Prepare a 9×13-inch baking dish and

set it aside.

Pat the haddock fillets dry and season with salt and pepper.

Combine the olive oil, tomatoes, olives and broccolini lemon slices, garlic, and thyme to a bowl and mix together to coat the vegetables. Pour the mixture into the baking dish.

Place the haddock fillets on top pushing the broccolini to the edges of the baking dish. Place the lemon slices on top of the fillets and a dollop of butter in the center of each slice.

Bake for 15 minutes or until the fish is opaque and flaky and reaches an internal temperature of 145°F.

Remove the baking dish from the oven and serve the fish immediately. ■



SNIPPETS FROM THE MILLIKEN FILES

'One Must Not Speak Insultingly of Another Man's Horse'

Submitted by Joe Claus & John Grafton

The following text is courtesy of the Milliken Museum Society, located in Los Banos, CA.

– From the diary of John Breen

March 10th. 1854. We had a great row. A guy by the name of McElroy stopped by the hotel in this place and in the course of the day tried to get a horse race with Harper, a stage driver. Harper became angry at the reflections thrown on his horse when he commenced beating McElroy. McElroy drew a doubled shotgun and fired at Harper. The shot missed Harper and entered the breast of a Doctor Clark, wounding him severe but not mortalely [sic].

The affair occurred about 3 o'clock a.m.,



and in the afternoon the people assembled and were about to hang the man but concluded turn him over to the civil authorities. And fortunately for at the trial the other man that is Harper was proven to be in the fault and the man was set at liberty. ■

The Milliken Museum Society is a non-profit organization that supports the Milliken Museum, a historical museum in Los Banos, CA, located at 905 E Pacheco Blvd. next to Los Banos County Park, founded by local historian Ralph Leroy Milliken.



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll

For many people, fall brings an important opportunity: open enrollment. While it may not sound as exciting as planning for the holidays, taking a careful look at your workplace benefits now could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars next year.

Open enrollment is the period when you will choose your medical and other workplace benefits for the year ahead. Most employers hold it in the fall, with elections taking effect in January. Once the window closes, you usually can't make changes unless you experience a major life event like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or when a dependent has become an emancipated adult.

While it may be easy to simply renew last year's choices, that could be a costly mistake. Your employer's plans, providers or costs may have changed. It's also possible your own circumstances are different than they were a year ago — for example, if you had a baby, got married or expect new medical needs. Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your life today.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Compare health plans carefully. Employers often offer more than one health, dental or vi-

sion option. Look at differences in provider networks, prescription coverage and premiums. If you and your spouse both have coverage options, compare plans across employers. Just be mindful that some companies charge a fee if you enroll a partner who has their own workplace coverage. Many plans offer wellness discounts on monthly premiums based on your personal health condition.

Check your life insurance. Many employers provide a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. If your family has grown or your financial responsibilities have increased, now is the time to make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Consider disability coverage. A short-term disability plan can help cover income gaps for up to 12 months during recovery from surgery, illness or childbirth. Long-term disability insurance offers protection if you're unable to work again for an extended period up to age 65. Ideally, coverage should replace up to 60% of your pre-tax income.

Understand supplemental options. Some employers also offer accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. While it can provide peace of mind, remember that it's not a substitute for life or disability insurance, since

it only covers specific accidents.

Take advantage of tax-friendly accounts. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses. If you have young children or other dependents, ask whether your employer offers a dependent care FSA to help offset care costs. Note that these are use-it-or-lose-it, so contribute only what you expect to spend every year. HSAs, available with high-deductible health plans, are more flexible, since unused funds roll over

from year to year and can even serve as long-term savings.

Review your retirement savings. While your retirement plan usually isn't part of open enrollment, this is a good time to revisit it. Make sure you're contributing enough to earn your employer's match. Small increases can make a big difference over time.

Open enrollment may not be the most thrilling item on your fall to-do list, but it could be one of the most important. Taking a little time now to review your employee group benefits could give you greater financial security and extra savings throughout the year.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Alexis Winder. Member SIPC.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Aileen and Erik Ehn of Hollister Hop Yard

By Anne Caetano

Aileen and Erik Ehn moved to Hollister for space, community, and a place to raise their kids. Since then, they've raised animals, grown hops, volunteered and jumped into local life. Their daughter Nora is showing this year's Heritage Hog at the San Benito County Fair while their son Fisk found his passion in Hollister High robotics. Here, Aileen shares their story. Contact: Email acre76@mac.com, hollisterhopyard.com, instagram.com/hollisterhopyard, facebook.com/hollisterhopyard. The San Benito County Fair is October 3-5, 2025.

MVV: Many people know of Hollister Hop Yard, but let's start with something fun — your daughter Nora and the 2025 San Benito County Fair Heritage Hog.

A: This year was Nora's very first time showing hogs. She's always shown goats, lambs, and even a dairy heifer, but pigs were new for her. The heritage hog program is special; it's not just about raising an animal but also about serving as a spokesperson for the community. Each year, the Heritage Foundation selects a student to raise a hog, which is then auctioned at the San Benito County Fair. The money goes back into fairground improvements. Nora's role has been to raise the hog and encourage local businesses to contribute. The hog even gets its own pen and banner at the fair; it's quite an honor.

Do you know what kind of improvements the Heritage Foundation has been able to support?

Quite a few. They've put in new wash racks, updated bathrooms, and invested in infrastructure that keeps the fair modern and well-maintained. We're lucky; ours is clean, welcoming, and functional. That's thanks to the Heritage Foundation and the volunteers along with the San Benito County Fair staff who make it happen.

Do you feel volunteers are what give Hollister its heart?

Absolutely. This community really pulls together. Whether it's the fair, downtown events, high school mentorship, 4-H leaders, FFA booster or just neighbors helping neighbors, people take pride in this

place. We've lived elsewhere, and that sense of collective care isn't always there. Here, it feels like part of the DNA.

What made you look to growing hops in Hollister?

We moved back to California after living in Colorado even though we are all originally from California. At first, we looked at other areas but when we came down and saw the area, it just clicked. It reminded us of our other neighborhood with space, places where you can breathe and be part of a community. With the opportunity to grow something, we thought of something unique like hops. They grow well in many other climates but here they seem to thrive with the weather and soil.

What does it take to grow hops?

Hops are a unique crop but not one to California. They are grown from rhizomes or transplants where the plant is a perennial but really has a lifespan of about 8 years, and the most productive is around years 3-6. Hops grow fast. They start emerging in March, and by the summer solstice in June they should already be at the top of the trellis, climbing the strings. They are grown on trellises, and ours are six-



teen feet tall. There is the typical weeding and watering, and then harvest is usually late July to end of August depending on the variety. Once harvest is over, we cut everything back and let them rest for the next year's crop.

What kind of hops do you grow?

Hops have many different varieties for different types of beer. We grow the typical C-hops, Cascade, Comet, Cashmere, Chinook, Cluster and Nugget. They analyze the varieties through flavors, aromas and bitterness. The oils determine the flavor and aromatic when added to a beer and can be floral, citrus, earthy, spicy, herbal to pine. The bitterness can be a soft bitter to a harsh bitter. Another thing that is interesting is the structure of the plant and hops — some grow in a cluster of small hops while others grow large hops more spread out. You get good at determining which variety you are harvesting by the shape and size of the hop.

What makes Hollister a good place to grow hops?

The climate here is ideal, with warm, sunny days and cool nights. We don't face as many heat issues as other California hop grower regions, and the plants really thrive. Many hops are grown in the Pacific Northwest and are the biggest market as they can grow large quantities. California hop growers are working to build up a local market, and we work with California Hop Cooperative to try to bring the hops industry to California and support local breweries.

What's it like harvesting hops and who do you sell to?

Each year we clip the bines, pull them down, and harvest the hops.

It's a lot of work but rewarding. We purchased a hop harvester in 2020, and that made the harvest so much faster than by hand. The Wolf harvester was built in Germany and built in the 1980s. It was a feat to get

here as it took a boat and truck from Poland. It was worth it as the time commitment as to hand harvest is hours versus minutes with the harvester. We have other hop grower friends like Nuthouse Brewery off Southside Road that use the harvester too. We like to sell to brewers directly with fresh hops. This is especially exciting because they must be brewed within 24 hours by the brewer, or they turn

bitter. This year we worked with Laughing Monk in San Francisco, Strike Brewing in San Jose, and Mad Pursuit in Hollister. Hops are what give beer their flavor and aroma, and while most breweries use pelletized hops, fresh hops bring a unique, vibrant taste you only get once a year. Beyond beer, people also use hops for tea, in pillows for sleep, or even in floral arrangements; they're beautiful when dried and still hold their scent.

Agriculture runs in your veins.

Yes, we moved here when Erik took a new role with an ag technology startup, but his roots in the industry run deep. He grew up in Clovis and was active in 4-H while I was raised on a farm near Mount Shasta and participated in both 4-H and FFA. We met at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where he studied Ag Engineering, and I studied Ag Science. After graduation, Erik worked for an agriculture technology company that set his career path. Our oldest is studying Mechanical Engineering and our youngest is planning for a degree in Agriculture Science.

What's one thing you'd tell someone thinking about moving to Hollister.

Lean into the community. Don't just move here for space or the view though the sunsets are spectacular! Move here because you want to be part of something bigger. The fairgrounds thrive because businesses and volunteers pitch in. Hollister is the kind of place that gives back what you put into it. If you come here with that spirit, you'll feel at home in no time. ■



SEASON'S SCREAMINGS

Is San Juan Bautista haunted?!?

You never know what you'll see or hear in San Juan's historic buildings so stay on the lookout at San Juan Bautista Rotary's Ghost Walk on October 17th and 18th.

Old San Juan Bautista is full of haunting stories with many eyewitness accounts of ghostly apparitions and paranormal activities. The Ghost Walk Tour reveals sightings and shenanigans that have been witnessed by residents, visitors and park rangers throughout the town. For instance, at the Plaza Hotel there are numerous accounts of visitors taking pictures inside and they see images that don't show up when the pictures come out. A boy once showed one of the park rangers an 'orb' in his viewfinder that had the profile of a man's face on it—a prominent nose with a bump in it. Alfred Hitchcock, perhaps?

The Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista hosts this annual Ghost Walk Fundraiser, and all proceeds benefit the community. To make a reservation for the Ghost Walk, please visit our website: www.rotarysanjuanbautista.com. Tours start at 6:00 PM and leave every half hour until 8:00 PM. Cost is \$40.00 per person and includes a Halloween candy bag. ■



EDUCATION

Inside Voices of ASJUSD

By Dr. Barb Dill-Varga,
Superintendent of ASJUSD

The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District (ASJUSD) serves more than 1,000 students at San Juan School, Aromas School, and Anzar High School. As a small district, we know every student by name and need. Each month, we'll highlight one of our ASJUSD family members.

First up is Ms. Teri Marshall, 5th Grade Teacher at San Juan School.

Q: How long have you been teaching, and what brought you to ASJUSD?

A: I've taught for 26 years. I came here after a 6 a.m. call to sub. Before that, I worked office jobs, baked pies at Gizdich Ranch, and traveled the world before earning my bachelor's degree at 30. Those life experiences shaped the teacher I became.

Q: What do you teach, and what do you enjoy most?

A: I teach 5th grade math and science. My students are independent and helpful, and decimals and fractions are actually fun! The best part is seeing them light up when a tough concept finally clicks.

Q: Was there a teacher who inspired you?

A: Joanne Jackson, my 5th grade teacher, really understood me and gave me my first



A. That was a turning point.

Q: How has your teaching changed?

A: I started in 1999 with chalkboards and overheads. Now, I use apps on my phone to project student work and keep kids engaged. I love how technology lets students be part of the lesson.

Q: What student memory stands out?

A: One girl I taught in 2nd and 6th grade overcame challenges, earned her master's in social work, and we're still in touch.

Q: What do you love about ASJUSD?

A: The small-town feel and multi-generational connections. I've even taught the children of former students, which makes the community feel like family. ■



Black Friday Birding was initiated to acquaint folks with our Historical Park on Airline Hwy, and its rich population of permanent and migrating species.

FRIDAY • 8:30AM
NOVEMBER 28, 2025



REMINDERS:



Bring your binoculars and water bottle, walking shoes and warm layers for the crisp morning air.



A local Birding enthusiast will conduct a tour of the grounds in search of species observed here of late.



R.E.A.C.H. Board members will bring coffee, and midmorning treats for a rewarding post walk conversation at the park's picnic area.

DID YOU KNOW?

October 12th is Fall eBird Big Day, also known as October Big Day, is a global 24-hour event to count and identify bird populations. Our Black Friday Birding day will include a discussion of 'Big Days', and how you might get involved in your own backyard.



reachsanbenito.org



info@reachsanbenito.org



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Hollister Astrologer and Intuitive Jeanne Alkire

By Anne Caetano

From Morgan Hill to Japan, Big Sur, Maui, and back to Hollister, Jeanne Alkire's life has been a series of transformations: artist, librarian, non-profit director, cancer survivor, mother, and grandmother. In a remote Big Sur cabin, she discovered astrology by kerosene light, a language of archetypes that still guides her work. Today, Jeanne blends astrology and tarot as tools of empowerment, offering insight, clarity, and connection to those seeking meaning and confidence on their own paths.

Contact Jeanne at jsastrosalon@gmail.com and on Patreon: *Jeanne's Astro Salon*.

Q: When did you discover astrology?

Jeanne: I was 19 when I had my chart read for the first time. That was the "dinosaur years," as I call them, when the current wave of more in-depth astrology was in its infancy. As a college dropout in 1970s Big Sur, I lived in a tiny 8-by-16 cabin built by a gold miner. I had no electricity and a wood stove for heat, but lots of books, a treadle sewing machine, jade milling equipment, incredible views, and long stretches of silence. Astrology back then was all by hand, calculating with ephemeris and tables of houses. I was already fascinated by personality analysis, so my interest felt natural.

Q: Were you always spiritual?

Yes and no. I've been a lifelong Episcopalian; I still watch services from the National Cathedral every Sunday. I probably would have been a priest if women had been allowed when I was young. During my stay in Japan at age 18, I was introduced to Zen Buddhism by an English-speaking monk in Kyoto. The notes from that encounter became more real living alone above the Big Sur coast.

Learning tarot and facing a life-threatening health crisis led me deeper into the more personally intuitive and spiritual side of things. I feel strongly that I have guides surrounding me and coaching me. Sometimes people tell me they don't believe in astrology. I am quick to say it's not a religion. Rather, astrology is a language of archetypes rising from our experience being human on the earth. Archetypes are universal themes and symbols we all recognize and use to give meaning to the world—the hero, the trickster, the wise elder, the mother. Astrology offers you a road map to explore those themes in your own life.

Q: Tell us about your Big Sur days.

My 7 years there shaped me. I dropped out of college in the late '60s, eventually landing at age 21 in the mountains of Big Sur. It was hippie days, and anything was possible. Serendipitous events were the norm.

We lived there under old California mining

law, which said you could stake a claim on Forest Service land if you found a valuable mineral (in our case, nephrite jade) and could make a profit "however small." My cabin, "The Edge of the Wild," was an old gold claim below a good spring, about an 800-foot climb from my Willow Creek neighbors. Surrounded by pine, madrone, lilac-colored ceanothus, and giant oaks, it had a view of the sea 2 miles west. On moonlit evenings, a shimmering fog would flow through the canyon below. In winter, you could hear the creek roar.

My days included cutting firewood, milling jade to make jewelry for tourists, creating quilts with my treadle sewing machine for friends in the canyon below, and in the evening, reading astrology books by kerosene light. There were long walks to the mailbox on Highway 1, and periodic hitchhiking to Monterey for supplies.

The summer I was 23, a neighbor introduced me to 2 women I would cherish for my lifetime. Annie Grove became one of the most important people in my life. She was an East Coast transplant, literally living under the Garrapata Bridge. I remember inviting her to stay. She and others still gather annually at the Big Sur Jade Festival, usually held at Pacific Valley School, but as the road is still closed, it will be held October 10–12 in Har-



Annie and Jeanne



Jeanne at Edge of the Wild in her Big Sur Cabin

mony, California, just south of Cambria.

Q: How did your intuitive side develop?

With no standard means of communication, the canyon folk trusted in a kind of intuitive radar. I could sense if neighbors wanted to see me, and I knew that if I needed help, someone would get the message and come check on me. Living in nature gave me silence. And silence opens doors.

I realized I could manifest what I needed. A ride would appear when I stuck out my thumb, or something I admired would show up in the road days later. It was like the universe was listening. But I never thought of myself as "special." I believe all humans have that intuitive capacity.

Q: Annie plays a big role in your life.

Absolutely. Annie became family. In 1976, I felt it was time for another leap. I moved to town, met and married a Hollister boy. We went to visit Annie, who was working at Ragged Point near San Simeon. With one question, she changed my life: "You can say no if you want to, but I think I'm pregnant. Will you take the baby?"

There was no question really — it was Annie. We shared a house in Hollister when Nathanael Wade Lierly was born in December 1978. Love and responsibility reshaped our family tree. It's unusual: Nathanael has me, his Ma who raised him, and Annie, his bio-mom, his family of origin. Annie and I are still best friends. She went on to nursing and is currently a hospice nurse here in Hollister. I think her story, going from life under a bridge to providing comfort at the end of life is incred-

ible.

Q: And Nathanael?

I've probably already embarrassed him by going public! Nathanael Lierly remains a Hollister boy (not counting the teen years on Maui). For several years, he was tech support for San Benito County and a great friend of Kitty and Dimitri at Vertigo Coffee Roasters. He now lives near his wife's family in Medellín, Colombia, working as Information Technology Director for the Center for Investigative Reporting. We video visit weekly. I couldn't be prouder.

Q: What came after Big Sur?

You mean the last 45 years? My ex-husband, Elmo Lierly, spent the '80s in Hollister, worked at the library for a time, and raised my son Nathanael with my adopted daughter Julia. In the '90s, we moved to Maui. There I became a program director for Maui Catholic Charities' homeless programs. I designed shelter programs based on empowerment and accountability, almost like applying archetypes to real life.

It was during this period that I discovered some brilliant books on astrologically-based personality analysis, and my lifelong interest in astrology was rekindled. When we came back to the mainland in 1999, I was coping with a daughter with severe mental health challenges, which limited my ability to work. In the days of dial-up computers, I found online work. For \$6.50 a question, I answered astrology questions from my farmhouse in North Carolina. I read hundreds of charts,

See ALKIRE, page 16

Environmental Day

Three Free Services for San Benito County Residents!



2025 EVENTS FROM 9AM – 1PM

WHEN: **OCTOBER 25** WHERE: Brigantino Park
2100 San Juan Hollister Rd, Hollister

WHEN: **NOVEMBER 1** WHERE: San Juan School
100 Nyland Dr., San Juan Bautista

WHAT:



Electronic Waste Recycling (E-waste)

Drop off unwanted e-waste including televisions, computers and accessories, cell phones, laptops, game consoles, radios, stereos, and small electronics with cords. *No large household appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) will be accepted.*



Secure Document Shredding

Bring up to five full banker boxes (legal size; 24 x 12 x 10) of documents to be confidentially and securely shredded on-site. Paperclips and staples do not need to be removed.



Compost Giveaway

Residents may take up to 32 gallons of compost to use as a soil amendment for gardens and landscaping projects. This compost is from local participation in Recology's Organics program. Please bring your own shovel and container. Limited supply available.

No assistance will be provided. Bring your own shovel, gloves and container for loading compost.

RecologySanBenito.com | 831.636.7500

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



SBALT Ranch Day, the volunteers built rafts for the turtles in the Nyland ponds. B: Ricky Molina, Mary Watson, Mia Molina, Brian Schmidt, Ray Trabucco. M: Christy Fischer, Emmanuel Molina, Al & Alfred Key. F: Paul Hain, Bob Connolly, Tina Jollyschmidt



Above: Laurie Tankersley with SBC Integrated Waste Management shared safe sharps & medication disposal info at First 5 San Benito's Share Resiliency Health Fair. Thanks to all who stopped by! Learn more at www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/hhw. At right: CHEER and South Valley Community Church rallied 40+ volunteers for the San Benito River cleanup. Thanks to all who joined in! Learn more at www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/cleanups



San Benito Arts Council, Youth Art Studio, exploring the color wheel.



Laurie, Margot & Craig Tankersley of Margot's Ice Cream Parlor - San Benito Chamber Green Business of the Year.



Graniterock always represents! Backing the Aromas San Juan Unified School District Fundraiser L-R: Chandra Palacios, Keith Severson, Jason Lovell, Stephanie Lovell, & Peter Lemon.

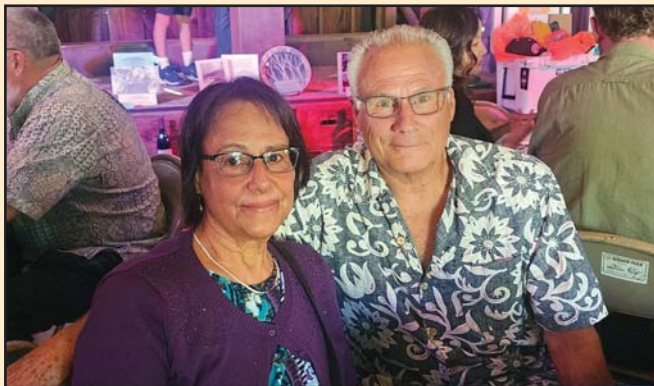


Daisy's Saloon Sunday Line Dancing continues!

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Above: Rancho Cielo's 10th Annual Veggie Box & BBQ Fundraiser, its largest yet! Thanks to 400+ volunteers & Monterey Bay F.C. players (L-R) Sam Gomez & Nico Cam-puzano, Jacob Muir & Adrian Rebollar (a Watsonville native!), more than 15,000 boxes were distributed.



Above: Viola & Larry Willis proof that fun and fabulous come in twos at The Aromas San Juan Unified School District Fundraiser.



James Leano's 2012 Exocet Mazda turns speed into street-side artistry



Hollister Rotary, local faces, big hearts, making Hollister stronger together.



Debbie Dutra with Tom & Mary McCullough enjoying a perfect evening at Gabilar Seneca's Wine & Food at Paicines Ranch.



Humpback whales are spending some time feasting on anchovies in Pacifica this month before making the trek down to Mexico for the winter. Photo by Voice art director Jeff Baham



Chamber Board at the 2025 San Benito County Chamber Awards, celebrating our local businesses and community.



Green Business Tips Electrification Mini-Grants available for San Benito County Green Businesses

Is your business a Certified Green Business or working toward becoming one? Do you want to make energy-saving upgrades but need a little help with funding?

Good news: up to 75 Mini-Grants of \$1,000 are now available for small businesses across California, including right here in San Benito County. These grants are designed to help businesses complete electrification and energy-efficiency projects.

Applications are open now through October 24, 2025, and projects must be completed by March 31, 2026. All you need to do is share the project you'd like to complete and how it

will benefit your business and community. Local businesses have already used past funding to:

- Replace outdated refrigerators with energy-efficient models
- Install smart plugs and thermostats to reduce energy use
- Upgrade outlets and lighting for better efficiency and safety

One local success story is Fool's Gold in San Juan Bautista. Owner Halina Kleinsmith used her grant to improve lighting and electrical outlets in her store.

"The process was easy because the steps

were clearly defined," Halina said. "What I could not individually enable due to costs was suddenly something I could embrace and improve my business through."

She encourages other businesses to apply: "Take the time to thoughtfully prepare your list of needs. Do your research on what would best support lighting, display, and safety."

Don't miss this opportunity to save money, reduce energy use, and invest in a greener future for your business and community. Apply today at greenbusinessca.org/electrification-mini-grants or contact Bryan Garcia at bgarcia@environmentalin.com. ■

Apply for an Efficiency Mini-Grant today!

Get \$1,000 to upgrade your Green Business



INTUIT



Alkire

Continued from page 12

most about love, but all meaningful. It was like boot camp for learning to be a counseling astrologer.

My life has chapters: back to Hollister in 2000, divorce, life in a tree house in Corralitos with a world-class glass artist, helping my partner's mother in Arizona, and finally back home to Hollister once again.

Q: What about Annie?

Annie ran off to Oregon with a respiratory therapist... but I got her back when we resettled in Hollister.

Q: When did you start reading tarot?

It was after my lung cancer diagnosis in 2021. My father died of lung cancer when I was a child, and I was convinced history would repeat itself. Too sick for the concentration astrology requires, and feeling quite scared and lost, I turned to tarot. I had recently taken a tarot class from an old friend, and I leaned on the cards in the months before surgery and chemo, more out of desperation than anything else.

The cards became a lifeline. For over a year, they kept telling me, "You will heal, but it will take time." Against all odds, they were right. By 2022, I was cancer-free. Tarot grounded me when I couldn't think clearly enough for astrology. What I discovered is what I would call a team of guides who speak to me through the cards.

Q: And now you practice both.

I'm an astrologer by training, but tarot is a wonderful complement. I'll sometimes pull cards during an astrology session if it feels right. Both tools are ways to bring intuition to the surface.

What I love most is teaching. Years ago, I taught an extension class in astrology at Gavilan College and got a standing ovation. More

Jeanne, at Big Sur



recently, I've been hosting Zoom workshops, guiding beginners through the basics.

One of my favorite projects right now is a circle of women who all studied with the same tarot teacher. We meet once a month on Zoom, some in California, others across the country. We pull cards together, share insights, and hold space for one another. It feels like a modern version of an old-fashioned salon, where people come to learn but also to belong and are encouraged to share. That's the part I value most: creating community around practices that help people know themselves better.

Teaching has also shown me that astrology and tarot don't have to feel intimidating. I'll take students outside to look at the night sky, and then show them how that exact moment maps onto a chart. It clicks, the realization that these ancient symbols aren't abstract; they're connected to real time, real stars, real life. When someone has that "Aha" moment, I can see their confidence grow. That's why I keep doing this.

Q: You've mentioned mortality a few times, growing up in a mortuary, surviving cancer. How has that affected you?

My grandparents owned Johnson's Funeral Home in Morgan Hill, so I grew up literally surrounded by death. Maybe that's why I

don't see it as scary. Losing my dad as a little kid made the reality of death a constant. Later, the cancer experience deepened my understanding. I read everything I could find on near-death experiences.

I've come to believe we're pure energy. When the body goes, the energy of our consciousness doesn't stop, it only transforms. That's why I say there's only love and light on the other side.

Q: And yet, you remain very grounded.

That's the funny part. My brother has a PhD in microbiology, and I'm the family astrologer! (laughs)

But I'm practical. For one thing, I'm a grandmother raising my seven-year-old grandson, so we don't get too airy-fairy at my house. I don't walk around "reading" people in the grocery store. My intuition works when I focus, when I read a chart or lay cards. That's when it flows.

Q: What excites you now?

I feel restless in the best way. I'm going to Colombia for Christmas to see the kids. I miss Maui. I want to expand my teaching, locally and via Zoom. Jeanne's Astro Salon on Patreon has just been dusted off after the hiatus of my health crisis. I hope to be doing regular written and video content. This is an unusual time in history, and I have some perspective to share. Mostly, I want to keep exploring ways to help people use astrology and tarot not as fortune-telling, but as tools to understand their own path.

Q: If you could leave us with one thought?

Astrology and tarot aren't about predicting doom or promising miracles. They're mirrors. They reflect who you already are and where you're headed. When a stranger tells you something you inwardly know about yourself, it gives you permission to be that person. That's the gift. ■



Rootz Salon Manager Jarar Anglin and Owner Reene Martin just completed a stylish remodel.

FRESH ENERGY

Rootz Salon unveils new look with Jarar Anglin as Manager

San Juan Bautista – Rootz Salon, still proudly owned by Reene Martin, has just completed a stylish remodel, offering a fresh new space for clients. The salon, a staple of the community, now has Jarar Anglin at the helm as manager.

Anglin, excited to revitalize the town, brings a fresh energy to the business, aiming to not only enhance the salon experience but also contribute to the rejuvenation of San Juan Bautista. "I'm thrilled to help bring new life to this beautiful town and offer exceptional service to our clients," says Anglin.

With an updated look and a renewed sense of energy, Rootz Salon is ready to continue serving the community and welcoming new faces. Visit today to check out the renovations and meet the team!

Rootz Salon is located at 209 3rd St., San Juan Bautista. For appointments, find us on Instagram @roots.salon.sjb (<https://msha.ke/roots.salon>). ■

COVER ARTIST

Melissa Steele-Ogus

One of my earliest memories is the view through the lens of an old microscope, a revelation of tiny creatures dancing in a drop of pond water. Microbes, my parents told me, and since then I've been hooked. I especially love protists, single-celled eukaryotes, because of how much function they manage to pack into just one cell. I currently work on diatoms, a type of single-celled algae. When you look at a diatom, the first thing you notice is its shape. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, each species distinct and exquisite in form. These shapes are from diatoms' cell walls, which are made almost entirely of silica—essentially, glass. The second thing you notice is that they are a greenish brown, a color granted to them by their photosynthetic pigments.

Diatoms' cell walls may be beautiful, but they can also be a challenge for those who study them.

The microscope I used in my childhood was enough to spark my interest, but these days I need more sophisticated tools to study the goings-on inside these cells. Such tools include dyes and stains that bind to specific cellular structures, so they light up in different colors under a fluorescence microscope: a standard technique for cell biologists. But when a literal glass house surrounds your cell, it's rendered all but impenetrable to stains. I spent nearly two years trying all sorts of stains and techniques to get them inside the cells. Almost nothing worked. I was about to give up, when I got a lucky break: an opportunity to go to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany. There, Gautam Dey's lab has pioneered a method which is relatively new (roughly ten years old) but had yet to be used in diatoms. This technique is called expansion microscopy. The premise of expansion mi-

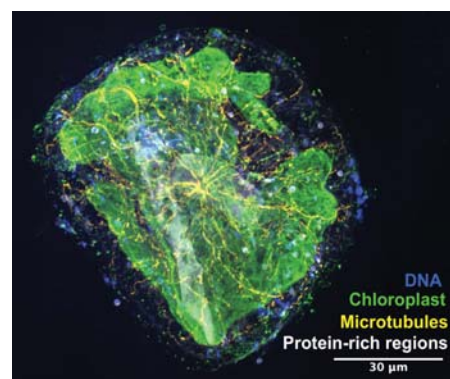
croscopy sounds like something out of a cheesy sci-fi movie: instead of making better microscopes with better resolution that can see smaller details, what if we just made our samples bigger? It sounds ridiculous, but it works. The cells, and proteins within them, are linked to an expandable gel. There is a key extra step for diatoms: flash freeze the cells beforehand, shattering their cell wall into dozens of tiny pieces, allowing the cells to expand, the dyes to get in and me to see what I've desperately wanted to see for so long.

The diatom genus I study, *Epithemia*, has



something that makes it special among diatoms: an endosymbiont, a cell within a cell, descended from a cyanobacteria (a blue-green algae). Over the last 30 or so million years, the endosymbiont has lost most of its own metabolism and has become suited for a single purpose: in exchange for nutrients, it provides its host with nitrogen in the form of ammonium. Nitrogen is essential for life, and although earth's atmosphere is composed mostly of nitrogen, it's in a form that's unusable by most organisms. The endosymbiont has the rare ability to take this atmospheric nitrogen and transform it into a form that the host can use. But there's a catch: oxygen is the byproduct of photosynthesis and is also irreversibly toxic to the enzyme responsible for this nitrogen transformation. How these two processes are reconciled is beyond our current understanding. There's much more we don't understand about the relationship between host and endosymbiont—what exact nutrients are exchanged? How does the host tell the endosymbiont when it's time to divide, and how does the host make sure that endosymbionts are packaged correctly when they do divide? I hope the new tools will help answer these questions, and more.

RE my cover image: Art is an excellent excuse to make a careful study of insects, creatures I've always loved. I have a reason to examine every tiny detail of each subject, and with that consideration comes appreciation. (In other words, I have an excuse to look at insects, and it makes me happy!) ■



DEARLY DENOTED

Charlotte M. Sitton, the 'White Lady' of Adelaida Cemetery (1871–1890)

Charlotte M. Sitton, remembered as the "White" or "Pink Lady," was only nineteen years old when she passed away in 1890. The young minister's wife was laid to rest in the quiet hills of Adelaida Cemetery, west of Paso Robles, California. Beside her, it is said, lie the graves of her children—a tender reminder of a family's brief, sorrowful story.

Yet, Charlotte's legend did not end with her death. Locals tell that on certain days, especially near dusk or dawn, Charlotte's spirit rises from her grave to place flowers upon her children's resting places. Dressed in pale garments, she drifts softly among



the stones, her faint weeping echoing through the still air.

One enduring piece of evidence that keeps her story alive is a photograph—taken in daylight—that some believe captured Charlotte herself, wandering the cemetery where love and loss eternally bind her spirit. ■ Photo credit: weirdca.com



Sandra Arretche on El Día de Los Angelitos, The Day of the Angels.

ARTS

Celebrating the departed

By San Benito County Arts Council

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a vibrant Mexican tradition that honors loved ones who have passed away. Rather than mourning, it is a joyful celebration of life, rooted in Indigenous customs. People create *ofrendas* (altars) decorated with photos, candles, food, and personal items to welcome the spirits back to the world of the living. Bright orange marigolds, known as "flowers of the dead,"

guide souls with their color and scent. Sugar skulls and *pan de muerto* symbolize the sweetness and cycle of life, while candles and incense represent light and purification. *Papel picado*, colorful cut paper banners, re-

mind participants of life's fragility. The holiday emphasizes that death is not an end but a continuation, keeping memory alive through tradition, storytelling, and love that bridges generations.

Every year, there are many ways to celebrate *Día de los Muertos* locally. Arts Council teaching artist, Sandra Arretche, will lead *Día De los Angelitos* or See CELEBRATING, page 19





THEN (left): Pink house in 1997, photo credit: C. Lee; NOW (right): 21 Franklin Street.

Then... and Now: The 'Pink House' at 21 Franklin

By Wanda Guibert
San Juan Bautista Historical Society

Unless you lived in San Juan Bautista prior to 2001, you are not likely to be familiar with what was known as the "Pink House" at 21 Franklin Street. Unlike many buildings listed in the Historic Resources Inventories, this structure has no historical names associated with it. Neither the structure nor the site is identified as "landmark" by the 1981 Historic resources Inventory. As part of the 2005 Inventory, historical preservation consultants GPA identified numerous properties – including this one – eligible for local landmark status based on their architectural merit. These properties were selected because they represent the best of their type or style, retain high architectural integrity and still portray their historic significance. These properties were assigned status code 5S3, as appearing eligible for local landmark designation through survey evaluation.

The 1981 Inventory (more thorough than the 2005 Inventory) estimates the date of construction to be about 1850. Just imagine. This little cottage was probably built shortly after San Juan was declared a pueblo by Governor Pico in 1845... just 53 years after the founding of Mission San Juan Bautista in 1797...before the American Civil War began in 1861...before the town of San Juan Bautista was incorporated in 1869. This building could be almost 175 years old! We can only imagine who might have lived there

or if perhaps this building was moved from another location, like many other buildings in town. And why is it sited on a lot with a modern mission-style building?

In the 1981 Historic Resources Inventory, the property is described as a 1-story irregular, L-shaped rectangular wood-frame residence with a non-intersecting, medium-gabled composition roof. A flat tin-covered roof porch supported by simple posts and lintels links the 2 sections of the L-shaped plan. A 10/1 fixed pane window door articulates the left wing façade, and 1/1 sash windows in pairs articulate the other elevations. The siding is board and batten. The document suggests that the open porch was added. This is an example of expanding vernacular housing with simple functional expression.

In terms of its historical and/or architectural significance, the inventory states that this small, L-shaped board and batten – or board on end – residence represents one of 2 basic vernacular forms of construction in town dating to the early 1850s. Of this type, there are about 3-5 remaining in use in and around town, with 2 examples along the Alameda near the former site of the cement

plant, perhaps what is now referred to as Indian Corners.

The board and batten buildings were built from split lumber prior to the availability of milled lumber in the area and precede both the shiplap and drop-siding predominant throughout town. The form of the building and its method of construction give this and other structures of its type significance in tracing the physical and material growth of San Juan Bautista.

In 1998, the proposed project for La Casa Horley (Albert & Jeanette Horley's new home) was reviewed as a conceptual design by the Planning Commission, who favored the development and "Mission-style" architecture but recommended a smaller scale and were opposed to the demolition of the existing "pink house" because of its age (built circa 1850) and its significance as a contributing structure in the City's designated Historic District. The applicant modified the original plans, incorporating the Commission's recommendations by adding a complete restoration of the pink house to the plans rather than relocating or demolishing the structure, and reducing the overall square footage of the new 2,049 square foot house.

The restoration of the little cottage (in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historical restoration) entailed relocating the building 5 feet from the northeast property line (aligned with the residence along the east ele-



Above: Pink House facade prior to move;
Below: Moving pink house closer to Franklin St.
Photo credit: C. Lee



vation and closer to the Franklin Street property line) and placing it on a permanent foundation. The pink frame house was to retain its appearance at that time (board and batten) including the redwood picket fence at the street to be compatible with other nearby vernacular structures. The site plan shows the existing structure to be used as an office; however, the applicants requested approval to have the option to use it as a residential rental (a non-conforming use requiring a conditional use permit). In 2001, the Commission approved the use of the cottage as a residence.

The Horleys are no longer with us, and the little cottage is no longer pink. However, the charming circa 1850 Folk Victorian is here to stay, harkening back to memories of the past, inviting visitors to take a step back in time. ■

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FOR UPDATES AND SPECIAL EVENTS!

402 THIRD ST. #B, SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, CA

Celebrating

Continued from page 17

"Day of Little Angels," a ceremony to honor children who have departed. This year's event will be held at the San Juan Bautista Cemetery and is open for all ages. For more information, please email info@san-juanbautista.com

Another way to engage in *Dia de los Muertos* is through hands-on art-making. Arts Council teaching artist, Desiree Galindo, will be leading a three-week *papier mâché* sugar skull workshop series beginning

October 15th at the Art Depot in Hollister. This workshop is for family friendly for those 10+. To learn more and register, please visit www.sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com

And of course, El Teatro Campesino will be hosting their annual *Dia de los Muertos* celebration and procession on Sunday November 2nd, starting at 12 pm the Playhouse on Fourth St. Activities include the ofrendas, special danzas and blessings, music, food and the community procession through San Juan Bautista. To attend or get involved, please visit www.elteatrocampesino.com. ■



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | OCTOBER 2025

Calendar

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 -
FRIDAY OCTOBER 31**

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
Call Hazel Hawkins Hospital to schedule your mam-
mogram 831.636.2650

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3

DANNYOKE 9pm-12am. Daisy's Saloon, San Juan
Bautista

**FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT MARKET @ VERTIGO SAN
JUAN BAUTISTA** 5-9pm. Local Artists/Vendors, Vinyl
DJ. 4-8pm Hapa Bros Food Truck. Vertigocoffee.com

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 -
SUNDAY OCTOBER 5**

102ND SAN BENITO COUNTY FAIR Live concerts: The
Outlaw Mariachi, Justin Lawrence, the Double Average



Sunday, October 12

GRANITEROCK ROCK & RUN 8am. 10k/5k
Walk @ A.R. Wilson Quarry, Aromas. Gran-
iterock.com. See back cover for details.

Band and The Junebugs! Hula Hoop Extraordinaire,
POWERHOUSE!!! Percussive Dance Rebecca Fireplug
& Ventriloquist Vikki! Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. San-
benitocountyfair.com

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4

LIVING HISTORY DAYS 11am-4pm. SJB State His-
toric Park. 1st Saturday.

MASTER GARDENER PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTH
10am-1pm. SJB State Historic Park, Heritage Garden,
San Juan Bautista.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

FIGURE DRAWING COLLECTIVE 2-5pm. Intermediate
& advanced artists draw from a live model. 1st Sunday.
Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill.

**RANCH DAYS / HIKES ON NYLAND & RANCHO LAR-
IOS PROTECTED LANDS IN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA**
9am-12pm. Families welcome! sanbenitolandtrust.org
1st Sunday.

MONDAY OCTOBER 6

FULL HARVEST MOON IN ARIES

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8

ARTIST TALK WITH SUSAN CHRYSLER WHITE 6-
7:30pm. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

PET FRIEND'S TACOS FOR TAILS TRIVIA NIGHT 5-
9pm. Grillin & Chillin Alehouse, Hollister. Email sue-
lyon@charter.net

**CREATE A CANVAS-COMMUNITY HOUR SMALL
WORKS EXHIBITION** 6-7pm. Art Depot, Hollister. San-
benitoarts.org

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9

BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK CELEBRATION 3-7pm.
FREE food, music, dancing & more! San Benito Health
Foundation, 351 Felice Dr., Hollister.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10

**HOLLISTER RAISED AUTHOR W. OWEN WILLIAMS
BOOK SIGNING - EAGLE'S ASCENT THE WAN-
DERER'S ODE BOOK II** 3pm. Hillsbookstore.com Hol-
lister

NDGW MONTHLY PEDRO CARD PARTY 1pm. \$10.
NDGW Adobe, 203 4th street SJB. 2nd Friday.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

EAT EXHIBITION OPENING CELEBRATION 12-3pm.
Art Depot, Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org

**SAN JUAN BAUTISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY LUCK
MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE** 11am-2pm. Our archives are
housed in a 1919 poured-in-place concrete Mission Re-
vival service station. Corner of Monterey St., 3rd St., San
Juan Bautista. sjbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

HOLLISTER DOWNTOWN FALL CLEAN-UP 8:30-



Friday, October 3 - Sunday, October 5

102ND SAN BENITO COUNTY FAIR Live concerts: The Outlaw Mariachi, Justin Lawrence,
the Double Average Band and The Junebugs! Hula Hoop Extraordinaire, POWERHOUSE!!!
Percussive Dance Rebecca Fireplug and Ventriloquist Vikki! Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. San-
benitocountyfair.com. Pictured: **The Junebugs** from Portland, OR will be at the Fair.

10:30am. Info. 831.636.8406 or events@downtown-
hollister.org

**SAN JUAN BAUTISTA VFW POST 6339 FLEA MAR-
KET** 58 Monterey St. & 3rd. San Juan Bautista.
408.603.9065

CARS TRUCKS & COFFEE 9-11am. Across Windmill
& Vertigo Coffee, San Juan Bautista. 2nd & 4th Satur-
day.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE 9-
11:30am. Behind Hollister Library. Refreshments, dog
friendly. Book/vinyl donations accepted. 2nd Saturday.

A DOOMSDAY MURDER MYSTERY PARTY! 6-9pm.
Gardenshoppeandbar.com Hollister

**HOLLISTER HAYBALERS CLASS ON 75' 50TH CLASS
REUNION** 4:30-10pm. Ridgemark Golf Club, Holliser.
Info & RSVP Dolores 831.801.8275, Ysabel
831.419.1279, Josefa 415.815.5140

**HOLLISTER HILLS SVRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELE-
BRATION!** 10am-2pm. at the Lower Ranch, Lodge
Campground. Hollister.Hills@parks.ca.gov or
831.638.2065

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 -
SUNDAY OCTOBER 12**

**FOUNDATIONS OF FIGURE DRAWING INTRODUC-
TORY WORKSHOP WITH SANDY FRANK** 10am-3pm.
Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

**MONTEREY FISHERMAN'S WHARF 180 WHARF
BIRTHDAY PARTY** 1-5pm. Montereywharf.com

AROMAS COMMUNITY MARKET 9:30am-1pm. Music,
food, vendors. 2nd Sunday. Aromas Grange.

GRANITEROCK ROCK & RUN 8am. 10k/5k Walk @
A.R. Wilson Quarry, Aromas. Graniterock.com

**TERESSIE WHITE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CONCERT EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING A.C. MYLES**

& DEAD COWBOYS 2-5pm. A.C. Myles electric blues
of 60's & 70's & Dead Cowboys. Food, premium beer
& wine. Wear your dancing shoes! Aromasgrange.org

**HOLLISTER HAYBALER CLASS OF 75' 50TH CHAM-
PAGNE BRUNCH** Casa Gamboa, Morgan Hill. RSVP
Dolores 831.801.8275, Ysabel 831.419.1279, Josefa
415.815.5140

MONDAY OCTOBER 13

PERFORMER'S CIRCLE @ AROMAS GRANGE 7-9pm.
2nd Monday. Bring your instrument and share a song
in the round. Aromasgrange.org

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17

BEER PONG TOURNAMENT 9:30pm. Daisy's Saloon,
San Juan Bautista.

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 -
SATURDAY OCTOBER 18**

GHOST WALK 2025 - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Tours
every half hour from 6-8pm. Meet @ corner of Third &
Mariposa, San Juan Bautista. Tickets@ Rotarysan-
juanbautista.com Info Text Jackie Munoz
831.320.1764

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

2ND ANNUAL SPECIAL HEROES CARNIVAL 11am-
2pm. All children with disabilities are invited to this
FREE event. Games, booths, food, drinks & more! Info
Bernie Ramirez 831.902.7811

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S - MONTEREY Custom
House Plaza. Alz.org/montereywalk

FREMONT PEAK OBSERVATORY STARGAZING 8pm
Presentation. 8pm-Midnight Viewing. FPOA.net

**RECEPTION FOR ARTISTS MICHELLE ROBERTSON &
LILI JORGE WITH HARP MUSIC BY SARAH NEWMAN**
5-7pm. Luna Gallery, San Juan Bautista. Luna-
gallery.art

Continued on next page

"UNLOCK YOUR POWER" WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT 9am-4pm. 507 Third St, San Juan Bautista, Register DSJB.ORG Info 831.206.4140 or Info@DSJD.org

MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT 9am-12pm. John Smith Landfill, 2650 John Smith Rd., Hollister. Dispose up to 15 gallons or 125 lbs of household hazardous waste..Sanbenitocountyca.gov/HHW. 3rd Saturday.

YOGA IN THE GALLERY 9am-10am. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19

19TH ANNUAL CAPITOLA PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT 1pm. Seascape Golf Course. Email info@capitolafoundation.com

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN ACRYLIC PAINTING CLASS 11am-1pm. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21

NEW MOON IN LIBRA

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22

OPEN STUDIOS ARTIST RECEPTION - COLIBRI GALLERY 6-8pm. Works of Morgan Hill area artists. Colibrigallery.com Morgan Hill.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 23

SUGAR SKULL CREATION WORKSHOP 6-8pm. Luna Gallery, San Juan Bautista. Lunagallery.art

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24

DANNYOKE @ DAISY'S SALOON 9pm-12am. Daisy's Saloon, San Juan Bautista

SPOOKTACULAR - WEAR YOUR COSTUME! 6:30-8pm. YMCA San Benito County, 351 Tres Pinos Rd, Hollister. 831.637.8600

EAT EXHIBITION - SAN BENITO ARTS 5-7pm. Art Depot, Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8

BEETLEJUICE JR. - THE FRIGHTFULLY FUNNY MUSICAL 7pm & 1pm performances. San Benito Stage Company. Sanbenitostage.org

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25

RECOLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL DAY - HOLLISTER 9am-1pm at Brigantino Park, 2100 San Juan Hollister Road, Hollister. Drop off unwanted e-waste, secure document shredding, compost giveaway. www.recology.com

CARS TRUCKS & COFFEE 9-11am. Across Windmill & Vertigo Coffee, San Juan Bautista. 2nd & 4th Saturday.

HOLLISTER HILLS SVRA CLEAN WHEELING 9am-1pm. Annual clean wheeling trash pick-up at the upper ranch. Hollister.Hills@parks.ca.gov or 831.636.2065

RANCHO CIELO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Visit ranchocieloyc.org/rancho-cielos-25th-anniversary-celebration for info and tickets.

FREMONT PEAK OBSERVATORY STARGAZING 2-5pm. Solar Program. 8pm Presentation. 8pm-Midnight Viewing. FPOA.net

COMMUNITY ACTION DAY IN SAN BENITO COUNTY! 9am-12pm. SBC Community Action Day! SBC Histor-



October 19, 23 & 30

IT'S THE SEASON FOR FALL ART OPPORTUNITIES! Paper Mache Calavera Workshop on Oct. 15 (from 4:30-5:30 pm; see Sanbenitoarts.org); Children's Halloween Acrylic Painting at Cura Contemporary on Oct. 19, Sugar Skull Workshop on Oct. 23, and Day of the Dead Altar Creation on Oct. 30 at Luna Gallery. See calendar listings for details.

ical Park, Tres Pinos. Plant a native plant pollinator hedgerow & remove invasive plants. Lunch Provided. RSVP <https://bit.ly/SanBenito1025>. Info Cameron@rcdsanbenito.com.

BEGINNER WATERCOLOR & MIXED MEDIA: FALL'S BOUNTY 10am-1:30pm. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

FREE COMPOST WORKSHOP 10am-12pm. Learn about Biodynamics from Master Composter Otis Johnson. 2301 Technology Pkwy, Hollister. RSVP @ sb-ciwm@sanbenitocountyca.gov

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26

AROMAS COMMUNITY MARKET 9am-12pm. Fresh organic produce, food, & goods from local makers. Grange. Aromasgrange.org

THURSDAY OCTOBER 30

DAY OF THE DEAD ALTAR CREATION 6-8pm. Luna Gallery, San Juan Bautista. Lunagallery.art

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31

SAN JUAN HOME & SCHOOL TREAT OR TREAT PROCESSION Info. Visit sanjuanbautistaca.com

CITY LIBRARY CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION Library@san-juan-bautista.ca.us

Every week

TUESDAYS

OFF THE CHAIN BIKES - 22 MI RIDE 6pm. Offthechainbikes.com Hollister

WEDNESDAYS

HOLLISTER CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET 3-7pm. Through October 15. downtownhollister.org

GEEKS WHO DRINK - RUNNING ROOSTER TRIVIA NIGHT 6:30pm. Runningrooster.com Hollister

MARY VELASCO SELLEN SENIOR CENTER LUNCH, CHAIR YOGA & BINGO 11am Call Mary Edge 831.262.3484 maryedge@sbcglobal.net. SJB Com-

munity Hall.

THURSDAYS

TRIVIA NIGHT WITH MIGUEL SILVA @ VERTIGO 6:30-8:30pm. 5-8pm Hapa Bros Food Truck. SJB. Vertigocoffee.com

VINLY NIGHT @ VERTIGO 6-9pm rotating DJ's 4-8pm Hapa Bros Food Truck.

OFF THE CHAIN BIKES -33 MI RIDE 6pm. Offthechainbikes.com Hollister

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S SALOON 9pm-12am. daisyssaloon.com San Juan Bautista.

LIVE MUSIC SATURDAYS @ THE SMOKE POINT Live bands every Saturday afternoon. San Juan Bautista

FRIDAYS

OPEN MIC @ THE HIDEAWAY - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Instagram & FB @THEHIDEAWAYSJB

SATURDAYS

OFF THE CHAIN BIKES - 22 MI RIDE 8am. Offthechainbikes.com Hollister

SUNDAYS

LINE DANCING @ DAISY'S SALOON 6pm Lessons, 7-9pm free dance. The back Patio. daisyssaloon.com San Juan Bautista.

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S SALOON 2-5pm. daisyssaloon.com San Juan Bautista.

FRUITION BREWING LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO 3-5pm. Fruition Brewing.com Watsonville

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA'S FARMER'S MARKET 11am-3pm. Local produce, food vendors. Info DSJB.ORG Thru Nov 2nd.

Save the Date

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION @ SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CEMETERY 4pm. Info 831.245.9129

DIA DE LOS GROOVES MAKERS MARKET 1-6pm. Posada de San Juan. Artsychicboutique.bigcartel.com

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2

HOT CHOCOLATE & PAN DULCE RECEPTION FOR DAY OF THE DEAD 5:30pm. @ Luna Gallery, Lunagallery.art San Juan Bautista

EL TEATRO CAMPESINO'S DIA DE LOS MUERTOS FREE EVENT & PROCESSION 12-5pm. ETC'S Annual Dia de los Muertos event returns to celebrate our dearly departed with ofrendas, musica, teatro, and More! Scheduled acts between 12-5pm will be outdoors. Altar Exhibits, Tiendita and Corina's Cantina will be open inside the playhouse. 3pm is our procession through the streets of San Juan Bautists. We will arrive back just in time for a special Teatro performance outdoors. ETC Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista. Elteatrocampesino.com

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7 - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

3RD ANNUAL HOLLISTER POWWOW & NATIVE GATHERING Friday 6pm, Ceremonial Evening, Bear Dance. Saturday 10am - 9:45pm Powwow, Indigenous Fashion Show! Sunday 10am -6pm, Powwow. Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. Info 831.801-5530

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28

BLACK FRIDAY BIRDING - SAN BENITO COUNTY HISTORICAL PARK 8:30am. Local Birding enthusiast conduct tour. Coffee & midmorning treats. 8300 Airline Hwy, Tres Pinos.



Friday, October 24 - Saturday, November 8

BEETLEJUICE JR. - THE FRIGHTFULLY FUNNY MUSICAL 7pm & 1pm performances. San Benito Stage Company. Visit Sanbenitostage.org for tickets and more information.



A fall bounty featuring pomegranates, prized for their rich color and flavor. Photo by Karminder Brown

SBALT NEWS

Pomegranate season is here

By Candy Coleman
SBALT PR/Events Committee Chair

Deeply colored in hues of purplish-red and filled with jewel-like seeds, the pomegranate is more than just a striking fruit. With its sweet-tart flavor, rich history, and deep cultural symbolism, the pomegranate has been revered for thousands of years.

Believed to have been domesticated as early as the fifth millennium BC, the pomegranate is native to the region spanning Iran to northern India. It spread across continents over centuries, finding its way into Spanish America in the late 16th century and into California by Spanish settlers in 1769.

Today, California produces the vast majority of pomegranates in the United States, with smaller amounts grown in Texas and Arizona. These trees thrive in mild to tropical climates, but the highest-quality fruit comes from areas with cool winters and hot, dry summers. Their drought tolerance makes them especially well-suited for arid agricultural regions.

Few fruits carry as much symbolic weight as the pomegranate. Across Greek, Persian, Chinese, Egyptian, and other cultures, it represents fertility, abundance, prosperity, friendship, and peace.

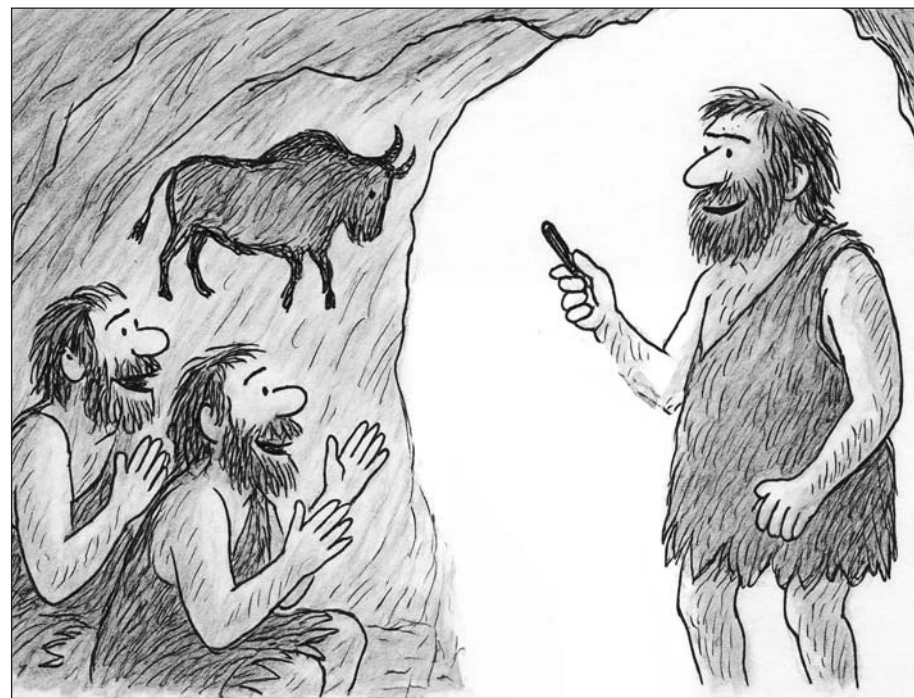
Beyond mythology, the pomegranate has long been valued for its medicinal properties. Ancient and modern uses include treat-

ments for metabolic disorders, skin problems, wounds, and even dental protection. Its peels have been used for natural dyeing, particularly in the carpet industry to stain wool and silk.

Each fruit contains anywhere from 200 to 1,400 seeds, known as arils, which are rich in vitamin C, potassium, and fiber.

From ancient legend to modern health food, the pomegranate endures as a symbol of vitality and mystery—bridging the natural and mythological worlds, and offering both nourishment and meaning in every radiant seed.

SBALT's monthly articles are for our community. Let us know what you would enjoy reading about in upcoming articles by emailing laura@sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Creativity

By Halina Kleinsmith

One of the most unique things about creativity is that it makes what isn't there, appear.

If you paint a picture or work in clay, if you design in any way, it is often due to an inherent love for a specific medium, which regularly proves to be innate to our particular gene pools.

Thus historically, humanity has realized and embraced special lifetime skills, which have served to create accomplished, adept and expert results.

For some, it's a matter of acumen, aptitude or prodigy which enables their tangible facilitation of varied and numerous disciplines in art, music, acting, writing, woodworking, costuming and other teachings.

Although many may not be as intrinsically gifted, endowed or bestowed with the immediate realization of providential capabilities, they continue on to achieving creative prowess through applied study, tutoring,

and apprenticeship.

The inspiration to creative production occurs in so many ways, and especially when in tandem with planning milestone celebrations.

Birthdays, graduations, weddings and anniversaries are among the special rites of passage that inspire some of the best ideas, challenging us to artfully fulfill event-specific tasks and creative visions.

When a theme is chosen, many may decide to employ the services of professional planners, who are particularly adept at staging special events with "all the bells and whistles" for their clients.

That term sweetly harkens back to ancient times, when cultures worldwide danced to hand wrought pipes, whistles and drums. The performers were inspired to attach tiny bells and shells onto their clothing, adding melody to the setting as they moved.

What I find amazing is that someone had to fashion all those little bells, and someone had to weave the cloth that made the clothing, or at least beat the skins that were tanned for clothing.

A precreativity creativity. ■

id-i-om

"Die Geister, die ich rief"

("The spirits that I called")

This haunting German idiom comes from Goethe's 1797 poem *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. It warns of summoning forces you cannot control, whether ghosts, curses, or consequences. In English, it's used when someone unleashes trouble they can't put back. ■

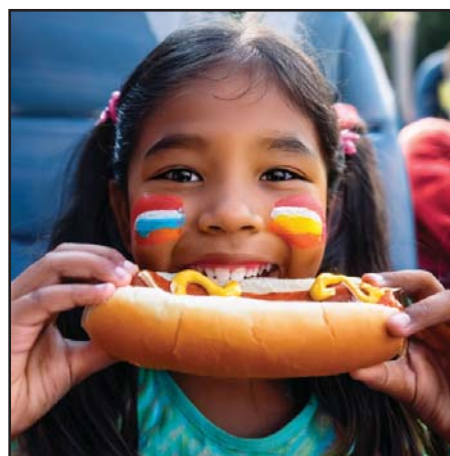


COMMUNITY

Special Heroes Carnival offers joy to students with disabilities

The second annual Special Heroes Carnival is happening on Saturday, October 18th from 11AM to 2PM. All school-age children with disabilities are invited to this free community event hosted by VFW Post 9242 and held at the Hollister Elks Lodge. There will be games, booths, food, drinks and more!

The event was inspired by Bernie Ramirez, who is a Hollister native and Vietnam veteran. He has been involved with the VFW since 2015, and he is currently the Commander of VFW Post 9242 and Captain of the Honor Guard. Over the years, he and his fellow veterans have been supporting children and teens with disabilities in various activities including fishing, golfing, the Bambinos and Challenger League and the Buckaroo Bash. Bernie noticed over time that there were growing numbers and needs for these children. He wanted to do something



more and that's how the Special Heroes Carnival came to be. Bernie says, "Its simple mission is to put a smile on the kids' faces."

The VFW Post 9242 and Bernie are so grateful for how the community has really stepped up to support the event. Families, teachers, organizations and businesses have generously donated everything necessary to make the event a success. Now, all that's left to do is welcome the Special Heroes and their families and spread some joy!

For more information, contact Bernie Ramirez at (831) 902-7811. ■

EDUCATION

Support healthy snacks for San Juan students

When students come to school hungry, it's difficult for them to focus, learn, and thrive. With the threat of cuts to school food programs, many teachers at San Juan Elementary prepared to provide healthy snacks for their students out of their own pockets. Recognizing this need, local residents Aida Pisano and Mary Surber stepped in to help.

In August, Pisano and Surber launched a community fundraising and donation effort with one clear goal: give San Juan Elementary students nourishment needed to succeed in the classroom. "Healthy snacks may seem small, but to a hungry student, it can mean the difference between distraction and being ready to learn," Pisano shared.

Donations of granola bars, fruit cups, crackers, and other nutritious options poured in, along with monetary contributions that will help teachers stock their classrooms. Local families, businesses, and neighbors showed up with generosity and enthusiasm, demonstrating what can be ac-



complished when a community comes together for its children.

"We are proud to live in San Juan Bautista, where people care deeply about one another," Surber said. "This effort isn't just about snacks, it's about giving our kids the tools and support they need to do their best."

Thanks to the sponsors and the community's response, San Juan Elementary teachers will now have access to resources that ease their burden and directly benefit students. The organizers hope this effort inspires ongoing support, ensuring that every child can focus on learning rather than hunger.

For those who wish to contribute, donations can still be made by contacting Pisano or Surber directly or ish1185@yahoo.com. Together, we can keep San Juan's students strong, healthy, and ready to succeed. ■

San Juan School Track Update



Dear Community Members, Home and School Club, and ASJUSD,

We, the San Juan Track Committee, would like to share an update on the progress and future goals of the San Juan School track project.

Initial Timeline Adjustment:

Our original plan was to begin construction of the school running track in late October 2022. However, based on the results of a 2020 seismic report, the school district is required to do major construction. This has impacted our timeline.

Ongoing Collaboration and Planning:

We are now meeting regularly and working closely with ASJUSD and community partners to keep the project moving forward. With the district currently focused on building a new school—expected to be completed in approximately two years—we see exciting opportunities ahead that will ultimately benefit our children and the broader community.

Commitment to Environmental and Cultural Stewardship:

We are also actively supporting efforts to preserve the local environment and cultural heritage, while ensuring protection for species and habitats that may be impacted by construction.

Financial Stewardship:

All track funds have been deposited into a designated account with the Community Foundation for San Benito County. Our direct link for donations is: tinyurl.com/SJBCTF

We are grateful for your continued support and will keep you informed as we make progress. Together, we are building not just a track, but a stronger, healthier community.

Thank You,

Joey Dorrell-Canepa, Moira Casey, Alfred Castaneda, Christol Castaneda, Vera Clark, Jennifer Colby, Connie Espinosa, Valerie Halla, Julie Castaneda-Hicks, Teresa Lavagnino, Jill Glass-Pagaran, Michelle Perez-Picha, Jennifer Ponce, and Alan Samuels.

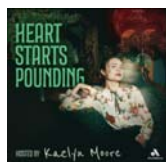
To make a donation, use the QR code at the top of the page. Thank you!





Heart Starts Pounding

Explore the Darkly Curious with Kaelyn Moore. From Appalachian folklore to true urban legends, to bizarre disappearances and extremist cults, satisfy your dark curiosity with new content every week. The podcast has been running since 2022 and posts new episodes every Wednesday. Kaelyn Moore started her career in the entertainment industry, working in development at James Wan's Atomic Monster production company (The Conjuring, Annabelle) before moving to Ace Entertainment where she worked on the reboot of Are You Afraid of the Dark?



Kill List

In the depths of the dark net, tech journalist Carl Miller makes a disturbing discovery: a secret Kill List. Kill List is a Wondery true crime podcast hosted by tech journalist Carl Miller, who investigates a dark web murder-for-hire website and the secret list of targets it features. The podcast follows Miller's race against time to uncover the truth and warn those in danger, exploring themes of obsession, control, and the price of life and death. You can listen to the podcast on Wondery, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcast platforms.



Be My Eyes

A groundbreaking accessibility app originally launched to connect blind or low-vision users with sighted volunteers through video calls. Recently, it introduced an AI "Virtual Volunteer" that can instantly describe what your camera sees, objects, colors, text, even complex scenes. It gives the sense of carrying a supernatural guide in your pocket, an invisible companion that can "see" when you cannot. Like an oracle, it offers knowledge beyond ordinary perception. Why it's useful: Beyond accessibility, it can help anyone read menus in dim light, navigate unfamiliar environments, or identify objects on the fly.



Ghost Detector Radar Simulator

The ultimate ghost detector with communicator and paranormal activity radar! Detect supernatural entities near you, using a radar-scope interface. You allow camera access, walk around, and the "radar" shows direction and distance to spirits. Other features include: Classic ghost box / spirit board-style communication; EMF / EVP tools (magnetic / audio sensors); Scary sound effects, realistic images, daily horror story updates - it's like you're one of the Ghost Busters!



THOMMELIER

The language of wine

By Thomas Brenner

One of the most rewarding parts of enjoying wine is learning to talk about it. A bottle tells a thousand tales, yet many of us swirl, sip, and still find ourselves lost for words when asked to describe what we taste. Building vocabulary heightens pleasure, and every profession of love deserves its jargon. Wine deserves its own vernacular. Clear language helps us express what a wine exudes, making appreciation and conversation richer and far more memorable.



When it comes to wines' attributes, I like to think in colors. This is an easy way to connect floral and fruit notes to what's in the glass. Just looking at a wine's hue offers clues. A pale green tint suggests lime, gooseberry, or cut grass. A deeper yellow points to apples, pears, or lemon. Sometimes tropical hints emerge. Rosé carries red flowers and berries, ruby reds suggest cherry and rose, and brooding purples lean toward blackberry and plum. Color steers the mind toward families of flavors before the first sip, making descriptors easier to find.

Descriptors come into focus through two lenses. The first centers around just organic and inorganic notes. Organic items include fruit, flowers, herbs, spices, or even dairy. Inorganic impressions (chalk, graphite, flint, or wet stone) round out the vocabulary. The second lens is origin. Primary notes come from the grape, secondary from the cellar, tertiary from bottle age.

Primary notes reveal the grape itself. Sauvignon may show lime, passion fruit, bell pepper, or Thai basil. Pinot Noir brings cherry, strawberry, and rose petal. Cabernet Sauvignon offers cassis, darker fruit, and an herbal edge. Syrah often leans toward black fruit with a pepper lift. The next layer comes from bestowing a state of being: fresh, bruised, underripe, macerated, or dried. Suddenly you're describing not just cherry, but stewed cherry with earthy minerality. These details elevate tasting notes into something far more vivid.

Secondary notes reflect the winemaker's hand. Oak aging can add vanilla, dill, toast, or spice. Time on lees contributes biscuit and



brioche. Malolactic conversion softens sharp acidity into creamier texture and buttery nuance. These are human choices, crafted after harvest and outside the vineyard's control.

Tertiary notes arrive only with age. As fruit tones recede, layers of mushroom, leather, dried flowers, or savory umami emerge. A well-cellared bottle feels layered, gentle, and complete in its complexity, reminding us why patience is often rewarded.

Wine is, at its heart, delicious chemistry. Phenolic compounds and esters shape aroma and flavor. Pyrazines add bell pepper to Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Riesling can develop petrol aromas with age (in a greatly delicious way). Chenin Blanc may feel like lanolin or beeswax on the palate. Recognizing these patterns makes them easier to notice, and easier to describe to a friend or to a sommelier.

Don't overlook inorganic impressions. Wines often recall slate, flint, or crushed rock. Petrichor, the scent of rain on warm pavement, is one of the most evocative descriptors in one's repertoire, for example.

Faults, too, have a language: wet dog, sulfur, or paper mache. Just as vivid are personal memories. A Chardonnay might bring back your grandmother's armoire drawer while Cabernet might recall eucalyptus from childhood remedies. If a word pops into your mind and helps explain the experience, use it. Wine language is part chemistry, part memory, and a great part artistic license.

Try a simple practice: smell, sip, savor, and speak. Look at the color, breathe deeply, take a sip, notice what lingers, then say it aloud. Add descriptors. A fruit, a flower, a spice, or even a stone will get you started right. The more you practice, the more fluent you become, and the more fun you'll have giving the wine a voice.

In the end, wine is not about finding perfect words. It is about finding your words. When you can explain what you enjoy and why, you unlock both the cellar and the conversation that goes with it. You now possess the wherewithal to speak a new language, my favorite of all: the language of wine. Cheers. ■

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ARTS

Above: "Red Seer," below: "Green Veil." Photography by Michelle Robertson

A journey into the photographer's imagination

Monterey photographer Michelle Robertson creates her art by taking reality and enhancing it, creating illusion and capturing something magical, sometimes haunting, sometimes wonderful, and always compelling.

She began to photograph her friends, sometimes dressed normally, other times in silly costumes and poses. As she continued her journey with photography she became a more thoughtful storyteller. Using a camera, a computer, and her knowledge of Photoshop she started creating images that expressed mood and feeling through color and texture. Sometimes her work is moody and thoughtful, or it can be whimsical and playful. She brings you into her imagination and tells you a little story.

Her current work explores the divine feminine. Robertson's conceptual portraits are paired with Lili Jorge's shadow boxes that reveal elements of the Mexican Day of the Dead for an exhibition October 11 – November 16 at Luna Gallery. The exhibition opening reception 5 – 7 pm, October 18th will feature Sarah Newman on the harp.

The community is invited to create sugar skulls on October 23 at 6 pm, and build Day of the Dead altars October 30, 6pm in preparation for a November 1st celebration at the gallery.

Luna Gallery is located at 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Visit online: lunagallery.art. ■



BOO! A LA LOO

The Haunted Outhouse of Bodie

In the ghost town of Bodie, California, one of the eeriest legends is about a weather-beaten outhouse tucked behind a miner's cabin. Locals say that when the town was alive during the Gold Rush, a prospector named "Whistlin' Jack" made the mistake of cheating at cards in the saloon. Caught and beaten, he staggered home and collapsed in his privy, never to come out again.

Visitors claim that if you dare approach the outhouse at night, you'll hear faint whistling drifting through the cold Sierra wind. Some even say the door creaks open by itself, as though inviting the curious to step inside. A few brave souls have sworn they saw a figure sitting in the dark, hunched forward, only to vanish when the lantern light touched the seat.

Bodie is famous for its "curse;" take anything from the town, even a nail, and misfor-



tune will follow you. But the haunted privy carries a warning of its own: never linger too long, or Whistlin' Jack might whistle you in and keep you there. ■

COMMUNITY

Rancho Cielo marks 25 years with music, food, and community celebration

Rancho Cielo is inviting the community to an unforgettable day of live music, fine food, awards, and camaraderie as it celebrates 25 years of transforming lives in Monterey County.

For a quarter century, Rancho Cielo has empowered thousands through education, job training, and community support. The anniversary event will honor those roots with a special tribute to founder Judge John Phillips and recognition of longstanding champions and advocates.

Guests will enjoy a culinary showcase prepared by premier local chefs alongside students from Rancho Cielo's Drummond Culinary Academy, paired with local wines and craft beers. Music will fill the air with the high-energy sounds of John Nava and the Latin Jazz Collective.

The program also includes a special appeal for future initiatives, as well as stories highlighting Rancho Cielo's far-reaching impact over the years.

The celebration concludes with a powerhouse performance—a Tribute

to Ray Charles—featuring blues legend Chris Cain and former Santana vocalist Tony Lindsay.

Event Details

- Date & Time: October 25, 2025 @ 2pm.
- Location: Sally Hughes Church Amphitheater at Rancho Cielo, 710 Old Stage Road, Salinas
- Tickets: Includes entertainment and culinary experience (wine and beer available for purchase). Proceeds benefit Rancho Cielo programs and youth.

This isn't just a party—it's a community celebration of impact. ■

Rancho Cielo's 25th Anniversary Celebration

MUSIC • FOOD • AWARDS • COMMUNITY

October 25, 2025



Featuring

Chris Cain & Tony Lindsay

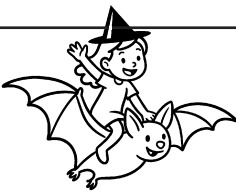
*A Tribute to Ray Charles
&*

A Culinary Experience

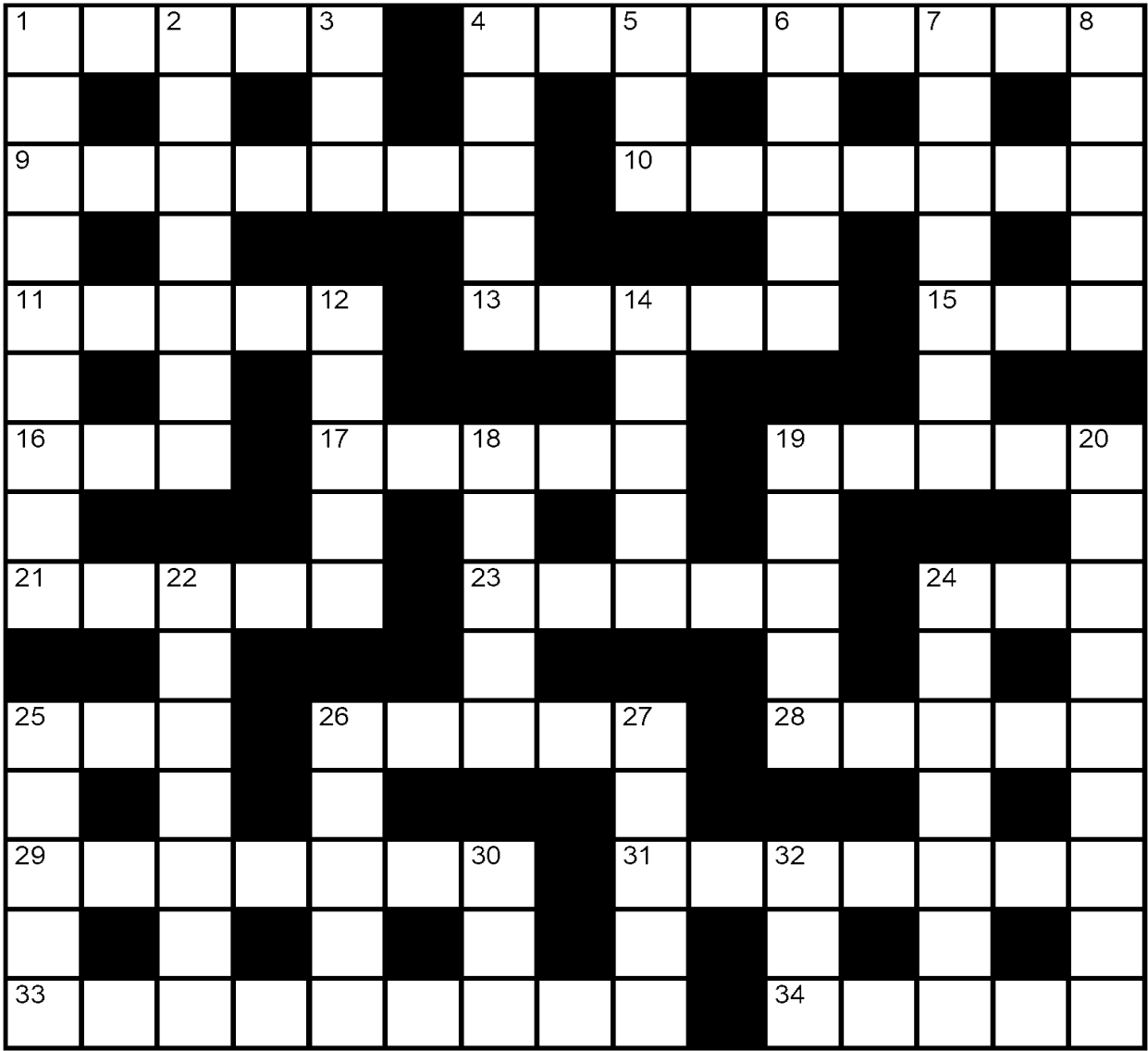
*Premier Local Chefs
Fine Wines • Craft Beers*

Rancho Cielo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Mission Village VOICE PASTIMES



CROSSWORD By Carlinka



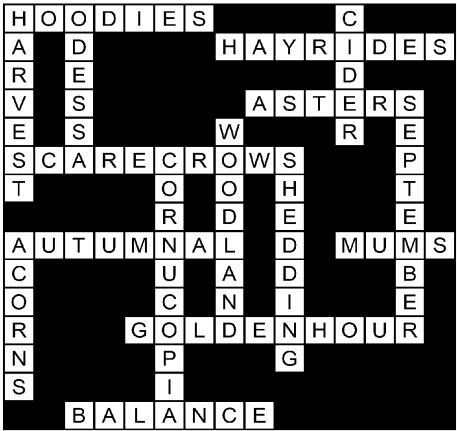
- Across**
- 1 Video game enthusiast (5)
 - 4 Hands-on training period (9)
 - 9 Belly region (7)
 - 10 Relating to the intestines (7)
 - 11 From the Emerald Isle (5)
 - 13 Spiky-leaved Christmas plant (5)
 - 15 Charged particle (3)
 - 16 Afternoon beverage (3)
 - 17 Informal speech (5)
 - 19 Mint-flavored cocktail (5)
 - 21 Tree sap substance (5)

- 23 Garden bush (5)
 - 24 White wine aperitif (3)
 - 25 Musical note or sun (3)
 - 26 Fizzy mixer drink (5)
 - 28 Hot spiced drink (5)
 - 29 Sweet alcoholic beverage (7)
 - 31 Gin and vermouth cocktail (7)
 - 33 Spiced honey wine (9)
 - 34 Soaring bird of prey (5)
- Down**
- 1 Ancient Roman fighter (9)
 - 2 Portuguese island wine (7)
 - 3 Caribbean spirit (3)

- 4 Fruity party drink (5)
- 5 Hoppy brew (3)
- 6 Worn and shabby (5)
- 7 Sweet fruit syrup (7)
- 8 French wine region (5)
- 12 Chinese green tea variety (5)
- 14 Light beer type (5)
- 18 Crime of fire-setting (5)
- 19 Frilly shirt front (5)
- 20 Shared telephone service (5,4)
- 22 Request or seek (7)
- 24 Just joking (7)
- 25 Buzzing bee cluster (5)
- 26 Conical dwelling of Plains tribes (5)

- 27 Curry spice (5)
- 30 Close friend (3)
- 32 Whiskey grain (3)

Last month's puzzle solution:




HOROSCOPE OCTOBER 2025 by Hilda De Anza

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Mars pushes you to take bold action, but resist rushing ahead without a plan. Relationships may test your patience, choose clarity over conflict. By mid-month, career doors swing open, offering chances to showcase your skills. Balance fire with foresight, and opportunities multiply.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You're craving stability, but October asks you to stretch beyond comfort zones. A partnership, personal or professional, may shift, urging you to reexamine trust and shared values. Financial matters improve with practical decisions, though indulgence tempts you. Growth comes when you let go of control.


Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Your mind races with ideas, and collaboration sparks new momentum. Networking pays off in unexpected ways, someone you meet could influence your next big step. Watch for scattered energy; stay focused on one project at a time. A romantic spark mid-month keeps things lively. Your words carry power, use them wisely.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Home and family matters take center stage. You may be called to mediate or nurture others more than usual. While supportive, don't lose yourself in the process. Career opportunities grow quietly behind the scenes. Mid-October, a creative breakthrough lifts your spirits. Guard your emotional reserves.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

October reminds you that your voice matters. Whether in community or career, people look to you for inspiration. Expect recognition for past efforts, though jealous eyes may linger. Don't dim your light, just keep your pride in check. Love affairs grow warmer, but clarity is needed in communication. Bold moves lead to breakthroughs.


Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

Organization pays dividends this month. Finances demand attention. In work, your meticulous eye catches what others miss, gaining you quiet praise. Mid-month, health and routines benefit from small adjustments; don't underestimate their impact. Relationships may feel practical rather than romantic, but steady devotion proves its worth.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

October re-centers you in your own power. With Venus shining, relationships blossom, but be mindful of balance, giving and receiving equally. Career-wise, you're magnetizing attention; use charm strategically, not manipulatively. By late month, a fresh chapter in self-expression begins. Celebrate yourself.


Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)


Your season begins late in October, bringing intensity and clarity. Before then, focus on rest and inner healing. Hidden truths may surface, asking you to confront what's been avoided. By the Scorpio new moon, your energy skyrockets, and transformation feels inevitable. Trust your instincts; they're razor-sharp. What you release now frees your future.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Your circle of friends plays a starring role this month. New connections bring excitement, while old ones may test loyalty. Stay authentic and avoid overpromising. Mid-October sparks career insights that could reshape your direction. Your optimism fuels progress, but discipline ensures those big dreams stick.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Your focus on career and public image sharpens. Authority figures take notice, but responsibility may weigh heavy. Balance ambition with self-care to avoid burnout. In love, vulnerability opens doors that strategy cannot. Long-term goals crystallize; your persistence builds a legacy.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Travel, study, or mentorship broadens your horizons. Unexpected opportunities arrive when you say yes to the unfamiliar. Relationships benefit from curiosity rather than judgment. Mid-month, career recognition arrives, but humility keeps doors open. October is about stretching your worldview without losing your center.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Emotional depth runs high this month, urging you to confront fears around intimacy or money. Transformation is possible if you lean into honesty. Creative pursuits thrive when infused with vulnerability. Relationships grow stronger through shared truths. By late October, financial or personal breakthroughs unfold. You're being carried toward renewal.

#THE GOLDEN AGE

Fall freebies for seniors

By Leanne Oliveira

"Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." - Franz Kafka

Happy Fall, Goldens! My office has moved from the Epicenter back to the Community Center at 300 West Street. We have a variety of freebies including prepaid mailback containers (for needles, inhalers, pills), red File of Life refrigerator magnet cards (for EMT visits/caregivers), and various falls prevention items.

To reflect all the changes in local food offerings this year, I've also compiled an updated flyer detailing all the options - from Meals on Wheels home deliveries to congregational luncheons and the Food Bank's various pantries, mobile grocery units, and drive thru. Meal site activities (bingo, exercise, craft classes, community gardening, etc.) also listed! Email me at LeanneO@seniorscouncil.org.

Library freebies! The SBC Library is offering Knitting & Crochet, Senior Chair Yoga, and Drop-in Tech Help (10/28 at 10:30 AM-12 PM). The Bookmobile will also be visiting Vista Meadows Senior Apartments on 10/10@11AM and includes large print offerings. Info: 831-636-4107.

Lastly, Medicare's Open Enrollment Period (10/15-12/7) begins this month. Make sure you're on the right plan (they often

change) and not have to wait another year. The nonprofit counseling program HICAP is free and unbiased. Now in Hollister on Wednesdays and SJB on Fridays! Call 831-637-0630.

GOLDEN EVENTS

+ 10/8, 11 AM-1 PM: Vista Meadows' Health & Education Fair @ 108 E Park St. in Hollister.

+ 10/10, 9:30 AM: SBC Aging & Long-Term Care Commission monthly hybrid meeting @ Epicenter. Now recruiting! Info: LeanneO@seniorscouncil.org

+ 10/15: Senior Resource Fair during meal service @ Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center in SJB. www.mvsscsjb.org

+ 10/18: Walk to End Alzheimer's in Monterey. <https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2025>. Also, many free classes at www.alz.org!

+ 10/22, 1:30-3PM: Del Mar Caregiver's "Managing Stress and Anxiety Class" @Epicenter. Del Mar will also be at the MVSSC office in SJB 9 AM-1 PM on 10/13 and 10/27. Info: 800-624-8304

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) co-coordinates the Aging & Disability Resource Connection program for Seniors Council at the Community Center in Hollister and writes #Bookworm for the MVV. Contact LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org or visit www.SanBenitoADRC.org. ■



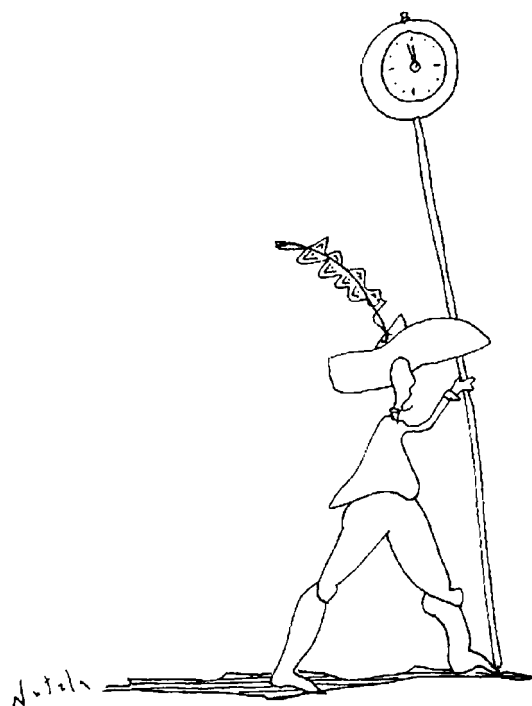
A beauty school in Alberta, Canada, welcomed a brave 79-year-old man (preferring anonymity) who sought help with hair and makeup lessons to assist his wife of 50 years who was losing her eyesight and kept burning herself with beauty tools. His local newspaper reported that the team was "touched by his devotion" and has since returned with his wife to thank everyone. So sweet!

Have a Howlingly
Happy
HALLOWEEN!



FROM THE **MISSION VILLAGE**
STAFF OF **VOICE**

NUTZLE



NOW

IS OUR MOMENT.



Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope. Now is the time for action.

Help us keep the momentum going in your community at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.

For confidential support, information, and crisis assistance to people living with dementia, caregivers, families, and the public, call our 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.



Walk to End Alzheimer's
Monterey- October 18
Custom House Plaza
alz.org/montereywalk

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Have you scheduled your mammogram?

Early detection saves lives.

**Call today to schedule your appointment
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(831) 636-2650

**We offer a self-pay rate of \$100
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A physician's order is required to schedule your mammogram. If you don't have a physician, you can make an appointment at our community health center **(831) 636-3277** for your clinical breast exam and mammogram referral.



www.hazelhawkins.com



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ROCK & RUN 2025

10K/5K Run/Walk at
the A.R. Wilson Quarry
in Aromas, CA

OCTOBER 12, 2025

START TIME: 8:00 AM



*All proceeds benefit Aromas and San Juan
elementary schools*



**WHERE SMALL-TOWN
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Fridays at 5 PM
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