

Mission Village **VOICE**



Kisses & Makeup

Beth Carter shares her secrets for making celebrities sparkle in the spotlight
— See page 10

Razor Sharp

Frank Chavez, 93, keeps his clients clipped neat and pretty
— See page 12

TFK



Hazel Hawkins

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



WORLD BREASTFEEDING CELEBRATION
DRIVE THROUGH EVENT



Friday, August 1st
10:30 am - 12:00 noon
Hazel Hawkins Hospital

Join us to celebrate the benefits of breastfeeding and receive information for your family from our community partners.

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- ♥ Car Seat Safety
- ♥ Drawings for Car Seats and Breast Pumps
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A quote for our readers

“Heavens to
Murgatroyd!”
–Snagglepuss

On the cover

“No. You Sit!” by artist Terri Fry Kasuba.
For more information, see page 17.

SBHF NEWS

"Feeding the Frontline" Event for National Health Center Week

On Thursday, August 7th, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, the San Benito Health Foundation will be hosting a "Feeding the Frontline" drive-through event at its location, 351 Felice Drive, in Hollister, CA.

The "Feeding the Frontline" event is an initiative of the San Benito Health Foundation to celebrate National Health Center Week (NHCW) 2025. Congresswoman Lofgren, who has been very supportive of SBHF will be there to kick-off the event along with other local officials. There will be free food/produce distribution and health information and we are expecting to serve more than 900 families. We want to recognize our patients and share support to all families who may be in need around San Benito County during these challenging times.

This year's NHCW theme, launched by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), focuses on "America's Health Centers Celebrating 60 Years of Improving our Nation's Health" and San Benito Health Foundation is espe-

cially pleased to take part in this celebration on its 50th anniversary as a Community Health Center. NHCW highlights the essential role Community Health Centers play in improving public health and advancing health equity. Health centers represent the nation's largest primary care network, serving 32.5 million patients nationwide.

Partnering with local organizations and businesses that honor the same vision as the San Benito Health Foundation, helps make it possible to reach our goal of supporting families within the community. These partners include Brent Redmond Transportation, Community Foodbank of San Benito County, El Teatro Campesino, Hollister Super, Martha's Kitchen, Shelton Insurance, Driscoll's, Taylor Farms, and the Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista.

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.



FEEDING THE FRONTLINE

National Health Center Week 2025

Food Give-Away Drive-Thru

First Come, First Serve While Supplies Last

**August 7th, 2025
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

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Post Offices in the Açores Islands typically feature retail bookshelves. This was taken in my favorite Açorean city of Angra do Heroísmo, which is a UNESCO world heritage site.

#BOOKWORM

Library love abroad

By Leanne Oliveira

"I enjoy words. Better yet, I enjoy making words work. Words to me are tangible bodies, visible sirens, incarnate sensualities."

- Portuguese author Fernando Pessoa

Hello from Europe! I'm back in my homeland of the Açores for the month. While our mid-Atlantic archipelago gained autonomy from Portugal in the 1970s and the first settlers to the central group of islands (where my family are from) were actually Flemish who spoke Dutch, modern residents consider themselves Portuguese and speak that language accordingly. Each island has its own dialect and regional customs - and even different color sand!

At the time of this writing, I have visited six of the nine islands (including Pico where my father was born) and visited every library that I could find along the way. Libraries are well-supported and very modern and popular on these islands which pay their librarians a generous living wage. I've spoken to many librarians on this trip and was happily surprised to find quite a few well-appointed Little Free Libraries! If you'd like more details, follow me on Insta-



Leanne Oliveira

gram @comicfair.

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

Libraries are encouraging folks to expand reading horizons with Book Riot's 2025 Read Harder Challenge which includes tasks like "Read literary fiction by a BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and/or disabled author"! More at tinyurl.com/BIPOC-Task8.

BOB DYLAN'S ART BOOK

Releasing this Fall, *Point Blank* offers a rare look at nearly 100 of Dylan's 2021-2022 drawings.

FINNISH LIBRARIES

Libraries thrive in Finland where the average Finn visited libraries nine times and borrowed 15 books last year. They have traditionally served as engines of social mobility and integration, are designed by renowned architects, and seen as community hubs and sanctuaries rather than just places for books. The government annually spends around €60 per capita on its public library system. (Trust me, you don't want to know how little the US Government now spends.) Go, Finland!

FRIENDS OF THE SBC LIBRARY

Bring (donate) or buy books, movies, and vinyl from 9-11:30AM on 8/9 BEHIND the Library in downtown Hollister. Pets allowed outside the Bookshed. Reminder that our books are *not* library discards and are books in beautiful condition sourced from private donations!

HILLS BOOKSTORE

This month, catch author Roy Juarez, Jr. discussing *Homeless by Choice*, fantasy author Leslie Lee Ann, and Open Mic Poetry and "Quiet Reading" events. Book clubs (4 total!) happen every Thursday at 6:00 PM. Summer Reading Challenge runs through

Continued, next page

August 15th. For more event information, visit hillsbookstore.com.

JANE AUSTEN EXHIBIT

Ever fantasized about stepping into a Jane Austen novel? To mark the 250th anniversary of Austen’s birth (12/16/1775), the Morgan Library & Museum in New York has just unveiled “A Lively Mind: Jane Austen at 250” which is on view through September 14.

LEGO BOOK NOOK

Lego recently announced its first book nook: Sherlock Holmes’ Baker Street. Adorable! FYI: “Book Nooks” are miniature dioramas that fit between books on a shelf to offer glimpses into wee worlds.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Spider-Man Day (character debuted 8/1/1962), Book Lovers’ Day (8/9), Coloring Book Day (8/2), National Poet’s Day (8/21), World Folktale Day (8/22), and We Love Memoirs Day (8/31). Happy Birthday to Herman Melville (8/1/1819), Isabel Allende (8/2/1942), Garrison Keillor (8/7/1942), Alfred Hitchcock (8/13/1899), Danielle Steel (8/14/1947), HP Lovecraft (8/20/1890), Alexander McCall Smith (8/24/1948), Jorge Luis Borges (8/24/1899), Paul Coelho (8/24/1947), and Mary Wollstone Shelley (8/30/1797).

THE LIBRARIANS: SECOND CHAPTER

The original films and TV show amassed a following of bookworms around the world, so fingers crossed this gets picked up.

UKRANIAN LITERARY FESTIVAL

International literary corporation Merid-

ian Czernowitz has hosted literary festivals across Ukraine since 2010, and in late-June it hosted its third annual literary festival in Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia Oblast where Russia illegally declared ownership in 2022. According to Meridian Czernowitz, the hostile takeover “only strengthened the case for holding a literary festival.”

VINYL IN LIBRARIES

The Free Library of Philadelphia hosts a monthly Vinyl Record Listening Club meetup. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own vinyl records or enjoy listening to the library’s collection. Know who else has an awesome vinyl collection? The Gilroy Library (SCCLD.org). To donate or purchase vinyl, you can also visit the monthly Friends book sales every second Saturday behind the Library in Hollister.

WRITERS FIGHT PUBLISHERS OVER AI

“We want our publishers to stand with us [and] to make a pledge that they will never release books that were created by machines.” More at tinyurl.com/AIWriterBattle. ■

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>.



A Little Free Library called a “Microbiblioteca” in the town square of Ponta Delgada, which is the capital city of the Açores located on São Miguel Island.



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ARTS

Whittney Williams, Quilter

Interview with artist Whittney Williams in anticipation of the Summer Skies Exhibition featuring the work of the Pinnacle Quilters of San Benito County.

How would you describe the Pinnacle Quilters of San Benito County to someone who's never heard of the guild?

It's where we socialize, find inspiration, and encourage each other in our craft. We also support our community through charitable works for Quilts of Honor, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and any other opportunities to help folks in need.



What do you hope visitors take away from this exhibition?

I hope that visitors take away that sewing is not just straight lines. Sewing can open the doors to many creative opportunities.

Tell me what you're most looking forward to about the upcoming Summer Skies art show?



What I'm most looking forward to at the art show is getting the community interested in our craft and potentially growing our classes to teach more people how to sew.

Join us for our opening celebration on August 2nd from 12-3 PM, open to the entire community.

Additional gallery hours: August 14th & August 29th from 5-7 PM.

To learn more, follow the Pinnacle Quilters of SBC on Facebook. ■



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jasmine Olivares and Micaela Whalen

Jasmine Olivares and Micaela Whalen are delighted to announce their upcoming marriage. The couple will tie the knot on August 23, 2025, in Aromas at the Olivares Estate.

The couple met in 2018 through a mutual friend in the Santa Cruz County women's recreational basketball league. Their shared love of basketball is a key tenet of their relationship—along with their passion for traveling and exploring local cuisine.

After a honeymoon in Cancún, the couple will reside in their new home in Aromas, after living together in San Juan Bautista for the past five years.

Micaela and Jasmine are grateful for the love and support of their families, friends, and community as they begin this new chapter together. ■

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

San Benito County to celebrate Hometown Heroes at National Philanthropy Day

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is proud to announce its annual National Philanthropy Day celebration, taking place on Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the Hollister Veterans’ Memorial Building. This cherished tradition honors the selfless individuals whose dedication to giving, whether through time, talent, or treasure, has helped shape a stronger, more compassionate community.

Hosting National Philanthropy Day at the Veterans’ Memorial Building is deeply meaningful. This building stands as a symbol of service, and we are grateful to be able to honor those members of our community who do so much in such a beautiful venue.

This year’s theme, Hometown Heroes, pays tribute to volunteers, donors, nonprofit staff, and community leaders who go above and beyond to make San Benito County a better place for all. National Philanthropy Day is a heartfelt celebration of the everyday acts of



Community Foundation
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

kindness and generosity that often go unrecognized but leave a lasting impact.

The event is made possible through the generous support of sponsors, including Pacific Gas & Electric and Graniterock, among others, whose continued commitment to community betterment exemplifies the spirit of philanthropy.

As the Community Foundation shines a spotlight on these local champions, we encourage you to look around your community. If you know someone who has contributed to a nonprofit and deserves recognition, whether they’re organizing food drives, mentoring youth, or strengthening local nonprofits, visit GiveSanBenito.org to learn how to nominate them or participate in the celebration.

National Philanthropy Day reminds us that it takes a collective effort to build a thriving, resilient community. Join us on November 6 to celebrate those who give selflessly, and be inspired to make your impact in San Benito County. ■



Public Notice
From the Office of the Assessor of San Benito County
2025 Value Notices

Pursuant to California Revenue & Taxation Code section 621 new legislation effective January 1, 2011; the San Benito County Board of Supervisors on May 24, 2011 approved the Assessor’s request (Resolution 2011-42) to provide assessed value notices to owners of real and personal property via the county website instead of mailing printed notices.

Property owners can review their value notices at www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/assessor. Under links select ‘View your 2025-2026 Values’; click Public Access; input your assessment number (Assessor Parcel Number) or address; click on Assessment Number; then click on ‘View/Print Value Notice’.

Property owners without access to the county website can obtain a printed value notice at no charge by calling the Assessor’s Office at (831) 636-4030, emailing the office (sbcassr@sanbenitocountyca.gov), or writing the office at 1131 San Felipe Rd., Hollister, CA 95023.

Tom Slavich
San Benito County Assessor

National Philanthropy Day



NOVEMBER 6, 2025
Veterans Memorial Building

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FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

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88- year old grandfather to his newly engaged granddaughter:
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SUMMER EATS

Judy's Pesto Perfect Chicken

Pesto-coated sautéed chicken brings together rustic Italian charm and bright, seasonal flavors in a dish that feels made for summer. Tender chicken breasts are coated in fresh pesto — a fragrant blend of basil, pine nuts, Parmesan, garlic, and olive oil — and lightly seared with bread crumbs, for texture. The sauce carries the fresh, herbal scent of a summer garden.

Pesto has its roots in the coastal city of Genoa, Italy, where it was traditionally made with a mortar and pestle — pestare meaning “to pound.” The earliest versions date back to Roman times, though the basil-based recipe we know today blossomed in the 19th century. Its simplicity and bold flavor have made it a staple of Italian kitchens and a favorite around the world.

As a summertime meal, pesto chicken is light but satisfying. It can be served hot from the pan with grilled vegetables or chilled and sliced over a fresh tomato salad. It pairs beautifully with crusty bread, a splash of chilled wine, and a warm breeze. Both elegant and effortless, it's a dish that invites you to slow down and savor — the kind of meal that turns an ordinary evening into something memorable.

Judy Clark shares her simple but classic recipe for this timeless meal.

Makes 4 ample servings

Ingredients

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (half-breasts)
- 1 container (6 oz.) refrigerated pesto (3/4 cup very stiff pesto)
- 1 cup seasoned stuffing mix (make into crumbs) or 1 cup dry Italian bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons olive oil



Judy Clark of Concord, CA passed in 2022, but her love of food and fellowship lives on through her family. This recipe was shared by granddaughter Julia Locus-Baham.



To make your own *fresh pesto*, you'll need the following (makes 4 cups):

- 2 cups basil
- 1/2 cup pine nuts
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup grated parmesan
- 3 -4 cloves garlic
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice (or juice from half a lemon)
- Dash of sea salt and fresh black pepper

Instructions

Lightly pound chicken breasts to soften slightly. Place the breasts between sheets of plastic wrap before pounding, for best results. You can also cut each breasts into 2 or 3 pieces if desired. Coat both sides of each piece with pesto, using all of the container.

Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a wide, non-stick skillet to medium-high. Coat the pieces of chicken with crumbs, patting gently into the pesto. Sauté 2-3 minutes per side, adding 1 tablespoon of oil when turning.

“I serve this with pasta or rice - you can use your imagination,” said Judy.

To make your own pesto, toast/roast the pine nuts (you can substitute pepitas, walnuts or sesame seeds for the pine nuts, if easier or if preferable). The toasted flavor is important to a good pesto. Pulse the dry ingredients in a blender or food processor until finely chopped, then add the lemon juice and olive oil to a low speed to evenly spread through the pesto. If too thick, add cold water slowly until the consistency is to your preference. ■

COMMUNITY

Aged to perfection: 69 years of wine, food and community

Raise a glass for a great cause at Gabilan Chapter Seneca's 69th Annual Wine and Food Tasting, happening Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the scenic Paicines Ranch. What began in 1956 with one winery and a few homemade hors d'oeuvres has matured into San Benito County's most anticipated tasting event.

Now featuring over 25 regional wineries and more than 25 local restaurants, this beloved gathering is recognized as California's oldest wine tasting event. It's also Gabilan Seneca's signature fundraiser, with proceeds supporting mental health, foster care, and adoption services for local youth.

Early bird tickets are \$85 through August 15 and \$100 after. Tickets are available online (with a \$5 service fee), from any Gabilan Seneca member, or at



Crave Wine Bar, 616 San Benito Street in Hollister.

Great wine. Local flavors. A lasting impact. Cheers to tradition—and to the next 69 years. ■

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE Community Bulletin Board

Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Incentive Program launched

The Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) launched the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (EVIP) on July 1, 2025, to offer residents in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties an incentive to purchase or lease a new or used fully electric, plug-in hybrid electric, or hydrogen fueled vehicle. With many used electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles coming out of lease programs, the EVIP can help buyers with an affordable opportunity to purchase an electric vehicle. To be eligible, a vehicle must be purchased or leased on or after July 1, 2025. The program also offers double the incentive amounts for qualifying low-income applicants.

According to Richard Stedman, Air Pollution Control Officer at MBARD, “Oxides of nitrogen (NOx) are primary chemical compounds combined with other pollutants that produce ozone (smog). Over 60% of the total emission of NOx in MBARD's jurisdiction comes from motor vehicles. Fully electric vehicles produce zero tailpipe emissions. By encouraging and incentivizing their use, significant long-term air quality benefits can be achieved.”

The FY 2025-26 Monterey Bay EVIP consists of the following incentive amounts:

New Vehicles

- \$2,500 for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles
- \$1,500 for Battery Electric Vehicles
- \$750 for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles
- \$750 for Electric Motorcycles
- \$5,000 for Battery Electric Vehicles for Public Agencies and Nonprofits

Used Vehicles

- \$1,000 for Battery Electric Vehicles
- \$500 for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles
- \$500 for Electric Motorcycles

The on-line application and program details can be found on the MBARD EVIP website at www.mbard.org/electric-vehicle-incentive-program.

Join the Superior Court this fall as we celebrate Constitution Month!

Judges from the Superior Court of San Benito are partnering with local K-12 schools to bring the courtroom into the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to meet judges, ask questions, and explore how the Constitution impacts our daily lives.

If you have questions, please contact us at sourceceteam@sanbenitocourt.org.

For more information, visit our website: www.sanbenito.courts.ca.gov/generalinformation/community-outreach

SNIPPETS FROM THE MILLIKEN FILES

The Terror of the Nude Blue Jays

From an interview with Judge Pearce
Submitted by Joe Claus & John Grafton

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

Mr. Pearce says that one time when he was a boy, several of the boys were swimming in the creek in San Juan Canyon. The sky was full of blue jays. The boys had traps set to catch quail and the blue jays used to get in the traps and the boys would fail to catch the quails that they wanted. So when they were resting from swimming, they thought about their traps. They found them full of blue jays.

They made up their minds to teach the blue jays to stay out of their traps. They caught each bird and pulled out all the feathers except the wing and tail feathers. They turned them loose. They could fly, but the other blue jays would have nothing to do with their unfortunate relatives. The



plucked birds would try to get up to the other blue jays, but they would fly away in fright. In about two days every blue jay in

the country had left. It was years before any blue jays were ever seen in the country (again). ■



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Does the 4% rule still make sense for your retirement?

You may have heard of the “4% rule” when it comes to retirement. The idea is simple: After you retire, you withdraw 4% of your investment portfolio each year. In theory, this helps ensure your savings last for your lifetime. While this rule can be a helpful starting point, it's not a one-size-fits-all — and it's definitely not a substitute for a plan tailored to your specific needs, wants and wishes.

The truth is, how much to withdraw in retirement depends on factors like when you retire, if you'll work part time, how long you expect retirement to last, your lifestyle goals, inflation and whether you want to leave a financial legacy to heirs. So, the 4% rule should be viewed as more of a guide than a strict rule.

Let's start with age. The 4% rule is often based on someone retiring at 65 and expecting to live until about 92. But if you retire earlier, you may want your portfolio to stretch further. In that case, you might need to start with a lower withdrawal rate, maybe closer to 3%. And if you retire later, you might safely withdraw a little more — perhaps 4.5% to 5% — depending on your financial situation.

Your retirement lifestyle also plays a big role. Are you planning to travel the world or

spend more time at home? If you expect higher spending in the early years of retirement, you may need to adjust your withdrawal rate or plan to reduce spending later to balance things out.

Your financial flexibility matters too. If you have less wiggle room with your expenses, rely heavily on your portfolio for income or want to preserve wealth for your heirs, a more conservative approach might be wise. In this conservative scenario, your portfolio withdrawals may be met from interest and dividends. Think of your withdrawal rate as existing on a spectrum from more conservative to less conservative, with your personal situation determining where you land.

Then there's inflation. A well-built strategy usually includes small annual increases in withdrawals to keep up with rising costs — about 2.75% per year. But you don't need to take a raise just because the calendar says so. If the markets have had a tough year or you don't need the extra income, it might be smart to skip an increase. Being flexible can improve the chances your money will last.

It's also important to understand what's known as your “portfolio reliance rate” — how much of your retirement income comes

from your investments versus other sources like Social Security or pensions. The higher this percentage, the more conservative you may want to be with withdrawals.

And don't forget the IRS. If you're drawing from a traditional IRA or 401(k), you'll need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach age 73. Your RMD for any year is the account balance as of the end of the prior calendar year divided by a life expectancy factor according to the IRS. These

RMDs need to be accounted for in your strategy.

The bottom line? The 4% rule is a useful starting point, but it's just that — a starting point. A good financial advisor can help you build a strategy that reflects your age, your goals and your full financial picture. By revisiting your plan regularly and staying flexible, you'll give yourself the best shot at turning your savings into a secure, fulfilling retirement.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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Beth Carter at her trailer with some animal friends.

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Beth Carter, Hollywood makeup artist

By Anne Caetano

Beth Carter has spent the last three decades making other people look good, often in 45 minutes or less, under pressure, with the clock ticking and no margin for error. As a top-tier Hollywood freelance makeup artist, she's contoured faces for sitcoms, award shows, commercials, red carpets, music videos, print campaigns, and worked at Playboy for years (yes, really). She even toured with Anna Nicole Smith as her personal makeup artist during the final six months of her life. And she got a high five from Prince backstage when she did Mary J. Blige's makeup. She touched the faces of Britney Spears, Janet Jackson, Pat Benatar, the entire Osbourne family, did six seasons on the Kardashians, Tommy Lee, Carmen Electra, and the list goes on. But these days, when she's not transforming celebrities under studio lights, she's hauling feed in Aromas, where she lives in a trailer-turned-tiny-home with a Shetland pony, a goat, 2 dogs, 2 cats and zero interest in approval ratings. Beth still commutes to CBS studios, but the rest of the time she's in Aromas. Her instincts are razor-sharp, her stories unfiltered.

In this Q&A, she opens up about chasing beauty without glamorizing burnout, the difference between red carpet "do-and-go"s and full glam builds, and why retiring to a trailer might just be the new Hollywood ending.

You can see Beth's work at www.bethcartermakeup.com and instagram Bethcarterbeauty. You can see her trailer adventures on Instagram @ emptynest-with20feet.

Q: You grew up in L.A. and built a 30-year freelance career there. What first drew you to makeup artistry?

Beth Carter: I've loved transforming faces since I discovered my mom's modeling photos as a kid. In my twenties I tried beauty school "just to see." The moment I laid a brush on someone else, I knew it was what I wanted to do.

I started at a Glamour Shots studio, thirty-minute makeovers, assembly-line style. It was intense, but it trained my eye and my timing. From there I leapt to a Prescriptives counter, learned undertones, ditched retail, and threw myself into film and TV. By 29 I was 100 percent freelance and haven't looked back.

Q: What was one of your earliest transformative jobs as a makeup artist?

Beth: One of the most transformative jobs I ever had was working on the set of Playboy TV. It wasn't the magazine; this was a cable network that featured performers who were mostly adult film stars on their days off. They weren't models who just needed a dusting of shimmer. These were full builds. I had to learn how to create bone structure, flawless complexions, symmetry, basically sculpt a face from the ground up. That experience gave me speed, technique, and a real understanding of how to engineer industry standard beauty from the bare minimum.

Q: Your resumé now spans sitcoms, award shows, music videos, commercials, and celebrity red carpets. What's your work life balance like during the season?

Beth: Right now, I'm the personal artist for actress Tichina Arnold on CBS's #1 show, *The Neighborhood*. We shoot 6 days a month, so the night before a shoot I drive down to LA from Aromas, catch a few hours sleep at a truck stop, and shower at CBS before call time. I work two full days, and after wrap I

crash at my sister's house, then make the late-night run back north to Aromas. The rest of my time, I'm a "farm girl" in Aromas, feeding Sully, my Shetland pony and Mike, his goat sidekick, clearing stalls, walking dogs, answering emails, and catching up with friends. It's basically semi-retirement with bonus critters.

Q: That's quite a commute. What convinced you to trade an L.A. for a trailer and rural life?

Beth: The entertainment strikes a few years ago paused the whole industry. I already owned a trailer for weekend getaways with my daughter, so when a friend's family offered me a spot on their property in Aromas, I parked it and discovered I loved the freedom. I help with chores in exchange for space and serenity. Even now that production is back, I see no reason to resume paying L.A. prices. I'll probably buy a slightly bigger trailer and retire in it someday.

Q: First impressions of Aromas?

Beth: Peaceful, cool, green. Summer evenings here beat anything in the Los Angeles heat. There's a real sense of neighborliness. I met half of my friends by answering a Nextdoor post about coffee meetups and the rest through volunteering at a local equine therapy program for foster youth, Instagram: Aromashorsewhispers.

Q: You mentioned Sully the pony and Mike the goat. How did they enter the picture?

Beth: While volunteering I heard of a small pony and goat that were a bonded pair who needed a new home. I adopted them and they stayed at the Horse Whisper Ranch until I was able to move them next to me in my trailer. Now they greet me every morning and Sully is in cart-training so one day he can pull brides to rustic weddings or give kids carriage rides at community events.

Q: After decades on sets, what keeps the work creatively exciting?

Beth: Storytelling. Whether it's a magazine cover or a multi-cam comedy, makeup is visual narrative: Who is this character? Where did she wake up? What emotion sits under the scene? When an actor looks in the mirror and suddenly "feels" the role, that electricity never gets old.

Q: Do you prefer television to film?

Beth: TV fits my life. Ten-hour days, Monday-to-Friday, means I could be present for my daughter's milestones. Films pay more but run 16-hour days, six days a week. I've done them, often as a personal artist, so I could leave when my actor wrapped, but television provided enough free time for life, especially while raising my daughter solo.

Q: Many see Hollywood glamour but not the grind behind it. What's one misconception about your profession?

Beth: That it's -- leisurely! A call sheet may say 4 a.m. trailer time. You haul an 80-pound kit up steps, create a flawless look in 45 min-



Beth with her daughter and her heartbeat Jaycie.



Playboy Magazine shoot with "Girls Next Door" star Bridget Marquardt.

utes, sprint a quarter mile with a chair and touch-up bag to set, stand all day under lights or wind machines, and then lug it all out after 14 hours. Multiply that by a week and you'll understand it's more than toting around a powder puff.

Q: A favorite project memory?

Beth: Working Hollywood Squares this year. It's basically a televised party: DJ spinning, comics riffing, everyone up dancing between takes. My cheeks hurt from smiling. Plus, I love seeing classic formats reborn for new audiences.

Q: You recently worked on Abbott Elementary. What was that experience like?

Beth: Oh, that was a fun one. They needed extra hands for a couple days with a glam-heavy shoot. My friend Constance Foe, who's the department head, brought me in. She's amazing, an Emmy winner. I worked hard and loved being there, but Whew, those days were long. I limped out of there! It reminded me why I'm okay not being on set five days a week anymore. I've put in the time.



On the film "Everybody Loves George" with Tichina Arnold.

Q: You worked with Anna Nicole Smith?

Beth: Yes, I traveled with her on the Trim-Spa summer tour. I served as her personal makeup artist during the six months leading up to her passing. She was a jewel. I adored her; we were friends, and she was so much more than what snippets the media offered the public.

Q: You mentioned earlier that your mom was a model. Did she influence your career path?

Beth: Totally. My mom was fashion, she was beauty, she was chic, she was the trend. She would show up to school events with jewels and fur. She had a closet that rivaled Carrie Bradshaw before there was a Carrie Bradshaw. She was disco, and she was a 70's glam queen; it was always part of our environment. My sister is a couture dress designer out of Los Angeles, @lynne_Carter_atelier, and I do makeup. It's kind of funny, when we were young playing, my sister would be in my mom's closet, and I'd be at her vanity. So yes, I'd say we were influenced early and often. Beauty and transformation were always a big part of our life.



Behind the scenes with Rosanna Arquette.

Q: What's it like doing red carpet work compared to working on set?

Beth: Red carpets are a different animal. Sometimes you do a full look at a client's house or hotel and they're off, what we call a "do and go." Other times, especially with major talent or big studios, you follow them behind the scenes. You're there for touch-ups just before they hit the carpet, and again before they head into the venue. Either way, it's high-energy, fast-paced, and about making sure every angle looks flawless under flashbulbs.

Q: What's your personal definition of beauty?

Beth: Kindness and authentic confidence. Whether it's a sitcom star delivering punch lines or a retiree rocking red lipstick at the grocery store, beauty blooms when someone feels wholly themselves and cares for others. My brushes merely reveal what was already there. ■



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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Frank Chavez, owner of Johnnie's Barber Shop

By Anne Caetano

Frank Chavez, 93, is a beloved Hollister barber who has been cutting hair since 1957. A Korean War Army veteran and New Idria native, Frank moved to Hollister in 1941 and built a lifelong career with clippers in hand and stories to share. Known for his steady hands, loyal clientele, and old-school charm, he still works five days a week in his cozy corner shop—located inside the Youth Alliance building—filled with vintage chairs and memories.

A father of three and grandfather of two, Frank is as sharp-witted as ever and living proof that passion, purpose, and community keep you young. He's also a proud supporter of Youth Alliance and Guitars Not Guns, two causes close to his heart.

Frank Chavez is the kind of barber they just don't make anymore.

Q: How long have you been cutting hair?

A: I started back in 1957. I've been at this current spot for 15 years now.

Q: And how many days a week do you work?

A: Five days a week, about seven or eight hours a day.

Q: That's impressive! Do you still have regulars?

A: Oh, yes. Many are long-time customers. I've known some for decades. Sadly, I've been losing quite a few lately. A lot of my clientele are older.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a barber?

A: Talking with people. We talk about everything – news, memories, who's passed away. It's a sanctuary here. It's not like it used to be when we were young and talked about girls.

Q: Did you ever have any famous clients?

A: Just one I can think of: Niven Busch. He was a Hollywood screenwriter and lived in Hollister for a while.

Q: What's the earliest you've ever taken an appointment?

A: I used to start at 4:30 in the morning. Guys who worked out of town needed haircuts before hitting the road. These days, the earliest is



about 6 a.m.

Q: Do you still do shaves?

A: Not anymore. People don't come in for shaves like they used to. Back in the day, businessmen would stop in every morning for one.

Q: What's changed the most in the industry?

A: Everything. The clientele, the demand, the way people get their hair cut. But the basics of customer service stay the same.

Q: How old are you now?

A: I'm 93. I'll be 94 in October.

Q: And you're still cutting hair steady-handed?

A: Yep. No shaking hands. I use clippers now, but I still take pride in the details.

Q: Do you plan to retire soon?

A: As long as I can keep doing it, I will. I don't know what I'd do with myself if I stopped.

Q: Can you share a bit about your background?

A: I was born in New Idria in 1931. We moved to Hollister in 1941 when I was 10. I served in Korea with the Army, then came back here and started barbering.

Q: Are your family still nearby?

A: Yes, all three of my children live close, two in Hollister, one in San Juan. I live with my oldest daughter. She drives me to work every day.

Q: Any grandkids?

A: Two. One's 30, the other 18. My eldest grandson Cody lives in San Juan and is a musician. And my youngest grandson just graduated from San Benito High School.

Q: What do you do for lunch?

A: I usually go to Buenos Dias Café or Heidi's. They know me there.

Q: Do you have any advice for living a long, healthy life?

A: Keep active. And don't drink.

(Though I know that's a tough one for some.)

Q: What's your favorite memory from your early years here?

A: I used to stop by Johnny's Bar in the morning before work. A bunch of farmers and ranchers would gather there. The stories and laughter...we had a good time. They're all gone now, but those were great memories.

Q: What's the story behind this barber chair?

A: It's from the 1940s. My old boss Johnny bought it. Still has the original upholstery, and it's comfortable!

Q: Any final thoughts?

A: I've had a good life. No complaints. Supported my family doing what I love. That's all you can ask for. ■



Frank Chavez and his grandson



COMMUNITY

Local Scouts enjoy a Summer Camp Adventure

Local Scouting America Troop 2428/428 attended Camp Whitsett summer camp in the Kern River area, adjacent to Sequoia National Forest near Kernville. The



seven Scouts had a wonderful time earning multiple merit badges, while the three adults earned Wilderness First Aid certification. One morning, four Scouts and their



A VFW Auxiliary booth at a recent event

EVENTS

Battle of the Bands to feature 7 rockin' and rollin' groups

VFW Auxiliary 9242 and APEX Specialty Planning are honored to bring you the 1st Annual Battle of the Bands and Car Show to honor a Band of Brothers Fundraiser. This family fun event at Bolado is a fundraiser to assist local veterans and families in need. Since 1947, the Auxiliary has been serving veterans, families, and the community that we love and cherish.

The need is becoming greater due to trying economic times, so the Auxiliary is seeking ways to replenish funds. 100% of the fundraising goes to veterans and the needs in this community. The Auxiliary has donated money and time for scholarships, special needs, veteran emergencies, and veteran events. They wanted an event that would also give an opportunity for our local Veterans non-profit groups to also fundraise. As such, they have the American Legion sponsoring the foodbooth "Battleborn BBQ" for delicious BBQ sandwiches. Honor Flight will also be out with a booth. At opening Ceremonies, Quilts of Honor (Pinnacle Quilters) is presenting a quilt to a very deserving veteran.

This event will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 9am to 9pm at the Bolado Event Center, 9000 Airline Hwy, Tres Pinos, on the main lawn. The Auxiliary are proud to introduce Ed Crooner, Master of Ceremony and Speaker Extraordinaire as the MC. He is introducing seven amazing Bands who will be battling it out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Each band has up to an hour to play their best songs.

During intermission, they will honor local Veteran non-profit groups that help veterans on stage. They will also have a variety of Hot Rods on display. There will be a ballot voting for your favorite 1st, 2nd & 3rd place best in show.

The show will feature a surprise musical guest that you don't want to miss! Winners will be announced live on stage during the closing ceremonies.

The event will have a variety of food and drink vendors (alcohol for those 21+), craft vendors, silent auctions items, and T-Shirt sales. There will be a Kid's Corner that has jumphouses, balloon art, face painting and so much more.

The Auxiliary still need volunteers and sponsors to help accomplish their goals in making this an amazing event and help make a difference in a veteran's life.

If you're interested in becoming one of the volunteers, hosting a booth, or sponsorship, please call 408-889-3390, or email us at let-splan@apexspg.com. ■



Scoutmaster woke up at 4:30 a.m. for a 1-mile hike to the base of Sentinel Peak and continued the 1,000-foot climb to the top (elevation 6,160') for an amazing view of the sunrise. Another highlight for the week was a 1/2-day Whitewater Rafting Trip down the Kern River out of Kernville.

On our way home from camp, we visited the "Trail of 100 Giants" Redwood trees in

Sequoia National Forest. These Scouts will continue to learn life skills through the many opportunities Scouting America provides, like summer camps and local Troop training.

The Troop raised money for summer camp from the Annual Christmas Tree Pick Up, Aromas Live Dessert Sales, and a generous donation. ■



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BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Rodeo, reunions, and, of course, Coors. Mike & Monique Cabrera, Ed Kutz, Tony & Sonya Gorena keeping traditions alive at the San Benito County Saddle Horse Show & Rodeo.



Hollister clinched the 8-9 year old District 9 Little League All Star Championship 2025!



Working Equitation at Osierlea Dressage in San Juan Bautista.



Keith Severson (center) leads a tour of the Graniterock A.R. Wilson Quarry, 120 feet below sea level, directly atop the San Andreas Fault.



Dead Cowboys delivered at Buena Vista Brewing Co. in Watsonville with pure soul.



Tea time! Leanne Oliveira at Chá Gorreana (the oldest tea plantation in Europe) on the Açores island of São Miguel.



Corbin owner, Mike Corbin gives tour of Hollister facility to Pinnacles Quilting Guild members.



Certified Green Businesses at SBC Green Mixer: Margot's Ice Cream Parlor, Estrellita's Child Care, Lolla's Café, Cultiva, BenitoLink, Bliss Blendz, Paicines Ranch, Karminder Brown Consulting, Fool's Gold, Nina's Daycare, Carousel Preschool & Childcare, Mami Home Day Care, Tatis Cuidado Infantil, & Pequenas Fantasias Day Care.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Goodnight, Bear's, it's been one hell of a ride. Thanks for the memories!



Judith & Andrew Ogus at the Palace of Legion of Honor in San Francisco.



San Benito Arts, Unleashing Creativity: Mixed Media Summer Art Camp fun!



The Art of Eating, an evening that celebrated the arts. Above: Venecia Prudencio & Alma Cruz. Below: Kent Child & Kathleen Sheridan.



Dressage elegance on full display at Osierlea, San Juan Bautista.



Gayle Sleznick greets Carole Beliveau, guest artist from Santa Fe New Mexico at Luna Gallery Route 66 exhibit.



SBALT Ranch Day Volunteers built raptor perches at the Nyland dams. Above: from L-R: Ana Skelton, Mia Molina, Emmanuel Molina, Paul Skelton, Alan Robertson, and Paul Hain. Below: from L-R: Belis Etem, Andoni Isasi, Ray Trabucco, Sally & Zooley Diggory, and Felix Io.



A conclave of sages under the oaks of Popelouchum, attended by luminaries such as Steve Ricketts, Krassimira & Bruce Rector, Linda Ricketts, Martin Bournhonesque, Randal Graham, and Tony Correia



Janet Goss

CRUMPETS & CACTUS**Where are the tea bags?**

Hello and welcome to my new column. Hope you'll spend a few moments with me, a former Brit and self-proclaimed English Rose, who came

over to CA from England in 1993 and eventually became a citizen. There are many cultural differences between England and the U.S. Although I've lived here many years and am well-versed in CA culture and habits, sometimes my Britishness rears its self-righteous head. I hear myself saying, "Oh, that's SOOO not British!"

Case in point – I recently stayed the night in a hotel (a Marriott) in



San Jose -- \$150 a night, so not too shabby. It was next to the airport (think international travelers with varying wants and needs). We got to the room, and looking around, I noticed immediately that something was amiss. There were NO TEA BAGS. (Or milk, come to that.) Disaster! There was a small coffee machine, with a plastic paddle and two coffee bags. A Keurig or a Cuisinart it wasn't.

No tea bags to be seen. This had to be an error. I went straight down to Reception and relayed my concern to the young guy at the desk. He was apologetic but seemed very nonchalant about it. He explained that tea bags would be available at breakfast the next morning. On the lack of milk, he seemed mystified that this was even an issue. "Do you mean powder?" he asked. This added to my irritation. Huffily, I explained that no, I didn't mean powder. I meant the white liquid that comes from those large animals with udders that go "moo." I pointed out that ½ & ½ is no good in tea. I wasn't getting anywhere, though. I conceded, knowing that I had, in fact, brought my own tea bags—but I wasn't going to tell him that. It was the principle of it. I'll never travel without them now.

You may have realized by now that tea drinking is very important to us Brits. In the U.K., if you go to a friend's house, the kettle goes on

straight away. Nowadays, though, you are given a mug and a tea bag. In the old days, it would be a pot with loose tea and a tray with cups and saucers, a tea strainer, milk jug, and sugar bowl. If you're lucky, there would also be a plate of biscuits (cookies). I remember McVitie's Chocolate Digestives very fondly.

So when I visit friends here in CA, I do love it when I'm offered tea or coffee. To me, it's not just a drink. It says, "You are a friend, and I care about you." An icy can of soda from the fridge (minus glass) isn't the same at all.

Something else happened this week, which upset my equilibrium. I discovered that I'm not a Leo (as I always boasted) but am, in fact, a Virgo—my birthday being August 23. For years, I have explained away my sometimes outrageous behavior, the very satisfying ability to shock (though always tempered with wit). If my remarks were met with any disdain, I'd casually say, "Oh, I'm a Leo, you see. I can't help it." Now I find out I'm a Virgo—described as picky (my high standards), easily annoyed, and with a tendency to criticize. This has burst my bubble a bit. Maybe I'll have to now rein in my slightly exuberant tendencies. A work in progress.

TTFN (ta-ta for now),
Janet Goss, English Rose ■

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"We are the Champions," by artist Terrio Fry Kasuba

COVER ARTIST

Terri Fry Kasuba

Terri Fry Kasuba is an illustrator living in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She majored in Business at Villanova University and worked in advertising agencies before returning to school at Tyler School of Art for graphic design. There, she fell in love with illustration and storytelling. She works in her home studio, where she is frequently visited by her husband, two children, and random neighborhood dogs.

She has been included in American Illustration and Society of Illustrators Annuals



and displays her art in galleries throughout the United States.

Clients include Blue Q, The New York Times, Washington Post, Galison, Roger la Borde, and Quarto Publishing.

"No You Sit!" (this month's cover art) was created to encourage people to stand up for themselves.

You teach people how to treat you. Speak your truth. Show your worth. Trust yourself. And only sit if you want to sit! ■

Find the artwork of Terri Fry Kasuba at <https://www.instagram.com/terrikasuba/> and <https://kasubadesign.com>. "No. You Sit!" is available as a t-shirt at <https://www.prettyweirdworkshop.com/pretty-weird-shop/p/no-you-sit-dog-unisex-jersey-short-sleeve-tee-1>



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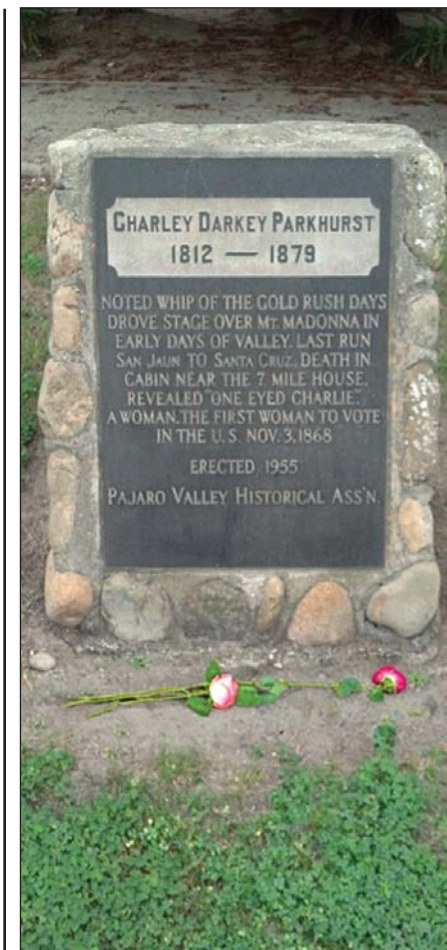
Charley Parkhurst

Charley Parkhurst, known as "One-Eyed Charley" and "Six-Horse Charley," was one of the most celebrated stagecoach drivers in California during the mid-1800s. Born in Vermont, Parkhurst headed west in his late 30s, sailing from Boston to Panama, crossing the isthmus overland, and then continuing to California. In Panama, he met drayage business owner John Morton, who hired him upon arrival in San Francisco.

Shortly after reaching California, Parkhurst lost sight in one eye from a horse kick, earning him the nickname One-Eyed Charley. Despite the injury, he thrived in the male-dominated profession of stage driving, earning respect for his skill, speed, and fearlessness. He drove perilous routes like Stockton to Mariposa, San Jose to Oakland, and San Juan to Santa Cruz—hauling passengers and mail through rough trails, bad weather, and the threat of bandits.

His talents earned him a place among legendary "whips" like Hank Monk and George Gordon. Stage drivers, often called "Jehus" (after the biblical Jehu who "driveth furiously"), were known for their grit and daring. Parkhurst retired as railroads eclipsed stagecoaches, settling in Watsonville where he farmed, raised chickens in Aptos, and lived in a remote cabin.

Parkhurst died of tongue cancer on December 28, 1879. After his death, friends preparing his body for burial made a shocking discovery: Charley Parkhurst was biologically female and had at some point given birth. A baby's dress was found in his trunk. The revelation made national headlines, including The New York Times, under the title: "Thirty Years in Disguise: A Noted Old Californian Stage-Driver Discovered After



Death to be a Woman."

That Parkhurst lived decades as a man, mastering one of the most physically demanding and dangerous frontier jobs, astounded the public. As one obituary put it, the fact that someone "should achieve distinction in an occupation calling for nerve, courage, coolness and endurance... was seen to be almost beyond believing."

Parkhurst's story endures not only for his legendary skills behind the reins, but for his bold defiance of 19th-century gender roles—joining a small group of frontier figures who lived outside the identities assigned to them at birth. ■

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 and *Mission Village Voice* (2014 to-date). www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/art-galleries.



Above left: THEN – Neil's Market circa 1981; above right: NOW – Mission Market

Then... and Now: 54 Muckelemei, before Neil's Market...

By Wanda Guibert

San Juan Bautista Historical Society

The history of the grocery store at 54 Muckelemei Street begins before Neil's arrival on the scene. A headline in the 25 March 1955 *San Juan Mission News* announces "Construction Started Yesterday on New Market on the Lateral." The article states that after having been in the planning stages for the previous 2 months, construction had begun "...on the west side of the San Juan Lateral by Herman and Anthony Botelho of San Juan Bautista." The former Botelho Bros. potato warehouse is directly across the street at 55 Muckelemei St.

Local contractor Joe W. Cullumber, Jr. (1918-2008) constructed the modern 90 x 70 one-story, concrete block building with a glass façade above a brick veneer. The ar-

ticle states that the building would have parking space around it and would be located next to the new San Antonio Terrace subdivision opened recently by Town Developers, Inc. Anthony Botelho added that he and his brother Herman were "...putting up only the one building. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000."

Having previously worked for Reno Cornaggia (1906-1977) at San Juan Bakery, Louie Ayala (whose brother-in-law was the beloved Chapito Hurtado, 1903-1994) started working as a bag boy at the age of 15 at Michael Bonfante, Sr.'s market at the corner of Third and Mariposa, then known as Mission Food Center. As an aside, the Bonfante family founded Nob Hill Foods and also created the quirky Bonfante Gardens Theme Park now known as Gilroy Gardens. The new market building would

be leased by Louis (Louie) P. Ayala, Sr. (1919-2004), Kenneth Vaccarezza (1926-2023), and butcher Candido ("Tux") Gonzales (1913-1966). Apparently, all three well-known young men had worked together at Mission Food Center and decided to "enter business for themselves" and established San Juan Super Market.

The 1 July 1955 *San Juan Mission News* announces the "Grand Opening of New Market Today, Tomorrow." Describing the interior of the building, the article states "To the left of the glass doors, a long vegetable display can be seen. Aisle after aisle of canned goods and other items are in the front portion. Warehouse facilities and office space are separated by a gaily-papered wall in the rear of the structure. The three owners have an invitation to 'all of our old friends, and to our new ones, to drop in

today and tomorrow.'" The layout of the market is very much the same today. In the 60s, Ayala bought the former Mission Food Center, rename it "Plaza Market" and operated it for 20 years. The last landlords of the Plaza Market were Manuel Barroza and Trini Martin, who proposed converting the market to a mall-like setting after the market's closure in February 1992.

The 20 October 1961 *San Juan Mission News* announces, "Super Market sold to Pete Wikoff." The article states that Pete Wikoff, a well-known former local resident and businessman, had purchased the San Juan Super Market from the 3 business partners. Wikoff had first come to town in 1946 and operated a grocery store on Third Street (which he later sold), had a partnership in a Hollister market, and also owned a hardware store in Morgan Hill. He



Mission Food Center (now Plaza Market), where Ayala and his partners had worked.



—Mission News Photo.
Shown above in their new store, the "San Juan Super Market", are left to right, Louie Ayala, Ken Vaccarezza and Tux Gonzales, partners in the business. The grand opening of the market will be held today and tomorrow, July 1-2.

Louie Ayala, Ken Vaccarezza, and Tux Gonzales. Mission News, 1 July 1955.



Neil's Market 2006. Photo credit: Galvin Preservation Associates Inc.

had recently sold the latter business, and his family moved to Santa Cruz, where they continued to reside. For perspective, in 1961, it appears there were 2 markets in town: San Juan Super Market and Quality Market at 152 Third Street. On January 20, 1993, Windmill Market celebrated its grand opening.

Finally, Neil Leong (from Watsonville) bought the market from the Wikoffs in 1962. Judy Botelho Cain (whose father Herman and uncle Anthony – the Botelho Bros. – owned the property and built the store) shared this recollection: “I remember the opening of the store being a pretty big deal for San Juan. There was a band playing that I think was fairly well known in the area, and I remember publicity around the opening of the store.”

Dennis Riphenburg, another longtime local, shared, “I remember the grand opening; my mom [Minnie Twitchell Riphenburg] was their bookkeeper for several years in the mid/late 60s. My brother

FOLGER'S COFFEE 65¢ lb.	
Best Foods Mayonnaise	qt. 59¢
Skippy Peanut Butter	1 lb., 2 oz. jar 59¢
LARGE GRADE A FRESH EGGS	doz. 43¢
CHIFFON TISSUE 4 double pack 4 for \$1.00	Chiffon Facial TISSUE Powder-room White (400 count) 4 for \$8.99
M. J. B. INSTANT COFFEE 6 oz. jar 89¢	
CHRIS AND PITTS BAR-B-Q SAUCE	Hot or Regular 3 jars \$1.00
Home Laundry Size FAB	16 lbs., 1 oz. \$3.89
<i>With FREE Plastic Wastebasket!</i>	
Friskies Meal	20 lb. bag \$1.99
SAN JUAN SUPER MARKET <small>Across from Botelho's Warehouse Phone NA 3-4606</small>	

San Juan Super ad, MN 1956.

Michael worked as a butcher for Neil during that time until he left for the Vietnam War. I remember a big vernal pond was nearby, and I used to catch frogs and polliwogs and put them in a tub until they grew up and hopped away.”

Sometime thereafter, Neil added the red horizontal sign atop the pre-existing, one-piece yellow Super Market blade sign at the corner of Muckelemy and San Antonio, which reads “Neil’s Fresh Daily BBQ Chicken and Pork.” In addition to their extensive meat counter, Neil’s Market also cut, wrapped, and froze game – deer and boar – brought in by local hunters; they also made sausage. Neil’s son Philip Leong, who wore many hats including that of a butcher, operated the market from about 1990 until 2020 when he retired and sold to a buyer who subsequently sold the property to the current owner in 2022.

Co-owners Adrian Mendoza and his father, Javier Francisco Mendoza -- who also own Watsonville’s Las Lomas Market -- have just reopened the grocery store as Mission Market after 2 and 1/2 years of renovation. The 4 large panels of plate glass windows at the façade advertise Mercado, Carnicería, Taqueria, Cerveza. Inside at the back is an expansive 25-foot glass display case of a variety of fresh meats. The market looks modern, clean, bright and inviting, and the staff is very friendly. Their hours are 7am- 9pm daily. Call ahead to order from the taqueria (831) 830-2739. Welcome to San Juan Bautista, Mission Market!

Special thanks to Barbara Ayala Gonzalez, Linda Vaccarezza, Dennis Riphenburg, and Phil Leong for sharing their recollections. ■

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Neil's Market. Photo credit: Monica Shearer

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | AUGUST 2025

Calendar

FRIDAY AUGUST 1

WORLD BREASTFEEDING CELEBRATION @ HAZEL HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN HOLLISTER. A DRIVE THROUGH EVENT 10:30am-12pm. Join us to celebrate the benefits of breastfeeding and receive information for your family from our community partners. See our ad on page 2.

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

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 - SUNDAY AUGUST 31

SUMMER GROUP SHOW The work of over 40 artists features work that is tactile, colorful & unexpected across a variety of mediums. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill.

SATURDAY AUGUST 2

SUMMER SKIES QUILT EXHIBITION 2-3pm. Art Depot, 35th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org

MANDALA PAINTING ON POLK STREET - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 9am-Sunset. All ages welcome

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

HOLLISTER CONCERTS PRESENTS: SWIFT NATION & NO DUH Guerra Cellers Hollisterconcerts.com

STEVE EARLE FIFTY YEARS OF SONGS AND STORIES goldenstatetheatre.com Monterey

NATIVE PLANT BOOTCAMP 10am-1pm. @ Rancho Cielo, Salinas. Register mbmg.ucanr.edu

SUNDAY AUGUST 3

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 LARIOS PROTECTED LANDS IN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 9am-12pm. Families welcome! sanbenitolandtrust.org 1st Sunday.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING - LED BY WATSONVILLE LAW CENTER 11am. Aromas Grange. Learn about your rights if you encounter ICE at home, work or in public. FREE event.

THURSDAY AUGUST 7

FEEDING THE FRONT LINE: FOOD GIVE-AWAY DRIVE- THRU 3-6pm. San Benito Health Foundation, 351 Felice Drive, Hollister. Sanbenitohealth.com

MARY VELASCO SELLEN SR. CENTER FUNDRAISER 2pm. GET INFORMED! 549 Mission Vineyard Rd., San Juan Bautista. RSVP to Mary Edge (831) 262-3484 by July 31, 2025

FRIDAY AUGUST 8

AN EVENING WITH PHIL ROSENTHAL OF "SOME-

BODY FEED PHIL" Goldenstatetheatre.com Monterey

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

MOONDANCE BAND @ BRASS TAP HOLLISTER <https://moondanceband.weebly.com/>

SATURDAY AUGUST 9

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

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

MOONDANCE BAND @ SMOKE POINT BBQ SAN JUAN BAUTISTA <https://moondanceband.weebly.com/>

KEO KOTTE & JULIAN LAGE Goldenstatetheatre.com Monterey



Sunday, August 10

ROZAS HOUSE - 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY! 11am-2pm. Rozas House, 31 Polk St, SJB. Celebrating a decade of preserving California history. Guided tours of the SJB Historic Walking Trail. The architecture of Rozas House is notable: the curving of the building to surround a courtyard makes the structure a rare example of Anglo-Hispanic cultural interaction.



Sunday, August 17

TACO & CHAVELA FEST 2025 - CAR SHOW & CONCERT 10am-6pm. Live musical performances including the Cover Girls, Car Show, Taco and a Jalepeno Eating Contest. Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. Tickets available at Eventbrite.

SUNDAY AUGUST 10

ROZAS HOUSE - 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY! 11am-2pm. Rozas House, 31 Polk St, SJB. Celebrating a decade of preserving California history. Guided tours of the SJB Historic Walking Trail.

SJB VFW FLEA MARKET 8am-4pm. Canteen will be open. 58 Monterey St., San Juan Bautista. Info contact Augie Garcia 408.603.9065

VERTI GROOVE MAKERS MARKET 11am-4pm. Vertigo Coffee, San Juan Bautista

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

ROSE SUNDAY @ THE GARDENSHOPPE Garden-shoppeandbar.com Hollister

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA ANNUAL YARD SALES 8-4. See social media or contact City for details.

MONDAY AUGUST 11

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

THURSDAY AUGUST 14

SUMMER SKIES QUILT EXHIBITION 5-7pm. Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org

FRIDAY AUGUST 15 - SUNDAY AUGUST 17

CALPOETS' SYMPOSIUM 5:30-8:30pm Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. <https://www.cpits.org/su/events/the-future-we-speak-calpoets-symposium-2025>

SATURDAY AUGUST 16

LUNA GALLERY'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

5-7pm. Luna Gallery, 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista, CA 831-623-2783

RECEPTION FOR "CREATIVITY AT THE CROSSROADS" EXHIBITION 5-7pm. Luna Gallery, 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista, CA 831-623-2783

BEGINNER'S PAINTING CLASS 11am-2pm. Instruction from local artist & instructor, Neelam Chhabra. Supplies included. Sign up <https://www.colibrigallery.com/colibri-gallery-art-workshops>. Morgan Hill.

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

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.

BEGINNER'S WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS 11am - 2pm. Instruction from local watercolor artist & experienced instructor Neelam Chhabra. Colibrigallery.com Morgan Hill

MOONDANCE BAND @ LUCY'S PACIFIC GROVE <https://moondanceband.weebly.com/>

SUNDAY AUGUST 17

TACO-MICHELADA FEST - CAR SHOW & CONCERT 10am-6pm. Live musical performances, Car Show, Taco Jalepeno Eating Contest. Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. Tickets Eventbrite.

THE POWER PLANT COFFEE + STORE ANTIQUE MARKET 9am-2pm. 3rd Sunday. Thepowerplant.org

CHILDREN'S SUMMER T-SHIRT SCREEN PRINTING 11am-1pm. Print and design on your very own t-shirt. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill.

Continued on next page

MONDAY AUGUST 18 - FRIDAY AUGUST 22

RANCHO CIELO'S 10TH ANNUAL VEGGIE BOX & BBQ FUNDRAISER Visit ranchocieloyc.org/fundraisers/veggie-boxes-and-bbq-fundraiser

FRIDAY AUGUST 22

DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS - SUMMER HORNS 2025 Goldenstatetheatre.com Monterey

SATURDAY AUGUST 23

DEAD COWBOYS BAND @ SMOKE POINT BBQ SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Deadcowboys.music

MOONDANCE BAND @ PICCOLO ITALIAN RESTAURANT MONTEREY <https://moondanceband.weebly.com/>

HOLLISTER CONCERTS PRESENTS: QUEEN NATION & FLEETWOOD MASK Guerra Cellers Hollisterconcerts.com

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

CARS TRUCKS & COFFEE 9-11am. Mariposa and Third, San Juan Bautista. 2nd & 4th Saturday.

SAT. AUGUST 23 - SUNDAY AUGUST 24

BEGINNING LANDSCAPE OIL PAINTING WITH SAMANTHA BULLER 9am-1pm. A 2 day workshop working from landscape photo references. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill.

SUNDAY AUGUST 24

AROMAS DAY! Grange Breakfast, Non-profit booths, Live Music, vendors, garage sale alley, kids zone, car show. Aromasday.org

MONDAY AUGUST 25

SUMMER LATIN NIGHT DANCE PARTY 8-11PM. 401 McCray St B24, Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org or eventbrite

FRIDAY AUGUST 29

SUMMER SKIES QUILT EXHIBITION 5-7pm. Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org

SATURDAY AUGUST 30

PLAY MUSIC ON THE PORCH DAY - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Homes will be marked with orange banners kicking off @ Rancho Vista, with a music procession into town ending @ Luna Gallery.

RECYCLE DAYS 9am-1pm. 2301 Technology Pkwy, Hollister. Dispose up to 15 gallons or 125lbs. Of household hazardous waste, mattresses, tires @ e-waste. Sanbenitocountyca.gov/HHW

MOONDANCE BAND @ BUENA VISTA BREWING CO. WATSONVILLE

ARTS IN THE PARK - A DAY OF ART & ARTISTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY 11am-2pm. Carl Martin Luck Memorial Park, San Juan Bautista.

Every week**TUESDAYS**

DAISY'S POOL TOURNAMENT 5pm. \$10 buy in winner takes pot. daisyssaloon.com San Juan Bautista.

WEDNESDAYS

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

**Friday, August 22**

DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS - SUMMER HORNS 2025. The "Ultimate Summer Party"- all your horn section favorites in one show! Visit Goldenstatetheatre.com for more information. Golden State Theatre is located in the heart of downtown Monterey. Surrounded by charming restaurants, shops, and plenty of parking, Golden State Theatre is a great night out. 417 Alvarado St, Monterey, CA 93940.

INDUSTRY NIGHT @ DAISY'S If you work in San Benito County, you get \$1 off every drink. daisyssaloon.com San Juan Bautista.

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

MARY VELASCO SELLEN SENIOR CENTER LUNCH, CHAIR YOGA & BINGO 11am Info Mary Edge 831.262.3484 maryedge@sbcglobal.net. SJB Community Hall.

THURSDAYS

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

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

BINGO @ THEGARDENSHOPPE 7-9pm. Thegarden-shoppeandbar.com Hollister Thursdays

SATURDAYS

BIG GUY ORGANICS POP-UP @ VERTIGO 8am-1pm. @ Vertigo, San Juan Bautista. Bigguyorganics.com

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

MOSS LANDING CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET 9am-2pm. Visit thepowerplant.store/farmers-market.

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. FruitionBrewing.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 SEPTEMBER 6**

GRANITEROCK RIVER RUN Meander through a working sand and gravel quarry @ Southside San and

Gravel Quarry and see the working quarry site, the banks of the San Benito River, specialized equipment that process the rock and beautiful natural surroundings. Runsignup.com/Race/CA/Hollister/thegranite-rockriverrun.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6

GABILAN SENECA WINE & FOOD TASTING! 4-7pm. Paicines Ranch. A cherished tradition-California's oldest wine tasting event-where wine & food lovers come together to support mental health, foster care, & adoption services for youth of SBC. Visit gabilanseneca.org

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13

THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS AND CAR SHOW TO HONOR A BAND OF BROTHERS 9am - 9pm. Bolado Event Center Main Lawn. Tickets @ eventbrite.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20

ZENTANGLE PATTERN DRAWING CLASS 11am-1pm. Local instructor Nancy Domnauer Colibrigallery.com

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26

SAN BENITO CO. DUCKS UNLIMITED Doors 5:30pm. Swank Farms Visit Sanbenitodu.com or call John Hopper 408.386.7301 Chris Perez 831.682.3203

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

HOLLISTER 2025 STREET FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW 10am-4pm. 250+ fabulous vehicles on display! Live entertainment, food, vendors. downtownhollister.org

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

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

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

HOLLISTER HAYBAYLER CLASS OF 75' 50TH CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH Casa Gamboa, Morgan Hill. RSVP Dolores 831.801.8275, Ysabel 831.419.1279, Josefa 415.815.5140

**Sunday, August 24**

AROMAS DAY! Grange Breakfast, Non-profit booths, Live Music, vendors, garage sale alley, kids zone, car show. Aromasday.org.



California is the major olive-producing region in the United States with the majority of production occurring in the Central Valley.

SBALT NEWS

Olives: California's tiny powerhouses with a big story

By Candy Coleman
PR/Events Committee Chair

Ever popped an olive into your mouth and wondered where it came from? If you're in the U.S., odds are it was grown right here in California — over 95% of them are. And not just any olives — we're talking about the deliciously briny Manzanillo and Sevillano varieties, served up in sizes from small to colossal. Other California varieties include Mission, Ascolano, and Barouni.

Harvesting olives can be a bit of an art. Some farmers still do it the old-fashioned way, with ladders and careful handpicking, olive by olive, tree by tree. Others are turning to mechanical harvesters to speed up the process, which makes sense when a single tree can hold a thousand olives!

But beware: you don't want to snack on them straight off the tree. Raw olives are seriously bitter. Back in the day, Freda Ehmann developed a seven-day curing process involving a lye soak to leach out the bitterness, followed by a series of cold-water rinses to remove all traces of the curing solution. During this process, pure air is constantly bubbled through the olives, which creates their rich, dark color. However, if you skip the oxygen, you'll get green olives.

Fun fact: Olives are actually fruits, not vegetables. They're in the same boat as tomatoes, avocados, cucumbers, pumpkins,

and even pimento peppers — all seed-bearing parts of a flowering plant.

Want to really impress your friends? Tell them that green and black olives grow on the same tree — the depth of color reflects the maturity of the fruit at the time of harvest, with green and yellow occurring at the beginning of the ripening cycle and purple and black at the end.

Curious to try your hand at curing olives at home? Check out our 30th anniversary recipe page on our website for the how-to. www.sanbenitolandtrust.org/30th-anniversary. ■



VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Staring at a blank screen

By Halina Kleinsmith

We know how it goes. Phone calendars with bells and whistles, reminding us of pertinent activities; wall or desk ledgers, loaded with post it notes; and digitally pinned items, indicating an overwhelming roster of numerous tasks.

When that happens, this crescendo of deadlines is such that it can stultify our effectiveness and capacity to work. We end up getting delayed in the next steps of a project, and instead of forging ahead with our undertakings, we're left in attitude limbo.

Some say we 'clutch' mentally, and can't get back into gear. Time seems to fly by, as we stare aimlessly at a computer screen, or a pile of elements meant for fabrication, leaving us feeling stuck, and in a brain fog.

Similar memories harken back to our grammar and high school days, when usually, right before the end of spring and winter breaks, deadlines loomed for assigned book reports and written essays.

The mindset was, you'd be off for a couple of weeks, so you should have plenty of time to finish your assignments.

It was a tough act to accomplish, as downtime from school traditionally meant more play time, vacationing, or sleeping in.

However, that disagreeable calendar would suddenly construct there were only days left to complete the work required. To which, I relay this tale of an overwhelmed student, who waited until the last minute to start their project.

Sitting and sobbing with a pile of books next to them at the kitchen table, they tell a concerned parent, "My paper on ornithology is due tomorrow, and I haven't even started!"

The wise parent answers, "There's only one way to approach this: bird by bird dear, bird by bird, and you'll get it done!"

Bird is the word. ■

id·i·om

"To tie a sausage to a cat"

(Hungarian: *Kolbászt köt a macska farkára*)

Meaning: To waste something valuable or do something utterly pointless, because the outcome is obvious: the cat will run off and eat the sausage.

Use it like this: "Giving her ex one more 'closure talk' was like tying a sausage to a cat." ■





Above left: Mayor and Mateo prepare for 1st pitch.
Above right: Opening Day ceremony.



LOCAL SPORTS

Jr. Giants season succeeds thanks to dedicated supporters

Mayor Leslie Jordan and Mateo Sotomayor-Vasquez prepare for the first pitch of the 2025 Jr. Giants Baseball Season in the photo above. Mateo's first pitch marked the beginning of another successful year of Jr. Giants Baseball, which ends August 2.

This being the first year as our own independent league could only have happened with the dedication of Caitlin Brady, San Juan Bautista Recreation Department Coordinator, and the many volunteers who put in their time to make it happen. We had 151 registered kids in the program this year and hope to continue building on those numbers.

The Jr. Giants Program is entirely funded by the San Francisco Giants Community Fund, which provides uniforms, gloves (if needed), equipment, adult training, and support for all their leagues serving over 28,000 youth in Northern California, parts of Oregon, and Nevada.

Thank you to all the youth, parents, and volunteers who participated this year, and we hope to see you next year. GO JR. GIANTS! ■



Mateo throws the 1st pitch.



VFW AUXILIARY #9242

BATTLE OF THE BANDS & CAR SHOW

SUPPORTING LOCAL VETERANS EMERGENCY NEEDS



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

9AM-9PM AT BOLADO PARK

TICKETS AT EVENTBRITE.COM

FOR MORE INFO CALL APEX SPECIALTY PLANNING GROUP 408-500-2458





Sidedoor

Sidedoor is a Smithsonian podcast presenting stories that can't be found anywhere else. More than 157 million treasures fill the Smithsonian's vaults, but where public view ends, Sidedoor begins. With the help of biologists, artists, historians, archaeologists, zookeepers, and astrophysicists, host Lizzie Peabody sneaks listeners through Smithsonian's side door to discover stories that can't be found anywhere else. Follow us at @SidedoorPod for updates and bonus content.



The Infinite Monkey Cage

Professor Brian Cox and Robin Ince host a witty, irreverent look at the world through scientists' eyes. Joined by a panel of scientists, experts and celebrity science enthusiasts they investigate life, the universe and everything in between on The Infinite Monkey Cage from the BBC. From the smallest building blocks of life to the furthest stars, they pull apart the latest science to reveal fascinating and often bizarre insights into the world around us and what lies beyond. Whether you're a seasoned scientist or someone who nodded off in physics class, listen in to learn all about fascinating topics.



McBroken.com: The "Ice Cream Oracle You Didn't Know You Needed"



We've all felt the sting, lured into a McDonald's drive-thru by cravings for a soft-serve cone or hot fudge sundae, only to hear the soul-crushing words: "The ice cream machine is broken."

But fear not, cone junkies, Salvation comes in the form of a gloriously mischievous website: McBroken.com

Created by software engineer Rashiq Zahid, McBroken is a live map of every McDonald's in the U.S., showing which locations actually have working ice cream machines. How? Zahid reverse-engineered the McDonald's app, using a bot that tries to order ice cream at every location, every 30 minutes. If it fails, that store is marked as "McBroken" in red. Working machines? Glorious green.

It's part tech hack, part public service, and fully genius. No more wasting gas and hope in a 12-car line, only to drive away cone-less and cold-hearted.

Even better, it reveals some ice-cold truths: Many McDonald's franchises use high-maintenance Taylor machines, so finicky they've become the stuff of fast-food legend, requiring constant cleaning, resets, and specialist repairs.

So next time the craving strikes, check McBroken.com before you roll out. It might just save your sanity, or lead you on a mini road trip to soft-serve glory. Because life's too short for broken ice cream machines.

GOING POSTAL 250 Years of Delivering

The founding of the postal system in 1775 was vital to achieving independence and laying the foundation for a unified nation. Today, America's first communications network still serves the same ideals, connecting individuals, communities and businesses through an exchange of ideas, information and goods.

The Postal Service's 640,000 employees exemplify those ideals every day. Letter carriers make up more than half of the USPS workforce. In snow, rain, heat and gloom of night, carriers reach the American public where they live and work, six and sometimes seven days a week. In some situations, carriers go above and beyond the call of duty, being the first to recognize a problem and alert emergency personnel. These actions have saved lives on many occasions and are recognized under

the Postmaster General Heroes' Program.

The everyday story of connecting Americans near and far by mail is meticulously depicted in the artwork for one of the stamp sets being released today: 250 Years of Delivering. Offering a bird's-eye view of a bustling town, each individual stamp is a frame of sequential art that tells the story of a mail carrier's journey as she walks her daily route. The story progresses clockwise through a year's four seasons.

The artwork also contains numerous postal icons such as collection boxes, a post rider on horseback and delivery vehicles. Collectively, the pane represents the faithful presence of USPS throughout the year.

Chris Ware created the stamp artwork and co-designed the pane with Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS.

The 250 Years of Delivering stamps are issued as a pane of 20 Forever stamps, which will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price. ■



THOMMELIER

In love, with wine

By Thomas Brenner

Coco Chanel so aptly professed: "I only drink Champagne on two occasions, when I am in love and when I am not." Ancient Greeks offered wine to Aphrodite, goddess of love, beauty and sexuality. In many cultures wine is ever-present at weddings, proposals, and anniversaries.



From Champagne toasts to fine Bordeaux at dinners, love and wine are intertwined.

More than just a romantic or celebratory gesture, vinous delights aid naturally, and even scientifically, in the magnetisms of romance. Wine causes vasodilation – increased blood flow can heighten sensation, cause flushed cheeks and red lips. Such indications can visually mimic natural vasodilation, acting as a subconscious signal of arousal and interest. Out of makeup? Grab a bottle of wine instead! Or watch a movie that romanticizes wine and love, such as Sideways, A Good Year or French Kiss for all I care. The science of wine and sensuality eludes me, but I'm always willing to give it a go. Alcohol, in moderation of course, can reduce inhibition and increase oxytocin ("love hormone") levels. Symbolism and wines' labels should also factor into this fantastic equation, as is evidenced by Calon-Segur. The famous heart on the label and quote by Marquis de Segur allows for another perspective: "I make my wine at Lafite and Latour, but my heart is at Calon." There must also be a direct correlation with romantic packaging, heart-themed wine names or Valentine's Day releases.

In addition to the aforementioned thematically appropriate movies, wine in literature, cinema and romance spill over to poetry by Baudelaire and Neruda, each famously writing about wine in erotic notes. It occurs to me that lovers discover each other through shared taste, trust and vulnerability, just as in wine. There's something about a bottle of wine that feels like falling in love. A well-chosen bottle may turn an otherwise ordinary night into a memory. When it comes to matters of the heart, wine is always appropriate. As a Sommelier, I have poured for proposals, heartbreaks, anniversaries and first dates. I have come to find that wine and love share something far more than mere chemistry; they share a soul.

Did you know that wine is good for the heart – literally!? This is true in both a ro-



mantic and physiological sense. Red wine may offer heart health benefits due to the presence of antioxidants, particularly resveratrol, which increase HDL ("good") cholesterol. These protect blood vessels and reduce the risk of blood clots. Now you know, so bottoms up. Literally. Wine, after all, warms body and connection. A sensory walk through wine mirrors a romantic stroll with lovers' hands interlocked, heightened by aromas, textures and flavors and echo attraction. Ideally, a lover is described as a great wine would be, exuding perhaps flirtatious bubbles, silky tannins and the long finish. We immerse ourselves in lovers in literature and wine in film, but I prefer non-fiction, realistic love scenes over Casablanca, A Walk in the Clouds or Big Night, personally. Shared bottles are to be spoken of as shared secrets – wine being the language that lovers speak, ideally with another human and not just a bottle in hand.

There is a certain timelessness in wine and love, especially for me. But it would be too much and too tasteless for me to note here for the fine Mission Village Voice readership. Explore for yourselves the love potion that rests in each bottle of wine, like a genie waiting to be rubbed out. So whether you're sharing a bottle with someone special, raising parts of yourself with a glass in solitude, or savoring the memory of a vintage long since passed, never forget: wine, as is true in love, isn't about perfection. We accept faults and highs, as wine is all about presence. It's about feeling. And most importantly, it's about savoring life's sweet moments before they sip away. Cheers to love in all its forms, and to the wine that makes it go down easier and taste even sweeter. ■

VUE A LA LOO

Railroad Park, Morgan Hill

Just off Main Street in Morgan Hill, nestled beside live train tracks, sits Railroad Park, a charming, train-themed stop with a restroom that's more Star Trek than small town.

These self-cleaning "Exeloo" restrooms are a gleaming nod to the future, designed to resemble a classic train depot on the outside, while the inside feels like stepping into a minimalist sci-fi pod. Push a blue button, and the curved stainless steel door glides shut behind you with a whisper. Soft ambient music plays, soothing and just loud enough to mask any human acoustics. Push another button, and a measured ribbon of toilet paper unspools like clockwork. No guessing, no reaching. When you're done and go to wash your hands, the toilet flushes itself with impeccable



ble timing. Voilà.
Even better? A freight train might thunder by while you're in there, adding an oddly cinematic soundtrack to your brief but polished pit stop. Amtrak shares the same track, so you may hear a commuter rush past as well. Modern, metallic, and mysteriously tran-

quil, the Morgan Hill Exeloo proves that when it comes to public bathrooms, we're not off the rails—we're on the right track.
Credit: <https://exeloo.com/news/entry/railroad-park-morgan-hill-ca/>
Installed in 2017. Photos are from the above website. ■

**WHERE SMALL-TOWN
LEGENDS UNWIND**

San Juan VFW Canteen
Fridays at 5 PM
Sundays at 12 PM

Cash Bar • Music • Dancing



Before



After



Before



After

Big Thanks to CalFire and Recology!

We are deeply grateful to the 13 dedicated men from CalFire who spent three full days clearing the soccer field creek, and hillside during our annual cleanup, completed on July 3rd. Armed with chainsaws, weed whackers, heavy rakes, and shovels, they made a tremendous impact.

Special thanks to Recology for donating two 40-yard debris boxes—an essential part of making this cleanup possible.

Your hard work and generosity help keep our community safe and beautiful. Thank you!

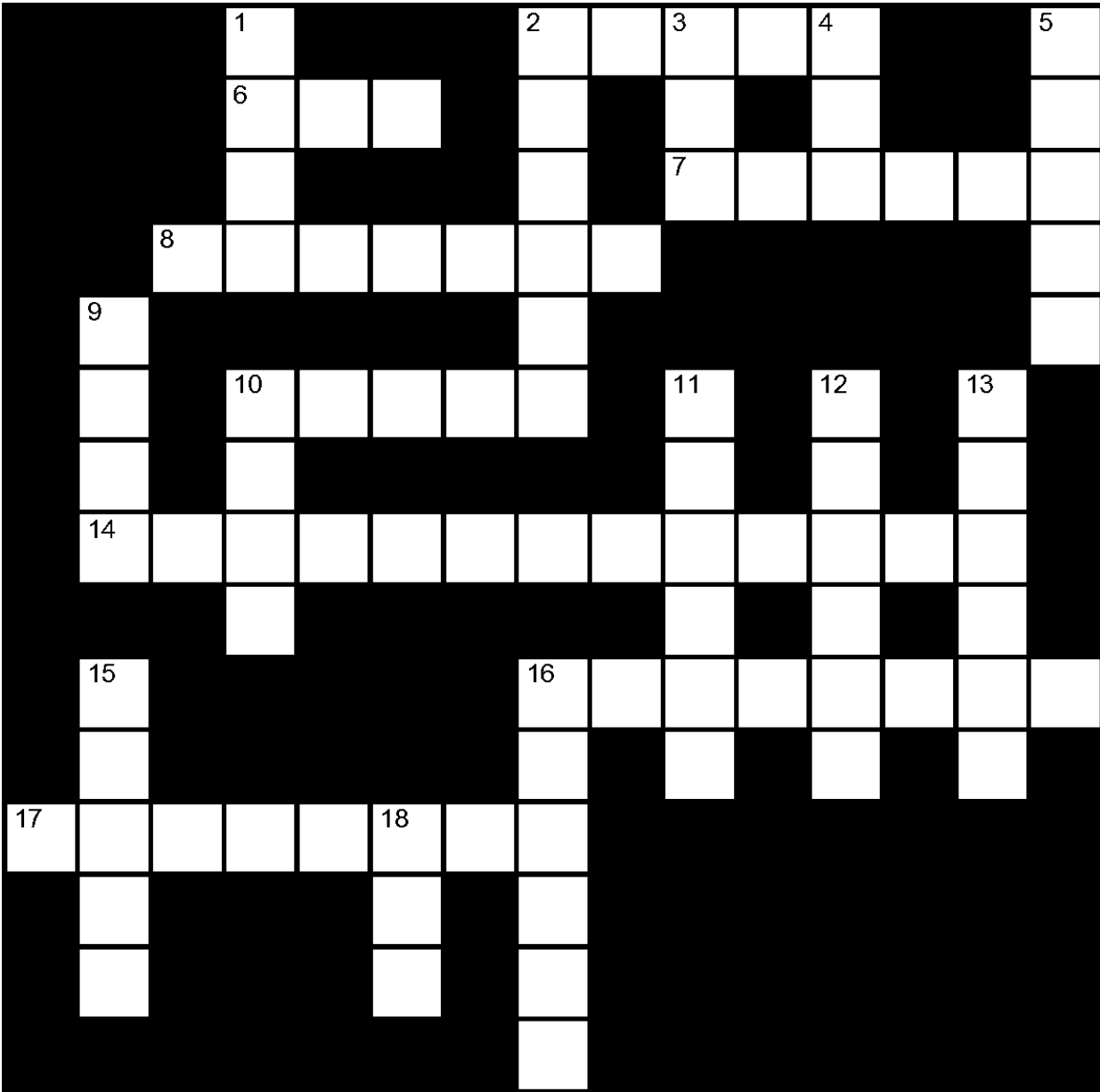
Coordinated by:
San Juan-Aromas Tennis & Fitness
501(c)(3) nonprofit | EIN 37-1653240
P.O. Box 363, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045



Mission Village **VOICE** PASTIMES



CROSSWORD **INSIDE THE VOICE** By Carlinka



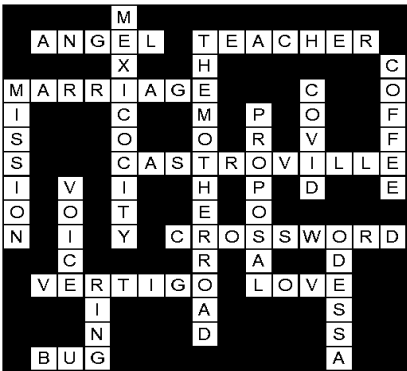
- Across**
- 2 Astrologer (5)
 - 6 Draap (3)
 - 7 Port City in Russia/Ukraine (6)
 - 8 Will Cook For Wine (4, 3)
 - 10 Then and Now (5)
 - 14 Quote (3, 3, 7)
 - 16 Been There (4, 4)
 - 17 Crossword Tzar

- Down**
- 1 Crumpets & Cactus (4)
 - 2 Voicing (6)
 - 3 Vue (3)
 - 4 Golden (3)
 - 5 Ranch Days (5)
 - 9 MVV Brilliant Art Director (4)
 - 10 Book (4)
 - 11 Oliveira (6)

- 12 Calendar (6)
- 13 Going (6)
- 15 Barber (5)
- 16 Denoted (6)
- 18 Then (3)



Last month's puzzle solution:
JANUARY WEDDING



HOROSCOPE **AUGUST 2025** by Hilda De Anza

Aries (March 21–April 19)
 You're running hot this August, and not just because of the weather. Mars supercharges your confidence, so take the lead on projects or call that overdue bluff. Just don't bulldoze your way into drama. Around the 17th, step back and listen, even Aries can benefit from a little strategy.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
 You're craving comfort and control, but August has other plans. A surprise expense or plan shift could shake your steady ground. Don't panic, pivot. Mid-month, your powers of persuasion are unusually sharp. Use them wisely (and not just to get someone else to make dinner).

Gemini (May 21–June 20)
 You're firing on all social cylinders this month, Gemini, flitting from group text to gallery opening like a caffeinated butterfly. But don't mistake busyness for progress. Around the 21st, take a beat: who's worth your time, and what's just noise?

Cancer (June 21–July 22)
 August asks you to get clear about your worth, financially and emotionally. If someone's been skimming off your energy without giving back, it's time to invoice the universe. A full moon in your money zone brings clarity, and maybe a raise (or a raise of eyebrows).

Leo (July 23–August 22)
 Happy solar return, Leo! You're the sunbeam in the room, and not everyone has sunglasses. Lean into the spotlight without turning the dial to "blinding." A bold move mid-month pays off, especially in love or creative ventures. Just don't ghost your responsibilities. Even stars need to file their taxes.


Virgo (August 23–September 22)
 August gives you a backstage pass to your own psyche. You're craving solitude, silence, maybe a little soft jazz and spreadsheets. Use this time to clean out the emotional junk drawer. The last week of the month brings clarity and fresh momentum, just in time for Virgo season.


Libra (September 23–October 22)
 This month, your calendar looks like a game of Tetris, and your charm is working overtime. Friends, flings, and fabulous ideas collide, and you're the social glue. Around the 19th, someone may need your honesty more than your diplomacy. Be brave enough to say the hard thing.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)
 You're climbing, Scorpio, professionally, emotionally, maybe literally if hiking's your thing. August puts you in power-player mode, but remember: leadership isn't about domination, it's about direction. Channel intensity into progress. The 26th offers a reveal, listen closely, even if the truth stings.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
 August asks you to stretch your mind, your passport, or your patience. A change in perspective (or scenery) refreshes your restless soul. Around the 12th, a conversation turns into an opportunity if you stop cracking jokes long enough to say yes.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
 You've been playing the long game, Capricorn, and August brings the next chess move. Whether it's an investment, an inheritance, or a juicy secret, something hidden surfaces. You're the one others turn to for composure. Just don't forget: even rocks need rest.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
 Partnerships, romantic, platonic, or business, take center stage. A new alliance could change your trajectory, but it'll require compromise (yes, even from you). Use your trademark logic to navigate the give-and-take. And if someone's been orbiting your world too long without landing? Time to draw the line.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
 August reminds you: structure sets you free. Health, habits, and daily rhythms get a cosmic tune-up. You don't have to become a monk, but a little discipline goes a long way. Bonus: a creative spark late in the month lights up a new project or passion.

#THE GOLDEN AGE

Get moving, Goldens!

By Leanne Oliveira

"You don't stop moving because you grow old; you grow old because you stop moving."

- Anonymous

Hello from the Açores Islands! 'Tis the season for travel, sunshine, and exercise, so I wanted to discuss some local senior exercise activities.

First, always consider your library's offerings. (They might surprise you!) Next, consider a short drive to great group activities like wellness classes and workshops including bird-watching, kayaking, history, tours, meditation, art, etc: Bay Area Older Adults (www.BayAreaOlderAdults.org), OSHER Lifelong Learning (https://www.osherfoundation.org/olli_list.html), Elkhorn Slough (www.elkhornslough.org), and Mountain Parks Foundation (www.MountainParksFoundation.org).

Walking/Hiking: I recommend the Anza Trail in SJB (www.anzahistorictrail.org), Pinnacles National Park (www.nps.gov/pinn), and Hollister Hills' Mudstone Ranch

(ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1183). For more Park ideas, visit REACH (www.reach-sanbenito.org).

Yoga/Chair Exercises: Classes at the Hospital (831 636-2644) and the YMCA (831 637-8600), which offers exercise classes to its members at their main location. Non-members can attend FREE at senior apartment complexes and the Senior Center in San Juan Bautista. Also, consider contacting Parks & Recreation to request more senior offerings.

Gyms: Anytime Fitness (\$17/mo, 831 636-4699) and BodyAde (\$10 discount, 831 801-0470) offer senior/low-income discounts whereas Gold's Gym, Crossfit, and Rovella's do not. Train virtually with a stationary bike at home, call Hollister's Live to Cycle (408 833-8440), consider getting a Peloton (www.onepeloton.com), borrow exercise videos from your library streaming on Kanopy and Hoopla, or watch videos on YouTube.

Swimming: The YMCA (831-245-9890)



Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the USA; my parents loved it so much they set up a court in their backyard! Check out www.PickleHeads.com for a local list. (Pictured: 73-year old Beth Henry with her "Chickieball" group in LA.)

now offers swimming at the high school with a \$10 day pass or with membership. Otherwise, Rovella's (\$45/mo, 831 636-8500) has a 24/7 heated pool, hot tubs, steam rooms, saunas for arthritic joints, and a senior aerobics swim class.

Volunteering: SBC finally has a Volunteer Center! "San Benito Connect" (www.sbcvolunteers.org) aims to challenge ageism and shape a stronger connected community by pairing volunteers with the organizations who need them.

Golden Tip: Check your health insurance

for possible fitness offerings like gym membership or home exercise equipment. Need help? Call HICAP: (831) 462-5510. ■

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) coordinates the Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program for Seniors Council at the Community Foundation Epicenter and writes #Bookworm for the MVV. Contact LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org or visit www.SanBenitoADRC.org. Leanne is an alumni of San Benito Leadership which is always recruiting at <https://linktr.ee/sbleadership/>

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.



Walk to End Alzheimer's
Santa Cruz- September 27
Seascape Park and Resort
alz.org/santacruzwalk



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

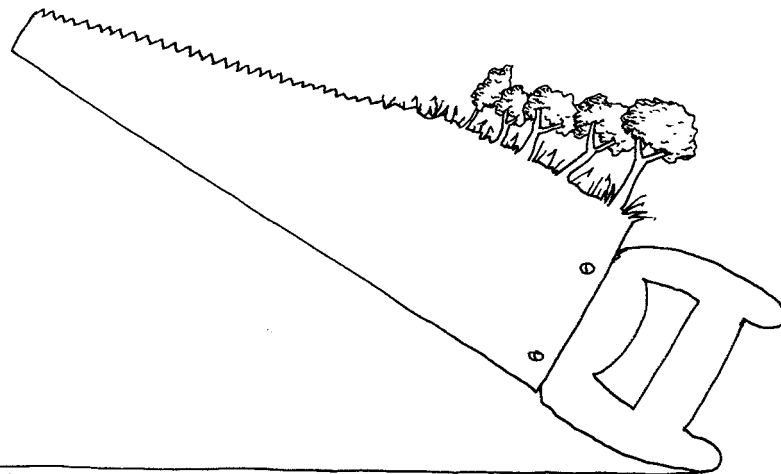
2025 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR

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WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

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Nutzle

SAN BENITO COUNTY:

**Your time is
the most
valuable gift.
Find a cause
you love and
make a real
difference.
Sign up now!**

A screenshot of the San Benito Connect website. The header includes navigation links: SIGN UP, LOGIN, HELP, and CALENDAR. The main title is "SAN BENITO CONNECT" with the tagline "Connecting People, Creating Change". Below this is a paragraph explaining the website's purpose. A large banner image shows volunteers and a "Get Involved, Make a Difference." button with a "VOLUNTEER NOW" link. Below the banner are six cards, each representing a different volunteer opportunity with a "VIEW DETAILS" button.

Opportunity	Status	Organization	Action
Senior Lunch Service	Multiple Shifts Available	Martha's Kitchen	VIEW DETAILS
Hospice Companion	Is Ongoing	Bridge Hospice	VIEW DETAILS
Become a Volunteer Advocate!	Is Ongoing	CASA of San Benito County	VIEW DETAILS
Certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman	Is Ongoing	Ombudsman	VIEW DETAILS
HICAP Volunteers	Is Ongoing	HICAP	VIEW DETAILS
Help seniors in your community to prevent falls!	Is Ongoing	Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz...	VIEW DETAILS

More opportunities available - log on to explore them all!

WWW.SBCVOLUNTEERS.ORG

www.sbcvolunteers.org | 831-975-2596 ext 204 | coreys@sbcbvolunteers.org



Seniors Council and the Community Foundation for San Benito County are partners in local aging initiatives, including San Benito Connect – Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteer Network and the State of California's Local Master Plan for Aging planning and development initiative, working together to address local community aging and disability needs.

Funding for this work has been provided by the California Department of Aging, the State of California, Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties, and the Community Foundation for San Benito County.