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See page 14



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A note to our readers

**It is not length of life,
but depth of life.**

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Larry Gerbrandt enjoyed a rich, full life and was a valued member of the MVV staff, photographing each *Now* image every month without fail for six years. He was very generous with his time and talent, and for that we are grateful.

Our deepest condolences to the Gerbrandt family from the MVV family.

On the cover

"Kiss Me" by artist Matthew Grabelsky. For more information about Grabelsky, see page 9.



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#BOOKWORM

Rejoice! Valentines Day is here

By Leanne Oliveira

"And in this moment, like a swift intake of breath, the rain came."

- Truman Capote,

Other Voices, Other Rooms

Valentine's Day is my dog Piper's 11th birthday AND Love Your Library Day! As I mentioned last year, I am a long-time unapologetic fan of Valentine's and all its chocolatey flower-filled gourmet-foodie-bubble-bath goodness. We spend the day alone or with friends happily ignoring droves of self-pitying singlets by pampering ourselves with holiday specials on grooming and favorite foods and places. I mean, why ruin a great day with romance?

Fun Valentine's activity: Visit passionflix.com to watch your favorite romance novels come to life for only \$5.99/mo. Films include bestsellers from authors including Jennifer Armentrout, Sylvia Day, Jodi Ellen Malpas, and Jill Shalvis. (These aren't Hallmark movies, people, and they're awesome.)

Naturally, I'm hosting our February book club, which will feature wrapped Blind Dates with Books for everyone to exchange. We're reading a choice of *The Last Stop* by Casey McQuiston (cute unique LGBTQIA+) and *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck* by Mark Manson. I wanted a non-romantic option for those who aren't obsessed with Valentine's Day like me. Audiobook versions are recommended here, as these narrators are first rate. Happy Valentine's Day, #Bookworms!

ANNE RICE TV ADAPTATIONS

So excited for this one! AMC has recently greenlit "Anne Rice's Mayfair Witches" for an eight-episode run. Also, their "Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire" is still set to premier this Fall. My Literary Ladies book club is reading *The Witching Hour* (Mayfair #1) in March.

B&N VIRTUAL EVENTS

Virtual author events: Tahereh Mafi, Ruta Sepetys, Noah Hawley, Tracy Wolff, Heather Gudenkauf with Lisa Unger, and YA powerhouses VE Schwab and Melissa de la Cruz. And a reminder to check out their blog for the "Most



Leanne Oliveira

Buzzed About Debuts of 2022".

BLACK LIVES MATTER: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Happy Birthday and RIP to Toni Morrison (2/18/1931-8/5/2019)! FYI: Black History Month began as "Negro History Week" (1926) during the second week of February, then became Black History Month (1970) in Canada and USA with Europeans observing in October.

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

Hosting Blind Date with a Book! Beloved staff picks have been mysteriously wrapped and assembled by genres such as "Blind Date with a Detective" and BSC has also prepared a list of heart holiday books. February author visits include Ken Babbs, TC Tolbert, Yuri Herrera, and more TBA; visit bookshopsantacruz.com for up-to-date goodies.

GILROY LIBRARY

Great news: Now open Sundays and -- for the 14th straight year -- SCCLD has been named a Star Library by the Library Journal. Check out SCCLD.org for all the great programming including a new linkage to Weston Woods Library (children's lit read alongs). Reminder that their 2022 Silicon Valley Reads reading list is up at siliconvalleyreads.org and coincides with author visits. I bought an enormous cookbook (*Gourmet Today* edited by Ruth Reichl) in excellent condition for only \$1 at their onsite Bookshop! Check it out Mon-Fri 1pm-3pm if out have a

chance; note that individual members get a steep discount. It's a great deal given that memberships range from only \$5-\$25/year. Grab yourself a cute \$2 tote, too!

LIBBY LISTS

Ever browse your Libby app? Check out the Librarian Lists! One of my libraries (Pierce County Library System in WA) has fun reading lists like "Unreliable Narrators and Unlikeable People." For those who are unaware of Libby, this free library app will change your life. You upload all your library cards and gain instant access to their digital catalogs.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Happy Love Your Library Month! Also: World Read Aloud Day (2/2), Library Lover's Day (2/14), Reading Rainbow Day/LeVar Burton's birthday (2/16), and SO many Birthday Babies: Langston Hughes (2/1/1902), James Joyce (2/2/1822), Gertrude Stein (2/3/1874), Laura Ingalls Wilder (2/7/1867), Charles Dickens (2/7/1812), Kate Chopin (2/8/1850), John Grisham (2/8/1955), Alice Walker (2/9/1944), Judy Blume (2/12/1938), Frederik Douglass (2/14/1818), Toni Morrison (2/18/1931), Amy Tan (2/19/1952), Anthony Burgess (2/25/1917), Victor Hugo (2/16/1802), and John Steinbeck (2/17/1902). Whew!

LITERARY LADIES BOOKCLUB (Est. 2016)

February offers a choice of two fave books chosen by me: *The Last Stop* by Casey McQuiston and *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck* by Mark Manson. Audiobooks recommended. Next month, Nina Alejandro has

chosen Anne Rice's (RIP!) classic *The Witching Hour*, soon to be on TV!

LUCK LIBRARY

Winter Hours Mon-Fri 11am-5pm and Sat 11am-2pm. Visit san-juan-bautista.ca.us/community/library.php for updates including details on in-person storytimes, utility assistance, and free online courses through LinkedIn Learning, Coursera, and Skillshare.

NEW RELEASES

Visit the Publisher's Weekly On-Sale calendar at tinyurl.com/FebBookworm for #AllTheBooks.

SBC LIBRARY

Tea & Treasures is back; see you all 3/20 12:30pm-3:30pm at Ridgemark's Diablo Room. Tickets are \$40 (call 831-205-1373) and masks and vaccine cards are required. Save the date for their Book Sale in April! Updated library programming at SBCFL.org.

LIT-TLE BLACK BOOK

Reminder of COVID-19 restrictions and possibly modified hours.

CITY LIBRARIES:

SJB (bautista.bywatersolutions.com), PG (pacificgrovelibrary.org), Monterey (monterey.org/library), Carmel (ci.carmel.ca.us/library)

COUNTY LIBRARIES:

Santa Clara (<https://scclld.org/locations/GI>), Monterey (mcfl.polarislibrary.com), Santa Cruz (santacruzpl.org), SBC (sbcl.org), Merced (co.merced.ca.us), Stanislaus (stanislauslibrary.org)

BOOKSTORES:

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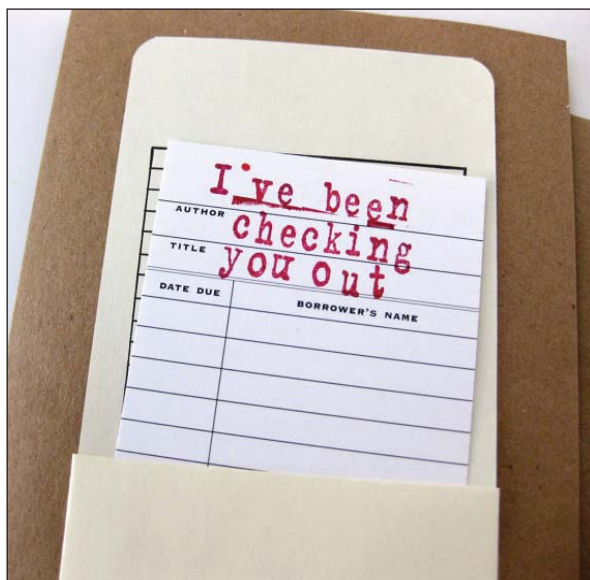
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DOWNTOWN BOOK & SOUND (SALINAS): 213 Main St
FARMHOUSE CAFE (HOLLISTER): 615-D San Benito St
FRIENDS BOOKSTORE (MARINA LIBRARY): 330 Reservation Rd #F

FRIENDS BOOKSTORE (GILROY LIBRARY): 350 W. Sixth St

KELLY'S BOOKS (WATSONVILLE): 1935 Main St
Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a dual EU/US citizen who works at the new ADRC office (www.SanBenitoADRC.org) and teaches writing for Gavilan College @ SBC Jail. Contact Old-FashionedOlive@gmail.com or "Comicfairy" on Goodreads. ■



Your name must be Jane,



'Cause I'm getting
L'Austen your eyes

Classic bookwormy valentines.

VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Take Five

By Halina Kleinsmith

Here we are, in year number two, doing our best to act as though life is returning to a degree of normalcy. But, in the back corner of our minds, we know we still haven't been able to abolish our daily health and welfare worries.

As strong-willed, strong-minded and seeking-to-be in-control of our emotions humans, we've been made to walk an invisible tightrope of optimism and faith, whilst crossing the abyss of our collective uncertainties.

We politely ask the 'How are you doing?' question, and even when couched in a generic response, the underlying and consistently revealed answer is tinged with feelings of anxiety, pain and resentment.

It's difficult to feel as though you have no time to just 'be'. Seriously, when did you even take five minutes for yourself? Not thinking about or planning the next 10 minutes, half hour, or upcoming week, but rather completely putting your brain to rest as you sit, stand, exercise or walk somewhere.

Of course, we all have to plan things, and we all have our specific deadlines and concerns. I'm talking about simply hitting the pause and refresh button for a short inter-



lude. It could be as easy as finding a corner in the grocery store to dumb out, looking at colorful vegetables or whatever for five minutes, and having a pleasant thought fill the time.

You know, that wonderful cabinet of remembrances and memories housed in your heart and mind are available for you to access, providing a soft modicum of comfort and much needed respite from your constantly churning thought processes.

Years ago, the great jazz musician Dave Brubeck released his "Time Out, Take Five" album. The melodic and upbeat strains of his *Take Five* title cut provides gentle, upbeat jazz for the weary soul.

It's fun to imagine that when he performed in the area, he would visit San Juan Bautista to see a friend in the old Bluebird Hotel. Together, they would jam in an upstairs apartment and treat passersby to his world renown and internationally influenced music.

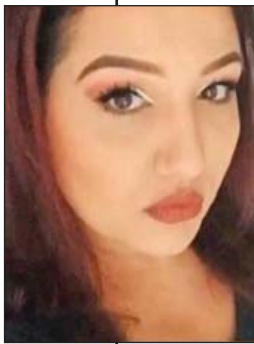
I suggest you take a page from his notebook...and remember to "Take Five" for yourself. Ahhh... ■

IN MEMORY

Amanda Marie Cherny Reyes

Amanda Marie Cherny Reyes finished her journey in this world on Christmas Day 2021, along with her fiancé Jose Powell. They were on vacation in New York City when their lives came to an end, and they entered into their new life of eternity.

Amanda lived 37 years fulfilling her purpose in life. She is the mother of Emanuel & Alexia Sanchez and Isabella Hernandez. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a master's degree and worked as a neonatal nurse practitioner. She loved her career and worked long hours caring for her patients. She would then go home and spend her free time caring for her family. She loved taking her children on trips and taking them shopping. Amanda was a caretaker at heart,



often taking care of family and friends who needed help. She definitely contributed a lot to her life on this earth. Her children will have a lot to look up to in her memory.

Her children were her passion behind everything that she accomplished. Little did she know that when she hugged them goodbye before she went on her vacation it would be the last. But that's the way her destiny was set up because there would be no words big enough and no hugs long enough to express her eternal love for her children. Therefore, the Lord took her by the hand while she boarded her final journey on earth. And he sent angels to comfort and watch over her children, like the way she had prayed for him to do.

Amanda's children, family, friends, co-workers and patients miss her dearly but are very grateful for the love, example & legacy that she left in their hearts. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all those who have offered their support to Amanda's children during this time. ■

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IN MEMORY

Manuel E. Carrillo

1943 - 2022



Manuel Emilio Carrillo's love of life didn't come to an end with his death. Manuel passed away on January 18, 2022 at the age of 78. His battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed his bravery in facing life challenges with a smile and with courage. Despite the pain, Manuel stayed strong until the end. He was surrounded by his loving wife Ann and many friends who will continue to honor his legacy as they honor his passing.

Manuel graduated from East Bakersfield High School in 1962. He joined and served in the Army from 1966 through 1968. He served with the NATO forces in Germany. Here was a Bakersfield boy known for the hot sun and was sent to Norway to learn how to ski. He left Bakersfield in 1968 in search of the opportunity to attend college. He found that place at San Jose State University.

Manuel met the love of his life, Ann in 1969 at the student union at San Jose State. They supported each other throughout their 48 years of marriage. Together they had 2 children Kasey and Kevin who joined their sister Sophia.

After San Jose State Manuel was committed to helping others when he started working with those addicted to drugs. In 1976 he accomplished his life-long dream as a Social Worker in Monterey County. He retired in 1996. He got his devotion to service from his mother, who always helped others in need.

His interests included family, watching the 49ers win, as well as all sports associated with football, basketball and baseball. For many years he coached his son's soccer and baseball teams.

The simplest pleasures in life brought immense joy to Manuel. From taking walks around San Juan Bautista to visiting the Post Office in San Juan waiting to meet friends and new people. He was happy just talking to those that crossed his path. His greatest joy though was his granddaughter, Keira. They would play games together for hours and playing "Birthday Party" was their favorite.

See MANNY, next page

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CITY BEAT

COVID leads to difficult times

By Don Reynolds
City Manager

These are difficult and confusing times, and very stressful to say the least. As I write this report, I have learned of another beloved community member that has recently lost their life to COVID-19. Vaccinations, boosters, testing and wearing quality masks are all key words on everyone's mind (again!). I hope that by the time you are reading this, the new variant has peaked.

The City has once again asked that all businesses enforce wearing a mask when visitors are indoors at their establishment. This is true at City Hall, limiting occupancy to two persons at a time. City employees have been careful. We received testing kits from the State Office of Emergency Services Friday the 12st, which are available for employees and their families. County Public Health is working to establish a testing center in San Juan Bautista for the general public.

Tuesday the 18th, the Council approved the Mid-Year Budget report. The City's COVID-caused economic woes have rebounded in December, and the sales tax revenue (part of the General Fund) is exceeding the budget expectations by almost 80%. General Fund expenses are trending 13% below budget. Our General Fund finances are solid. Budget town hall meetings are planned for late April and May.

That Mid-Year report provided the status of the City Council's three big initiatives related to Public Safety, City Growth (sphere of influence), and writing a community driven Master Plan for Third Street. After 5 meetings, the City Council's Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee is favoring a security camera system for the City. A "Request for Qualifications" (or "RFQ") will soon be available seeking help from an expert to design a system for San Juan Bautista. We learned from the City Manager and Police Chief of King City that this is an effective crime solution and deterrent, but it is expensive. The "Urban Growth Boundary Ad-Hoc Committee" is submitting a proposed new "Sphere of Influence" to the Planning Commission and City Council in February. The goal is to reduce the City's current General Plan growth rate of 3% per year to a growth rate below 2% a year. (The 20-year growth trend is between 1 -1.5% a year). The Third Street Master plan will become a focus of the newly formed Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee. They have already met twice this year.



The City Council also budgeted \$175,000 from the American Rescue Plan funds to develop recreational activities through a proposed Joint Use Agreement with the School District. There is also a small amount set aside for COVID related Non-Profit and Business grants. The second half of this \$503,00 federal grant (\$251,500) will be considered for the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2022.

The import of fresh water continues to be a very high priority. A new rate study for water is underway. A proposed water rate increase is anticipated in March of this year.

That's all for now. Happy Valentine's Day! ■

Manny

Continued from previous page

Manuel also delighted communicating with all his nieces and nephews. He was the uncle that doted on them and he appreciated that they were thoughtful and loving.

Manuel is survived by his wife Ann, his daughters Kasey and Sophia, sisters Rose Martinez and Connie Ramirez and many devoted nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son Kevin Patrick.

Manuel will be honored with a Rosary on January, 25, 2022 at 6:00 at Grunnagle-Ament-Nelson Funeral Home in Hollister, CA. A Catholic Mass will take place on January 26, 2022 at 11:00 am at Mission San Juan Bautista. He will be interned at the family plot in Saratoga and a reception will follow at the VFW Hall in San Juan Bautista. ■

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

San Benito County's
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RESOURCES

Drought! It ain't over until it's over!

California's drought is not over despite a bounty of snowfall and rain over the past month: 'California's snowpack — a critical source of water — is 150% of average for early January. But it's not enough to bring an end to the severe drought and water shortages.

California still needs about another foot of snow water content — the amount of water



contained in the snowpack — by the end of March to reach its historic seasonal average. And some experts say that California will need

a 140% of the seasonal average to make-up for the lack of water in reservoirs.

Feet of snow don't translate directly into

feet of water, so state officials report both the height of the snow and the amount of water runoff it would generate. At Phillips Station, where one measurement was taken on December 30th, reported 78.5 inches of snow. That amount of snow contains 20 inches of water.

The amount of water now stored in reservoirs is worse than last year at this time: The state's reservoirs in December were projected to contain about 78% of average — compared to about 82% in 2020.

Moderate to exceptional drought still grips the entire state, and a soggy start to the rainy season does not guarantee even an average water year. California has felt that false hope before: In 2013, during the last record-breaking drought, a wet December turned into a dry January and February.

Weather forecasts indicate a dry spell for the remainder of this year's rainy season.

And conservation still lags. California Governor Gavin Newsom called for Californians to voluntarily cut water use by 15% in the face of the ongoing drought last July. Residents cut their water use by just 6.8% in November, compared to a year earlier. In response, the State Water Resources Control Board approved new conservation regulations aimed at curbing wasteful outdoor use.

The new, emergency water conservation regulations will stay in place for a year and would empower cities, counties and other local jurisdictions to fine violators as much as \$500. Californians can keep watering their lawns — but are prohibited from allowing water to flow onto sidewalks or into the streets. They won't be allowed to water their lawns within 48 hours after it rains. They can't wash their cars unless the hose has a shutoff nozzle. Municipalities can't use potable water to irrigate turf on street medians. The focus on landscape irrigation is because over 50% of residential water use is used for landscapes.

Locally, water waste is resolved by reaching out to customers and providing education and resources, without having to resort to enforcement. However, local water agencies can escalate their actions for repeat offenders. A formal warning letter sent to these offenders lets them know that they can be fined and that agencies have the right to install a flow restrictor if warnings are not enough.

The Water Resources Association San Benito County (WRASBC) offers many free services to assist the community in using water efficiently. The agency suggests residents get a free leak check, irrigation system assessment and assistance. Be ready for when the irrigation season starts in late spring.

The WRASBC can be reached at: (831) 637-4378 or via their website www.wrasbc.org

The WRASBC represents the City of Hollister, City of San Juan Bautista, Sunnyslope County Water District and the San Benito County Water District. ■

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COVER ARTIST

Matthew Grabelsky

The extraordinary paintings of Matthew Grabelsky meld hyperrealism with anthropomorphism, endowing his human figures with heads of various animals.

With the finesse of a technical master and the wit of a Surrealist, Grabelsky creates astounding works of realistic human figures who incidentally possess animal heads. The works depict quotidian scenes from everyday life – such as riding on the New York Subway. The postures of his figures are quite familiar, except that each character is part animal and part human. Each figure possesses a personality that is unique to itself.

About his work, Grabelsky says, "I have long been enthralled with the ways in which mythologies from different cultures make use of animal and animal-human hybrid characters to represent the mysterious nature of the subconscious...These paintings are not intended to be viewed as fantasy or as allegory, but rather as a blend of everyday experiences with the subconscious. They are enigmatic, and create dream-like worlds that invite viewers to form their own interpretations of the imagery presented."

Grabelsky grew up in New York City



(where he rode the subway daily) and now lives in Los Angeles. He received Bachelor's Degrees from Rice University in Art and Art History as well as in Astrophysics. Grabelsky continued his studies in Florence, Italy where he was awarded a Certificate of Painting from the classically-oriented Angel Academy of Art. His work has been included in exhibitions throughout the United States as well as Paris, Berlin, Rome, Florence, Madrid, London, and Melbourne. ■

Pictured: "Hello Kitten" by Matthew Grabelsky



IN MEMORY

Shorty Martinez

July 2010 - December 2021

Shorty was given his name by AJ Martinez because of his short tail. He lived a full life enjoying the Anza Trail with his pack of docents. His four-legged friends were always greeted with tails wagging and an understanding that there were miles to go and smells at every turn. He logged over 2200 miles in 3 consecutive years. He was a remarkable companion and will be missed. For now he enjoys his runs with Simone, Finney, Belle, Ben and Bear across the rainbow bridge. ■



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- www.recology.com/recology-san-benito-county/environmental-day

Quarterly Bulky Item Recycling/Disposal Events



Bring up to 2 bulky items for free recycling/disposal at these events:

- March 26 & 27, June 25 & 26, Sept 24 & 25, Dec 10 & 11, 2022
- 9am - 3pm
- John Smith Rd. Landfill

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Events



Dispose of your paint, motor oil, household cleaners, and other HHW at these events:

- Every 3rd Saturday of the month
- 9am - 12pm
- John Smith Rd. Landfill
- Proof of residency is required
- Limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds

National Drug & Sharps Take Back Days



Safely dispose of your sharps and unused or expired medication:

- April 23 & Oct 22, 2022
- 1790 Airline Hwy, Hollister, CA (Target Parking Lot)

San Benito County Integrated Waste Management
(831) 636-4110 | www.cosb.us/iwm



DISCOVERIES

The Grove of Remembrance

By Wanda Guibert

One day last fall after leaving Sierra Azul Nursery-Garden in Watsonville and heading to Alladin Nursery & Gifts in Freedom, something unusual caught my eye as we sped along Freedom Boulevard, where it forms a "Y" with Buena Vista Drive. From the passenger seat, I spied a large sandstone monolith sited in front of a grove of live oak trees on a triangular sliver of land.



Once I returned home, a Google search led me to waymarking.com, and I realized that I had spied the Grove of Remembrance, a veterans' memorial dating from 1923 and dedicated to the local fallen soldiers of World War I. Further Googling led to a May 28, 2009 article in the Register Pajaronian written by Steve Bankhead entitled "Memories of Memorial Days past in the Pajaro Valley." Surprisingly, the article has a very interesting connection to "The Rocks" in San Ben-

ito County, the Vaqueros sandstone outcropping off Highway 101, south of the large eucalyptus grove made famous by the 1957 Alfred Hitchcock movie "Vertigo."

The source of Bankhead's information is a June 20, 1923 article titled "History of the Grove of Remembrance" in the Evening Pajaronian written by Watsonville resident Harold A. Hyde (namesake of H.A. Hyde Elementary School). Hyde writes, "At the apex of the triangle [i.e. the 1/2 acre site at the intersection of Buena Vista and Freedom Blvd.] a large monument has been placed. This has been kept simple in design to conform with the nature of the memorial. A large native boulder was secured from the San Juan Rocks. This stone approximating five feet square at the base and over twelve feet in height, was brought from the Rocks by tractor. It weighs some fourteen or fifteen tons."

Embedded in the face of the monolithic boulder is a brass plaque, which reads in part, "Under the leadership of the American Legion, the people of the Pajaro Valley have dedicated this grove of remembrance in loving memory of their sons who gave their lives in the service of their country, 1917-1919." Following that inscription is a list of names, "...of brothers to all of us - of brothers who feared not to serve for country and humanity - of brothers who gave up life and forgot love of self and fortune because they loved their country most." (Text from the official dedication ceremony.)

Perhaps the next time you drive to Freedom to shop at Alladin Nursery or Freedom Meat Lockers and Sausage company, slow down as you approach the intersection of Freedom Boulevard and Buena Vista Drive and look for the Grove of Remembrance, which is often overlooked but not forgotten by locals who maintain it. ■

Right: A close-up photograph of the plaque.



San Juan rock in transit. Photo: Pajaro Valley Historical Association



FINANCIAL FOCUS

What should you do with a tax return?

Are you expecting a tax refund this year? If so, what will you do with it?

Of course, the answer largely depends on the size of your refund. For the 2020 tax year, the average refund was about \$2,800, according to the Internal Revenue Service. But whether your refund this year will be about that size, smaller or larger, you can find ways to benefit from the money.

Here are some possibilities:

- **Contribute to your IRA.** You've got until April 18 to fully fund your IRA for the 2021 tax year. But if you've already reached the maximum for 2021, you could use some, or all, of your refund for your 2022 contribution. Assuming you did get around \$2,800, you'd be almost halfway to the \$6,000 annual contribution limit. (If you're 50 or older, you can contribute up to \$7,000.)

- **Invest in a 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren, you might want to invest your refund in a 529 education savings plan. A 529 plan's earnings can grow federal income-tax free, and withdrawals are federal income-tax free provided the money is used for qualified education ex-

penses. If you invest in your own state's plan, you might get a tax deduction or credit. A 529 plan can be used to pay for college, vocational training and even some K-12 expenses in some states. Plus, if you name one child as a beneficiary, and that child's educational journey does not require the funds from a 529 plan, you may change the beneficiary to another eligible family member of the original beneficiary.

- **Add to the "cash" part of your portfolio.** It's generally a smart move to keep at least a portion of your overall investment portfolio in cash or cash equivalents, because the presence of cash can help you in two ways. First, since its value won't change, it can help cushion, at least to a degree, the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, by having cash available, you'll be ready to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities when they arise.

- **Boost your emergency fund.** You could use your tax refund to start or supplement an emergency fund. Ideally, this fund should contain three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. (If you're already retired,

you might need this fund to cover a full year's worth of expenses.) Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into long-term investments to pay for costly housing or auto repairs or large medical bills.

- **Reduce your debt load.** It's not always easy to minimize your debt load, even if you're careful about your spending habits. But the lower your debt payments, the more money you'll have available to invest for your future. So, you may want to con-

sider using some of your tax refund to pay off some debts, or at least reduce them, starting with those that carry the highest interest rates.

- **Donate to charity.** You could use part of your refund to donate to a charitable organization whose work you support. And if you itemize on your tax return, part of your gift may be deductible.

A tax refund is always nice to receive – and it's even better when you put the money to good use.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Alexis Winder. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE Community Bulletin Board

Arts Council Announces its 7th annual Poetry Out Loud Competition

The San Benito County Arts Council invites the community to Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation contest. This competition, presented in partnership with San Benito High School, Aromas San Juan Unified School District, and the San Benito County Office of Education, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry—both classic and contemporary—through memorization, performance, and competition.

Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has reached more than 3.8 million students and 60,000 teachers from 16,000 schools nationwide. This January, Poetry Out Loud will take place in San Benito County for the fifth time with support from the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation.

Local high school students will compete in the 2022 San Benito County Poetry Out Loud Finals on Thursday, February 3rd at 6 PM, at San Benito High School. The winner of this competition will advance to the California State Poetry Out Loud contest in Sacramento in March. The California State champion will advance to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, DC.

Attendance is free and open to the public, although seating is limited. For further information or to find out how to get involved, please contact the San Benito County Arts Council at 831.636.2787 or amandchiado@gmail.com

County Office of Education accepting submissions for annual County Arts Showcase

The San Benito County Office of Education is currently accepting artwork submissions from local students, grades TK- 12, in all media for a Countywide Arts Showcase on Wednesday, February 9th, 4-7 pm at the Veterans' Memorial Building in Hollister.

Students are encouraged to enter paintings, drawings, sculpture, mixed-media and literary art pieces. Entry instructions are available at the County Office of Education and San Benito County Arts Council's websites. In-person, walk-in entries can be dropped off at the Veterans' Memorial Building on February 8, 9 am-5 pm. Participants may also request a submission pick-up for February 1st-4th by emailing cwoods@sbcoe.org.

Students, families and community members are invited to attend this free event from 4-7 pm on Wednesday, February 9th at the Hollister Veterans' Memorial Building in downtown Hollister. This event is a student exhibition of visual and literary arts with performances by local dance, theater, and music groups. Other event activities include an interactive eco-art activity presented by Terra Cultura and an arts-focused STEAM maker project provided by Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT). Local food trucks will be hosted outdoors.

For other event or submission information, please contact Christian Woods at cmeyers@sbcoe.org or the Arts Council at amandchiado@gmail.com. Other submission and event links can be found at www.sanbenitoarts.org.

Winter session art classes offered

Enrollment is now open for our Winter Session Community Art Classes! Register for our in-person youth & adult classes taught by professional teaching artists. Classes are offered in a variety of mediums. Scholarships available for qualifying students. To find out more, email heidi@sanbenitoarts.org. visit sanbenitoarts.org

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast announces partnership with DoorDash

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast is happy to announce that this year the council is partnering with DoorDash to offer zero-contact home delivery for their cookie customers. Girl Scouts are pivoting to offer new ways to sell cookies in a contactless environment. This new partnership with Doordash ensures that Girl Scouts will reach consumers on their technology platform.

Consumers will now be able to enjoy delicious Girl Scout cookies without having to leave their homes. Get all your favorite cookies such as: Toast-Yay!™, Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Shortbread cookies, Caramel Chocolate Chip, Lemonades®, and the new Adventurefuls™ delivered straight to your door.

Though DoorDash will be handling the deliveries, Girl Scouts are still involved and will still be developing their entrepreneurial skills. This will serve as a hands-on experience in managing e-commerce. Local Girl Scouts will track and fulfill orders, manage inventory, and more, all while using Doordash's back-end technology. Through this process, girls are building people skills by working together as a team, learning decision-making skills by taking the lead in business operations, and developing business ethics by making sure they meet customers' needs and expectations.

"Girls are super smart on cell phone technology and app technology," said Tammie Helmuth, CEO, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast. "This is a natural progression of allowing girls, to not only move their sales onto an online platform, but to use it to increase their sales. Remember they still want that major investment back into their community."

The Girl Scout Cookie program is set to run from January 29 to March 13 in the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. Cookie booth locations, which will fulfill Doordash orders, will begin to appear council-wide February 11

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S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2: Heart of Chernobyl

ARCADE TODAY

S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2

By Jesse Teixeira

In 1971, brothers Boris and Arkady Strugatsky penned a novel called *A Roadside Picnic*. In keeping with certain traditions of Russian literature, the tone, setting and plot of the book are bleak but with an unparalleled focus on the human element that is often considered the mainstay of such works. Set in a world where mysterious aliens have come and gone, leaving masses of incomprehensible, inexplicable and extremely dangerous technology, the plot of the story follows the personal life of a lone Stalker, a man who makes a living sneaking into the restricted zones where the highly-valued extraterrestrial materials are contained from the general public and scavenging on behalf of various parties, both criminal and civil. The book would later be adapted into a cult film sharing the character's title, directed by Andrei Tarkovsky, who captured the feeling of the written work with long cinematic shots portraying wide and empty vistas, often with strange ruins and unsettling silence, evoking a sense of isolation and mystery.

Decades later, long after the fall of the USSR, the small Ukrainian studio GSC Game World undertook the task of adapting the Strugatsky brothers' work for a new generation. Released in 2007 after six years in development hell, *S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Shadow of Chernobyl* offered players a chance to try their luck in the Zone, a mysterious region afflicted by supernatural phenomena set around the defunct Chernobyl NPP and its associated ghost-city of Pripjat. In the Zone, vicious and dangerous mutants roam



unchecked while various lawless parties vie with one another to achieve their own agendas. There, life is cheap, and death a common occurrence. Set amidst the ruins of post-Soviet tragedy and challenging the player to make their own legend as an individual in a harsh and unforgiving landscape, the game was widely lauded for its excellent atmosphere, even while it received harsh criticism for poor optimization and numerous bugs. Despite these technical troubles, however, the game went on to capture the imagination of many aspiring creators, and even after two pseudo-sequels of starkly alternating quality, the *S.T.A.L.K.E.R.* modding community remains alive and well to this day.

Now, after years of silence, *S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2: Heart of Chernobyl*, originally announced in 2010 as a true sequel, has risen from its radioactive grave, proving like its predecessor that being vaporware isn't always a terminal condition. Powered by Unreal Engine 5 and helmed once more by GSC, *Game World* promises to be something of a self-aware sequel, retreading old territory while opening new avenues of exploration. Backed by a big fat Microsoft budget, the game has become a full and open world, rife with bloodsucking monsters, dancing bandits, and of course, killer anomalies. What the plot will be is still unclear (though the original protagonist Strelok is confirmed to return), but so long as it retains that wild, empty atmosphere of the originals, it's bound to be a hit.

It's slated for release in April at the time of this writing, but the Zone is a fickle mistress, and so, until it actually lands, all we can do is stay cheeki breeki (as they say) and keep going. ■



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Then: San Juan High School 1920; Now: location unclear

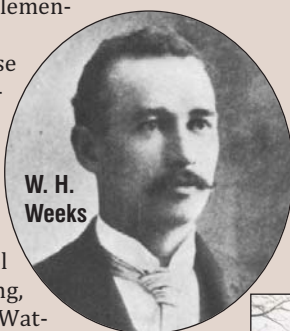
Then... and Now: "There is no there there" – Gertrude Stein, *Everybody's Autobiography*

By Wanda Guibert

San Juan Bautista Historical Society

Unfortunately, it is not certain exactly where the old San Juan High School (variously referred to as San Juan Grammar School and San Juan Branch High School) was located. In the book *San Juan Bautista: The Town, the Mission & the Park*, author Charles Clough states "The San Juan Grammar School was built near First Street to the north of the mission land and west of the community center in 1907." He also states that the former high school was demolished in 1925-26 (though, surprisingly, there was no news of it in the San Juan Mission News) and later replaced by San Juan Elementary School, built in 1927.

The 7 April 1907 San Jose Mercury-News (accessed online via the California Digital Newspaper Collection) includes a headline announcing, "New San Juan School Building." The article states, "At a meeting of the School Trustees Wednesday evening, Architect W. H. Weeks of Watsonville submitted several plans for the new \$10,000 schoolhouse to be located in San Juan. Three plans were submitted, all being in the Mission style. The one accepted will be an elegant building, having a long portico in front and a tile roof. There will be three class rooms on the first floor 24x30 feet, three cloak rooms, superintendent's office and two entries in the rear, one for the boys and one for the girls. On the second floor there are to be two class rooms 24x30 feet, two rooms, hall and balcony in front. The building, when erected, will be fitted up with all the latest accommodations and will be the nicest school in San Benito County. Work will be commenced as soon as the weather permits and the old building is moved off the site."



W. H. Weeks

William Henry Weeks (1864–1936) was an early 20th-century California-based architect who designed hundreds of buildings including schools, banks, and libraries, many of which were Carnegie Libraries. Some local examples of his fine work are the Wheeler Hospital, Gilroy; the original Hazel Hawkins Hospital, Hollister; Santa Cruz Boardwalk Casino and Plunge; Spreckels Sugar Factory; San Benito County High School (1909). His first office was in Watsonville, California, but later offices were in various parts of the San Francisco Bay area. Weeks was a pioneer in earthquake-resistant construction; consequently, many of his buildings are still in use.

Built in 1907, the San Juan Branch High School was located on First Street, perhaps where the San Juan Elementary School was later sited. The Then photo clearly depicts it as a beautiful Mission Revival structure, certainly appropriate for a Mission town. The style includes mission-shaped dormers and/or roof parapet; wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter beams, red-tiled roof, stucco walls, and arched windows or doors on the ground level; a square tower symbolizing a mission church and its bell tower.



San Juan High School under construction, 1907.



Proposed alterations and additions, 1923 San Juan Mission News

In 1923, I. G. Grindell, "a most competent architect and engineer" who designed the Community Center in 1927, provided a report on conditions of the school and proposed alterations and improvements, stating, "Structurally the present building is in first class shape...The time has arrived when it is found absolutely necessary to provide more room for the rapidly increasing attendance of pupils in the San Juan grammar school...From outside appearances it will look like a new building and as far as usefulness, considering the amount it will cost, I think it will be money wisely spent and to the lasting credit of the present board that such was adopted." (1 December 1923 San Juan Mission News).

Unfortunately, the 5 January 1924 San Juan Mission News reports, "The school bond election held Wednesday for the purpose of giving the voters of the San Juan school district an opportunity to decide whether the present grammar school building should be remodeled, by additions, repairs, etc. in the sum of \$20,000 in order to relieve the congestion, was defeated by two votes. There is a wide divergence of opinion as to what should be done regarding the deplorable conditions now existing..."

What happens next is unclear. The William H. Weeks-designed San Benito County High School was built in Hollister in 1909, so by 1924, San Juan students might have commuted to that school. However,

PREDICTS YEAR OF FINE WORK IN HIGH SCHOOL

Principal R. P. Binkley of the San Juan Branch High School reports an attendance of twenty-six students for the opening week, and relates that they are a fine lot of girls and boys, too, and all appear enthusiastic over the work ahead of them. Further additions to the attendance is anticipated shortly.

Nine have registered for the Commercial Course, while a number have joined the typing class.

The Music Course is also proving attractive, with Mrs. Alice Hart Hooton in charge, and a number of the boys as well as girls have availed themselves of this opportunity for voice culture.

In another week it is expected the class signing up for the orchestra under the leadership of Albert Taix will be ready for serious work.

The boys "fell hard" for Coach Andy Hardin when he arrived to discuss field activities and the football team from San Juan Hi may be expected to raise some commotion at future meets.

Mr. Binkley is very optimistic over the prospects for a year of splendid accomplishments and will have the cooperation of his assistant, Miss Loretta McKay, the part time teachers, and the pupils as well.

September 4, 1926 Mission News.

a San Juan branch of the high school was extant until 1932. In San Juan Bautista: The Town, the Mission & the Park, Charles Clough notes that the San Juan school district maintained a high school for more than 25 years, but in 1932 it was closed "because of the high cost per pupil for education." The school operated as a branch of San Benito County High School and apparently offered only the first 2 years of high school. The last El Gabilan yearbook was published June 3, 1932. The cover depicted Fremont Peak, the cross on the hill, and the outline of the town's rooftops and Mission and was deemed very impressive. Apparently, that fall, all high school students were bussed to Hollister.

How could the former high school have been demolished circa 1925-26 yet remain extant until 1932 as stated by

Clough? The 10 March 1939 San Juan Mission News may provide the missing piece of the puzzle. A headline announces, "Old High School Will be Sold." That building had been constructed circa 1864 by Judge James Frederick Breen (1841-1899) and was his residence for many years. In 1871, he was elected Monterey County judge and was later appointed judge for the district court in the newly formed San Benito County from 1874 to 1875. In 1876, the San Juan City Council appointed him to the position of city attorney. He became superior court judge for San Benito County in September 1879. Early settler Isaac Mylar recalls in Early Days at the Mission San Juan Bautista, "Judge Breen's home on this tract [of First Street] was a very large, commodious and handsome structure."

The March 1939 newspaper article reports that the Breen house had been purchased by the County in 1922 for \$8,000. "Class rooms were set up in the place and it was used as a branch of the county high school for several years until bus service made it an unnecessary expense to the school district and it became more practical to send the students to Hollister for their education." Subsequently, the building was vacant, deteriorated, and then sold. Mystery solved.

If only architect William H. Weeks had the foresight to anticipate the growing population of families and students in San Juan, that iconic Mission Revival school might still be here today...repurposed for another use. ■

Right: High School dance big success 12/15/1923 San Juan Mission News

HIGH SCHOOL DANCE PROVES ENJOYABLE AFFAIR

The dance and program given by the student body of the local high school, at Community Hall, on Saturday evening last, was a very enjoyable affair. A large crowd was in attendance and the excellent music by a four piece orchestra, in which Albert Taix and Fred Sutherland took the lead, was enjoyed by all, even those who did not dance.

During the evening several musical numbers were given, a costume song and dance by Frances Moore, Evelyn Taix, Helen Cagney and Lillian Faria, being very pleasing and received hearty applause.

A solo by Bill Jacinto, and a duet by Miss Lillian Faria and Mr. Jacinto, were also enthusiastically received, both having excellent voices.

Miss Dorothy Wise of San Francisco, who was on the program for a Spanish dance, was unable to be present.

At midnight an excellent supper, enjoyed by everyone, was served by the girls of the high school, consisting of delicious sandwiches, cake, and superfine coffee.

The hall was artistically decorated for the occasion, the color scheme being the red and green of the Christmas season, large clusters of the hollyherry adding to their beauty.

The students were rewarded with a nice sum as the result of their successful efforts to give everyone a pleasant evening's entertainment. The various committees are to be congratulated upon the efficient manner in which they carried out the evening's entertainment.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Contest

The students of the San Juan Hi School are now holding a contest to see who can choose the best title for the Hi School column in the San Juan Mission News. A small box has been placed in the Freshman room in which to drop the choice of titles. A useful gift is to be given to the student suggesting the best title.

Each student is to choose a number and one of the teachers will take his or her name with the number choosen and then will put the title and number choosen in the box. This plan was decided on so as not to show any favors.

Those on the committee to pick the best title are as follows: Miss Siemens, Mr. Smith, Helen Cagney and George Murray.

The Boxing Contest

Joe Hudner, the San Juan High School Midget, and Earl Bowser, the San Juan High School Giant, the main eventers, put on the best bout that has ever been staged at the San Juan High School.

These two fighters fought from start to finish, showing speed and cleverness, and they also had the spectators shadow boxing all during the fight.

The first round was about even but Hudner had a little of the second round, and mostly all of the third. So far it was Hudner's fight.

Bowser landed a hard right, following shortly after by a solid punch to the jaw. The fight was then going in Bowser's favor.

Hudner had a small lead on points and the decision was given to the Midget.

After the Giant heard the decision he got in the ring and challenged the Midget to another bout, which was accepted by the Midget.

High School Dance

The pupils of the San Juan High School were rewarded for their hard work in trying to make the dance a success.

Everything went off fine with the exception that Miss Wise was unable to come down and give her dance. Midnight supper was served which the people enjoyed very much. After Supper the people danced some more and then went home.



San Benito County High School, postmarked 1909.

December 15, 1923 San Juan Mission News

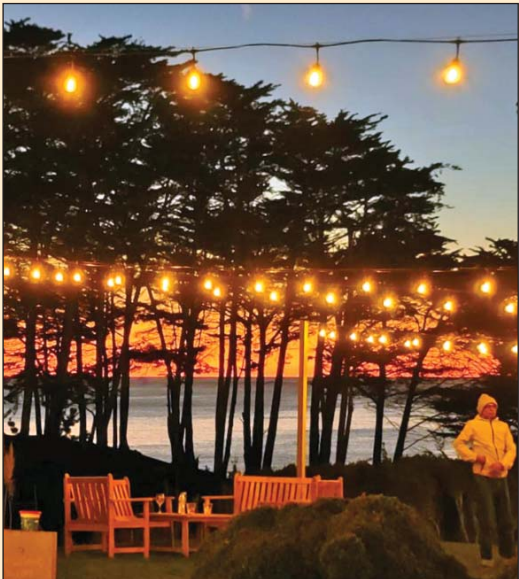
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Amie Rodriguez and Faith Garcia at Yosemite



1st local beer collaboration between two SBC breweries with Brewery Twenty-Five & Mad Pursuit. L-R Alex DeLeon, Sean Fitzharris, David Alvarez & Lino Gonzalez



First sunset of the year, 1-1-22.



Above and below left and center: Locals celebrate the Valentine's season at Bliss Blendz.



Thank you Mike Ostrowski & Angel Galvez for working so hard to keep our beloved Anza Trail safe!



Evalia & German Morales and their grandchildren Adrien, Josh & Faith.



Celebrating Jezabella Sandoval's Sweet 16 & Jazalyn Sandoval's Quincenera.



CHINESE NEW YEAR 2022

Year of the Tiger

February 1, 2022 – February 15, 2022

Chinese New Year, or Lunar New Year, is a 15-day festival that is celebrated annually depending on the sighting of the new moon. The occasion is also known as the Spring Festival, and an animal is associated with each New Year. The animals rotate and repeat according to a fixed cycle. The Spring Festival, Chinese New Year, is celebrated with lots of food, the color red, and honoring ancestors. Chinese New Year's Eve dinner is one of the most important occasions of the year — celebrated with long noodles, trays of food, and sweet, plump oranges to spread the wealth.

Chinese New Year is a lunar holiday, meaning it's celebrated at the start of a new moon rather than the beginning of the Gregorian calendar. The festival was traditionally a time to honor deities as well as ancestors. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the New Year vary widely, and the evening preceding Chinese New Year's Day is frequently regarded as an occasion for Chinese families to gather for the annual reunion dinner. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly clean their house, in order to sweep away any ill fortune and to make way for incoming good luck.

It wouldn't be Chinese New Year without a red envelope to pass out to children and single young relatives. Each envelope contains either an even number of cash or chocolate coins, which both symbolize good fortune and wealth for the new year.

What's in store for the Year of the Tiger?

The Year of the Rat (2020) was about survival, and the Year of the Ox (2021) was about anchoring ourselves in a new reality. The Year of the Tiger will be about making big changes. This will be a year of risk-taking and adventure. We're finding enthusiasm again, both for ourselves and for others. Everyone is fired up, generosity is at an all-time high and social progress feels possible again.

The Tiger is associated with Yang (masculine, active) energy. Tigers do things their own way and hate being told what to do. Expect things to rapidly change this year. Sudden disruptions in career, romance and home life should be expected. Some of us will thrive through taking great leaps, while others might crash and burn. So, while it's important to follow our intuition and run with our wildest dreams, that means we also have to keep our egos in check.

In addition to the animals, the Chinese Zodiac also cycles through five elemental types. So, this is not only the Year of the Tiger, it's the year of the Water Tiger. Water years bring out our emotions more than any of the other elements. Water Tigers are family-oriented and have wonderful interpersonal relationships. Though they're extremely driven and can be brash, their goal is always to do what's best for everyone, not just for themselves. Overall, this is a year for switching careers, building teams, or getting back into creative projects. Life is short so why not be happy? ■



IN MEMORY

Larry Dale Gerbrandt

On January 6th, 2022, Larry Gerbrandt peacefully passed away in his sleep at his home in Aromas, California, at the age of 69.

Larry was born in San Jose, California to Ken and Carol Gerbrandt. He was the eldest of three children including his two sisters Joyce and Jenel. Larry spent part of his childhood helping his parents operate a missionary orphanage in Brazil. He often enjoyed telling stories about living at the orphanage as well as the important impact his parents' missionary work had on the local community.

Larry met his wife of 48 years, Margo, while living in Colorado. They raised two children, Ryan and Lauren, while living in Colorado, Texas, and California, and lived for many years on the central coast in Carmel.

Larry spent more than 30 years launching and operating assets in the media and entertainment industry. His career began with jobs at Brimstone Films and Orion Cable, then segued to Kagan World Media where he was the senior analyst and vice-president of the entertainment division. Most recently, he co-founded Media Valuation Partners, a custom research, litigation support and valuation practice. In recent years he was a member of the board of directors of The Inspiration Cable Network.

Aside from being an incredible analyst, he was also a meticulous landscape photographer. He owned and operated Rare Light Gallery in historic San Juan Bautista till its closing in 2016. Larry was passionate about capturing the beauty around him from his diverse travels around the world to the simple beauty in his own backyard.

At the end of the day, after such an accomplished and rich life, Larry was happiest being a devout grandfather to his four grandchildren: Nathan, Anistyn, Grayson, and Wyatt. We will miss you "Bad Grandpa."

Larry is survived by his wife Margo Gerbrandt; son and wife Ryan and Leslie Gerbrandt; daughter and husband Lauren and Ethan Andrews; four grandchildren: Nathan and Anistyn Gerbrandt, and Grayson and Wyatt Andrews; his dad, Ken Gerbrandt; his sister and husband, Joyce and Doug Feil; his sister and husband, Jenel and Dan Parsons, and his many nieces and nephews. ■

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Barkin' with Cosmic Dog

By Anne Caetano

Mission Village Voice enjoyed Cosmic Dog's first live performance at 18th Barrel this past November and recently met with Sam May, singer/songwriter of the folk rock group to chat about friends – lifelong and new – coming together. They are a San Juan Bautista-based group composed of Sam May, singer/songwriter; Adriel Berger, singer/songwriter; Joe Edwards, guitar player/producer; Danny Romo, drummer /songwriter, and Jeff Richard, bass player/songwriter. Enjoy their upcoming performances at 18th Barrel on January 28 and at Daisy's on March 13. Follow them on Facebook & Instagram: Cosmic Dog Music, and on Spotify & Apple Music, Cosmic Dog EP.

MVV: Cosmic Dog is a new band?

CD: Yes, Cosmic dog is young. I've known Adriel Berger and Danny Romo for 10 plus years now. We all have lived in Gilroy at some point and have played in various projects throughout that time. It was not until these last 2 years that we started working with Joe Edwards. Adriel and Joe grew up in San Juan Bautista. We met Jeff just recently, and we are excited to get him more involved.

How did you come up with the name Cosmic Dog?

We have a group chat going. We were throwing out names for weeks, waiting for one to stick. Danny Romo said Cosmic Dog, and we all loved it. It definitely helps that we

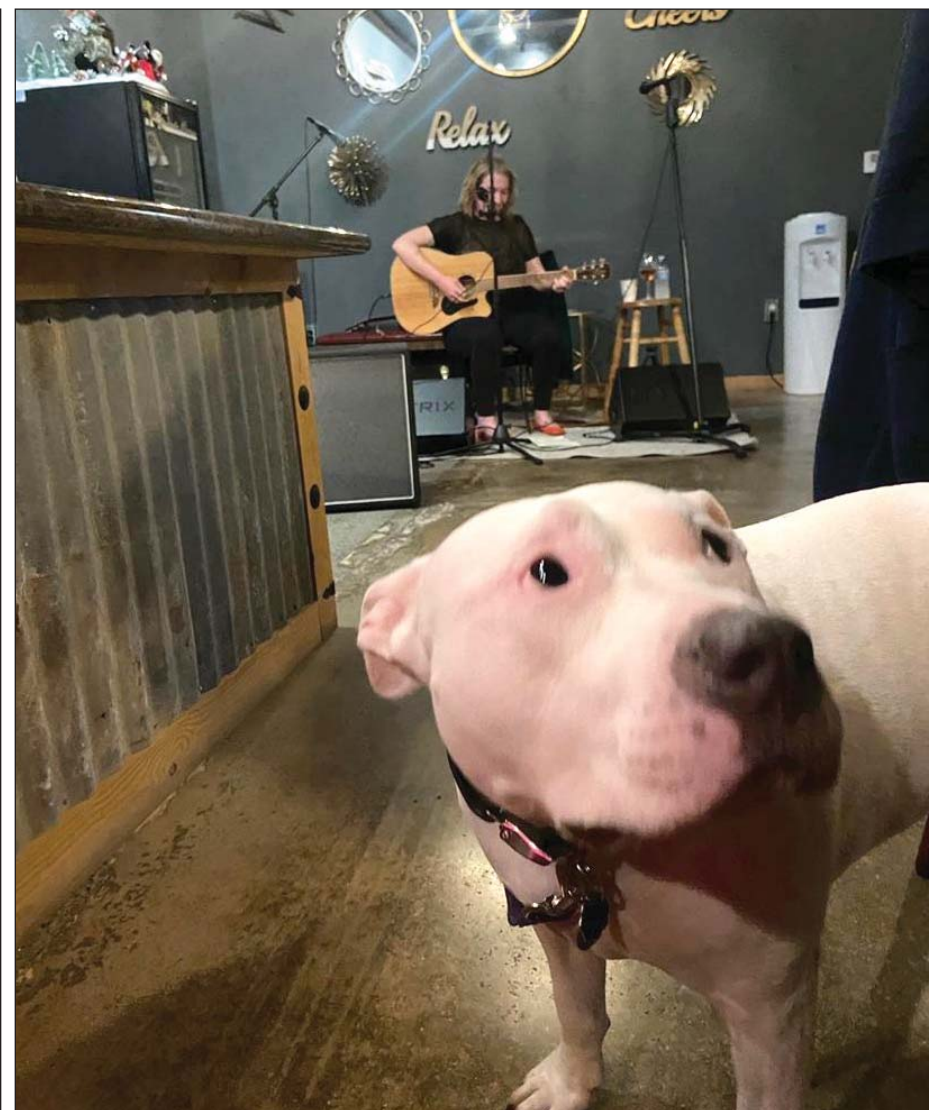
all love dogs, and we agreed instantly. We have been encouraging folks to send pics of their dogs to our Instagram @cosmicdogmusic

When did Cosmic Dog become official?

We became official around summer of 2021. Our EP [extended-play record], "I Hope I See You Again," began a little over a year ago. We continued to produce the rest of the EP as we came up with the name and got our social media going. My roommate -- our friend -- Marisol Linares has been helping us book shows and has been absolutely kicking butt with our social media stuff.

What is your production process?

We were lucky to have Joe Edwards, who



is good at everything. He produced our EP, including writing lead guitar and bass to all the songs. Danny Romo would record drums at Adriel's parents' house in Gilroy. We would then bring back to Joe for final production and editing. Danny came up with the cover art of the EP, using Photoshop.

We saw you at 18th Barrel during your first performance. You brought a lot of people!

We did, right? We are lucky to be supported by our family and friends. They created an atmosphere that made the night so fun! It really helped cool our nerves.

Both you and Adriel sing?

Yes, we have been writing and performing together for a long time now. She has her own EP called "Boy, by Adriel" on Spotify/Apple music. It was also produced by Joe as a wedding gift.

Is this how Cosmic Dog came together?

Adriel's EP was the

start of us kicking Cosmic Dog into gear, and we play Adriel's songs in our set.

What is your writing process?

Jeff has been doing a great job, organizing our thoughts and ideas down, so we can be more efficient. Sending our music to our group chat helps as we are all busy most of the time. Whatever we bring to the table, we all usually have some time to put our thoughts into it before we rehearse.

What's next for Cosmic Dog?

We are booking some local gigs, continuing to build our set list, and discussing what we want to record. ■





Scholarships 2022

CFFSBC NEWS

Scholarships now available through the Community Foundation

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is now accepting scholarship applications for students pursuing or continuing higher education.

The Community Foundation manages 13 scholarships that are offered to students with a wide range of educational interests - leadership, STEAM, nursing, business, culinary, athletics, fine arts & music, those on the Autism spectrum, and those of Latino heritage. Criteria for each scholarship varies, so interested applicants should check GiveSanBenito.org/scholarships before applying. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 13, 2022.

The Foundation administers over 30 scholarship funds established by individuals and families. These scholarship funds award a total of \$60,000 annually to motivated students. If you are interested in starting your own scholarship fund please contact the Foundation at 831.630.1924. Other available scholarships can be applied



for by contacting San Benito High School College and Career Specialist Mary Andrade at mandrade@sbhsd.k12.ca.us or visiting the scholarship section found on their website, Sbhs.Sbhsd.org.

A thriving community depends on supporting the educational endeavors of future leaders and talented individuals entering the workforce. Scholarships provide hope and financial assistance which allow students to worry less about covering the cost of tuition, books, supplies, and other essentials, and focus more on the opportunities before them. The Community Foundation is proud to assist students in achieving their dreams. ■

DEARLY DENOTED

Headstone of the month

San Valentino (St. Valentines') Catacomb in Rome

The San Valentino Catacomb in Rome is situated near a large burial ground, containing mausoleums dating back to the 1st and 2nd centuries. The catacomb was discovered in the 17th century by Bosio, who happened to own a villa right above it. The catacomb dates back to the third century. It is only open to the public on Valentine's Day. ■



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SJB VFW POST 6359 FLEA MARKET

Saturday March 26
& Sunday March 27th

58 Monterey Street
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Now accepting vendors

\$25.00 per spot

Call Augie Garcia 408-603-9065

Canteen will be opened
during flea market.

Food and Raffles

We appreciate your support!



MONTEREY BAY AIR RESOURCES DISTRICT

Electric Bicycle Incentive Program

MBARD is offering \$1,000 to low-income applicants in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties as an incentive to purchase a Class 1, 2 or 3 electric bicycle in the price range of \$1,000 - \$4,000



LEARN MORE AT MBARD.ORG

831.647.9411



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | FEBRUARY 2022

Calendar

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1

CHINESE NEW YEAR - YEAR OF THE TIGER

NEW MOON IN AQUARIUS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 3

2022 SAN BENITO COUNTY POETRY OUT LOUD FINALS 6pm. San Benito High School. Free and open to the public, with limited seating. Info call 831.636.2787 or email amandachiado@gmail.com

GOLDEN STATE THEATRE PRESENTS - DARK STAR ORCHESTRA WINTER TOUR 2022 Visit goldenstatetheatre.com

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 4

ST. FRANCIS RETREAT - DAY OF RECOLLECTION Visit stfrancisretreat.com

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - DJ JUNIOR D 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - KID DYNAMITE ROCKS 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

WOMEN'S CLUB OF HOLLISTER FASHION SHOW 4pm. The Elk's Lodge in Hollister. Purchase tickets at Postal Graphics \$50.

LIVING HISTORY DAYS 11am-4pm. San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. Step back into the early days of SJB. Meet mountain men, Civil War soldiers, Victorian ladies & more. Enjoy craft & cooking demos. Old-fashioned in the historic Plaza Hotel Saloon. Historic horse-drawn vehicles in the Plaza Stables & Victorian furnishings in the Plaza Hotel & Zanetta family home.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5 - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players. Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - ACOUSTICATZ 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

WHARF WALKS - CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSKS & FISHING HISTORY OF THE MONTEREY BAY 10am-12pm. Starting at the head of the Monterey Wharf. Advance reservations are required by calling Tim Tohommas at 831.521.3304 or email timsardine@yahoo.com Wharf Walks are held on the 1st Sunday of every month.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9

SAN BENITO COUNTYWIDE ARTS SHOWCASE 4-7pm. Students, families & community members are invited to

attend this free event. A student exhibition of visual and literary arts with performances by local dance, theater, and music groups. Interactive eco-art activity presented by Terra Cultura, arts-focused STEAM maker project and local food trucks. visit www.sanbenitoarts.org Hollister Veteran's Memorial Building in downtown Hollister.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9 - SUNDAY MARCH 27

IMAGINE PICASSO: THE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION Sky-light at the Armory, San Francisco. Tickets <https://www.eventim.com/artist/imagine-picasso>

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11

NATIVE DAUGHTERS PEDRO CARD PARTY 1pm. Native Daughters Adobe, 203 Fourth Street, San Juan Bautista. Second Friday Monthly.

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - BAD DOG 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13

EDEN RIFT VINEYARDS - VALENTINE'S DAY WEEK-END PICNIC & HIKE IN THE VINEYARDS Visit Eden-rift.com

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players.



Saturday, February 5

LIVING HISTORY DAYS 11am-4pm. San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. Step back into the early days of SJB. Meet mountain men, Civil War soldiers, Victorian ladies & more. Enjoy craft & cooking demos. Old-fashioned entertainment in the historic Plaza Hotel Saloon - and more!



Sunday, February 6

WHARF WALKS - CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSKS & FISHING HISTORY OF THE MONTEREY BAY 10am-12pm. Starting at the head of the Monterey Wharf. Advance reservations are required by calling Tim Tohommas at 831.521.3304 or email timsardine@yahoo.com Wharf Walks are held on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13

SUPER BOWL @ DAISY'S 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

THE GARDENSHOPPE'S VALENTINE'S DAY ADVENTURE 12:30-5:30pm. The ultimate, memorable Valentine's Day Adventure! Kicks off with a full lunch and beverage of your choice at The GardenShoppe, followed by a round-trip in our new limo to San Jose AxeVentures for a full 75 minutes of axe throwing and dessert Charcuterie! Info & tix Gardenshoppeandbar.com/calendar-of-events

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15

LANTERN FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16

FULL MOON IN LEO

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17

GOLDEN STATE THEATRE PRESENTS - KENNY G Visit goldenstatetheatre.com

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - DJ JUNIOR D 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

GOLDEN STATE THEATRE PRESENTS - LEWIS BLACK- Visit goldenstatetheatre.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS 9am - 12pm. Dispose of your paint, motor oil, household cleaners, and other HHW. Every 3rd Saturday of the month. John Smith Rd. Landfill. Proof of residency is

required. Limit of 15 gallons or 125 gallons.

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 3RD SATURDAY ON 3RD STREET Come celebrate our unique merchants, restaurants & drinking establishments with live music & specials. Extended hours for select businesses. 3rd Saturday of each month on 3rd Street.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19 - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players. Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20

AROMAS GRANGE PRESENTS - DAN FRECHETTE & LAUREL THOMSEN Doors 3:45 Start 4:30pm. \$15/advance \$20/door. Snack foods & premium beers & wines for sale. Tickets @ Marshall's Market in Aromas or www.eventbrite.com/e/249752154417 or aromas-grange.org

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - DEEP END - LORENZO 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23

CARMEL SUNSET CENTER PRESENTS - AILEY II DANCE PERFORMANCE 8pm. Universally renowned for merging the spirit and the energy of the country's best young talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding choreographers. Visit sunset-center.org

GOLDENSTATE THEATRE PRESENTS - CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC Visit goldenstatetheatre.com

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25

CARMEL SUNSET CENTER PRESENTS - BRIAN REGAN 8pm. Critics, fans and fellow comedians agree: Brian

Continued on next page



Sunday, February 13

THE GARDENSHOPPE'S GALENTINE'S DAY ADVENTURE 12:30-5:30pm. The ultimate, memorable Galentine's Day Adventure! Kicks off with a full lunch and beverage of your choice at The GardenShoppe, followed by a round-trip in our new limo to San Jose AxeVentures for a full 75 minutes of axe throwing and dessert Charcuterie! Info & tix Gardenshoppeandbar.com/calendar-of-events

Regan is one of the most respected comedians in the country with Vanity Fair calling Brian "The funniest stand-up alive". Visit sunsetcenter.org

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - TRIPLE THREAT 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

GOLDENSTATE THEATRE PRESENTS - STEVE-O THE BUCKETLIST TOUR Visit goldenstatetheatre.com

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26 - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players. Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

Save the date

TUESDAY MARCH 1

GARDENSHOPPE - MARDI GRAS- "WE DON'T HIDE CRAZY, WE PARADE IT DOWN THE STREET!" 6-9pm. Let the good times roll with Krewe of GardenShoppe. Beads, King Cake, Costume Contest, Themed Cocktails & Small Plate Specials. GardenShoppeandbar.com

SATURDAY MARCH 5

SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM - BARONEY OF DARKWOOD'S WHITESHIELD TOURNAMENT Boland Park, Tres Pinos. Visit Society for Creative

Anachronism at sca.org

SATURDAY MARCH 12

HOLLISTER EXCHANGE CLUB'S ANNUAL CRAB FEED 3:30pm. Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. hollisterexchange-club.com

FRIDAY MARCH 18

RECOLOGY 2022 POSTER CONTEST DEADLINE Enter for a chance to have your art on a real recycling truck! Download & Questions email postercontest@recol-ogy.com

SATURDAY MARCH 19

ENMODOBESTIA ACTIVE WEAR -ZUMBA & WEIGHT LIFTING COMPETITION 8am-5pm, Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. Facebook [Enmodobestia Activewear](https://www.facebook.com/EnmodobestiaActivewear).

SUNDAY MARCH 20 11TH ANNUAL TEA & TREASURES LUNCHEON 12:30-3:30pm. Diablo Room, Ridge-mark Golf Club & Restaurant, Hollister. \$40/person

SATURDAY MARCH 26

SAN BENITO COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOC. ANNUAL DINNER DANCED 5pm. Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. san-benitocattlemen.org

SATURDAY MARCH 26 & SUN MARCH 27

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL 3rd. Street San Juan Bautista. More than 100 art & craft exhibitors with unique items, food, face painting, animal rides. The Patty Kistner Band and much much more!

SATURDAY MARCH 26 & SUN MARCH 27

SAN JUAN VFW FLEA MARKET IS BACK! Help support not only your local VFW but your community! 58 Monterey Street, San Juan Bautista

ARTS

The arts can heal

By Jennifer Laine, Executive Director

This month, the San Benito County Arts Council is set to launch a series of virtual community engagement workshops as part of our Community Arts Impact Project, designed to bring together artists, frontline workers and community members to recognize and process the collective trauma that COVID has inflicted on our rural community while also celebrating and uplifting the ways in which our community has shown resilience, strength and compassion as we navigate these difficult times together. The lead artists, Venecia Prudencio, Marisa Duran and Christy Sandoval, will hear from community members about their experiences with COVID -- what they have lost, what they have learned about themselves and their community and what they hope for the future. This project, inspired by local stories of



strength and resilience, will result in the creation of 2 new murals – one to be painted in Hollister and the second to be painted in San Juan Bautista – as well as the creation of a digital media installation, which will be exhibited during a live event in Spring 2022.

San Benito County residents are invited to register for the workshops, which will take place via zoom on January 27, February 8 and March, at sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com. The Community Arts Impact Project is funded by the San Benito County Arts Council with support from the California Arts Council, a State arts agency. For more information, please contact Jennifer Laine, Executive Director of the SBC Arts Council, at info@sanbenitoarts.org or at 831.636.2787. ■

Pictured: Community Workshop by Venecia Prudencia.

ASK RECOLOGY

Make your valentines green this year

By Lisa Jensema

Dear Lisa,

I need some ideas for a unique Valentine for my sweetie this year. I'd love to do something creative and eco-friendly but still affordable.

Cupid 's Helper
Hollister, CA

Dear Cupid,

Thanks for your question! I suggest making a special card yourself, using a meaningful photo and possibly some decorative items around your home. If your loved one is far away, you can email a card instead using sources such as American Greetings, Blue Mountain, and Paperless Post.

Musical cards are fun, but did you know they contain batteries, microchips and other electronic components? These components contain hazardous materials like heavy metals and must be disposed of as "e-waste." So, I suggest avoiding purchasing this type of card and, if you receive one, saving it for the next Environmental Day. (The next one in San Juan Bautista will be on April 30, 2022.)

You also might consider giving a locally grown, flowering plant. It will last longer than cut flowers and may even bloom again



next year! There are so many other ways to celebrate, including homemade treats, paper flowers or a picnic at the park! Check out Pinterest and simplifytheholidays.org for more ideas.

Good luck and Happy Valentine's Day!
Zero Wastingly,
Lisa

Do you have a question for Recology? Email Lisa at ljensema@recol-ogy.com or send a letter to: Ask Recology San Benito, 1351 Pacheco Pass Highway, Gilroy, CA 95020 ■



BENITOLINK

Monterey Peninsula Foundation awards \$25,000 for BenitoLink interns

A grant to bolster the career chances of San Benito County youth

For a third year, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation has invested in BenitoLink's paid Internship Program, one of only a few such opportunities in San Benito County.

The Monterey Peninsula Foundation (MPF) is the nonprofit organization known for staging "two celebrated golf tournaments: the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am on the PGA TOUR and the PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach, a PGA TOUR Champions event. The community investments that stem from each of these golf tournaments support hundreds of nonprofits working to impact thousands of lives in the Central Coast region in California.

The Foundation's tradition of charity since 1937 was seriously impacted in 2020 and again in 2021, threatening the level of support they sought to offer. Modifying their event in 2021 to accommodate Covid challenges, CEO Steve John writes that nevertheless their charitable giving "will target basic needs like food insecurity, educational inequities and health inequities brought on by the pandemic."

BenitoLink is an essential news provider for San Benito County, publishing critical



Left to Right: BenitoLink Intern Leila Sadeghian, Reporter Jenny Mendolla Arbizu, Executive Director Leslie David, Reporter Robert Eliason, Reporter Carmel de Bertaut, Content Manager Noe Magaña, Interns Juliana Luna and Jonathan Crowther. Photo by Intern Jonathan Crowther

health and educational information on a daily basis. The grant will target these needs, allowing BenitoLink to continue hiring reporter interns on the Covid beat, web maintenance interns for our WordPress platform, and marketing interns for graphics and photography. The Foundation's support dur-

ing the stress of the pandemic boosted BenitoLink's ability to cover so many unique and thought-provoking stories that we wouldn't have otherwise been able to cover. BenitoLink is the go-to site for local Covid-19 data, how to stay safe, and when and where to get tested.

But BenitoLink's Internship Program addresses career inequities too, defying the limitations young people can face in San Benito County. Support from the Foundation is what allows us to offer professional paid internships, often only accessible to students in job centers like Silicon Valley. In San Benito County, BenitoLink joins a small cadre of organizations offering career starts, for example Pacific Scientific, Raley's, and Graniterock.

In an anonymous survey, BenitoLink asked interns what they liked most about their experience and what message they would leave for future interns. Here's a sampling of their responses:

- I liked the fact that I was treated with the respect given to colleagues despite my status as an intern and that my ideas were taken into account.
- Having to interview people because it would get me out of my comfort zone.
- Don't be afraid to voice your ideas to the group [the editorial team]; there's always different angles to a story!

BenitoLink Interns who work in the "back office" maintaining the website and have helped us improve our "ABOUT" section on BenitoLink. <https://benitolink.com/benitolink-team/>

Our 2021 photography/marketing intern Jonathan Crowther produced this year's Christmas card photo, news photos and photos used in marketing.

The following are some samples of articles written and often suggested by reporter interns:

Emma Hoffman: SBC supervisors extend term for civil grand jury

Olivia Madera: Victory Over All

Julia Hicks: 35 retirees sue county, judge halts it pending first lawsuit

Andrew Pearson: State senator Caballero talks SB-87 vaccine rollout

Erika Piña: COG members receive update on Measure G funding

Corissa King: SBHS Students speak on what it's like to be part of the LGBTQ community

Juliana Leon: San Benito County Chamber of Commerce honors residents and businesses

Leila Sadeghian: United Way Gala at Swank Farms a big success

Diana Lopez: High School SBHS field



BL newsroom is always busy. (Left to right) Content Manager Noe Magaña, Executive Director Leslie David and Intern Leila Sadeghian.

Photo by Jenny Mendolla Arbizu

hockey player heads to Division 2 university

Support for the BenitoLink Internship Program comes from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, host of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and Pure Insurance Championship Impacting the First Tee; Taylor Farms; United Way; the Emma Bowen Foundation; and BenitoLink Donors. ■

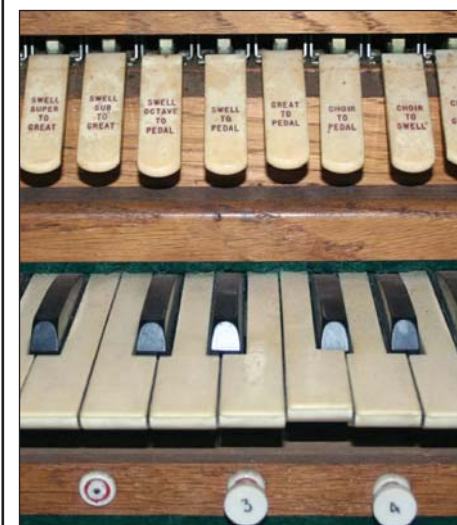


2022 Poster Contest

Enter for a chance to have your art on a real recycling truck!

Deadline is
March 18, 2022

Questions and to download a form email
postercontest@recology.com



or-i-gin

Pull out all the stops

Meaning: To make a great effort to achieve something.

Origin: This phrase refers to the "stops" or knobs inside a pipe organ.

These stops control the loudness and tones of the instrument. When all are pulled out, the organ can play all tones simultaneously, thus achieving the maximum volume possible from the instrument. ■



Green Business Tips

Love our planet this February

By Timaree Nelson

Across the nation, we are seeing impacts of climate change that pull on our heartstrings – from raging forest fires displacing animals and humans alike, to exuberant amounts of pollution harming our marine life. However, hope is not lost! There are various measures our business community can take to minimize our environmental footprint and warm our hearts.

We encourage you to take this February to give some TLC to our planet!

- Break up with plastic water bottles. Time to say Goodbye to plastic and Hello to alternatives! Use reusable water bottles whenever possible, and if necessary offer non-plastic options to your patrons.

- Minimize the use of single-use plastics. Now that we approach the second year mark of the pandemic, we are still seeing the increased use of single-use items. Whenever possible, use reusable foodware for your



business and offer take-out utensils only when requested.

- Revamp your energy game! Save money and make a difference by switching your business's old lighting out for LEDs. They use approximately 75% less energy and last nearly 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

- Save the Date. Earth Day 2022 is coming up quickly! Consider starting to plan a special event for you and your employees to do together. Some ideas include beach cleanups or tree planting!

- Giving back. Consider donating to an environmental organization that makes your heart feel warm and fuzzy! Organizations such as 1% for the Planet have great resource lists to peruse.

Interested in becoming a Certified Green Business? The Monterey Green Business Program is here to help! We provide free technical assistance to get your business lean and green, and also offer up to \$500 in rebates for businesses that complete certification. If you have any questions or wish to enroll, contact Saburi Sai at ssai@environmentalin.com. ■



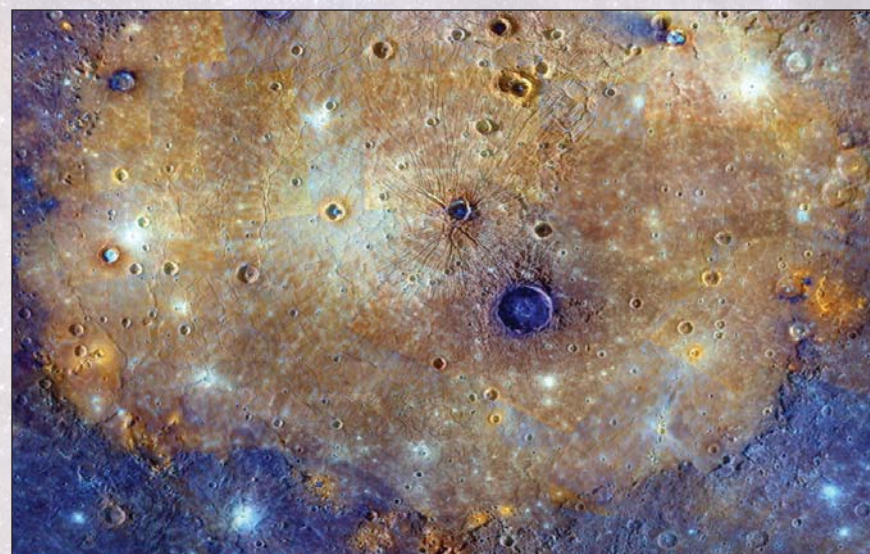
CELESTIAL EVENTS



February 1 - New Moon in Aquarius. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 05:48 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

February 16 - Full Moon in Leo. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 16:59 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year. Since hunting is difficult, this moon has also been known by some tribes as the Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather made hunting difficult.

February 16 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 26.3 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.



Mercury's Caloris Basin (Source: NASA/Johns Hopkins University/Carnegie Institution of Washington)

MVV ēvz drāp



Person: I like the term "same wavelength" rather than "same page."

Person's friend: I like, "I'm right; you're wrong"

Someone: I ordered a large pizza the other night, and it was gross so I only ate 3/4 of it.

Asker: Is two a lot?

Answerer: Depends on the context. Dollars, no. Nobel Prizes? Yes.



It's not JUST a grant!

By R.E.A.C.H.

San Benito Parks Foundation Board

What do they mean, "Just get a grant"?

When community needs come up and there isn't any money for that, common thought is that all the taxes we pay should cover that stuff. So we hear that the City got a grant to do that? Hmmm. Big pot of dough in the sky? Where, what? Oh, from the federal government, state, or county? Those require our taxes to function, too! Oh, dang, we'll go to the non-profit Foundations; they are given money by rich people to spread around, and all you have to do is ask. Hmmm. Why would nonprofits ask for donations if the rich people are dumping money on them just for the asking? Hmmm. It's complicated.

State and Federal governments collect taxes to pay all the bills just like counties and cities, but they're looking at the needs



of the whole state or country, so they study what they see as target needs and plan for the years to come. If they identify trash and blight as leading to decline in healthy neighborhoods all over the state, they'll offer a grant opportunity to apply for. Those opportunities are advertised to local governments because they will be trusted to do the work. The communities with the greatest need are targeted, and you better be able to tell them EXACTLY why, where and what, for sure. "Ask and ye shall receive" does not apply here. It takes hours and hours to research statistics, get letters of support, write about the problem in terms that fit the grant opportunity, show plans and pictures, and be ready for rejection because it wasn't needy enough or the forms weren't filled out right.

Thank you to the non-profit volunteers who fill our smaller needs, or support grant applications. www.reachsanbenito.org. ■



Klo & So Museum of Historic Sanitary Objects, Gmunden, Austria

These are probably the most beautifully-crafted toilets you've ever seen. (via *Atlas Obscura*, Photo: Taurabus/CC)



Farm managers, SBALT staff and funders meet to discuss a conservation project.

SBALT NEWS

Our valentine to you

By Emily Renzel, Board President

We at San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT) are grateful for our many partners who share our LOVE for the land and made 2021 a banner year for our organization.

The Community Foundation for San Benito County awarded SBALT a Community Impact grant that enabled us to complete our application for accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We anticipate the result of this four-year process this month.

All of our easement landowners gave of their time to help us complete our annual monitoring requirement, and several also made generous donations to SBALT. In July, Phil and Katherine Foster hosted a tour for our donors of the Foster Ranch, home of Pinnacle Organically Grown, followed by a lovely garden reception.

Through a grant from the California Department of Conservation, California Farm-Link and SBALT jointly created a brochure about conservation easements in English and Spanish which is now available on our web-

site. The information was presented in Spanish to graduates of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) program, which trains new farmers in the Central Coast region.

An anonymous donor transferred the final of three \$50,000 installments to SBALT last fall. We are inspired by this person's generosity and we strive to be the vibrant local land trust they envision.

Our partner, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), purchased the 540-acre Nyland Property, which will be conveyed to SBALT by the end of this year. TPL also provided a generous grant in honor of The Harvey S. Nyland and Gladys M. Nyland 1999 Family Trust to help rebuild the iconic barn on the Nyland Property.

Our board, advisors, and committee members -- all volunteers -- worked hard on potential projects and those still underway, at least two of which we expect to complete in 2022.

We especially want to thank the farmworkers who grow, harvest and pack our County's abundant produce, and all of the community members who have so faithfully supported us. It was a year of great progress and excitement for SBALT. Thank you, one and all. Learn more about your local land trust at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



SBALT relies on grants, partnerships, and community support to protect San Benito County's irreplaceable agricultural soils.



2021 Scholarship recipients. Photo courtesy of Taylor Farms

Taylor Farms accepting applications for 30 college scholarships

Children of employees may qualify for \$5,000 a year for continuing education

By Robert Eliason
BenitoLink Reporter

Taylor Farms began accepting applications on Jan. 4. for their college scholarship program, which is open to the children of current full-time employees of the company's food service, retail or Earthbound Farms units. Finalists in the program will receive \$5,000 a year for as long as they remain in a four-year undergraduate or graduate program.

Citlalli Solario Villa, a junior at CSU-Monterey Bay majoring in business administration, has received the Taylor Farms scholarship for the last three years. "For me, it has been uplifting to have received the scholarship and it stops me from worrying about how I am going to pay for college," Solario Villa said. "It lets me focus on studying and getting my education."

Her father, Everardo Solario Garcia, works at the Taylor Farms packing plant in San Juan Bautista. "My getting the scholarship means a lot to my father and he is very proud of all my hard work to achieve my goals," Solario Garcia said.

Taylor Farms developed the program 10 years ago, and through a partnership with the Community Foundation of Monterey County it has distributed more than \$2 million to 188 students.

"Traditionally, we have given out 20 scholarships a year," said Taylor Farms Account Manager Julie Laughton. "This year we are giving out 30 because we are definitely seeing a need for funds for educational support. It is a change we are making this year and, hopefully, for the future as well."

Laughton credits Taylor Farms CEO Bruce Taylor for his support of the program, quot-

ing Taylor as saying, "We are committed to a vibrant America with education as the foundation for opportunity."

Between 50 and 75 applications are received annually and this year they are due by March 15. Applicants are asked to submit their letters of acceptance and answer three questions:

- Would receiving this scholarship financially impact your ability to attend college?
- Have you demonstrated a positive impact on your community as a volunteer?
- If you had the power to make one change in your community, what would it be and why?

After identifying information is removed to guarantee anonymity, the applications are reviewed by two committees drawn from Taylor Farms employees.

"Once they come up with the finalists, the fun part begins," Laughton said. "We get to announce the recipients. Each Taylor Farms division has their own award ceremony, and then we get together for a scholarship luncheon in June with the recipients, their parents, and their families."

"When students fill out that main application, they are applying to the Community Foundation as well as Taylor Farms," Laughton said. "The application to the Community Foundation is going to be sent out to other organizations who also use the foundation to facilitate their scholarships. Then students will be alerted as to other scholarships they might qualify for that are available."

While not every applicant will receive a scholarship, applying for one through Taylor Farms can open the door for other opportunities to get money for continuing education.

For example, Laughton said that one recent finalist was able to find another \$4,500 in scholarships through the Monterey Community Foundation on top of the \$5,000 she received from Taylor Farms. ■

THOMELLIER Which wine?

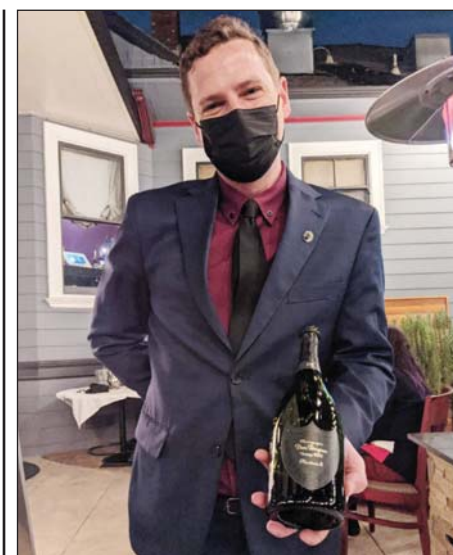
By Thomas Brenner, Sommelier
Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club

Q: What wine should I drink?

Question submitted by Carla P.

A: I love this question, as I ask myself this several times a day. The answer, it turns out, will leave us with many more questions. At the end of the day, you should drink the wine that you like and makes you happy with the choice you made in selecting said wine. However, there are certain considerations one must entertain when on the path of perfect wine selection.

What is the weather like outside, and what season is it currently? Are you dining indoors or outside? Is the wine new to you and is it consistent with what you usually enjoy or does a trusted friend of yours recommend it? Who are you tasting or drinking the wine with? Perhaps you will be enjoying this wine with friends, enemies, your boss, fiancé, wife, kids, daughter's new boyfriend or even your in-laws? What mood are you in? What food are you pairing the wine with? How much money do you wish to spend on the wine? Is there a special occasion? Do you have time to let it open up for an hour? Will you



be enjoying this wine by the glass or by the bottle and how much do you anticipate consuming? Should you wish to enjoy a split, half, full or magnum format wine or a white, rose, red, still, sparkling, dry, sweet or fortified wine? More importantly, do you have a designated driver or an Uber lined up to ferry you home safely? Are you seeking a good value, or are you looking to go all out with a prized and pricey bottling of wine?

If you answered anything to any of the above questions, then you should choose any wine you like and go from there. The only way to learn what you enjoy is by tasting various styles of wine by numerous producers, from many regions and vintages. You drink what you like, and that's the golden rule.

Email your questions for Thommellier to missionvillagevoice@gmail.com. ■

GOING POSTAL

Year of the Tiger

The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the Lunar New Year with the release of the Year of the Tiger Forever stamp. The Year of the Tiger begins Feb. 1, 2022 and ends Jan. 21, 2023.

The tiger is the third of the 12 zodiac animal signs associated with the Chinese lunar calendar. As with other zodiac signs, personality traits and other attributes are often associated with people born in the year of a particular animal. Those born during the Year of the Tiger may be seen as brave, confident and well-liked by others. Blue, orange and gray are lucky colors for Tigers, and yellow lilies and cineraria flowers may also bring

good luck.

Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp with original art by Camille Chew. The Year of the Tiger stamp is being issued in panes of 20. This Forever stamp will al-

ways be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays of the year for many Asian communities around the world and is primarily celebrated by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan, Mongolian, Malaysian and Filipino heritage. Across these varied cultures, many traditions exist for ringing in a new year of good luck and prosperity.

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic, or at Post Office locations nationwide. ■





A STUDIO LIFE

Hip-Hop classes added to SBDA

Featuring a self-introduction
by Krisuan Rosalejos

I've been teaching dance for 18 years, providing experience in developing dancers & directing award winning competitive dance companies. The style of dance I teach is "Hip-Hop."

My classes provide not just energetic dance moves but also the implementation of cultural aspects in Hip Hop such as art, music, voice & dance that contains multiple styles including Commercial (trendy), Breaking, Popping, Locking, Femme & Steez. My classes will work on basic & intermediate techniques, dance routines and comforts of cyphers to build self-confidence, not just in dance but also in everyday life.

My background in performing arts, dance competitions, & the entertainment industry allows me to implement my experiences and humbly expand my creativity. I incorporate my passion for dance with memorable themes that create a conglomerate of styles encompassing students who love to dance.

Graduating with honors and a Bachelor's of Science degree at San Jose State University in Business/Event Management enhanced my current experience in entertainment production & increased my creativity in performing arts. I am credited working with Snoop Dogg, Beyonce, Bruno Mars, E-40, Sean Kingston, Black Eyed Peas, America's Got Talent & World Of Dance to name a few.

Come and experience my Hip Hop dance classes at San Benito Dance Academy!



Note from SBDA Director Ms. Lara King:

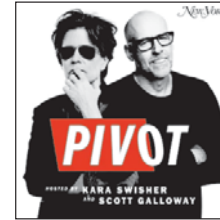
Mr. Krisuan is the perfect instructor to bring hip-hop to SBDA's esteemed repertoire of academia. Not only do the dancers love his relatable instructional style, but Krisuan's commercial experience and accolades, spanning a variety of settings, make him all the more flexible and understanding of each student and then further developing and honing their skills.

He also imparts so many valuable lessons to our students. Technique, history, cultural significance and understanding, as well as broadening the vocabulary of our students at SBDA are all valuable aspects of his lessons and curriculum, bringing diversity to our dancers' education in movement and dance-arts. Students who elect to add hip-hop to their dance academia at SBDA are required to also be enrolled in another technical course of instruction such as ballet, jazz, or tap. ■



Pivot

Every Tuesday and Friday, Recode's Kara Swisher and NYU Professor Scott Galloway offer sharp, unfiltered insights into the biggest stories in tech, business, and politics. They make bold predictions, pick winners and losers, and bicker and banter like no other. After all, with great power comes great scrutiny. Get more Pivot at NYMag.com



Dream Meanings

The Podcast all about dream meanings and dream interpretation! Dreams can be confusing, exciting, scary, amazing or just downright strange! No matter what your dream, we want to hear it!! On the Dream Meanings podcast, Tony Brueski takes your calls, reads your dream accounts gives insight as to what they might mean. From nightmares, good dreams, fantasy to visits from deceased loved ones, we talk about it all! Call in your dream at 1-800-606-7193 or submit your dream at <http://www.dreaminradio.com>



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The Pattern

A homegrown labor of love, The Pattern was born out of our founder's personal journey of self discovery. While trying to make sense of a challenging time, she recognized what an incredibly empowering tool our birth charts can be and sought to develop an application that could offer this information in a way that was easily digestible for all. Offering a psychological blueprint of one's self and insight into the unique things they may be experiencing during a period of time, The Pattern acts as a mirror, helping you to better understand yourself and others, enabling connections to be made on a much deeper level.



Dream Interpreters

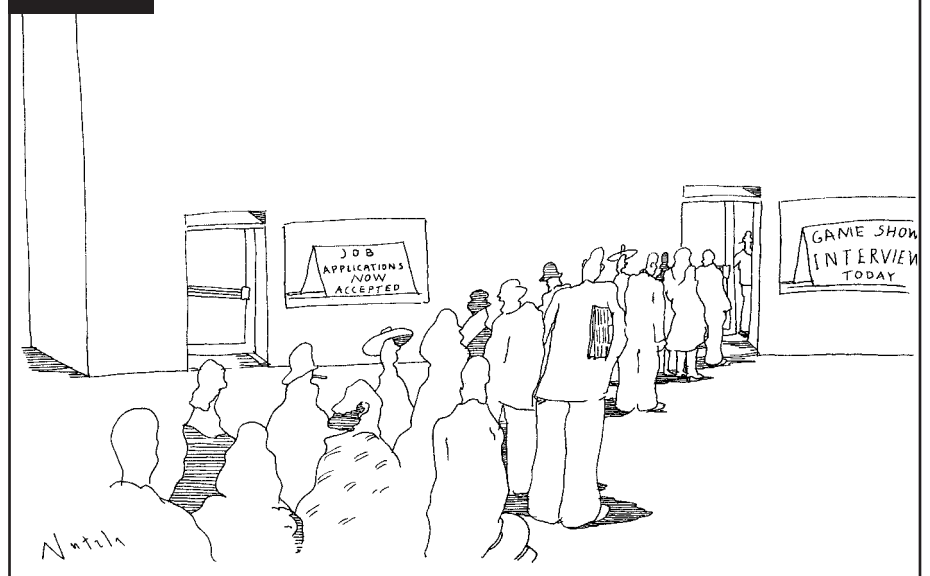
Dream Interpreters is a free guide to help you interpret the meanings to your dreams. The app provides the resources to assist you in your personal dream interpretation and dream meanings. Based on our extensive dream symbols database, you will get meanings and definitions about almost ANY kind of dream. Our Dream Interpreters App will help you gain a better understanding and discovery of your true self. So stay awhile -- explore, discover, have fun, make friends, and find out what's in YOUR dream?!



What's App?

Apps are small software programs available for your mobile device, smartphone, and tablet.

NUTZLE



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