



Mission Village **VOICE**

New space, long history

Morris family vision for
Mission Vineyard Ranch
— See page 12

San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Presents:



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SATURDAY

APRIL 19, 2025

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**Published Monthly by
Mission Village Voice Media, LLC.**

P.O. Box 999

San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Email: missionvillagevoice@gmail.com

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A quote for our readers

"There was an Old Man
with a beard,
Who said, "It is just
as I feared!—

Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests
in my beard!"

—Edward Lear

On the cover

In honor of Women's History Month, the cover painting is "Victorian Pit Girl" by Judith Ogus, adapted from an image in *Victorian Working Women: Portraits from Life*, by Michael Haley.

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SBHF NEWS

Spring Into Healthy Eating Habits

March is designated as National Nutrition Month® by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to help promote the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. All of us have feelings about food and eating that we have learned over the years. Food is a symbol of many things for different people—love, celebration, reward, a bond with family or a boredom reliever. In order for us to change poor eating habits, we need to examine our lifelong relationship with food.

Food habits play a big role in what we eat and when we eat. Habits are funny things: in theory, we can change them instantly by merely willing ourselves to do so, but in practice they are stubborn—they cling to us with a lot of tenacity and resist being changed. For example, how many times do you open your refrigerator just to see if something desirable is inside?

The most effective way to stop unhealthy eating habits is to become more aware of what triggers us to eat poorly, so that we can replace these undesirable habits with new, healthy ones. You can't change behavior that you're either unaware of or that you're denying. One good way to enhance your awareness of how you are eating is to keep a journal and to have visible reminders or use healthy lifestyle apps to help keep you on track. Once you are aware of the triggers and habits that hinder your good intentions, you need to replace them with desirable choices and behaviors. Then, it's practice, practice, practice!

So, what are some healthy eating habits that you can practice? A nutritious diet can be summed up by Michael Pollan's three simple eating rules: "Eat real food. Not too much. Mostly plants." Choose food that comes from the field, orchard or ocean rather than stabilized, flavored, colorized fodder from a box. When you eat a variety of real, wholesome food you limit the 3 "S's" that interfere with good health—salt, sugar and saturated fat. Of course, drinking plenty of water is a given along with 30 minutes or more of daily physical activity.

If you need some assistance with making informed food choices, please call San Benito Health Foundation to schedule an appointment with our diabetes specialist, Dr. Sotomayor, or our WIC staff or registered dietitian. You can also go to our website or eatright.org for more information and resources. Here's to springing into healthy eating habits!



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#BOOKWORM

Pinkies up, Bookworms!

By Leanne Oliveira

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."

- CS Lewis

Tea-loving #Bookworms, prepare yourselves! Hills Bookstore (HillsBookstore.com) is now open with lots of bookish goodies including book clubs, author visits, and teas featuring book trope flavors (like my favorite "enemies to lovers") PLUS a tea service station. The Friends of the SBC Library (SBCFriends.org) are hosting a tea party with a divine menu 3/16 and their monthly pet-friendly used book sale behind the Library is 3/8 from 9 AM-11:30 AM, weather permitting, with books, vinyl, dog treats, and tea! Got newer books to donate? Bring 'em. Please and thank you.



Leanne Oliveira

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

Had a blast at a recent gala for BeProximity's (BeProximity.org) celebrating local Black culture. The Oscar-nominated film adaptation of Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Nickel Boys is now available on streaming. Josephine Baker's 1949 memoir Fearless and Free has been translated into English. UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library has acquired Amy Tan's archive including her own watercolor sketches for her recent The Backyard Bird Chronicles. Free exhibit admission through June. Info at tinyurl.com/TansBirds.

BOOKTOK AIDS B&N RESURGENCE

Barnes & Noble will open 60 new bookstores in 2025 -- breaking last year's record! -- thanks in large part to the popularity of #BookTok and third spaces. (Fast Company)

CHARITY FUND FOR BOOKSTORE STAFF

One awesome NPO, the Book Industry Charitable Foundation (BINC) helps bookstore and comic shop employees and owners with unforeseen

emergency financial, medical, and mental health service needs! Donate and learn more at BincFoundation.org. (Thanks to #Bookworm Jennifer Coile for the tip!)

CLUB #BOOKWORM (est 2016)

At my annual Valentine's meetup, the gals chose between romantic thriller Hemlock by Kiersten Modglin or quirky The Seven



Authentigrate (Authentigrate.com) CEO Alicia ParTEE poses with her book auction win donated by Janna Rice at BeProximity's recent gala in Hollister.

Year Slip by Ashley Poston. This month, my fave fellow librarian Jillian Wilson hosts Ripe by Sarah Rose Etter -- a surreal novel with a "dark, delicious edge" (Time) about a female Silicon Valley exec.

COUNTY LIBRARY IN HOLLISTER

Zip Book program policies have changed once again, so please call ahead. More details and current programming at SBCFL.org for details.

GOODWIN MEMOIR

Screen rights have been acquired for Doris Kearns Goodwin's memoir An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s.

JACK LONDON FAN?

I recently visited Jack London's grave, house ruins, and museum (very well done!) at the State Historic Park in Glen Ellen. Admission was free with a State Parks Pass borrowed from the Gilroy Library, but most libraries also participate.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

March is "Paws To Read" Month highlighting library dog programs! Also: Read an eBook Week and Will Eisner Week (3/2-3/8), Read Across America Day (3/2; readacrossamerica.org), ALA's Freedom of Information Day (3/16) celebrating governmental transparency advocate James Madison's birthday, World Folktales & Fables Week (3/16-3/22), UN World Poetry Day (3/21), Gondorian New Year (3/25) for my fellow LOTR geeks. Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss (3/2), Dave Pilkey (3/4), Mr. Rogers (3/20)... and who knew that Wonder Woman and Capt. James T Kirk had the same birthday (March 22) ... only 5233 years apart?

LOCAL AUTHOR BOOKSIGNING

Meet romantasy author Rachel M. Yoldi (Lady Nightmare) 3/1@9AM at Hill's Bookstore.

See #BOOKWORM, next page



COMMUNITY

Scout Troop thanks community for ash sifter aid

San Juan Bautista Scout Troop 2428/428 would like to thank all who donated materials, money, time and support to our "ash sifters" project to help the Los Angeles Fire residents in their recovery

efforts. We have successfully met our goal of building 100 ash sifters out of 5-gallon buckets, wire mesh screen and zip ties.

The Scouts and members of the San Juan Bautista Service Club spent numerous days working on this project. We can only imagine the logistics of the recovery and clean up effort as we wait for a contact to accept these ash sifters buckets. Thank you, Scout Troop 2428/428. ■

#Bookworm, continued

LOCAL AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Larry F. Slonaker has written for literary journals, op-eds in The Hill and The Guardian, and is apparently a #Bookworm reader. (Thanks, Larry!) Give his book Nothing Got Broke and various articles your consideration at LarrySlonaker.com.

LUCK LIBRARY

The recent Book Social was a success! Many folks turned out to discuss books and hopefully form some new book clubs. For those and other programs, call 831-623-4687. (Thanks to author Loreen Gibbons for the tip!)

NEW GATES MEMOIR

Surprisingly, Source Code: My Beginnings is not about the Gates Foundation or Microsoft. Instead, it's a "wise, warm, revealing" origin story and portrait of a fascinating American life. (New York Times)

TECH ASSISTANCE AT LIBRARIES

Did you know that most local libraries offer free Tech Help services to assist with your devices and software programs? Note that while some libraries (Watsonville on Tues/Thurs, Gilroy on Mondays) have standing walk-in times, others (Hollister, SJB, Prunedale) recommend calling ahead to make an appointment. Note that at this time, the Aromas Library does not offer this service. ■

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a Reference Librarian at the Watsonville Library and a Board Member of the Friends of the SBC Library who also writes #TheGoldenAge senior column for the MVV. Contact: oldfashionedolive@gmail.com.

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FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Friends of the San Benito County Free Library invite you to join us for

Afternoon Tea With Friends

March 16, 2025 from 2-4 pm

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Hollister, CA 95023
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Tickets available for purchase at
<https://www.sbcfriends.org/events>
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We welcome articles from the community, so send us your submissions. Go to missionvillagevoice.com or email acaetano@missionvillagevoice.com.



SNIPPETS FROM THE MILLIKEN FILES

The heroic pet grizzly bear

Submitted by Joe Claus & John Grafton

From "Vida y Aventuras de mi Padre Don Manuel Larios, vecina de San Juan Bautista," by Estolano Larios, translated by J.Grafton.

It seems that a bear cub was rescued during a bear roping expedition and was raised as a pet at the San Antonio rancho.

"Jose Espinosa and his son (Manuel) Jose Dolores Larios went to bring in a fat young bull to butcher. 'Watch,' as the bear was named, was tied in the corner of the patio of the house with a rather long chain. Outside on the patio were no less than fifteen or twenty children playing and amusing themselves. There was in the middle of the patio two little carts, and in each one was a baby at the breast. All the rest of the people were entertaining themselves inside the house when at this came the two vaqueros with the bull, escaping in the direction of the gate of the patio enclosure which was open.

'Watch' was in a shed, which was made for



him for shade, with one side all open. Jose Espinosa was bringing the lassoed bull, but as he was going downhill with a loose saddle, he couldn't control it and save all of the children from the horns of the bull, which was very "bravo." He tied very strongly to the horn of the saddle and sat the horse down, pulling (at the bull). At that, the saddle went over the head of the horse and Espinosa together with it. The bull went straight towards where the children were,

but passing by the shed, 'Watch' came out and put his two paws on the horns (of the bull) and made the bull bow down, and kept him in this position so that the children escaped leaving the patio cleared out.

The bear, as would have been done on purpose, jumped up with a snort that made the bear fly away with surprise. In this way this animal saved the lives of some children who certainly would have died from the bull." ■



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Time for some financial spring cleaning

Spring is here — which means it's once again time to wash the windows, organize your cabinets and steam your carpets. This year, in addition to tidying up around your house, why not also consider some financial spring cleaning?

Here are some suggestions to consider:

- "De-clutter" your investment portfolio. When you embark on your home cleaning mission, you might notice that you have redundancies — three blenders, two vacuum cleaners, and so on. Similarly, you might find duplications in your investment portfolio, perhaps in the form of multiple, near-identical stocks or mutual funds. If so, then it might be worthwhile to consider selling some of these investments and using the proceeds to boost your portfolio in other areas in which you may be lacking.

- Cut back on "overgrown" investments. Now that winter is over and you're venturing outside more, you may notice some overgrown shrubbery or some tree branches that need pruning. And while it may sound counterintuitive, you might also have some investments that have grown too big for

your needs. For example, you might own some growth-oriented investments whose value has increased so much that they now take up a larger percentage of your portfolio — and carry a higher degree of risk — than you originally intended. If that's the case, you might be better off by selling some of these investments and purchasing others to help bring your investment mix back to its desired alignment.

- Dust off your investment strategy. With more sunlight now pouring in your house, you might notice that the corners of your walls and ceiling may need a good dusting. And as you continually work to strengthen your financial foundation, you may need to dust off your investment strategy, especially if you've recently experienced changes in your life, such as a marriage, addition of children, new job, and so on. And as you move closer to retirement, you may also need to adjust your strategy in some ways. For one thing, you might want to adopt a more conservative investment approach in the years immediately preceding your retirement, though you'll still need to have

some growth potential in your portfolio to help keep you ahead of inflation.

- Protect yourself from financial dangers. As you go about your household spring cleaning, you may find actual physical dangers that need to be removed or stored more safely, such as sharp objects or broken tools. And as you navigate daily life, you may also find threats to your financial safety — the need for an expensive home improvement, or a major car repair or an unexpectedly large medical bill. If you don't have the money available to pay these expenses, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or run up your credit card or take out a high-rate loan. To protect yourself

from having to make these moves, you may want to maintain an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account, separate from those you use for your daily living expenses.

Of course, some of these moves can take some time — but by getting started on them soon, you can help put your financial house in better shape by the time the next spring cleaning rolls around.

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

Alexis Winder, AAMS®
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THOMMELIER

The sound of wine

By Thomas Brenner, Sommelier

Wine has always been about sensation—taste, aroma, texture—but rarely do we consider its sound. We uncork bottles, pour glasses, swirl, sip, and clink, all without thinking about what these sounds mean. Yet for centuries, sound has shaped the way we experience wine. The noises surrounding it are more than just background; they are signals, traditions, even unconscious triggers of memory and expectation.



The opening of a bottle is an announcement. The pull of a cork is tense, almost resistant, before it gives way with a dull pop—a sound that, for centuries, has marked the beginning of something to be shared. Historically, corks replaced oil-soaked rags and wooden stoppers in the 17th century, allowing wine to be aged reliably. That simple shift created a new ritual: the anticipation that comes with breaking a seal.

Sparkling wines add another layer. The escape of carbon dioxide isn't just a sound, it's a signature.

Wine being poured has a rhythm, a tempo that changes depending on the wine, the vessel, even the hand holding the bottle. A slow, steady stream from a well-aged Bordeaux sounds different from the lively, splashing pour of a young Sauvignon Blanc. The angle of the pour determines whether the wine glugs or flows smoothly; the shape of the glass affects the way it lands.

Historically, the sound of pouring wine has carried significance. In ancient Rome, amphorae had long, thin necks that made a distinctive gurgling noise as they emptied. In medieval Europe, servants poured wine with deliberate slowness, both as a sign of respect and to allow nobles the chance to observe (or taste for poison). Today, the pace of a pour still sets a tone—hurried or measured, generous or restrained.

Swirling wine is often seen as performative, but it has practical roots. The movement aerates the wine, releasing volatile compounds and revealing more nuance in aroma. The sound of swirling is different depending on the wine's viscosity—a light Pinot Noir whispers while a dense Syrah moves with more weight.



Tasting, too, has its own sounds. Professional tasters slurp, drawing in air to amplify flavor. The act of sipping is a quieter ritual, but even then, the subconscious sounds of enjoyment or rejection—an appreciative sigh, a contemplative pause, a slight grimace—speak volumes.

Toasting is one of the most universal customs in drinking culture, but the origins of clinking glasses are debated. One theory suggests it was meant to appeal to all five senses, adding sound to the experience of drinking.

Whatever the origin, the material of the glass affects the sound. Leaded crystal produces a higher-pitched ring; thick glass makes a duller, heavier clunk.

For most of its life, wine is silent, resting in barrels before maturing in the bottle.

Yet even here, sound plays a role. The old tradition of knocking on a barrel before tasting its contents wasn't just a test of fullness; it was a way to gauge whether a wine had spoiled. In some cellars, the subtle popping of fermentation bubbles signals that yeast is still at work. Even in stillness, wine is active.

We are conditioned to focus on wine's taste, its smell, its mouthfeel. But sound plays just as much of a role in shaping our perception. The noise of opening a bottle, the way it pours, the glassware it touches—all of it sets the tone for what we are about to experience. The sounds of enjoyment, the verbal input a taste fosters and the conversations and sounds its intoxicating contents further into the night each manifest a myriad of acoustic exudations to behold and covet.

Wine isn't just something to be tasted. It's something to be heard. ■

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The vital role of nonprofits in our communities

Charitable organizations have historically been widely trusted, more so than businesses, governments, or the news media. However, a recent poll by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy revealed a troubling trend. Nearly half of Americans (48%) feel that nonprofits are heading in the wrong direction, and only one-third believe these organizations significantly contribute to society. Most surprisingly, only 5% of people believe they or their immediate family members have benefited from a nonprofit. Many individuals interact with or rely on nonprofits daily, whether through schools, hospitals, museums, or advocacy groups.

This perception is particularly concerning as nonprofits face an ongoing decline in financial support. Two decades ago, about 85% of Americans



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FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

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donated to charity. Today, that number has dropped to just 50%. With recent federal funding freezes, some nonprofits face an existential threat. As nonprofit organizations work to address these challenges, it's important to recognize the impact they have on communities like ours.

Nonprofits aren't just food banks and shelters. They touch all of us through essential services like childcare programs, art institutions, health clinics, and community advocacy. They are especially important in rural areas, where they can provide health services, early childhood programming, and other resources that would otherwise be scarce or nonexistent.

What sets the nonprofits in San Benito County apart is their deep understanding of our local communities' needs and the desire to address gaps in service that government agencies cannot always fill, or are unaware of. In this way, nonprofits help communities (and even businesses) thrive.

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is committed to supporting over 170 nonprofits that serve San Benito County. If you're interested in giving back, whether as a donor, board member, or volunteer, we would be happy to connect you with a cause that aligns with your passion and values. Together, we can strengthen our community and ensure that nonprofits



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WILL COOK FOR WINE

Ricotta & Asparagus Pasta Salad with Lemon Vinaigrette

By Chef Liz

Spring is in the air! This fresh and hearty pasta salad is the perfect accompaniment to your next outdoor gathering. Make it an even more substantial meal by adding grilled chicken or salmon.



Ingredients

For the salad

Kosher salt
1 lb. package short-ridged pasta (We use Etto brand Casarecce)
12 oz package whole-milk ricotta (We use Bellweather Farms brand)
1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan, plus more for serving
1 Tbsp. finely grated lemon zest, plus more for serving
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
Freshly ground black pepper
2 lb. asparagus, trimmed, cut into 2" pieces
3/4 cup fresh basil leaves thinly sliced, plus more for serving

For the vinaigrette

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
Zest of 1 lemon
1 small shallot, minced
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon honey
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste

Method

In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta, stirring occasionally, until al dente according to package directions. Reserve 1 cup

pasta water, then drain.

In a large bowl, mix ricotta, Parmesan, lemon zest, lemon juice, and 3/4 cup pasta water (reserve remaining pasta water); season with salt and pepper. Add pasta and stir to coat. Refrigerate until cold, about 20 minutes.

Stir pasta, adding more reserved pasta water 1 tablespoon at a time if sauce seems too thick.

Meanwhile, place ice water in a large bowl. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook asparagus, stirring occasionally until crisp-tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Drain asparagus, then transfer to ice bath. Let cool 5 minutes. Drain asparagus. Add asparagus and basil to pasta salad and stir to combine.

Combine lemon juice, zest, shallot, mustard and honey. Whisk in olive oil and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Finish with the vinaigrette and garnish with basil, lemon zest, and Parmesan before serving. ■



VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Appraising an appraisal

By Halina Kleinsmith

In recent decades, productions about antiques have provided unique and entertaining ways in which to identify and evaluate vintage items.

It's a fun and relaxing voyage through time, with examples showing how Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco and Mid-Century Modern designs defined timelines for materials innovations, and era specific fabrication processes.

Chemistry experiments evolved in 19th century laboratories, and subsequently new eras of synthetics sprang into production, enabling the discovery of parkesine, gutta percha, celluloid, bakelite, nylon, plexiglass, lucite, acrylic and other plastics.

These became recognizable by their texture, weight, color and even aroma, especially with respect to Bakelite, as when rubbed rapidly, the heat generated creates a smell like an overloaded electrical outlet!

Design styles in particular kept in tandem with major worldwide archaeological discoveries, bringing an international flair to



item production.

Some of the most famous and long lived creations were heavily influenced by the 1923 unearthing of King Tutankhamun's tomb. The treasures found prompted a huge demand for 'Egyptiana', and manufacturers worldwide faithfully replicated pharaonic inspired objects for resale.

Some reproduced treasures had fabrication dates or production logos. Yet items without such markings could still be differentiated from the originals, as clues came from the weight, size, color and texture of materials used, which often varied from the genuine article.

Another specialized field of interest includes scientific and navigational antiques, which showcase their own advances as equipment perfecting ways in which to measure, weigh, chart and view our world and its surrounding cosmos.

Crafted with 'beautility', they employ gorgeous carvings and artfully painted designs, along with elaborate polished brass and mother of pearl inlays. The telescopes, and fantastically etched ship's sextants, provided many captains a source of pride and distinction as they plied the open seas.

Aye, Aye! Antiques are fun! ■

Contemporary Indigenous Voices of California's South Coast Range

Film and Photo exhibit by Kirti Bassendine

March 15, 2025

4 – 6 pm
Art Reception
Free admission

7 pm
Film
Ticketed Event

Luna Gallery
107 B The Alameda
San Juan Bautista, CA

El Teatro Campesino
705 4th St.
<https://shorturl.at/86q6K>

Exhibition continues through April 27th with workshops
lunagallery.art



MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE Community Bulletin Board

New Air Quality Sensor map released

The Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) is announcing the release of an updated air quality map using information generated from MBARD's regulatory air monitors and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) sensor network. MBARD strives to provide valuable information to the community in an easily understood format. MBARD's updates made important improvements over the prior version, including regulatory air monitoring stations, and graphs of the data for each location to show trends in air quality. In addition, the data is now available to download from MBARD's webpage.

This network was originally intended to track smoke concentrations from wildfires. The particulate sensor network has been especially useful recently when tracking potential particulate matter impacts associated with emissions from the recent battery facility fire at Moss Landing.

For near real-time concentrations of particulate matter characterized by the Air Quality

Index, please check our Fine Particulate Matter Sensor Network Information and Resources link: <https://www.mbard.org/fine-particulate-matter-sensor-network-information-and-resources>. For more information on air quality, please check the MBARD website at: <https://www.mbard.org/>

Calling All Student grades K-8th! Superior Court of San Benito County Annual Student Art Exhibit

Superior Court of San Benito County is still accepting entries until March 7th for our Annual Student Art Exhibit. This year's theme is Heroes in My Community. Three students, of different age categories, will have the opportunity to win art prizes in recognition for their amazing artwork! On March 20th from 10am-4pm the Superior Court of San Benito County will be hosting their annual Student Art Exhibit at 450 Fourth Street. Students have prepared artwork to capture heroes in their community, stop on by and view the creativity!



LOCAL BUSINESS

Mansmith's BBQ Sauce takes home national award

Now available locally and on Amazon

Big news for barbecue lovers! Mansmith's Sticky BBQ Sauce just earned Fifth Place in the Original BBQ Sauce category at the prestigious 2025 National Barbecue and Grilling Association (NBBQA) Awards of Excellence. This means the sauce isn't just good—it's officially one of the best in the country!

The competition was fierce, with professional chefs, certified barbecue judges, and industry experts putting each sauce through a blind taste test. Mansmith's Sticky BBQ Sauce stood out with its perfect balance of sweet, smoky, and tangy flavors, rich texture, and top-quality ingredients.

"We're thrilled to see Mansmith's Sticky BBQ Sauce recognized on a national level. This sauce is the real deal—made for anyone who loves bold, mouthwatering barbecue,"

said Janet Phelps, Managing Partner of the NBBQA.

Now's the perfect time to grab a bottle and taste the award-winning flavor for yourself. Whether you're grilling, dipping, or slathering it on your favorite meats, Mansmith's Sticky BBQ Sauce is guaranteed to take your barbecue game up a notch.

Where to Buy:

- www.mansmith.com - Order online and get it delivered straight to your door!
- Amazon
- Bertuccio's Market
- Windmill Market - Pick up a bottle locally in San Juan Bautista!
- Mansmith BBQ Truck on Airline Hwy in Hollister (Fridays & Saturdays)

Want to know more about the NBBQA Awards of Excellence and see what other top-tier barbecue products made the list? Visit nbbqa.org or follow @NBBQA on social media. ■

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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Morris Family Mission Vineyard Ranch

By Anne Caetano

MVV met with Katie Morris, the granddaughter of John and Elinor Baumgartner, to discuss the history and vision of Mission Vineyard Ranch, a new event space with a long history in San Juan Bautista. A serene setting where quail scurry, stars twinkle, and a fast-paced life seems like a world away, it is a family-owned operation focused on creating space to celebrate life's beautiful moments.

MVV: What is Mission Vineyard Ranch?

KM: Mission Vineyard Ranch is the historic Baumgartner family ranch that has been made available for events, weddings, and retreats. It's a beautiful, intimate venue offering breathtaking views, rich history, and a serene atmosphere. Located off the beaten path but still close to the charming historic town of San Juan Bautista, it provides a truly unique experience.

I like to think of it as offering an opportunity to step slightly outside of time—it carries a connection to the past and to agriculture while also grounding you in the present moment.

And there is a heritage -- rich family history.

Yes, the Ranch was purchased in the late 1960s by our grandparents, John and Elinor Baumgartner, who lived and ranched in and around San Benito County their whole married life. John was a rancher who spent his childhood between San Francisco and his family ranch in Southern California, Rancho Santa Margarita y las Flores. Elinor was a San Franciscan with a musical ear and an eye for fashion and interiors. What we know today as Mission Vineyard Ranch was their retirement home. Between the two of them, they transformed it into a sophisticated yet welcoming spot where family and friends could

gather.

In the late 1990s, John and Elinor's daughter, Anne, and her husband Rich retired to the ranch themselves. They worked with a local landscaper to make the gardens more drought-friendly and injected a casual element into the house with a family room warmed by a clean-burning stone fireplace. They also had the foresight to bring their eight children, their children's spouses, and eventually their grandchildren, to the ranch to engage in facilitated discussions focused on preserving the ranch as a family gathering spot.

Today, Anne and Rich's large extended family come together multiple times a year to celebrate birthdays and holidays, relax, play, and attend the annual San Benito County Horse Show & Rodeo, which John helped start back in 1929. A member of the third generation raises grass-fed cattle on the property, and members of the fourth generation can be found either horseback riding in the Western tradition John loved so much, or harvesting ranch-grown olives in a nod to the delicious meals that were at the center of every party Elinor threw.

What makes the property unique compared to other venues?



John and Anne Baumgartner at Bolado Park, 1958.



John, Elinor, Peter and Anne Baumgartner, Richard Morris, Sept. 12, 1959.



Oak trees were the decor for Sarah and Liam's San Juan Bautista Backyard Wedding.

The ranch has been lovingly looked after by multiple generations for over a half century. It has been a family gathering spot throughout that time and has a sense of elegance and a timeless charm. Being there gives one a sense of spaciousness and intimacy all at once. Whether it's a wedding, an anniversary, a fundraising dinner, or a retreat, the space provides a warm, private, and customizable setting.

The ranch also allows guests to experience open landscapes, oak trees, and biodiversity. It is home to a variety of migratory birds, including the grasshopper sparrow.

There is no rush here -- we book only one

event a weekend because we want it to be a peaceful getaway where people can gather, connect, and enjoy the land.

How is the ranch involved in sustainability and land stewardship?

The property also has deep roots in ranching and land stewardship. To this day, it is a working ranch managed by John and Elinor Baumgartner's grandson, Joe Morris, who follows regenerative agriculture practices, maintaining healthy grasslands and biodiversity while naturally managing fire risks.

What types of events can be held at Mission Vineyard Ranch?

The ranch is available for a variety of events, including weddings, anniversaries, milestone birthday celebrations, nonprofit fundraisers, startup planning sessions, celebrations of life, quinceañeras, wellness retreats, you name it. The space is versatile and can be customized to fit different themes and needs.

How do weddings work at the ranch?

Weddings at Mission Vineyard Ranch are designed to be relaxed and intimate. Instead of a rushed event, we offer a full weekend experience: Friday afternoon, rehearsal and set-up; Saturday, full-day access to set up and decorate, and Sunday, time to wrap up and check out. We have three "getting ready" spaces and multiple ceremony sites. We only host one event per weekend, ensuring a calm



Sarah and Liam enjoy a quiet moment at their Mission San Juan Bautista Backyard Wedding.

and stress-free environment.

How do other events work?

Other events typically have a 6 to 8-hour rental slot, depending on the type of gathering. There are areas for different parts of the event, such as cocktail hours, dinner receptions, and dancing. Retreats are so personal; they really vary from event to event.

What accommodations are available on-site?

The ranch offers several accommodations, including a charming, newly renovated cottage; a cozy private room with an en-suite bathroom; a guest house with 3 bedrooms, a living room and kitchen; and a tiny house built by John and Elinor's grandson, Rich Morris. These spaces are available as add-ons to an event.

Do you offer catering services?

We do not, but we are thrilled to provide people with a list of preferred caterers. We are lucky to have so many talented and creative chefs right here in the community!

Are there restrictions on music and noise?

Yes, we are very conscious of our neighbors and want to be good stewards of the land and community. All amplified music must stop by 10 PM, and DJs must comply with our noise policy. This ensures that the space remains peaceful and enjoyable for everyone.

Can people visit just for a getaway?

No, the property is not an Airbnb or vacation rental. It is strictly an event space where guests can relax and retreat dur-

ing an event; we are not booking just for casual stays.

What are some special features of the property?

The property is in many ways a blank canvas that can be set up in whatever style or level of formality is desired. There are multiple ceremony sites for weddings and places to create everything from an intimate cocktail party to a boisterous family-style feast. The gardens are perfect for photography.

We have walking trails with stunning views. There are bird-watching opportunities and lots of nooks and crannies that

lend themselves perfectly to quiet reflection and relaxed conversations.

Our family is committed to preserving the ranch as a place for people to connect with nature, themselves, and each other.

How can someone inquire about booking the ranch?

The best way is to visit our website at <https://www.missionvineyardranch.com/> and fill out the inquiry form. We are also on Instagram (@missionvineyardranch), where people can see updates and photos. ■

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Sarah and Liam's poolside reception at their Mission San Juan Bautista Backyard Wedding.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Women's Fund Advisory Committee of the Community Foundation for SBC that champions women & children in our community.. L-R: Kathy Johnson, Interim Director for Community Foundation, Bonnie Wilkinson, Bonnie Voropaeff, Linda Smith, Esther Curtice, Kathy Kessler, and Mary McCullough.



At Luna Gallery, l to r Jennifer Colby, Joyce Kim (weekend morning anchor, KSBW Action News), John Robrock



CASA SBC's Advocate Appreciation Party. Back row: Jessica Ravetz, Amelia Souza-Hatcher, Kristen Wynn, Olivia Tavinkl, Nancy Pasillas, Peter Benjamin Kehoe, Andres Rodriguez. Middle row: Sue Redmond, Bobbie Rosnik, Audry Cortes. Front row: Kathy Hayes, Susan Drawve.



SBALT volunteers at Rancho Larios. L-R- Al Key, Alan Robertson, Fran Fitzharris, Kris Hernandez, Ray Trabucco, Beth Roybal, Bob Connolly, Sean Fitzharris, Alfred Key, Mary Watson.



Master Gardener Loyanne Flinn preparing to plant 4 new fruit trees in the Orchard at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park.



Happy Birthday Luverne Bowman inspiring at 96!



Harper gets some treats from Leanne Oliveira at the Friends of the SBCFL book sale.



Master Gardeners Madeline and Ernie Franco enjoying a quiet moment in the Orchard at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park.



Graniterock celebrates 125 years of building infrastructure and community

Graniterock, one of California's oldest companies, is proud to celebrate 125 years of building critical infrastructure, driving economic growth and serving the community. Founded on Valentine's Day in 1900, the family-owned construction and construction materials company's commitment to excellence has cemented its legacy as a cornerstone of the Central Coast and beyond.

What began as a small granite quarry in Aromas, founded by Arthur R. Wilson, has grown into a multifaceted engineering and construction materials company that plays an essential role in building California's highways, bridges, airports, schools and neighborhoods.

From its earliest days supplying crushed granite for the Southern Pacific rail line, to launching the first hot mix asphalt plant in the state of California in 1935, to winning the 1992 Malcolm Baldrige award – the nation's highest award for quality, Graniterock has long been at the forefront of innovation in construction materials and services.

"We could not have reached this milestone anniversary without our customers and community who have been loyal to Graniterock and helped us build the crucial infrastructure of our region," said Graniterock CEO Peter Lemon. "From the roads we drive on to the landmarks that define our communities, Graniterock's dedication to quality and service has and will stand the test of time."

Committed to community, sustainability

Graniterock's impact goes beyond construction. Over the years, the company has championed environmental sustainability by implementing solar fields and other alternative energy sources, state-of-the-art recycling programs for construction materials and



stormwater management systems.

Additionally, Graniterock has a strong tradition of giving back to the community through long-standing partnerships with community organizations, local event sponsorships and employee volunteerism. Ownership of the company has remained within the Wilson-Woolpert family for 125 years.

"We are proud to help steward one of California's oldest family-owned companies," said Marianne Woolpert, great-granddaughter of founder A.R. Wilson. "Our commitment to quality and our deep roots in the community are important to our family and important to Graniterock's team members, as well."

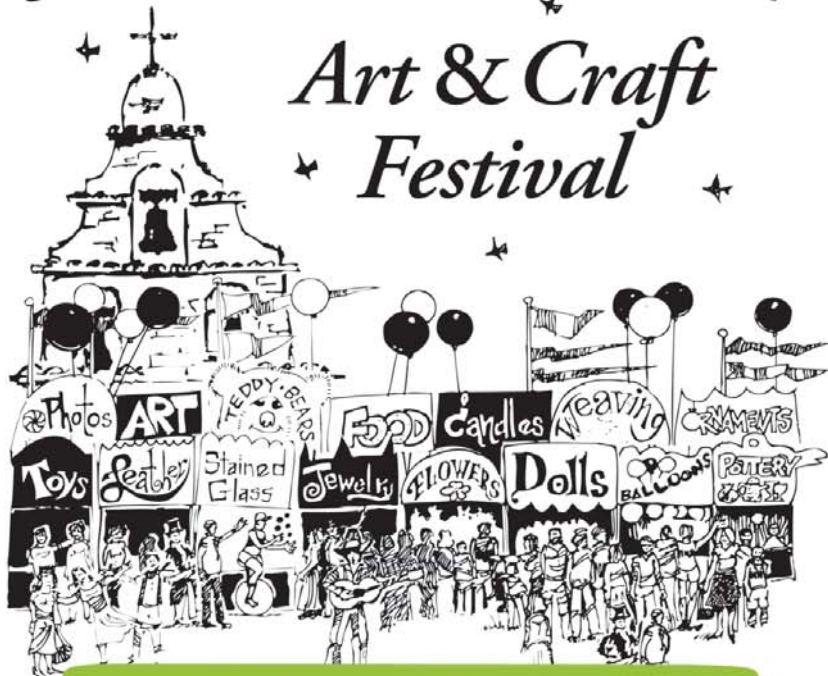
As Graniterock celebrates this milestone, the company remains focused on the future. Investments in technology, workforce development and sustainable practices will ensure Graniterock continues to lead the construction industry and contribute to the region's economy.

"Our success is built on the dedication of our team members and the trust of our customers," said Lemon. "As we look forward to the next 125 years, we are committed to continuing our legacy of innovation, sustainability and community partnership."

For more information about Graniterock's 125th anniversary or to learn about its history, visit www.graniterock.com. ■

San Juan Bautista

Art & Craft Festival



March 29th & 30th

Saturday ~ 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday ~ 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Family Fun! Live Music! Fantastic Food!

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Él Brick Band

Come join us for two fun-filled days!

Downtown will have bountiful food, drink, and live music all weekend long! Shop, browse, feast, and discover thousands of quality treasures!

Kids will love the pony rides, face painting, and more!

For more informaton call: (775) 324-6435



CELESTIAL EVENTS



March 8 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 18.2 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 evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

March 14 - Full Moon in Virgo. 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 06:56 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would begin to soften and the earthworms would reappear. This moon has also been known as the Crow Moon, the Crust Moon, the Sap Moon, and the Lenten Moon.

March 14 - Total Lunar Eclipse. A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes completely through the Earth's dark shadow, or umbra. During this type of eclipse, the Moon will gradually get darker and then take on a rusty or blood red color. The eclipse will be visible throughout all of North America, Mexico, Central America, and South America. (NASA Map and Eclipse Information)



March 20 - March Equinox. The March equinox occurs at 08:58 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

March 29 - New Moon in Aries. The Moon will located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 11:00 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.

March 29 - Partial Solar Eclipse. A partial solar eclipse occurs when the Moon covers only a part of the Sun, sometimes resembling a bite taken out of a cookie. A partial solar eclipse can only be safely observed with a special solar filter or by looking at the Sun's reflection. This partial eclipse will be visible throughout Greenland and most of northern Europe and northern Russia. It will be best seen from Canada with 93% coverage.

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**CONTACT ANNE CAETANO
AT 917-513-7137**

or email acaetano@missionvillagevoice.com





Green Business Tips

Spring into sustainability: Simple steps for businesses to go green

As spring blooms across San Benito County, it's the perfect time for businesses to refresh their operations and embrace more sustainable practices. Just as we think about spring cleaning at home, businesses can use this season as an opportunity to clean up their operations, cut unnecessary costs, and reduce their environmental footprint. The San Benito County Green Business Program is here to help—offering free technical assistance to guide businesses through the process of going green while saving money.

One of the easiest ways to cut costs is by conserving water. Retrofit toilets with high-efficiency models, swap out old faucets and showerheads for water-saving fixtures, and install low-flow or waterless urinals. Energy efficiency is another key area for cost sav-

ings. We'll help you explore options for upgrading lighting and equipment to energy-efficient models and provide you with electrification options that reduce both energy use and utility bills.

Reducing waste is a big win for both the environment and your bottom line. Let us help your business transition to compostable or reusable packaging, opt for digital documents, and work with vendors to minimize excess packaging and eliminate single-use plastics.

Businesses in San Benito County can take advantage of \$300 rebates for purchases that reduce waste. Whether it's switching to cleaning concentrates, buying reusable cutlery and foodware, replacing single-use coffee pods with a standard coffee maker, or investing in durable containers—if it reduces waste, it qualifies.

Ready to make a change? Contact Bryan Garcia at bgarcia@environmentalin.com to start the march toward cost savings and a greener future. ■

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and originals of drawings published in *Rolling Stone Magazine* (1975-1980)
and *Mission Village Voice* (2014 to-date). www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/art-galleries.

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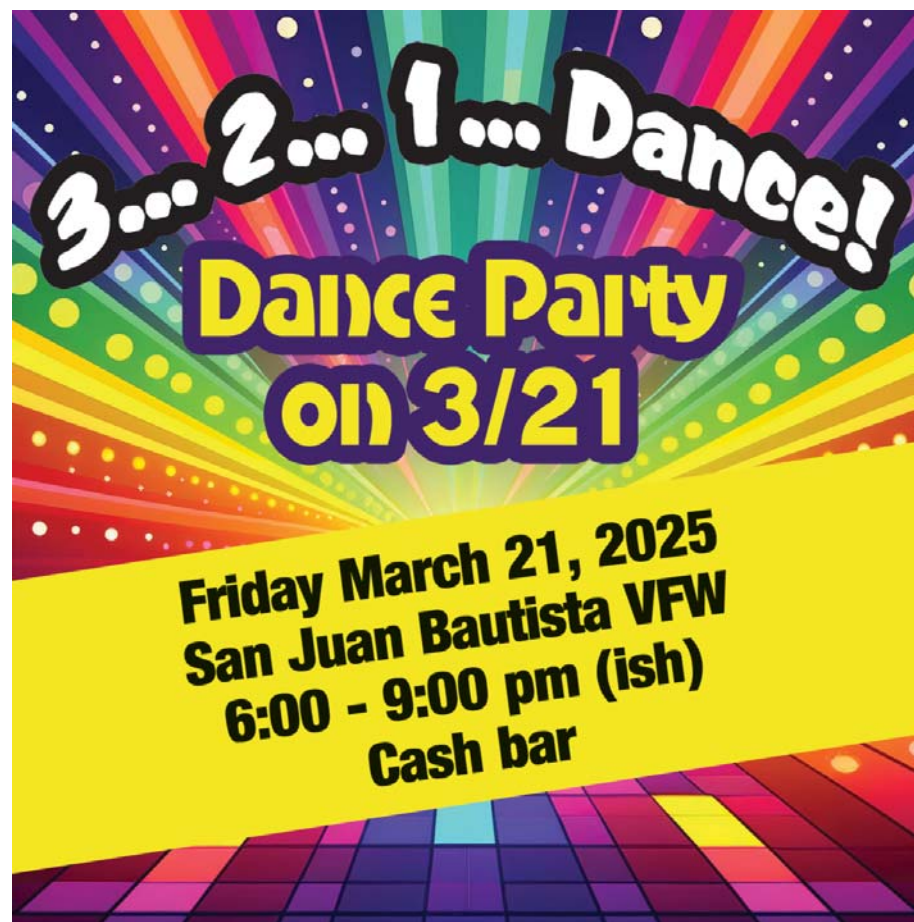
SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd

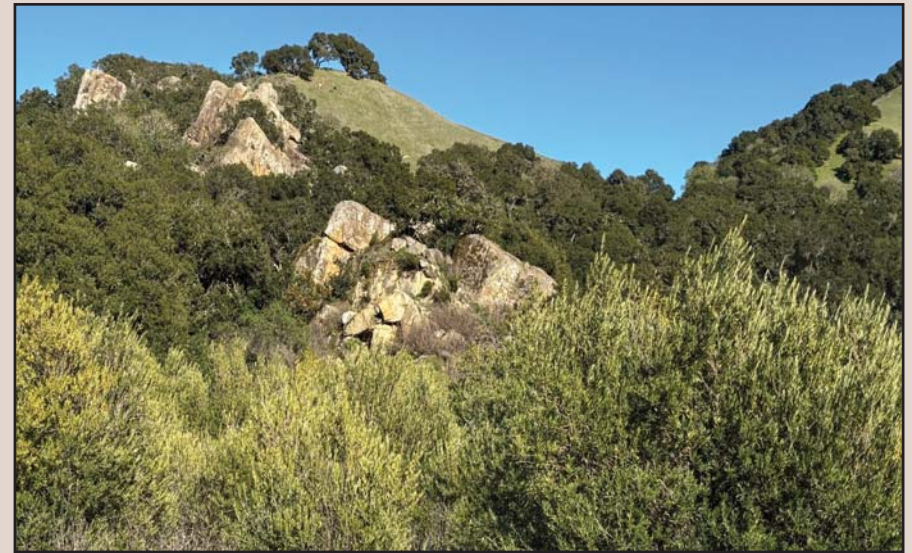
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TICKETS ONLY \$20 FROM MARSHALL'S MARKET
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1250794242249>

AND ONLY \$25 AT THE DOOR

Doors open at 3:30 PM Show starts at 4:30 PM





Then: Note the dark cavity on the lower outcropping. *Photo credit: V. Mossop, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library.* Now: Rubble of the cave.

Then... and Now: "Font's Hermitage" and "The Lost Cave of San Juan Bautista"

By Wanda Guibert,
San Juan Bautista Historical Society

In 2013, the late Phil Valdez, Jr., scholar and then president of the Anza Society - "the expert" on Juan Bautista de Anza and the first overland colonizing expedition trail to California -- asked the San Juan Bautista Historical Society if our archives included photos of the cave off San Juan Canyon Road. He was preparing a presentation featuring three locations identified in Pedro Font's field journal of the second Anza expedition, and this cave was one of them. Our archives did not contain any such photos, but we were able to connect Mr.

Valdez with member Sharon Long, who had family photos of the cave, and, with her permission, he published "The Lost Cave of San Juan Bautista, Ca." which I was unable to access. However, numerous sources cite the cave, and longtime San Juaners have either seen it or heard about it from relatives.

The mouth of beautiful San Juan Canyon follows San Juan Creek and consists of grazing land and ancient oak trees east of the Gabilan foothills. The eastern portion of the district edges a scenic hillside, and a number of documents in our archives state that nearby were huge picturesque rocks containing sandstone caves. A 1973 document

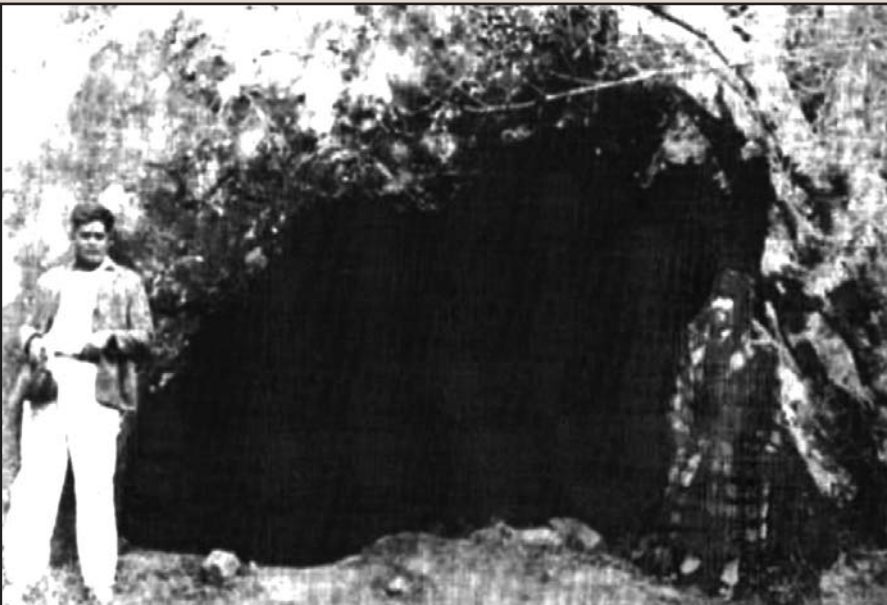
identifying the "San Juan Canyon Historic District" states "The main cave was dubbed 'Font's Hermitage' after Spanish padre Pedro Font; another small inner chamber was said to contain red and black petroglyphs. The main cave was destroyed by unknown causes in 1993..." [Ralph] "Milliken [1880-1970] reports these caves were also used to store wine for Mission San Juan Bautista, made from grapes nearby. Caves are also reported by Milliken on the western side of the Canyon." Regarding Font's Hermitage, "...at one time it was a meditation retreat for Fathers from the San Juan Bautista Mission. Today the walls of the cave are covered with smoke residue and modern graffiti."

The cave was visited for as long as this

area has been populated, from Native Americans celebrating sacred ceremonies, to early pioneers and longtime San Juaners still with us today.

Shedding light on the Native American experience at this cave, a document titled "Native Americans and the California Mission System" prepared in 2023 and posted at ohp.parks.ca.gov states the following:

"Sacred Cave South of San Juan Bautista. When Fray Pedro Font was reconnoitering the San Felipe Sink in 1776, he came across a two-chambered cave that was very important to the Native communities. This cave is near San Juan Bautista, and it included two-chambers with sacred petroglyphs (Valdez n.d.) and pool of water within the cave (Figure 4). The cave has



Ascensión Solórsano's younger daughter Maria and husband Joseph Mondragon, Sr. at the Sacred Cave near San Juan Bautista. *Photo by J. P. Harrington, courtesy of Edward Ketchum*



Eula Johnson and friends in cave circa late 1930s/early '40s. *Photo credit: Sharon Long*



Eula Johnson and friends near cave. *Photo credit: Sharon Long.*

been destroyed. Ascensión Solórsano [Amah Mutsun Tribal cultural bearer], told [early-20th-century ethnographer John Peabody] Harrington that once Mission San Juan Bautista was established, the priests took Catholic icons and put them in the cave to attract Native people and they played music on a “grinding organ” specifically because the Natives liked it and the music would attract them. Mr. Ketchum [tribal historian] believes the Spanish added the icons as a way of introducing the people to the Catholic religion. The cave, with many sa-

cred drawings, had been used by the Indigenous people possibly for several millennia before contact.”...

Referring to the Sacred Peak (“Near the cave, on top of a hill, likely Pagan Hill), the article continues, “Two years later, in 1797, the Spaniards returned to the Indian Sacred site at the base of Tointak, which is known as the ‘Place of the Bumblebee (ground bees that eat meat).’ Here, near the cave which had been inscribed with ceremonial glyphs, Father Lasuen sanctified the area for Mission San Juan Bautista...”

The article continues, “...Ms. Ascensión Solórsano [1855-1930] shared the following (Harrington n.d.: reel 58): ‘That cave was blest [sic] and was used for saying mass before the San Juan Church was finished. When the San Juan Church had not yet been completed, every Sunday the priest would form the Indians in a procession and would march them to the cave, which is in the hill across from the cement plant, and there were so many Indians there that the whole plain was full of them, the whole plain in front of the cave. There was a sycamore tree and two cottonwood trees a little to the south side of the cave. It has been only a few years since that sycamore was cut down.’”

A century later, Victor Mossop (1878-1962) lived in San Juan Bautista before settling in Monterey, and his amateur photo collection is digitized at the Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library in Monterey. Included in the “Further Afield” collection are photos of SJB, with Mossop's caption, “Caves in San Juan Canyon, where Mama and

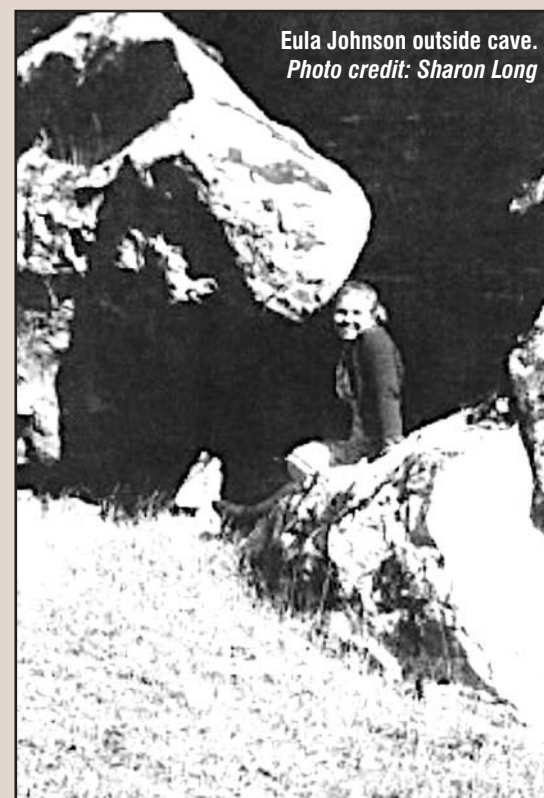


Structure near cave. *Photo credit: Mossop, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library.*

her sisters played house in the early 1850s.”

Fast forward to 2013, when Sharon Long shared her family photos of her mother Eula Johnson in the cave in the late 1930s/early '40s. Eula lived with her parents Roy and Pearl Johnson in the old Brewery building at 104 The Alameda. Roy operated the Union 76 San Juan Service Station where JJ's Burgers and Jolly Frosty were located at Franklin and The Alameda.

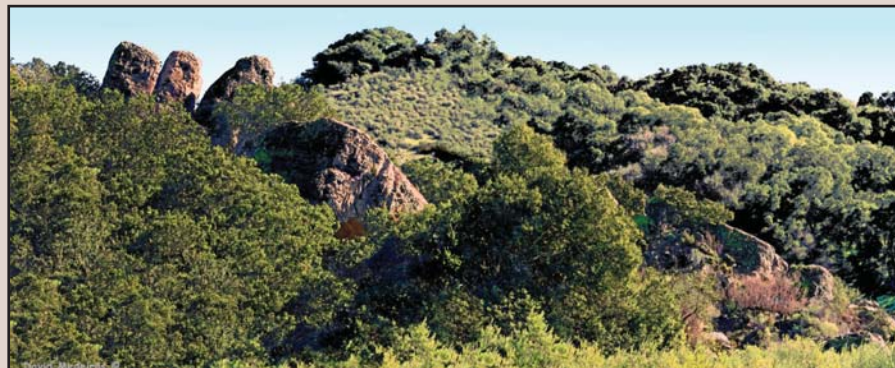
San Juan Bautista is indeed the “City of History,” but its history extends far beyond the City limits. While we enjoy learning about the past and discovering unknown treasures, let's protect and respect our natural resources and private property and explore with our eyes only. We love sharing “Then and Now” articles but wish to remind our readers that the cave ruins are on private property. Please do not trespass or intrude on this fragile site. ■



Eula Johnson outside cave. *Photo credit: Sharon Long*



Drone view of caves. *Photo credit: David Medeiros.*



Composite rendering of cave location. *Photo credit: David Medeiros.*

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | MARCH 2025

Calendar

SATURDAY MARCH 1

HOLLISTER COMMUNITY CLEANUP 9am-12pm. Meet @ Hollister Super #1, 1240 4th St. Take part in cleaning our Community! Info sanbenitocountyca.gov/cleanups

THE DEAD COWBOYS BAND LIVE! 8-11pm. Grillin n Chillin Ale House

YOUTH EXPO 2025 10am-1pm. Vets Memorial Bldg. Downtownhollister.org

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

MASTER GARDENER PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTH 11am-2pm. Plaza lawn, 2nd St., SJB.

SUNDAY MARCH 2

MONTHLY FIGURE DRAWING COLLECTIVE 2-5pm. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

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

TUESDAY MARCH 4

MARDI GRAS PARADE @ THE GARDENSHOPPE

6:30pm. Thegardenshoppeandbar.com

FRIDAY MARCH 7

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

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

SATURDAY MARCH 8

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

ST PATTY'S DAY MURDER MYSTERY PARTY! Thegardenshoppeandbar.com

EARLY SOUTH COUNTY LIFE-NATL' PARKS HISTORIAN TIMOTHY BABALIS 5:30pm. Dunneville Dance Hall, SBC Historical Park, 8300 Airline Hwy, Tres Pinos.

SATURDAY MARCH 8 -

SATURDAY MARCH 23

WATSONVILLE TEEN ARTIST SHOWCASE PVA Porter Building, 280 Main St., Watsonville. Pvarts.org



Saturday, March 15

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



Monday, March 17

VELOCITY IRISH DANCE, LED BY JAMES DEVINE, WORLD RECORD HOLDER for fastest feet in the world and five-time champion Irish Dancer David Geaney at the Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org

SUNDAY MARCH 9

GRYPHON TRIO - A WORLD'S PREEMINENT PIANO TRIO Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

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

THURSDAY MARCH 13

MARY VELASCO SELLEN SENIOR CENTER RIBBON CUTTING 11am-2pm. @ Windmill Plaza, 301 The Alameda, Suite B5, SJB. RSVP Mary Edge 831. 262.3484

FRIDAY MARCH 14

SANDBOX PRESENTS "MIGHT CALL YOU ART" 7pm. Critically acclaimed musicians. Sandboxsandcity.com

PEDRO @ NATIVE DAUGHTERS ADOBE 5:30pm \$10. @203 4th St., SJB 2nd Fri of every month.

SATURDAY MARCH 15

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

RECEPTION FOR "CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS VOICES OF CALIFORNIA'S SOUTH COAST RANGE" PHOTOS BY KIRTI BASSENDINE 4-6pm. Reception @ Luna Gallery, San Juan Bautista. Lunagallery.art 7-9pm Ticket Event @ El Teatro Campesino tickets <https://bit.ly/CIVSCRFilm>

DOCUMENTARY FILM "CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS VOICES OF CALIFORNIA'S SOUTH COAST RANGE" BY KIRTI BASSENDINE 7pm. El Teatro Campesino, 705 4th St., San Juan Bautista. lunagallery.art tickets @eventbrite shorturl.at/86q6K

SDES PORTUGUESE LODGE'S CRAB CIOPPINO Seating times 4pm & 7pm. Live music \$85. Info: sdesholister@gmail.com. For tickets, visit tickets-tinyurl.com/SDESMarchCrabFeed

KIDS KARAOKE Thegardenshoppeandbar.com

SVS NEXTGEN YOUTH CONCERT 3pm. Morgan Hill Southvalleysymphony.org

OPENING RECEPTION "BACKYARD DREAMS"-ARTIST SAMANTHA BULLER SOLO EXHIBIT 4-6pm. FREE. Open thru 4/27. CuraContemporary.com Morgan Hill.

SUNDAY MARCH 16

SBC FREE LIBRARY INVITES YOU TO: AFTERNOON TEA WITH FRIENDS 2-4pm. Ridgemark Golf Club, Hollister. Tickets sbcfriends.org/events

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

MONDAY MARCH 17

VELOCITY IRISH DANCE -LED BY JAMES DEVINE, WORLD RECORD HOLDER FOR FASTEST FEET IN THE WORLD & 5 TIME WORLD CHAMPION IRISH DANCER DAVID GEANEY Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19

SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS-JAZZ Goldenstate Theatre, Monterey. Goldenstatetheatre.com

THURSDAY MARCH 20

SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN BENITO COUNTY ANNUAL STUDENT ART EXHIBIT 10am-4pm. Student's artwork capturing heroes in their community. 450 Fourth St., Hollister.

Continued on next page



Saturday, March 29

PET FRIENDS FUR BALL 5-9pm. Dinner, live music, auctions and more! Ridgemark Golf Club, Hollister. Tickets @ Postal Graphics or eventbrite. PetFriendsFurBall@gmail.com

FRIDAY MARCH 21

3...2...1...DANCE PARTY! 6-9pm-ish. Cash bar. San Juan Bautista VFW.

BEER PONG TOURNAMENT! 9pm-1pm. Daisy's Saloon San Juan Bautista

SATURDAY MARCH 22

AZA LIVE - A GLOBAL COLLAB ROOTED IN AMAZIGH TRADITION Sandboxsandcity.com

SATURDAY MARCH 22 - SUNDAY MARCH 23

INDOOR PASTEL LANDSCAPE WITH CLARK MITCHELL 9:30am-4:30pm. CuraContemporary.com Morgan Hill.

SUNDAY MARCH 23

AROMAS GRANGE PRESENTS- AN EVENING WITH TSUNAMI BAND Doors 3:30pm Show 4:30pm. Classic Rock & Roll, high energy dance music! Aromas Grange \$20/advance Marshall's Market & Eventbrite \$25/door. Aromas Grange.org

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26

CASA CAFÉ 4-6pm. Community Foundation Epicenter, Hollister. Casasanbenito.org

FRIDAY MARCH 28

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

SATURDAY MARCH 29

PET FRIENDS FUR BALL 5-9pm. Dinner, live music, auctions and more! Ridgemark Golf Club, Hollister. Tickets @ Postal Graphics or eventbrite. PetFriendsFurBall@gmail.com

NATIVE PLANTS OF SAN BENITO COUNTY CLASS 11am-12:30pm, SJB State Park. Register @ mbmg.ucanr.edu

SATURDAY MARCH 29 -

SUNDAY MARCH 30

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL Saturday 10am-6pm. Sunday 10am-5pm. Family Fun! Live Music! Fantastic Food! Info 775.324.6435

QUARTERLY BULKY ITEM RECYCLING EVENT 9am-3pm. John Smith Landfill, 2650 John Smith Rd., Hollister. Limit 2 bulky items per household per quarterly event. Sanbenitocountyca.gov/bulkyitems

SUNDAY MARCH 30

AROMAS GRANGE PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8-11am. The last Sunday of the month. Aromasgrange.org

Every Week

TUESDAYS

HOLLISTER FOOD TRUCK TUESDAYS 4-7pm. San Benito St., Hollister market@downtownhollister.org Feb 4th - April 8th.

WEDNESDAYS

GEEKS WHO DRINK - RUNNING ROOSTER TRIVIA NIGHT 6:30pm. Every Wednesday @ Running Rooster, Hollister Runningrooster.com

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

THURSDAYS

SENIOR LUNCHESES SJB COMMUNITY CENTER Doors 10:30am. Every Thursday. Info call Jovenes De Antano 831.637.9275

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

FRIDAYS

OPEN MIC @ BEARS HIDEAWAY Bear's Hideaway San Juan Bautista

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

SATURDAYS

BIG GUY ORGANICS POP-UP @ VERTIGO 8am-1pm. Local Organics produce pop-up @ Vertigo SJB. Every Saturday

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

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

SUNDAYS

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S SALOON 2-5pm. Daisy's Saloon San Juan Bautista

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

Save the Date

THURSDAY APRIL 3

FREE WORKSHOP WITH KANYON SAYERS ROOD, 'ZINE MAKING' 6pm. Luna Gallery & Eco Art Studio, 107 B, The Alameda, San Juan Bautista, lunagallery.art

SUNDAY APRIL 13

TEATRO FAMILY DAY FUNDRAISER! 12-4pm. El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista. Elteatrocampesino.com

SATURDAY APRIL 19

SAN BENITO COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PRESENTS: EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 11am-2pm. Booths, games, art, performances, free recycling programs & art poster contest winners announced. Info sanbenitocountyca.gov/iwm 831.636.4110 @sbciwm

SATURDAY APRIL 19

DOWNTOWN HOLLISTER COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP 8:30am-11:30am. sanbenitocountyca.gov/cleanups

THURSDAY APRIL 24 - FRIDAY APRIL 25

SPRING BREAK YOUTH ART CAMP Info 831.623.2783. Luna Gallery & Eco Art Studio, 107 B The Alameda, SJB, lunagallery.art

FRIDAY APRIL 25 - SUNDAY APRIL 27

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA RIB COOK-OFF Downtown San Juan Bautista. williamsltd.com

SATURDAY MAY 10

SIP, SAVOR & CELEBRATE - CASA SBC Swank Farms, Hollister. Casasanbenito.org

THURSDAY MAY 15

SAN BENITO COUNTY BINGO FOR BOOMSTICKS! 5pm. VFW Post #6539, 58 Monterey St., SJB. Info John Hopper 408.386.7301 Ducks Unlimited sanbenitodu.com



Sunday, March 23

GET READY FOR A NIGHT OF HIGH-ENERGY DANCE MUSIC WITH TSUNAMI, a powerhouse five-piece band featuring veteran musicians with deep roots in Classic Rock ('60s-'90s) and R&B—plus plenty of surprises. Tsunami is appearing at Aromas Grange on Sunday, March 23. Voted Best Local Band in the 2021 Santa Cruz Good Times poll, Tsunami delivers unforgettable performances of the songs everyone knows and loves. Renowned for extraordinary guitar work, a dynamic rhythm section, and three powerhouse lead vocalists, their rich harmonies and electrifying stage presence set them apart. Each band member has left their mark on the music scene, performing with acts like Bananarama and The White Album Ensemble. Don't miss this chance to experience Tsunami live!

IN MEMORY

Charles "Charlie" Shockey

Charles "Charlie" Shockey, the beloved long-time proprietor of La Casa Rosa in San Juan Bautista, California, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2025, in Sonoma, California, after a brief illness.

Born in San Francisco to Joseph and Elizabeth Shockey, Charlie spent more than four decades preserving and enriching the legacy of his family's historic restaurant, becoming a cherished figure in the community.

Raised in Concord, California, he attended Mt. Diablo High School before studying Hotel Management at San Francisco City College.

Before making San Juan Bautista his home, Charlie lived in San Francisco, where he worked as Assistant Manager at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel and for Mannings Incorporated. In 1966, he married Linda Hines at St. Vincent de Paul in San Francisco, marking the beginning of a lifelong journey centered around family and hospitality.

In 1964, his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth,



purchased La Casa Rosa, a local gem renowned for its rich history and culinary charm. In 1973, Charlie and Linda took over the restaurant, ensuring its traditions remained alive and thriving.

Later in life, Charlie worked at Casa de Fruta in Hollister, California, where he enjoyed his co-workers & meeting people from all over the world. Throughout his life, his love of good food and great conversation made him a favorite among those who knew him. His warmth, kindness, charm, and signature dance moves never failed to bring smiles to those around him. He had a way of making everyone feel welcome, and his vibrant spirit will be deeply missed.

Charlie spent his final months in Sonoma, California. He is survived by his children, Jennifer (Laurel Sanders), Erin, and Michael Shockey; his former spouse and dear friend, Linda Shockey; his brother, Patrick Shockey; his sister, Liz (Denis) Cullumber; and his nieces and nephew, Michele Shockey, Danielle Shockey, Amy Heer, Katherine Wiggins, and Thomas Shockey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Elizabeth Shockey, and his sister-in-law, Michele Shockey.

In his honor, kindly light a candle and remember him with a warm meal, a heartfelt conversation, or a dance.

—Published by Hollister Free Lance

IN MEMORY

Joey Tanner-Anglin

October 2, 2013 – February 12, 2025

In loving memory of the most unique dog in the world—Joey—who passed away at the age of 11. Known for his brilliant personality, human-like eyes, and wise spirit, he was the heart and soul of his family, captivating everyone he met with his one-of-a-kind looks. "What is he?!" exclaimed every dog lover we passed. We will never know what breed he was, but one thing is certain—there will never be another like him.

His unwavering devotion to his owner, Jarae, was unmatched—always by her side, providing comfort and companionship through every phase of her life. From the wild Los Angeles days of her early twenties to giving emotional support while Jarae took care of her grandmother, to getting married, and welcoming her first baby, Joey was there. He was her first baby, the one who taught her how to love and nurture another being. Joey taught Jarae more than he will ever know.



His little brother, Jethro, and his daddy, Daniel, deeply feel his absence.

Joey lived a life full of adventure, with countless hiking and camping trips and travels across the U.S.—a true road doggie.

Rest in paradise, our sweet baby JoJo. You are missed deeply. ■

BENITOLINK

BenitoLink reaches out to local youth

By Suzanne Soares

BenitoLink Marketing Intern

On January 16, BenitoLink participated in Anzar High School's career fair. Alongside BenitoLink, there were representatives from 20 colleges, 47 industry partners and four military branches. Nearly 500 students ranging between sixth and 12th grade from the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District attended the event, which allowed students to interact with professionals from a range of industries.

BenitoLink provided flyers, brochures and various giveaways to students, including "stress balls." BenitoLink's representatives — lead reporter Noe Magaña and features reporter/sales coordinator Jenny Mendolla Arbizu — talked with the students about the different roles in a newsroom. Students showed interest in photography and videography.

BenitoLink's internship program helps students develop important employable skills in many aspects of news production. Internship positions include reporting, photography/videography, marketing/social media, business administration and research. BenitoLink offers interns flexible hours, typically five to



20 hours per week. The program gives students the opportunity to build a professional portfolio with examples of their work. Internships are paid positions, offered year-round, and run between eight to 12 weeks.

BenitoLink is a nonprofit news organization in its 14th year of covering San Benito County. It is community supported and funded by Taylor Farms/Earthbound Farms, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation ATT Golf Tour, Emma Bowen Foundation and United for San Benito. BenitoLink will participate in the Youth Expo on March 1 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Hollister. This free event is open to the public to discover what youth activities are offered in San Benito County.

If interested in the internship program, please send your resume to noemagana@benitolink.com or moismail@benitolink.com. Applicants can also mail their resume to the BenitoLink office at 615 San Benito Street, Suite 201, Hollister, CA 95023. ■

Luna Gallery to host exhibition of Indigenous art

The photographic exhibition and documentary film screening—previously debuted at de Young Museum of Fine Art, San Francisco, 2023/24—"Contemporary Indigenous Voices of California's South Coast Range" will be hosted by Luna Gallery and Eco Art Studio in San Juan Bautista. The exhibition runs from March 15 - April 27th. This exhibition of portraits and documentary film by Kirti Bassendine features Indigenous community members from the South Coast Range: the San Francisco peninsula through the Santa Cruz mountains, Monterey Bay, and lower Salinan Valley. Bassendine's photographs are accompanied by powerful personal statements from Native community members calling attention to cultural connections to the land, the relationship between Indigenous people and their ancestral land, and climate change. By bringing so many Indigenous voices together, she creates a unique experience for audiences to engage with these ideas themselves.

The ten participating tribes include: Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, Confederated Vil-



Linda Yamane, Master Ohlone Basket Weaver and member of Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Community

lages of Lisjan, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, Tamien Nation, Indian Canyon Chualar Tribe of the Costanoan-Ohlone People, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Community, Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties, and the Salinan T'rowt'raahl Tribal Communities. "We are here, we have always been here," is the fundamental message.

Special events take place on March 15, 2025, a free reception at the gallery from 4 - 6 pm followed by the film at 7 pm at El Teatro Campesino, EventBrite tickets required for limited seating at the film. <https://shorturl.at/86q6K>. And during April, a series of workshops on Thursday nights, sponsored by the San Benito Arts Council. More info at lunagallery.art ■



ARTS

Spring welcomes the vibrant San Juan Bautista Art and Craft Festival on March 29 and 30

As spring blooms, get ready for the highly anticipated San Juan Bautista Art & Craft Festival, returning to the historic downtown on March 29 and 30. This beloved annual event transforms the charming streets into a bustling showcase of creativity, featuring over 100 talented artisans, a variety of food vendors, and exciting family-friendly entertainment.

Stroll through the festival and explore handcrafted treasures, including beautifully designed jewelry, stylish fashion pieces, unique home décor, garden accessories, intricate woodcarvings, and mouthwatering gourmet treats. Whether you're searching for a one-of-a-kind gift or simply enjoying a leisurely weekend, there's something for everyone.

Food lovers rejoice! Savor a diverse selection of delicious offerings, from classic American BBQ to Greek, Mexican, and Thai cuisine. Enjoy fresh-squeezed lemonade, yummy snow cones, and irresistible kettle corn—guaranteed to delight all ages. Plus, families can look forward to pony rides, face painting,



and other fun-filled activities for kids.

Weekend Entertainment Schedule

1030am – 1pm | DJ E. Pokie

1:30pm – 5pm | El Brick

Event Details

Location: Third Street, downtown San Juan

Bautista

Dates: Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30

Hours: 10am – 6pm on Saturday, 10am – 5pm on Sunday

Admission is free, and limited free parking is available. ■

SBALT NEWS

Stewarding the land for future generations

By Laura Kirschmann

Growing up, every fall my family gathered in the orchards to pick walnuts. I would go to school with green-stained hands darkened by the husks – a mark of the season's work. My grandmother, uncle, and father instilled in me a respect for the land. They tended the trees, knowing the importance of keeping the orchards healthy. Today, as I see those same trees aging and the land changing hands, I reflect on what it means to be a steward -- not just for one harvest and not just for a few acres of walnut trees but for the lasting connection between people and the land.

Caring for the land goes beyond simply protecting it. It's about actively nurturing it so that future generations can enjoy its beauty, resources, and wildlife. At the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT), stewardship is at the heart of everything we

do. It means rolling up our sleeves to restore habitats, remove invasive species, maintain trails, and ensure that conserved lands remain healthy and productive.

Of course, land stewardship has its challenges: funding, engaging the community, and managing access in a way that balances public enjoyment with conservation goals. Changing environmental conditions and limited staffing also make this work complex. One thing is certain -- effective stewardship is not done alone. It takes partnerships, collaboration, and a shared commitment to protecting the lands of San Benito County.

This is why we are thrilled to have initiated a conservation effort that recently completed the first step in permanently protecting the 586-acre San Antonio Ranch in San Juan Bautista. The Conservation Fund, with financial support from the Wildlife Conservation Network and Peninsula Open



SBALT has initiated a conservation effort that recently completed the first step in permanently protecting the 586-acre San Antonio Ranch in San Juan Bautista.

Space Trust, acquired the ranch from its 100-year-long former owner, the Breen Family. Now, SBALT must raise the funds to acquire and steward this land. With our community's generosity, we will succeed and, thereby, support our local ranchers, expand a critical wildlife corridor linking the Gabilan Range to the Santa Cruz Mountains, and take a step forward in preserving the

natural beauty of our county.

Are you interested in being part of this work? Visit sanbenitolandtrust.org to learn more about the lands we protect, donate toward long-term stewardship, or join us for our monthly Ranch Days to see stewardship in action. Every effort, big or small, makes a difference. Together, we can keep our landscapes thriving. ■

DEARLY DENOTED

Para Bui Mor Mhacseoidin

This famous memorial is located at Ballymascanlon Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland. The plot is on the golf course of the Ballymascanlon Hotel, by the fifth hole.

According to legend, Mhacseoidin was a Scottish giant who came to Ireland to challenge Finn McCool. His tomb is said by archaeologists to be, in fact, a dolmen grave of 3000 BC. However the capstone weighs 47 tons, and might well have required a giant to lift it in place. ■



VUE A LA LOO

The 'Top Toilet in Ireland'



According to the version of events we were told, Cork County Council issued a request for proposals to build a new toilet block. Several submissions came in, a decision was made, and a contract was eventually signed (or maybe not). About a year later, the Council received an invoice from the architect/builder/supplier that was shockingly high.

Stunned, they immediately sent someone out to Gougane Barra to figure out what was happening. Upon seeing the finished project – a striking blend of

ancient Iron Age design and modern interior touches – he was left speechless. He reportedly sent a note to his boss saying something like, "I thought we ordered a simple toilet block, not a bloody space-age tribal hut!!"

The Council considered taking action, but then the toilet won an award for "Top Toilet in Ireland." Of course, word spread quickly in Cork, and for years afterward, people were traveling to Gougane Barra not to visit the ancient monastery, but to see the pricey, award-winning toilet. ■ *Original source: irishimbashbooks.com*

id-i-om

Å være midt i smørøyet

To be in the middle of the butter eye

This Nordic expression might sound like gibberish at first, but it makes more sense when placed within the context of a hot bowl of porridge. To be a dollop of butter melting in porridge means to be in a very favorable place or position, similar to the English expression "having it made in the shade." ■



Irish Mythology Podcast

Marcas Ó Huiscin and Stephanie Ní Thiarnaigh adapt and retell famous, and not so famous stories from Irish Mythology and Folklore. Each episode features a dramatic reading of one of these tales, along with a deep dive into the original versions of the stories.



Finally! A Show About Women

(That Isn't Just a Thinly Veiled Aspirational Nightmare). Each episode follows a different woman walking through a day in their life, which usually becomes a space where they describe and discuss their worldview on their own terms. The opening missives have included a Pike's Fish Market worker who happens to be a folk singer, an Instagram-prominent octogenarian calendar girl, and, of course, a celebrity. Created by Jane Marie, and Joanna Solotaroff. "Finally! A Show" focuses simply on the texture of the subjects' lives — and quietly celebrating the very simple fact of their existence.



Endel

Endel is an audio app that creates personalised soundscapes that match your activities. With the help of artificial intelligence, the app helps you to enhance focus, sleep, relax, and power you through activities. It reacts to inputs such as the time of day, weather, heart rate and your location. They also state that Neuroscience shows that Endel consistently improves focus and lowers stress.



DailyArt

Every day get a one piece of fine art with a short story about it, and explore our vast catalogue of more than 3800 artworks, 1200 artists, 600 museums and galleries. Art history is an amazing thing. We want it to be popular and understood among masses. Often in the museums and galleries you can find difficult (and boring) descriptions of the artworks, which are nor informative, nor educative. With DailyArt we want to share art history stories in the most interesting and digestible way.



GOING POSTAL

Freshwater Fishing Lures

Celebrate the beauty and ingenuity of some of America's most successful freshwater fishing lures with this colorful pane of 20 Forever® stamps featuring five different, close-up photographs of five popular lures. The collection is a sampling of modern fishing lures used in different environments.

Given the many choices open to anglers, there is truly a fishing lure for any occasion. Whether in lakes, streams, or rivers, a fisherman or fisherwoman can catch just about any target if they have the right tools.

Every freshwater fishing lure has a unique history, and each has played a sig-

nificant role in the evolution of fishing as a sport. From the earliest handmade wooden lures to swimbaits made of modern materials, there are countless freshwater lures available, each designed to meet the specific needs of the angler.

Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps using original photographs by Sarah Cramer Shields. Greg Breeding is a graphic designer and principal of Journey Group, a design company he co-founded in 1992, located in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was creative director until 2013, at which time he began serving as president and continued in that role through 2023.

The Freshwater Fishing Lures stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps. These Forever® stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail® one-ounce price. This captivating pane will be released March 13, 2025, but is available now by pre-order at usps.com. ■





ARTS Arts Council announces \$250,000 Uplift Grant for creative workforce development

We are excited to announce that we have been selected as one of 36 grantees in a competitive grant program to advance economic resilience, sustainability and growth across the Central Coast. Administered by Uplift Central Coast, the Catalyst Predevelopment Funding Program is part of Governor Newsom's California Jobs First Initiative, which utilizes a "regions-up" approach to supporting the development of good-paying jobs and investing in economic development in a variety of sectors.

The San Benito County Arts Council, along with our lead partners the Arts Council for Santa Cruz County and Arts Council Monterey County, will use Catalyst funding to identify and develop workforce pathways for visual and performing arts teachers in the tri-county region.



Teaching artists work in coordination with the San Benito Arts Council to implement workforce pathways.

This grant is timely in its response to the historic passage of Proposition 28, the Art and Music in the Schools Act, in November 2022 which sets aside approximately \$1B annually for arts education in California public schools.

By engaging local school districts, county offices of education, community colleges, higher education institutions and artists in our region, this project will find ways to train and upskill local artists and teachers to prepare them for these "good jobs"... local jobs that include full-time salaries, health benefits and retirement.

"Over the years, we have done an incredible job in advocating for and growing arts education programs in our local schools and helping districts fulfill their commitment to provide every student, grade TK-12th grade, with a comprehensive arts education as required by the CA State Department of Education," said Jennifer Laine, Executive Director of the San Benito County Arts Council. "Prop 28 has created sustainable funding for arts education and now is the time to deeply invest in this workforce."

If you would like to learn more or be involved in this project, please contact the Arts Council at info@sanbenitoarts.org or 831.636.2787. ■



RAFFLES! FOOD! TEATRO!
SURPRISES! GAMES! ENTERTAINMENT!
FAMILY FUN!

TEATRO FAMILY DAY FUNDRAISER!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
12PM - 4PM**

**EL TEATRO CAMPESINO PLAYHOUSE
705 FOURTH ST. SAN JUAN BAUTISTA. CA 95045**

www.elteatrocampesino.com



Horse Boarding

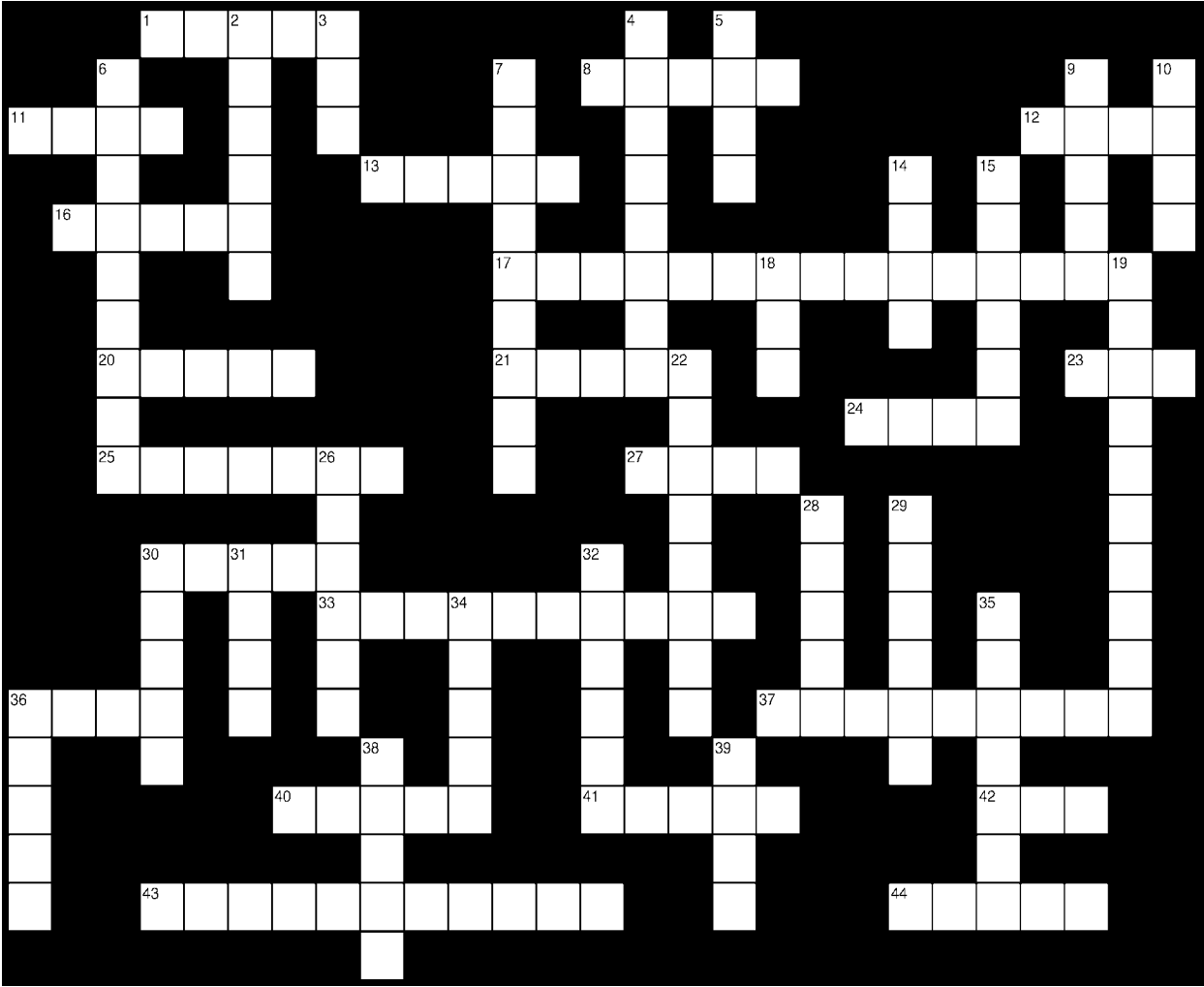
Pasture horse boarding available for one mare or gelding. Grass/alfalfa hay fed twice a day.

Contact Judith:
judith@randomarts.biz
or 408 425-7873

Mission Village VOICE PASTIMES



CROSSWORD IS YOUR NUMBER UP? by Carlinka



ACROSS

- 1 Highly skilled
- 8 Hang loosely
- 11 They're in sockets
- 12 ++Easy pieces
- 13 ++Dressed to the
- 16 Quiz answer
- 17 ++All day, all week
- 20 Onion peeler's woe
- 21 Little Hooter
- 23 ++ __way street
- 24 "LOL"
- 25 "OMG"
- 27 ++Love potion #

30 ++Penny opera

- 33 ++Gun in a Western
- 36 ++Horsemen of the apocalypse
- 37 ++Overjoyed
- 40 ++Year itch
- 41 ++Beetle's " __days a week"
- 42 ++Back to square
- 43 ++The ol' variety store
- 44 ++Sheets to the wind

DOWN

- 2 ++7 plus __for craps
- 3 ++To tango
- 4 False appearance

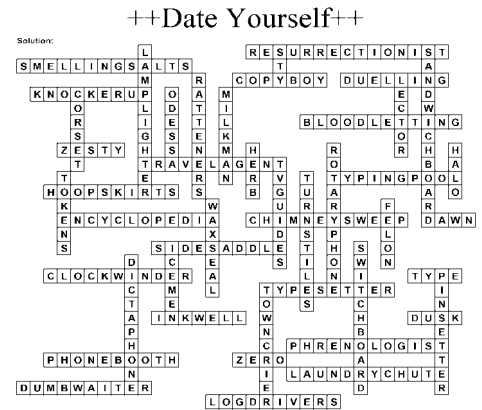
5 ++Leaf clover

- 6 ++Hands on the wheel
- 7 ++Jump Street
- 9 Airline seat choice
- 10 ++ __tolerance
- 14 Days gone by
- 15 Port city in Russia
- 18 Pocket- watch accessory
- 19 ++Workday
- 22 ++An unlucky number?
- 26 ++"Just a moment.."
- 28 Studio stand
- 29 Grew like a weed
- 30 ++Given the __degree

- 31 Hurry
- 32 Catch sight of
- 34 ++Minutes in heaven
- 35 ++CB lingo for gotcha

- 36 ++Shades of Grey
- 38 __-garde
- 39 Pork serving

Last month's puzzle solution



HOROSCOPE MARCH 2025 by Hilda De Anza



ARIES
March 21-April 20
So many things will be changing in the months to come, and March gives a taste of things to come. You are joined by someone you have a non-romantic relationship with, and you will be involved through thick and thin for many weeks to come.



TAURUS
April 21 -May 21
In March there is a major emphasis on challenges, which either affect specific friends or groups. This trend is strong at the lunar eclipse on March 14th, which highlights collective suffering in one way or another.



GEMINI
May 22-June 21
Early March you move your focus towards social engagement. You join forces with someone who is close to your heart and who may need some guidance. During this month and next you will be closely aligned. There are monumental changes taking place.



CANCER
June 22-July 22
You are in the finishing stretch of a 7-month with Mars traveling through your sign which was emotional. This month, your efforts get a real boost, and you begin to channel your energy constructively. You are on the verge of a major transformation in your professional life.



LEO
July 23-August 22
You discover alternative approaches that help you in both your personal and professional life. There is a considerable change of emphasis after March 20th when you emerge from a rather disorienting period and start to long for open horizons.



VIRGO
August 23-September 22
Developments in your intimate life which give you a sense that things are preordained. Around mid-March you meet someone who can benefit from your ideas and guidance, and this leads to a change of plan, because you both have a part to play in resolving unresolved matters.



LIBRA
September 23 - October 22
Expect significant developments in relations with the outside world. Over the next two

years, you will be relating to a completely different set of people, and this will bring both challenges and opportunities. Fortunately, you are joined by an enthusiastic companion in March, and you will be on a journey together.

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21
You get recognition for your efforts and key events take place at the lunar eclipse on the 14th, bringing a new set of circumstances. End March your focus moves away from work and towards resolving emotional issues with people who are close to your heart.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 21
From March to June, there will be many changes. There are promising developments. The lunar eclipse on the 14th heralds an important family development creating long-term stability. This is the beginning of the end of challenging circumstances for the family.

CAPRICORN

December 22-January 20
This is a great time for receiving the fruits of educational and communication efforts that you have been making in recent years. You get recognition and rewards, and strong relationships are cemented with partners, mentors, neighbors and fellow travelers. Towards the end of March home life is reshuffled. Imagine you are wild water rafting and go where the current takes you.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19
You can expect some stimulating encounters this month. You are ready to learn something new, but March and April bring so much up of a practical nature that you must attend to, that it will not be before May that you can really start embracing new challenges.

PISCES

February 20-April 19
The lunar eclipse on March 14th falls in your opposing sign Virgo, and this highlights major developments in relationships. This brings fruition efforts in your group or collective to form something strong and resilient. More stability is established, enabling you to move on to a new phase in your life.

#THE GOLDEN AGE

Pots o' gold for my Goldens!

By Leanne Oliveira

"Youth is a gift of nature, but age is a work of art." – Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Golden freebies galore! My program (www.SanBenitoADRC.org) has sharps and medication return envelopes, ramps, walkers, shower benches, toilet/mattress rails, and more. The Red Cross (www.SoundTheAlarm.org/NorCalCoastal) has smoke alarms, Recology and Starbucks have free compost for my fellow gardeners, and Museums4All (www.Museums4All.org) grants food assistance recipients admission to many attractions including the Aquarium, and seniors enjoy free classes at SJB's Senior Center (408-337-7816), YMCA/Sunrise Apartments (831-637-8600), and Jovenes de Antaño (831-637-6757).

Consider these free services by local NPOs: Project SCOUT (www.SeniorsCouncil.org/project-scout) has tax prep/ITIN and CalFresh enrollments, Senior Network Services (www.SeniorNetworkServices.org) offers unbiased Medicare help, Health Projects Center (www.HPCN.org/ECM) offers wrap-around supports including housing and

caregiving placement, and Senior Legal Services (www.SeniorLegal.org) assists with Power of Attorney, SSI/SSDI, Fraud/Scams, Tenant issues, and more.

GOLDEN TIP

Library services are always free including clubs (puzzles, chess, bridge, knitting), classes (art, music, cooking, genealogy, ESL), and goodies like telescopes, binoculars, Wi-Fi hotspots, and State Park passes. Tired of paying for digital content? Use your library card on free apps Hoopla and Libby for eBooks, magazines, audiobooks, music, TV, and movies where available. While some libraries (Watsonville on Tues/Thurs, Gilroy on Mondays) have standing walk-in times for Tech Help to assist with your devices and software, others (Hollister, SJB, Prunedale) require an appointment.

GOLDEN EVENTS (RSVPs Required)

Del Mar Caregiver hosts Caregiver University 3/1 in Seaside and a Caregiver Support Group + "Legal Issues & Considerations" with guest Senior Legal Services 3/26 at the Epicenter (RSVP 800-624-8304). 3/8 Twin Oaks hosts a "Financial & Estate Planning"



Valentine's Celebrations at the Watsonville Senior Center included dancing, food, and a photo booth. (Pic courtesy Antonio Rivas)

workshop (RSVP 831-800-2334). 3/8: Jovenes de Antaño's Casino Trip (\$50, RSVP 831-637-9275). 3/13: SJB's Senior Center Ribbon Cutting with vendors at Windmill Plaza B-5 (RSVP 831-262-3484). 3/18: Stroke Survivor Support Group at the Epicenter (RSVP 831-801-9095). 3/28: Alzheimer's Association's virtual "Ask The Doctor" Q&A (RSVP www.tinyurl.com/AskDctrMar28) plus more at www.Alz.org/CRF. ■

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



(L-R) Legal Advocate Teri Adams and her Supervising Attorney Rosalina Nunez of Senior Legal Services (www.SeniorLegal.org) presented at a recent meeting of the Hollister Rotary Club.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's isn't always easy.
Cuidar a alguien con Alzheimer no siempre es fácil.



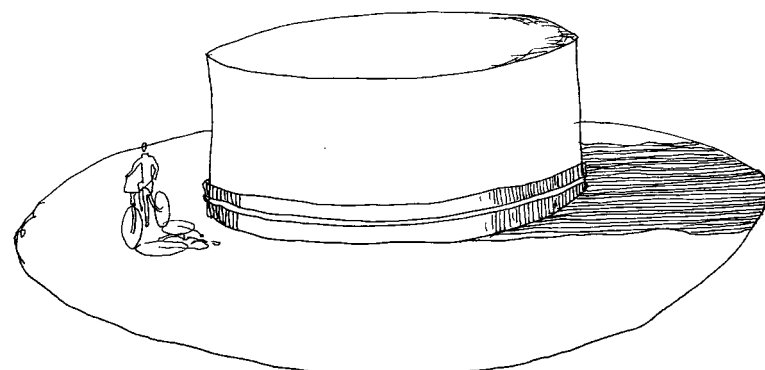
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Did you know San Benito County's senior population has surged by 67% since 2010? Many face challenges like social isolation, which poses serious health risks. By volunteering, you can make a meaningful impact in their lives, as well as your own.

While our focus includes supporting seniors, San Benito Connect also highlights opportunities to volunteer in other meaningful ways. For example:

- **Help prepare tax returns for local residents.**
- **Volunteer at the local food bank to support families in need.**
- **Get involved with other community organizations to make an impact across San Benito County.**

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



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

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