

# Mission Village **VOICE**

## Challenging ageism

Volunteers prove that  
age doesn't diminish value  
— See page 12





San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Presents:



# EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

## SATURDAY

## APRIL 19, 2025

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# Mission Village VOICE

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## A note for our readers

## We're having another Dance Party!

Our 3.2.1 Dance Party was a total blast. Everyone danced like it was 1999! DJ Gallo played all the dance classics from the 70's - 90's + requests.

**Next Dance Party:  
Friday May 16th  
6-9-ish  
SJB VFW**

Bring your own snacks  
Cash Bar  
See you there!



## On the cover

*The Mystic Lamb* by artist Judy Gittelsohn. This piece represents "both the suffering and triumphant aspects of our delicate nature," said Gittelsohn. For more information, see page 11.

## Sip, Savor Celebrate

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Saturday, May 10, 2025, 3-6PM  
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SBHF's providers, staff & family at SJB Rotary's Rainbow Run.

## SBHF NEWS

# San Benito Health Foundation "Walks its Talk"

Since the very beginning, San Benito Health Foundation has been a committed partner in SJB Rotary's Rainbow Run fundraiser. Not only has it been a Community Champion Sponsor for the annual event, its providers and staff have been instrumental in its creation and success.

Dr. Erika Ceballos eagerly signed up to be Co-Chair when fellow Rotarian, Jessie O'Malley Solis brought the idea to the Rotary Club. She said, "There are not many events that support the LGBT community and as a member of this community, I wanted to help create a fun event that celebrates youth, diversity and inclusion." Dr. Ceballos suggested giving some of the proceeds to San Benito County's Esperanza Center, one of the few local resources assisting teens and young adults with mental health issues. For Erika, the Rainbow Run is about helping youth and inviting families to enjoy some exercise and get to know San Juan Bautista.

Of course, part of "walking the talk" is the actual walking or running. SBHF believes encouraging physical activity is fundamental to building a healthy community. It's a key message that long-time runner, Dr. Javier Sotomayor enthusiastically shares with his patients. "It is very important to make time for doing recreational activities that move your body and work your heart and lungs. This is good for your physical & mental health and general wellbeing." Dr. Sotomayor is a veteran of running races and he offers these simple tips for those participating in the Rainbow Run—take the time beforehand to stretch, eat healthy and drink water (before, during and after). And he says, "If it's your first 5K, the most important thing is to enjoy it!"



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## #BOOKWORM

# Literary wellness resources

By Leanne Oliveira

*"It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world."* - Mary Oliver, *Invitation*

First, huge thanks to local artist Judith Ogus, a #Bookworm fan who recently plied Anne Caetano and me with reading recommendations, delighted dogs, tasty tea - and one heck of a celebratory cheese platter.

April has the most literary holidays including Columnist's Day, Library Workers Day, Library Week, and - drum roll, please - my birthday! Keep the celebration going with tea, dog treats, and birthday cupcakes at our monthly Friends (SBCFriends.org) Used Book sale 4/12 behind the Hollister Library 9-11:30 AM, weather permitting. Special thanks to my friend Monica Leon ([Bit.ly/BakeThatDoughOrderForm](https://bit.ly/BakeThatDoughOrderForm)) who donated freshly-baked cookies at March's sale!

More thanks to all who attended the Friends' recent Tea Party. Grateful to Jennifer Coile (who gifted my ticket) and fave restaurateurs (Farmhouse Café, Cosmos, Vertigo, the Brass Tap, and Casa de Fruta) who donated to our raffle at my request to support literacy. I hope my readers will support them in turn!

Speaking of literacy support, I was devastated to learn about the recent elimination ([tinyurl.com/IMLS-GONE](https://tinyurl.com/IMLS-GONE)) of The Institute of Museum & Library Services, which is the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services. I know many who are already suffering the impact, so I've compiled some literary wellness resources that have helped me for many years. It isn't much, but it's the best I can do for now. May they bring you some peace.

1) Podcaster Kathryn Nicolai offers a brief morning meditation (*First This*), relaxing tales (*Stories from the Village of Nothing Much*), and sleep stories (*Nothing Much Happens*) set in an adorable town not unlike SJB.

2) The Calm app's "sleep stories" are on my nightly rotation. I love narrator Erik Braa's *Nordland Night Train*, actor Ramon



Leanne Oliveira



Fun with a "Wine & Words" activity at the Friends of the SBC Free Library's (SBCFriends.org) recent Tea Party at Ridgemark.

Tikaram's *Taurus Express*, and singer Orville Peck's *Tales from the CB Radio*.

3) Maria Popova's *The Marginalian* (The-Marginalian.org) offers solidarity in the form of slick ruminations and decadent literary genius. I love its "Midweek Sanity Oasis" e-newsletter.

4) *The Simple Things* is a monthly UK magazine featuring "mindfulness and microadventures, forgotten wisdom, and slow moments." I love the unconventional recipes and the focus on stories, poems, tea (not coffee!), and pets (not kids!). Tip: Borrow free on Libby or request the pricey print version (£145) as an annual holiday gift. *Thanks, Mom!*

## BIPOC LIVES MATTER

Consider a list of 2025 books by Asian & Pacific Islanders ([tinyurl.com/AAPIBookworm](https://tinyurl.com/AAPIBookworm)) or the African American Literature Book Club's ongoing list of 171 bookstores specializing in African-American authors (AALBC.com).

## CLUB #BOOKWORM (est. 2016)

Currently reading Sarah Rose Etter's horror-thriller *Ripe* about a female Silicon Valley tech executive, chosen by Jillian Wilson.

## COUNTY LIBRARY (HOLLISTER)

Now offering D&D, Chair Yoga, and more. Info: SBCFL.org.

## HILLS BOOKSTORE

Fun planned for Indie Bookstore Day (4/26) and more at HillsBookstore.com.

## LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Happy School Library Month, International Children's Book Day 4/2, Right to Read Day 4/7, National Library Week 4/6-4/12, Library Worker's Day 4/8, Drop Everything and Read Day 4/12, Columnists Day 4/18, National Tell-A-Story Day 4/27, and Independent Bookstore Day 4/26. Birthday Babies: Anne McCaffrey 4/1, Hans Christian Andersen 4/2, Beverly Cleary 4/12, Shakespeare 4/23, and Harper Lee 4/28.

## MESSNER AT STEINBECK

The Steinbeck Center hosts Michael Messner (*The High School*) 4/12. Register at Steinbeck.org.

See #BOOKWORM, page 7





Cover crops play a critical role in sustainable agriculture by improving soil health, preventing erosion, and controlling pests and diseases.

## SBALT NEWS

# Earth Day: The importance of cover crops

By Candy Coleman, PR/Events Committee Member, and Laura Kirschmann

Since 1970, Earth Day has been a global call to action -- a day dedicated to raising environmental awareness and inspiring communities to protect our planet. At SBALT, every day is Earth Day as we partner with farmers and ranchers to conserve the lands that sustain us. These working landscapes provide more than food; they safeguard clean water, wildlife habitat, fresh air, open space, and the natural resources vital to our future.

One important conservation practice that supports both agriculture and the environment is the use of cover crops. These crops play a critical role in improving soil health, reducing erosion, and enhancing soil fertility -- key factors in sustainable farming.

### Reducing Soil Erosion and Protecting Waterways

Cover crops help protect soil by reducing both the rate and quantity of water runoff from fields, which in turn prevents sediment and nutrients from washing into waterways. Their biomass creates a protective layer between rainfall and the soil surface, allowing water to filter more gradually into the ground. Additionally, the extensive root systems of cover crops help anchor soil in place, increasing soil structure and porosity while creating habitat for beneficial soil organisms.

### Enhancing the Soil Fertility with Green Manure

Certain cover crops, known as "green manure," are specifically grown to improve soil fertility. These crops absorb nutrients—particularly nitrogen—during their growth cycle. When incorporated back into the soil,

they release these nutrients, enriching the soil and improving conditions for future crops.



This Earth Day, join us in celebrating our agricultural lands—not just as sources of food, but as essential landscapes that provide watershed benefits, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and open spaces for all to enjoy. To learn more about our conservation work, visit us at [www.sanbenitolandtrust.org](http://www.sanbenitolandtrust.org) and be sure to visit our booth in downtown Hollister on April 19.

Sources: USDA/Wikipedia

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## ARTS

# Set sail with 'Moana Jr.' at San Benito Stage Company

Disney's Moana Jr. will be playing at San Benito Stage Company on May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17. The 60-minute musical adventure is based on the 2016 Disney film Moana. The cast includes 38 students led by Director Adrienne Summers, Vocal Director Julia Prak, and Choreographer Casandra Guerrero.

"We have an amazing cast of talented young performers, ages 6-14 who have been working incredibly hard to bring this inspiring tale to life. Their dedication and passion shine through every rehearsal! I can't wait for our community to experience the magic of Moana Jr!" -Director Adrienne Summers.

You'll love this thrilling and heartwarming stage adaptation of the coming-of-age tale of Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage. She and the demigod Maui embark on an epic journey of self-discovery and camaraderie as she learns to harness the power that lies within. Adapted for young performers, this musical includes favorite songs by Tony®, GRAMMY, Emmy, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa'i, and Mark Mancina, such as "How Far I'll Go," "Shiny,"



and "You're Welcome."

To purchase tickets please visit [www.sanbenitostage.org](http://www.sanbenitostage.org).

Disney's Moana Jr. is presented through special arrangement and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International.

With passion and heart, the San Benito Stage Company provides performing arts experiences that enrich the lives of its members and patrons. By providing educational opportunities in acting, dance, voice and technical theatre, SBSC promotes theatre arts and community involvement through the challenge of creating theatrical productions.

San Benito Stage Company is located at 549 San Benito St.

Show times are: May 2, 3, 9, 16- 7pm and May 10, 17- 1pm & 7pm ■







# San Benito County Bingo for Boomsticks!

Thursday, May 15th, 2025  
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## WILL COOK FOR WINE

# Roasted Boneless Leg of Lamb

By Chef Liz



This roasted lamb is the perfect, succulent Easter delight! It's super easy -- with just a few ingredients -- but will look great on your Easter table. Serve with scalloped potatoes, oven-roasted asparagus or broccoli, a green salad and crusty loaf of bread for a memorable Easter feast.

**Ingredients**  
5 cloves garlic, minced  
2 tbsp lemon juice, freshly squeezed  
3 tbsp fresh rosemary, chopped  
1 tbsp Dijon mustard  
2 tsp olive oil  
1 1/4 tsp kosher salt, more or less to taste  
fresh ground black pepper  
3 1/2 - 4 lb uncooked trimmed lamb leg, boneless, rolled and tied

**Method**  
Preheat oven to 375oF. Line a roasting pan with aluminum foil for easy cleanup.  
Combine garlic, rosemary, lemon juice, mustard, olive oil, salt and pepper; mix well and rub mixture all over lamb.  
Roast in the oven until medium-

rare and a meat thermometer inserted in center reads 135-140F, anywhere from 70 minutes and up depending on the size of your roast.  
Remove the lamb and let it rest about 15 minutes on a cutting board. Keep in mind the temperature will increase a few degrees once it rests.  
Slice lamb into 1/4-inch thick slices and place on a serving platter.  
Did you make this recipe? Let me know how you liked it! email your pics and thoughts to me at cremecake@sbc-global.net. Also, let me know if there are any recipes you'd like to see in future columns! ■



## DEARLY DENOTED

# Jack London

Jack London was more than just a journalist and author—he was an adventurer, a visionary, and a devoted farmer. Enchanted by the beauty of Sonoma Valley, which he fondly called the "Valley of the Moon," he dreamed of building a sustainable farm where he and his wife, Charmian, could put down lasting roots. His beloved estate became a state park in 1960, preserving 39 acres of history, including a museum, the ruins of his grand Wolf House, and his final resting place.

Jack London's gravesite is a simple yet poignant tribute. Nestled beneath a moss-covered granite stone and enclosed by a weathered picket fence, the site is a quiet, unassuming sanctuary where he and Charmian rest together, forever part of the land they cherished. ■

Photo by Jeff Hester via socalhiker.net.





## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Community Foundation Epicenter marks three years of service

Celebrating its three-year anniversary, the Community Foundation Epicenter in downtown Hollister has become a central hub for nonprofits in San Benito County. Opened in 2022, this two-story, over 9000-sq. ft. building houses the Community Foundation and 10 other nonprofit organizations, fostering community, collaboration, and growth. With four versatile meeting rooms, including the intimate San Felipe room and the spacious San Andreas Conference Room, the Epicenter supports nonprofits in fulfilling their missions and addressing the community's needs.



The building was constructed by local builders Darin and Derek Del Curto of Del Curto Brothers Construction, aided by Giano Del Curto, and made possible through a generous gift from Randy and Rebecca Wolf. "[Randy] has always felt very fortunate and lucky in business and in life. He is very generous. Randy believes in giving back and helping others, which is the true meaning of philanthropy," said Rebecca Wolf at the groundbreaking ceremony in 2020.

Furnishings were donated by 11 families and individuals, creating a welcoming, tech-



enabled environment. Since its opening, the Epicenter has hosted an estimated 29,092 people and accommodates up to 16 nonprofit workspaces.

Epicenter Manager Carly Zanger highlights the space's importance for non-profit organizations seeking a central location for meetings and networking. "If an organization that serves a larger area or isn't headquartered in Hollister needs Wi-Fi or a space to drop into between client meetings, this is a hub for them," Zanger said.

One organization benefiting from the space is Catholic Charities, which lacked a full-time location before moving to the Epicenter. Disaster Case Manager Julie Roybal shared, "Having a permanent space has improved communication with our clients and allowed us to serve them better."

Looking ahead, Zanger is focused on filling the remaining workspaces and expanding the range of organizations the Epicenter supports, ensuring it remains a vital resource for the county's nonprofit community. If your organization needs a place to meet, consider the Community Foundation Epicenter for your next gathering. To contact us, call 831-630-1924 or go to GiveSanBenito.org. ■

## #BOOKWORM

Continued from page 4

### NEW RELEASES

Visit [tinyurl.com/APR25bookworm](https://tinyurl.com/APR25bookworm) for #allthethings.

### ODYSSEY RELAUNCH

A recent play, a new translation, and an upcoming movie! Info: [tinyurl.com/OdysseyRelaunch](https://tinyurl.com/OdysseyRelaunch).

### p.s. LITERARY RECIPE

I love literary-themed cookbooks, so when I ran across this quirky dip recipe from a beloved fantasy author, I had to share. Enjoy!

### URSULA K. LE GUIN'S CRAB NEBULA

Sylvia Plath's Tomato Soup Cake: *A Compendium of Classic Authors' Favourite Recipes* (2024)

Make a cream sauce with tablespoon butter, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 cup milk. Add about 1½ cup grated Tillamook cheese (or more—or less ... if you are unable to obtain Tillamook, you may use any inferior American Cheddar, but the difference will be noticeable unless you have a calloused palate). Now add about ½ pound? 2 cups? Well, add enough crab. (If you are unable to obtain Pa-

cific crab, you may use those floppy little Atlantic ones, or even lobster but if you are reduced to King crab, forget it.) Flavour with sherry to taste, salt, pepper, parsley. Serve on rice, or wild rice if you are J. Paul Getty, or English muffins, or whatever.

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



Albuquerque's Tony Hillerman Library ([ABQLibrary.org/tonyhillerman](http://ABQLibrary.org/tonyhillerman)) takes a famous book and shreds it into pieces, then sticks them in a jar and provides key lines and quotes as clues. Correct guesses win monthly prizes. (Courtesy Jennifer Coile)



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## COMMUNITY

# San Juan Bautista launches its own Junior Giants Baseball League

Registration Opens April 1st

The City of San Juan Bautista Recreation Department is proud to announce that it will be hosting its own branch of the Junior Giants league this year, bringing an exciting and completely free baseball experience to local youth. Junior Giants, a program of the Giants Community Fund, helps kids develop leadership, teamwork, and confidence through the game of baseball—no prior experience required!

Registration opens April 1st at [gojrgiants.org](http://gojrgiants.org), welcoming boys and girls ages 5-13 of all abilities and skill levels.

The City will host an in-person registration event on Thursday, May 1st, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the San Juan Bautista Community Hall (10 San Jose St, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045) to assist families who may have trouble with the online registra-

tion. Someone will be right there to guide parents and guardians through the sign-up process and answer any questions. Attendees are encouraged to bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop if they can to expedite completion of their registration on-site.

The 2024 Junior Giants season runs from June 9th to August 2nd, offering young athletes a chance to learn the game, build friendships, and develop important life skills—all at no cost to families. The league is also committed to making baseball accessible for all children and can provide accommodations for players with disabilities as needed.

Volunteer and Make a Difference! To ensure a successful season, we need volunteers to step up as coaches, assistant coaches, team parents, and game day helpers. No prior coaching experience is required—just a willingness to support local youth and help create a positive and fun environment. If you're interested in making a difference and keeping the season running smoothly, we'd love to have you on board!

Don't miss this exciting opportunity for local youth to get active, make friends, and experience the joys of baseball! Register starting April 1st at [gojrgiants.org](http://gojrgiants.org)!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact our Recreation Coordinator, Caitlin Brady, at 831-833-5755 or [recreation@san-juan-bautista.ca.us](mailto:recreation@san-juan-bautista.ca.us). ■

# FREE

Junior Giants is a **FREE** summer baseball league for boys and girls ages 5-13.

The season runs from June 9th through August 2nd.

Registration opens

# APRIL 1



City of San Juan Bautista  
Recreation Department



## SNIPPETS FROM THE MILLIKEN FILES

# The Mission Priest gets corrected by the Bishop

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

From a talk with Estolano F. Larios:

When Gracia Larios died in San Francisco along about the eighties, the family wished to have a Requiem High Mass said at Mission San Juan Bautista. Jesus Rojas, a stepson, had charge of the arrangements. He was the head of the family. Rojas sent a telegram to Estolano at Tres Pinos and he came to San Juan to attend the funeral. When the funeral party arrived at the door of the church, Father Closa would not let the body be brought into the church. It happened that Gracia had died in his sleep without confession. Jacoba, the widow, was in tears.



Unexpectedly, a buggy drove up in the Plaza in front of the corridors and out stepped Bishop Mora. Estolano recognized him and went over to speak to him. He kissed the episcopal ring. The Bishop asked for the family. Estolano told him they were all well, except his brother Gracia who had just died. Estolano explained that the family wished to have a Requiem High Mass, but that Father Closa had refused to let the body

be brought into the church. Estolano explained to the Bishop that Gracia had died in his sleep without confession.

"Wait a minute," said Bishop Mora, "I'll fix that." The Bishop entered the rooms where Father Closa lived. Pretty soon word came that the body could be taken into the church and the funeral held. A Requiem High Mass was said and the body was buried in the Larios plot. ■



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## FINANCIAL FOCUS

# Steps to take before – and after – a divorce

Going through a divorce is emotionally painful and can disrupt one's life in many ways — but does it also have to be financially devastating? Not necessarily. You can help yourself greatly by making a series of moves. Here are some to consider:

Before the divorce is final ...

- **Determine how you'll cover the cost of the divorce.** To meet the costs of a divorce, which can be tens of thousands dollars, you may need to tap in to your income stream and savings accounts, or even explore alternative options, such as borrowing from your retirement plan, if it's allowed by a divorce court judge.

- **Create a budget.** You may want to build a temporary budget. Your divorce attorney can advise you on how long your separation period may last in a contested case.

- **Start building separate bank and brokerage accounts.** Consult with your divorce attorney on ways to establish independent bank and brokerage accounts without harming your spouse.

- **Understand your retirement benefits.** Know the value of your and your spouse's 401(k) or similar plans, IRAs, pensions, stock options and other employer benefits. Also, you might need to negotiate the splitting of retirement benefits through a qualified domestic re-

lations order (QDRO). A tax professional and a financial advisor can help you understand how different QDRO proposals can affect your retirement goals.

After the divorce is final ...

- **Finish building your separate financial accounts.** You may want to close any joint accounts or credit cards, change online access to financial accounts, remove your name from bills for which you are no longer responsible and complete any agreed-upon asset transfers, such as dividing retirement assets.

- **Create a new budget.** You can now create a longer-term budget, incorporating any spouse or child support you receive as income. You may also need to adjust your spending to reflect items in the divorce agreement, such as expenses now covered by your former spouse and court-ordered responsibilities for paying college education expenses for dependent children and possibly the attorneys' fees for a former spouse.

- **Review your protection plans.** You may need to review your life, homeowners and auto insurance policies. And if you were covered under your spouse's health insurance plan, you may want to apply for COBRA to stay on that plan up to 36 months or switch to your own employer's plan, if available. If you don't have

access to an employer's health insurance, you may want to explore a marketplace plan from the Affordable Care Act or contact a health insurance broker.

- **Review your estate plans.** To reflect your new marital status, you may need to work with your legal professional to change some of your estate-planning documents, such as a will, living trust, advanced health care directive or power of attorney. Also, review the beneficiary designations on life insurance policies, IRAs,

annuities and investment accounts, as these designations can likely supersede instructions on your will or trust.

- **See your tax professional.** You may need to consult with your tax professional on issues such as changing your tax return filing status, claiming a child as a dependent and dealing with tax implications of assets received in the divorce.

Going through a divorce is not easy — but by taking the appropriate steps before and after the divorce is finalized, you can at least help put yourself in a more secure and stable financial position to begin the next phase of your life.

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

**Alexis Winder, AAMS®**  
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## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



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This space provided as a community service by Graniterock to highlight nonprofit agencies or individuals who serve our community. To be considered for this spot please contact Anne Caetano at [annecaetano@aol.com](mailto:annecaetano@aol.com).



### VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

## Speak softly and use a big stick

By Halina Kleinsmith

Over a century ago, our 26th president spoke words commensurate with these to our nation and to the world.

Referencing his vast experience as a soldier, spokesperson and politician, Teddy Roosevelt embraced his elected role by keeping an eye on political doctrines, and effectively protecting the Western hemisphere.

His many encounters groomed him to be a strong yet diplomatic figure, and it was during his tenure navigating international relations that he voiced the famous exclamation, "Speak softly and carry a big stick, and you will go far."

Subsequently referred to as 'big stick ideology', his acumen promoted using a gentle or low voice, serving to imply a calm and persuasive approach when in negotiations.

Because he took care to not be immediately brash or pushy in his dialogue, this created a pathway for diplomacy, yet with the additional possibility of an expressed willingness to apply strength when challenged.

He also knew that by solely speaking softly, it was likely you'd be bullied by the other person. This was not a time to be timid about waving your 'stick', or stressing your powerful agenda, because your adversary surely will.

By contrast, if you'd carried your 'stick' only but didn't speak softly, odds are your challenger would meet you wielding a bigger 'stick' than yours.

Through this adage, a political forum intended for world leaders to equally represent their differences was identified. In finding the platform by which their voices would be heard, globally oriented fears, flaws and insecurities became apparent, as would prejudices and criticisms, witnessed even to this day.

Within such moments of decision, the best thing we want any leader to do is the right thing; the worst thing they can do is nothing. Stick to it. ■

### VUE A LA LOO

## Ecological Restroom (0 Valiño, Spain)



Overlooking the River Miño and Deva, this restroom blends seamlessly with its natural surroundings. Constructed using locally sourced, sustainable materials like FSC-certified Galician pine, it incorporates natural ventilation and lighting to reduce energy consumption. The design also includes rainwater collection systems and energy-efficient LED lighting, consuming less than 100 watts. [yankodesign.com](http://yankodesign.com). ■

Photo credit: Héctor Santos-Díez



20th Century Vinyl | Jewelry | Clothing  
Wednesdays through Sundays 11am - 5pm  
34A Polk Street behind San Juan Bakery



## COVER ARTIST

## Judy Gittelsohn

The featured cover painting, The Mystic Lamb, is by me, Judy Gittelsohn. This piece centers on the portrait of the Lamb from The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, representing both the suffering and triumphant aspects of our delicate nature. I reimagined this altarpiece in a full polypptych titled The Adoration of the Mystic Scapegoat, drawing inspiration from the rich, multicolored history of my own family, which forms the foundation of my interpretation.

I'm a painter based in Watsonville, California. Since 2021, I've been the owner of Studio Judy G on Main Street, where I've managed the gallery, classroom, and my painting studio. As of April 1, 2025, Studio Judy G has closed, and I will be focusing on painting full-time.

Conceived and reared in Oregon, rooted in wet and solid soil, family and earth birthed me, roused me, led me, freed me, and blew this being to California. I tripped the winding path through San Francisco, stumbled through Palo Alto, and rerooted here in Watsonville.

In stages, with baby, with painting. Now, somewhat grown, I've been painting and painting... having the time of my life—or the time. It's time to unwind. I'm



closing a piece of me—the public, the pushing, the teaching and reaching. The community enthusiast is now retreating. To the easel. Easily, I go. And again, hopefully, I'll grow.

I will be painting at various undisclosed locations. You can call me to find out where. I will continue teaching individuals with special needs from HOPE Services at the Pajaro Valley Arts Porter Building, located at 280 Main Street, Watsonville. To explore my work, you can visit my website at [www.judyg.com](http://www.judyg.com) or follow me on Instagram @judy.gittelsohn. ■

## ARTS

## Indigenous voices to offer free workshops

The photo/text exhibit "Contemporary Indigenous Voices of California's South Coast Range" reveals the voices of Indigenous tribal members, their connections to culture and the land. Two tribal members will be offering free workshops at Luna Gallery to share their knowledge.

On April 3rd beginning at 6 pm Canyon Sayers-Rood, chairwoman of the Indian Canyon Chualar Tribe of the Costanoan-Ohlone People, will explore ways youth and adults can communicate through the creation of mini "Zines" (folding magazines). Canyon's "Zine" creations offer insights into local and Bay Area activism. Indian Canyon, south of Hollister is federally recognized Indian territory, established by Canyon's mother Anne Marie Sayers.

Another workshop on April 13th 2 – 4 pm will explore Fiber Dying with Local Plants. Matthew Castro, Salinan T'rowt'raahl Tribal Community, will share his knowledge of local plants and artist/photographer Kirti



Kanyon Sayers-Rood (Photo by Kirti Bassendine)

Bassendine will engage workshop participants in the use of plants in dying fiber, bridging traditional methods with local materials, Eco printing from California's native plants.

The goal is to promote cultural awareness and knowledge sharing through indigenous demonstrations using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to engage with community members in a meaningful way. This unique free workshop is limited to 18 people, register at 831-623-2783. ■

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE  
Community Bulletin Board

## Scholarship: Law Day Competition April 1

Calling all students 9th-12th grade, and Gavilan College! The Superior Court of San Benito is still accepting entries for our Law Day Competition. Submit a 250-500 word essay or a 2-minute speech about this year's theme "Out of Many, One" for an opportunity at a scholarship. Please submit your entries to [resourceteam@sanbenitocourt.org](mailto:resourceteam@sanbenitocourt.org). Email: [resourceteam@sanbenitocourt.org](mailto:resourceteam@sanbenitocourt.org)

## Grand Jury accepting applications

CIVIL GRAND JURY RECRUITMENT April 1: The Superior Court of San Benito is accepting applications for the 2025-26 Civil Grand Jury. For more information, please contact [cgj@sanbenitocourt.org](mailto:cgj@sanbenitocourt.org).

## 18th Annual Capitola Rod &amp; Custom Car Show

Attention Car Enthusiasts! Are you ready to showcase your prized possession and be part of an unforgettable automotive experience? Registration is open for the 18th annual Capitola Rod & Custom Car Show on Saturday, June 14th from 9 - 5 at the beach in Capitola Village. Choose between Gold registration at \$150 - there are only 60 spots available (which gets you a premier location) - or standard registration for \$80. To register, go to <https://www.capitolafoundation.com/vehicle-regis->

tration. Reach out to us at [info@capitolafoundation.com](mailto:info@capitolafoundation.com) for more information.

## Gilroy Assistance League 20th Anniversary Home + Garden Tour &amp; Artisan Market

The Gilroy Assistance League is excited to unveil the 2025 edition of its renowned Home + Garden Tour & Artisan Market. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the cherished Home + Garden Tour, a highlight of South Santa Clara County's annual calendar, bringing together architectural elegance, vibrant gardens, and community engagement.

Event Dates: Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Location: A scenic community in the western foothills of Gilroy (starting location revealed upon purchase) Tickets: \$40 in advance, \$45 on the day of the event. For tickets and FAQs: [GilroyAssistanceLeague.org](http://GilroyAssistanceLeague.org)

The Home + Garden Tour has long been a major fundraiser for the Gilroy Assistance League, an organization dedicated to supporting local youth. President Piper Pluckhan commented, "We're proud of the impact this event has had over the last 20 years, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to local initiatives, including \$35,000 in 2025 alone! The tour's power to unite people in giving is something we look forward to every year." ■

## COMMUNITY

## Savor the flavor at the Great San Juan Bautista Rib Cook-off April 25, 26 &amp; 27

The anticipation is over as the Great San Juan Bautista Rib Cook-off returns to captivate taste buds and ignite a three-day celebration of ribs, crafts, and music in the heart of historic San Juan Bautista.

Award-winning teams hailing from California, Nevada, Texas, Illinois, Arizona, Kentucky and Australia will serve over 8,000 pounds of succulent ribs, hot and drippin' fresh off the grill, ready for tasting. Each rib team brings their own unique flair to the competition, showcasing custom-built barbecues and distinctive setups as they vie for the title of award-winning ribs.

The official judging ceremony is slated for Saturday at 1 pm, with the muchanticipated winners' announcement on Sunday at 1 pm. Teams will vie for coveted trophies in categories such as best ribs and best sauce, in addition to contending for the esteemed People's Choice award. Festival attendees



can cast their votes on Friday and Saturday for the People's Choice accolade.

Beyond the mouth-watering ribs, festival-goers can stroll through downtown to enjoy craft creations and discover unique, one-of-a-kind gifts. Family-friendly activities include pony rides, face painting, and more.

Free Admission and Parking  
11am – 6pm Friday, April 25  
10am – 6pm Saturday, April 26  
10am – 5pm Sunday, April 27

For more information, visit [thegreatsanjuanbautistaribcookoff.net](http://thegreatsanjuanbautistaribcookoff.net). ■



## MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&amp;A

# Britt Bassoni and Corey Shaffer, San Benito Connect leaders

By Anne Caetano

**M**VV met with Britt Bassoni, Director of Special Projects for the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties, and Corey Shaffer, Community Coordinator for Senior Services Planning and Volunteer Engagement, to discuss a new volunteer initiative in San Benito County. This initiative, led by the Seniors Council in partnership with the Community Foundation for San Benito County and supported by the California Department of Aging, aims to expand volunteer opportunities and strengthen community connections.

San Benito Connect is dedicated to fostering a strong volunteer culture, ensuring people of all ages can contribute meaningfully. By emphasizing personal connections and shared experiences, the initiative seeks to create a more engaged and vibrant community. Further information, as well as opportunities to register to volunteer, can be found at [SBCVolunteers.org](http://SBCVolunteers.org).

**MVV: How is SBCVolunteers.org coming along?**

**Corey:** The website is coming along well! We're in the early stages of engaging with the public, and we're excited about the momentum we're building. Our partnership with the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center has been incredibly valuable, and they've shared great insights from their own experience. Developing a strong volunteer culture takes time, but the impact is worth the effort.

Recently, we received a message that really resonated: Volunteers don't become engaged overnight; their journey is a process of growth, commitment, and confidence. That reminder reinforces the importance of patience and persistence in building a thriving volunteer community. We're inspired by the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center's success—they rank among the top 10 nationwide, even surpassing programs in major California metro areas. Their

expertise and support have been instrumental in shaping our approach, and we're looking forward to seeing more people get involved through [SBCVolunteers.org](http://SBCVolunteers.org)!

**Why does helping someone who can't help themselves feel so rewarding?**

**Britt:** There's a different kind of connection when nothing is being asked for and nothing is being given at a cost. It's simply "my heart to your heart." Giving back creates an endorphin lift—a natural high you don't fully understand until you experience it. It fills a need within you that you didn't even know existed.

This ties into the idea of life being a series of "next acts." You know, what's next for you? Golf and other forms of recreation and relaxation are great, but why not add some community impact? With new residents moving in, there's a chance to shape this place into an even greater community than anyone

could have envisioned. Appreciating a place is one thing, but true belonging comes from contributing to it. Beyond shopping locally, ask: How can I make this a better place? How can I create a community that makes newcomers say, "This is where I want to be?"

Older adults are often seen as a burden while families with children are prioritized for economic growth. But older adults, those with skills, leadership, and a sense of civic engagement—can enrich rather than place a strain on a community. San Benito County residents, old and new, can create a more welcoming, vibrant, and dynamic place for all. Their contributions, whether through volunteerism, mentorship, or advocacy, only strengthen the community.

**How does volunteerism challenge ageism and highlight everyone's value?**

**Britt:** People often become more isolated as they age or after a life-changing event, like a stroke, that alters their sense of self. Someone who was once highly social may withdraw even though they are still the same person at heart.

This is why challenging ageism matters. Volunteerism helps prove that age doesn't diminish value—whether you're 60, 70, 80, or beyond. Everyone has something to contribute, and we must ensure they have opportunities to do so.

I volunteer to make my community better.

It is, and so am I!



Or, call us at:  
831-688-0400 x131

Get involved,  
Make a difference.

Funding for the content and production of this non-profit promotional message is provided by Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties, and the California Department of Aging. The views expressed in this advertisement do not necessarily reflect the views of the San Benito County Local Transportation Authority.

**Corey:** Programs like Meals on Wheels, which frequently utilize community volunteers, offer more than food—they also provide human connection and care. For some, the volunteer is their only visitor that day. These volunteers often notice changes, saying, "He didn't recognize me today" or "He limped to the door." Moments like this highlight why these programs are vital—not just for nourishment but also for overall well-being.

**And churches?**

**Britt:** Some churches focus inward, serving their own congregation while others take on broader missions, like helping the unhoused or supporting children. Engaging mission-driven churches is key. Often, it starts with one church, sparking a ripple effect as they share their experiences. Also, and historically, many churches have pioneered mission-driven services and social justice efforts, and doing so with volunteers from their congregations and larger neighborhoods and communities has had a

huge impact on the well-being of countless individuals and families. They represent a remarkable resource.

**Are community leaders supporting SBCVolunteers.org?**

**Corey:** Our County Supervisor, Angela Curro, has been actively engaging with communities through our Master Plan for Aging workgroups. She has done an incredible job promoting our site. Angela carries significant influence—her example alone holds weight. She connects with various groups, and through her network, more people become involved. This kind of outreach is crucial for volunteerism. As our friends at the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center would attest, many volunteers at places like food banks often join because someone personally invited them.

**You mentioned volunteering as a family.**

**Corey:** Volunteering as a family unit is incredibly powerful. I've seen how much parents want their kids to understand the value of

**"Challenging ageism matters. Volunteerism helps prove that age doesn't diminish value—whether you're 60, 70, 80, or beyond."**

**Britt Bassoni**, Director of Special Projects for the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties



community service. And what better way to teach that than by leading through action? It's great that schools incorporate community service into their curriculum—that's a step in the right direction. But beyond simply checking a box, if parents truly want their children to develop an empathetic heart, they need to show them what giving back looks like. Volunteering as a family reinforces the idea that we give first and think of ourselves afterward. Talking about generosity and compassion is one thing—practicing it together leaves a lasting impact.

#### What is the Foster Grandparent program?

**Corey:** Studies on the Foster Grandparent Program show that kids listen better when a volunteer grandparent is in the classroom—often responding more to them than their teacher. For many children, it's about respect. They're raised to listen to their grandparents, and that instinct extends to the volunteers. It's as if they're thinking, "This is my grandma telling me to sit down, so I better do it." Beyond the Foster Grandparent Program in our schools, an adopt-a-grandparent program could be incredibly valuable. With the growing older population in San Benito County and Hollister, there must be people who would love the opportunity to be around children and build those connections. Of course, some move into senior communities precisely because they don't want to be around kids, and that's perfectly fine. But for those who do want that connection, we should create opportunities. There's no downside here—nobody loses in this situation.

**How does thinking of volunteerism as a privilege change our approach?**

**Britt:** Volunteering is a privilege—not everyone has the time while juggling multiple jobs. Yet, we often frame it as an obligation, whether religious, civic, or community driven. While those motivations work for some, for many, volunteering is an honor—an opportunity to positively impact someone's life.

Volunteerism resonates differently for everyone. To engage more people, we need diverse opportunities that fit different motivations. Just as important, we should offer "rebound opportunities" so volunteers can shift roles when they're ready for a new way to give back.

In small, rural communities, many say, "I don't need to sign up—I just help my friends and neighbors." That's great! But what if we also documented it to inspire others, build stronger and more resilient community relationships, and even to apply for funding to expand or deepen our community volunteerism network?

Making volunteer efforts visible doesn't replace personal acts of kindness—it expands them. Even better, inviting a friend who usually receives help to volunteer alongside you transforms them from a passive actor or recipient to an active participant. We can all contribute something of our advice, time, energies, or expertise.

#### This is great news for San Benito County!

**Britt:** Our local staff, Corey Shaffer, and then Leanne Oliveira, of our San Benito County Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Network partnership, are both natural problem solvers, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them on board. They're the kind of people who see a challenge—like the need for a community services volunteer program and enrollment

platform—and step up to address it, and that's fantastic. Not every challenge has to stem from a problem; sometimes, it's simply an opportunity to rise to the occasion. And that's key—because so many younger people have enthusiasm

and energy, but they don't always know where to direct it. When given the right opportunity, they can channel that passion into something meaningful.

**Corey:** I feel incredibly fortunate to have so many wonderful people

in my life. Whenever I run into a challenge, I can turn to them, and they're right there with insight and support.

What greater gift is there than helping someone feel part of something bigger? ■

**RAINBOW RUN**

9:00 am - 1K | 9:30 am - 5K

Dogs on leashes are welcome to participate!

Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista

SCAN ME

June 7, 2025  
San Juan Bautista, CA

Come and join us at the 3rd annual Rainbow Run. The best human and pet costumes will win a prize!

<http://www.rotarysanjuanbautista.com/> /TheRotaryClubOfSanJuanBautista @sanjuanrotary

## MVV ēvz drāp

At an Easter egg hunt, two middle-aged dads watching their kids:

**Dad 1:** Remember when Easter was just finding a couple of eggs and eating chocolate?

**Dad 2:** Yeah. Now it's a full-blown Hunger Games event. Look at those kids. Ruthless.

(They watch a tiny girl snatch an egg out of a boy's hand and run off laughing.)

**Dad 1:** That girl just committed a felony.

**Dad 2:** And my son just traded a golden egg for a half-eaten jelly-bean. I have failed as a father. ■





# BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Alexandra Urbanowski, CEO of SVCCreates; Andres Rodriguez, Sr. Field Rep for Speaker Rivas; Jennifer Laine, Executive Director, SBC Arts Council; at California Arts Council gathering at the San Jose Museum of Art.



Vaquero!



A UK connection across the pond in SJB. Janet Goss, Marion Torres & Frances Cooper.



Happy 94th Birthday Becky Lopez!



Amanda Chiado, Director of Arts Education, SBC Arts Council; Andrea Espino-Sanchez, HHS Student at State Poetry Out Loud Competition in Sacramento.



Cara Denny's FUN Birthday Celebration. L-R Fred Galvan, Isabel Ayala, Michael Boudier, Jenn Sparkle, a man, Celia Capulin and Vince Than.



SBC Free Library staff at the Friends of the Library Afternoon "Tea with Friends." Angelina Tapia, Karen Fonseca, Donna Agneta, Becky Feagan, Juan Perez, and Austin Curtis.



Cara Denny at her 50th birthday celebration with Kate Scott AKA Cheeseburger.



In loving memory of Charlie Shockey, La Casa Rosa.



# BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Vaquera and her beautiful caballo.



Mayor Leslie Jordan, Artist Kirti Bassendine, Valentine Lopez, Chair of the Amah Mutsun Tribe at Luna Gallery SJB.



Cindy Cooling, Liz & Glenn Pieterouiski celebrating Lolla's 7th Anniversary.



Sarah Griss, Rachel Manning & Fran Fitzharris take their oath as new members of SJB Parlor of Native Daughters of the Golden West.



Lolla's 7th Anniversary Celebration in SJB. Congratulations to you Sarah Griss!



K.C. Shaffer and his grandmother Dolores Robertson Kaelin celebrating her 103rd Birthday!



The incredible team at Heritage Bank of Commerce volunteering with the Food Bank of San Benito County.



Celebrating Georgana Gularte's 90th Birthday at Aromas Grill. James Frederickson, Georgana Gularte, Sharon D' Alessio & Bonnie Campbell.



SBC Integrated Waste Management's community cleanup. Volunteers picked up 285lbs. Thank you to everyone who came out!



SBALT volunteers helped with trail maintenance during March Ranch Day.





**3-DAY FESTIVAL!**  
**APRIL 25, 26 & 27**

**Friday 11 a.m. ~ 6 p.m.**

**Saturday 10 a.m. ~ 6 p.m. & Sunday 10 a.m. ~ 5 p.m.**

DOWNTOWN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA ALONG THIRD STREET

### **Award Winning Ribs!**

Professional rib teams representing California, Nevada, Texas, Illinois, Arizona, Kentucky and Australia will serve over 8,000 pounds of succulent ribs drippin' in secret sauces to compete for **Best Ribs & Best Sauce** trophies!

Cast your vote on Friday and Saturday for the **People's Choice Award**.  
Official Judging: Saturday 1 p.m. • Winners announced on Sunday at 1 p.m.

### **Arts & Crafts! Live Music! Pony Rides!**

Come join us for three fun-filled days!  
Downtown will have bountiful food, drink, and live music all weekend long.  
Shop, browse, feast, and discover thousands of quality treasures!

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## CELESTIAL EVENTS



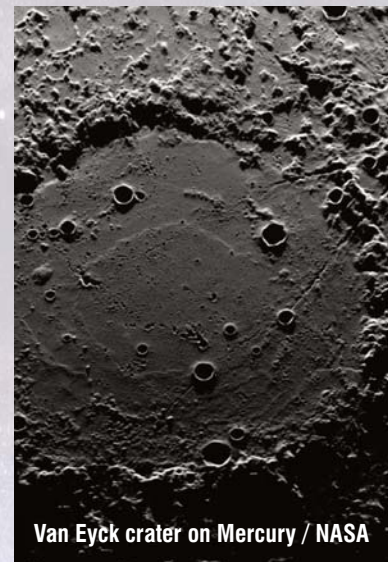
**April 13 - Full Moon in Libra.** The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 00:24 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Pink Moon because it marked the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the first spring flowers. This moon has also been known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Growing Moon, and the Egg Moon. Many coastal tribes called it the Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.

**April 21 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.** The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 27.4 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

**April 22, 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower.** The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861. The shower runs annually from April 16-25. It peaks this year on the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The thin crescent moon will not pose much of a problem so this should be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

**April 27 - New Moon in Taurus.** The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 19:32 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.

*Photo of Mercury: Courtesy NASA*

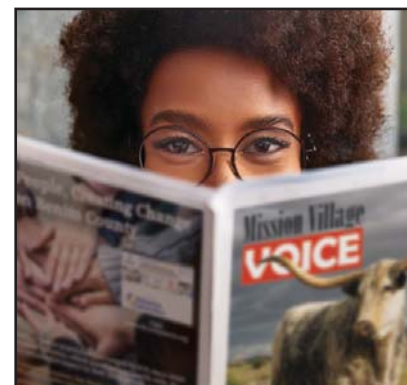


Van Eyck crater on Mercury / NASA

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Local Green businesses celebrate their certification!



## Green Business Tips

### Celebrate Earth Day by greening your business

As Earth Day approaches, it's the perfect time to celebrate and reflect on how we can live more sustainably. Our business community has a great opportunity to make small changes that add up—no matter how big or small your business is—and save money while doing it.

What are some small things your business can do to be a little greener this month? Here are five simple ways to reduce your environmental impact and even cut costs:

**1. Switch to LED Lighting** – Replacing incandescent or fluorescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED lighting can significantly lower your electricity bill and reduce your carbon footprint.

**2. Ditch Single-Use Plastics** – Offer reusable or compostable alternatives to plastic utensils, straws, and takeout containers. Many green-certified businesses have made this switch and found it both

cost-effective and customer-friendly.

**3. Encourage Employees to Reduce Waste** – Set up clear recycling and composting stations in the workplace. Providing guidance and signage can ensure proper sorting and minimize landfill waste.

**4. Go Digital** – Reduce paper usage by transitioning to digital invoices, receipts, and documents. This not only saves trees but also streamlines operations and saves money on printing costs.

**5. Conserve Water** – Install water-efficient fixtures, such as low-flow faucets and toilets, to reduce water usage. Encourage employees to be mindful of water waste, and consider implementing drought-resistant landscaping if applicable.

Looking for more ways to bring sustainability into your daily life? Join us for an Earth Day Celebration on April 19, 2025, in Downtown Hollister! From 11 AM – 2 PM, enjoy fun booths, games, art, performances, and more. Celebrate with us and learn how small steps can lead to a greener future for all! ■

## California Contemporary artist FUTZIE NUTZLE

brings Modern Works and Archival Favorites to  
**FOOL'S GOLD**

34A Polk Street (behind San Juan Bakery)

Wed-Sun 11-5 831/623-9275.

Original Oils, Cartoons, Drawings and Assemblages for sale -  
and originals of drawings published in *Rolling Stone Magazine* (1975-1980)  
and *Mission Village Voice* (2014 to-date). [www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/art-galleries](http://www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/art-galleries).



### EDUCATION

### SBCOE hosts STEAM Expo

San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE) held the 2025 San Benito County STEAM Expo, sponsored by SBCOE and Synopsis, on March 13 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building in Hollister. The Expo showcased 240 student projects in Math, Science, Engineering, Art, and Technology from across the county.

With the guidance of parents, teachers, and club advisors, students from TK to 12th grade completed science experiments and research, which were judged by industry professionals and members of the community. This year's judges were Rita Campbell, Larry Barr, Kevin Lommen, Ed Huston, Matthew Safford, Steve Umfleet and a team of judges from IEEE led by Charles Neuhauser.

Attendees took part in demonstrations, information, and hands-on activities led by organizations, including Hollister Fire Department, Hollister Pediatrics, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Julia Robinson Math Festival, Pinnacles National Park, Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT), Recology & Integrated Waste Management of San Benito County, San Benito County, San Benito County Free Library, San Benito Resource Conservation District, San Benito Robotics, Spring Grove School, San



Benito County Arts Council, The Tech Interactive, and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additional partners included, ACE Hardware, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), CASA San Benito, Charles River Laboratories, and DJRTURN. Students who visited all sixteen interactive booths received a free STEAM kit and the first 100 students attending the event went home with a free STEAM Expo bag and STEAM kit.

Students received a total of thirty-eight awards. Science Fair project winners are eligible to participate in the CA State Science and Engineering Fair this spring. Special recognition and additional awards were also provided by CSUMB, IEEE, and SBCOE. Thank you to our parents, teachers, students, industry professionals and partners who made it possible for us to celebrate the power of STEAM education. ■





THEN (above left): Hotel Mission across from Plaza Hotel. Photo credit: Frashers Fotos. NOW (above right): Heritage Garden at Second and Mariposa.

## Then... and Now: Hotel Mission

By Wanda Guibert,  
San Juan Bautista Historical Society

Many comment that the charm and allure of San Juan Bautista is its historic authenticity and that the town seems "frozen in time." Indeed, according to local lore, author Helen Hunt Jackson, Official Agent to the California Mission Indians, allegedly wrote part of her novel *Ramona* here in San Juan Bautista. In 1886, she stated, "At San Juan Bautista there lingers more of the atmosphere of the olden time than is to be found in any other place in California." How remarkable that her observation is very true today in 2025. While the

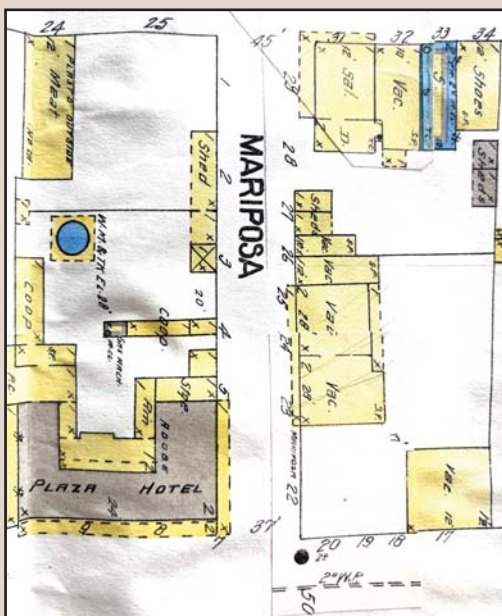
sleepy little village remains seemingly unchanged, there have actually been some dramatic changes and buildings lost. Take, for example, Hotel Mission, once located at the northwest corner of Second and Mariposa Streets.

From 1858-1869 that corner, directly across from the Mission and the Plaza Hotel, was the site of the Wells Fargo Express Office. In the early 1970s, the SJBHS reached out to the corporate offices of Wells Fargo Bank, proposing a reconstruction project to re-create that building. Though renderings were submitted and a plan created, Wells Fargo was not interested in pursuing the project.

The 1908 Sanborn Fire Map shows that the corner was vacant in 1908 but occupied by Hotel Mission in 1928. San Juan really was at the crossroads of transportation headed north, south, east and west. In the book *San Juan Bautista: The Town, the Mission & the Park*, author Charles W. Clough writes "California's population increased rapidly in the early 1850s, resulting in a good deal more travel on El Camino Real. As in earlier years, almost every traveler going north or south passed through San Juan. Many stages stopped over for the night, and hotels were quickly built or enlarged." Among the lodgings in San Juan over the years were the Plaza Hotel, the United States Tavern Inn, The Sebastopol, The European, The Fremont, The National, The Redwood Lodge, The San Juan Tavern, The Bluebird, and the Hotel Mission. During its

heyday there were as many as nine gas stations here at the same time servicing travelers while El Camino Real/Highway 101 came right through town.

The Hotel Mission (AKA Mission Hotel) was constructed circa 1914 by Fred Beck, who operated the establishment with his wife until his death. As a side note, Fred Beck and his stepfather Jake Beuttler "manufactured a fine quality of beer" in the late 1800s at the old Brewery building on The Alameda, which was also Beuttler's residence. Nationally-acclaimed California "plein air" artist Rowena Meeks Abdy and her writer husband, Harry Bennett Abdy, actually lived at the hotel for six months in 1918 according to the *San Juan Mission News*: "Mr. Abdy wrote his successful book *On the Ohio* in old San Juan, in room number two at the Mission Hotel, and Mrs. Abdy also made all the drawings there for the illustra-



1908 Sanborn Fire Map (left) and 1928 map showing Hotel Mission at the corner of Second and Mariposa Streets.

## Distinguished Author With Artist Wife Here

H. Bennett Abdy, F. Am. G. S., and author of "On the Ohio," was in town a few days this week. He was accompanied by Rowena Meeks Abdy, his wife, and Miss Olive Paiman, a musician, of New York City, now residing in San Francisco.

Mr. Abdy wrote his successful book in old San Juan, in room number two at the Mission Hotel, and Mrs. Abdy also made all the drawings there for the illustrations in the book. "F. Am. G. S." means that Mr. Abdy has been honored with a Life Fellowship in the American Geographical Society, because it is

considered his book is a valuable contribution to American river geography, so-to-speak.

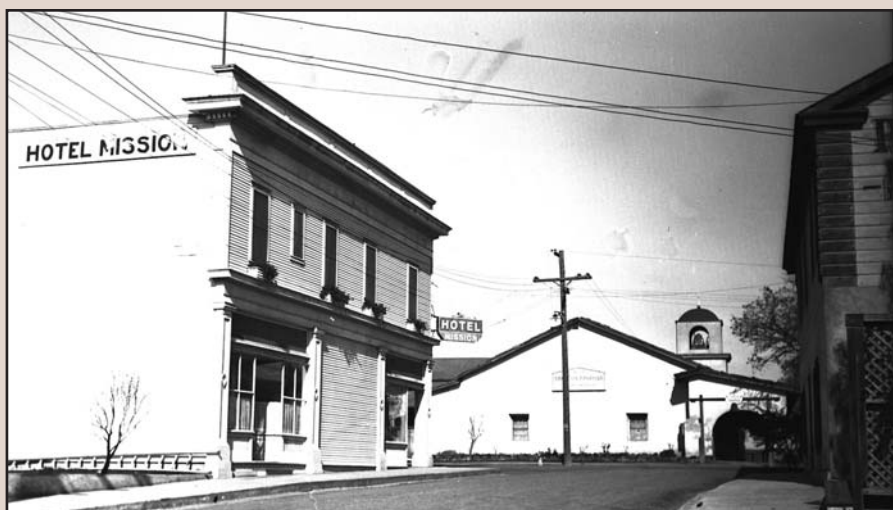
The Abdys are now living in San Francisco where they purchased a fine home located on the classic slopes of Russian Hill.

They motored down in a beautiful new Willy-Knight sedan, the Easter gift of the author to his artist wife. The party went on to Monterey yesterday, to enjoy the attractions of that seaport town.

The Abdys have many friends here who were pleased to greet them again since their removal to the bay metropolis.

*San Juan Mission News*, 1918.





Hotel Mission, looking north.

tions of the book." Mrs. Beck continued as proprietor until she sold to Mrs. Katie Garolla in 1934 (who had previously operated The Bluebird Hotel). An addition was built at the back for serving buffet lunches with liquid refreshments, and Joe Cullumber (who still has family members in town) supervised the construction work. Local organizations such as the Service Club and the

## Tennis Court Is Being Improved

After having been delayed for several months, steps have finally been taken towards improving the tennis court at the Mission Hotel, the work being done by a group of local enthusiasts of the sport. Mrs. Katie Garolla, owner of the hotel, has generously offered the use of the court to all local players provided they wish to put it in shape.

The court is being lengthened to regulation size and a new asphalt surface will be put on. Members of the Dons took the end section down Wednesday and together with Alton Scott, school principal, and prime leader in the tennis movement, hauled two loads of dirt to fill in the low spots.

The news that the court is being put into shape will be welcome news to all tennis lovers of this district, as San Juan has long felt the need of a court in which this fine healthful sport can be enjoyed.

It is understood that a food sale will be given later on to help finance the cost of the new materials needed.

Pictured: A variety of articles from *Mission News*: Hotel Mission Tennis Court, 2 Aug 1935; Hotel Mission Closes Doors 30 Dec. 1938; Mission Hotel to be Razed 2 Dec. 1938.

Volunteer Fire Department held dinners there. She then leased the hotel to Miss Caddy Baccala and her brother Bob Baccala.

Unfortunately, an article titled "Hotel Mission Closes Doors Tomorrow Night" published in a December 1938 *Mission News* reports that the "State Park Commission has completed the deal to purchase the two-story structure and plans to tear it down 'around the first of the year.'" The article goes on to state, "...the property will be landscaped and a large adobe wall, similar in design to the early California styled wall at the entrance to the San Juan lateral, will be built, according to tentative plans."

The former grounds of the Hotel Mission did indeed become a shady, inviting park / picnic area though the large adobe wall was never built. An intriguing feature of the park is the log Settler's Cabin (ca. 1835), which typifies pioneer homes. According to San Juan Bautista Historical Society records, the cabin had been located on a ranch off Mission Vineyard Road owned by Bill Mackenzie, formerly part of the Flint-Bixby Ranch, south of San Juan. The Mackenzies sold the cabin to the San Juan Bautista Historical Society in 1966 - for \$1.00 - who then dismantled it and negotiated to deed it to the San Juan State Historic Park in May 1966. The cabin was then moved to its current location; however, due to financial constraints the State Park could not restore it until sometime after November 1970. Martin Penn, first President of the Historical Society along with Vice-President Richard

## Hotel Mission Closes Doors Tomorrow Night

Tomorrow night at midnight, the doors of the famed Hotel Mission will close, and the hotel that has housed many visitors year after year, will be torn down according to present plans of the State Park Commission.

It is with deep regret that it was learned that the hotel was to be torn down—for San Juan needs just such a place at Hotel Mission with the closing of the Blue Bird Hotel, it will leave San Juan without a hotel—with the exception of the European Hotel.

Just why the state park commission plans to remove the structure from the property, even in view of improvements and beautification plans for the state park property now in San Juan, is not known; but it is certainly to be regretted by every resident of this community. It would seem, in view of the commission's apparent neglect of the park property now in San Juan, that such a move would be unwise.

The lessees of the hotel, Miss Caddy Baccala and her brother, Bob Baccala, have no plans for the future, other than that Miss Baccala will spend several months at the home of her mother here. Mr. and Mrs. Baccala will continue to reside in San Juan, much to the pleasure of their many friends.

Gularte, facilitated the process and helped lay the foundation for the structure and its ultimate preservation. The interpretative signage and Settler's Cabin marker have recently been removed; the Amah Mutsun Garden Marker with text about their history and use of native plants for ceremonies, foods and medicines, and crafting remains in another corner of the lot.

What is now referred to as the "Heritage Garden" is the subject of the "State of the State" column in the February 2025 Plaza History Association newsletter, posted by Julio Ortiz, State Park Interpreter I. Here is the current status of the northwest corner of Second and Mariposa Streets.

"Better Homes and Gardens. The Heritage Garden has seen more changes in February. The

three olive trees at the intersection of Second Street and Mariposa Street were most recently cut down. Regrettably, the olive trees did exhibit disease symptoms, indicating that their days were numbered. However, this also provides us with an opportunity to increase interpretation of this area for the native people, the amah Mutsun. As I said in last month's newsletter, a lot of new native plants have been planted, which has resulted in major changes. Future panel ideas and even educational booklets that address new subjects pertaining to these plants are being discussed." The Settler's Cabin is now referred to as the "Emigrant's Cabin."

"Change is the only constant in life," Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said. With the passage of time, historic preservation becomes more and more challenging. Historians wonder which period of significance should be noted and preserved. If San Juan Bautista wants to embrace the image conjured in Helen Hunt Jackson's 1886 description, the City and its residents must exert the will to ensure that happens. ■

## MISSION HOTEL TO BE RAZED AROUND FIRST OF YEAR BY PARK COM.

The Mission Hotel, long a popular landmark, and noted particularly for its famous cuisine, will soon be razed to make way for improvements in the state park in San Juan Bautista.

The hotel was constructed about 24 years ago by Fred Beck, who with his wife, operated the establishment until his death. Mrs. Beck continued as proprietor of the hotel until she sold out to Mrs. Katie Garolla several years ago. Mrs. Garolla operated the place until three years ago when she leased it to Miss Caddy Baccala and Bob Baccala, who manage the place at the present time.

According to Mrs. Anna Baccala, the state park commission has completed the deal to purchase the two-story structure and plans to tear it down "around the first of the year."

It is reported that the property will be landscaped and a large adobe wall, similar in design to the early California styled wall at the entrance to the San Juan lateral, will be built, according to tentative plans.

The park commission also plans extensive improvements on other state-owned property here, including the historic Plaza Hotel, now used to house the valuable Grant S. Button collection of early California relics.

The long-awaited improvements on the park buildings and property here has been delayed due to lack of necessary funds, it is understood, and it is expected that the improvements will get underway near the first of the year.





## MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | APRIL 2025

## Calendar

**TUESDAY APRIL 1 -  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 30**

**APRIL ART CLASSES @ THE ART DEPOT** 35 5th St., Hollister Monday - Thursday. Sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com

**THURSDAY APRIL 3**

**AN EVENING WITH KANYON SAYERS ROOD, 'ZINE MAKING'** 6pm. Youth @ Adult FREE creative workshop. Luna Gallery 107 B, The Alameda, San Juan Bautista, lunagallery.art

**FRIDAY APRIL 4**

**FIRST FRIDAY "CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS VOICES"** EXHIBIT 5-8pm. Luna Gallery, 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista lunagallery.art

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

**SATURDAY APRIL 5**

**LOGO FOR LOCAL MAKERS MARKET** 1-6pm. Posada De San Juan

**EASTER FAIRY GARDENS** gardenshoppeandbar.com Hollister

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

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

**SUNDAY APRIL 6**

**FIGURE DRAWING COLLECTIVE** 2-5pm. Self-guided class for intermediate to advanced artists who like to draw from a live model. Ages 18+ Cura Contemporary, Morgan Hill. Curacontemporary.com

**BONE HUNT & ADOPTION EVENT** gardenshoppeandbar.com Hollister

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

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 -  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 16**

**POPPY JASPER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** PJlff.org

**FRIDAY APRIL 11**

**DANNYOKE (KARAOKE) @ DAISY'S SALOON** 9 p m - 12am Daisy's Saloon, San Juan Bautista

**Sunday, April 13**

**AROMAS EGG HUNT** at Aromas Community Park, 12-3 pm. Ticket booth opens at 11:30 AM, then the festivities start at noon with the Bunny Hop Races. Children rounds by age and one adult round. First place gets a prize! Next at 1pm will begin the main event, the Aromas Egg Hunts by age. Under two age must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone will be given a colored wrist band according to their age group and only allowed to hunt during that age group's time. Also: Bunny photos, the Aromas 4H is bringing animals for a petting farm, activities at the craft table, and more.

**Saturday, April 19**

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION!** 11am-2pm. Downtown Hollister at 649 San Benito Street. Come and enjoy environmental booths, games, performances, and witness the Recology Art Poster Contest gallery and award ceremony! Info at sanbenitocountyca.gov/iwm, 831.636.4110 @sb-ciwm. Pictured: SBC Integrated Waste Management & Recology at the STEAM Expo promoting Recology's Art Poster Contest & April 29th Earth Day Celebration.

**UPROOTED EXHIBITION OPENING** 6-8pm. @ Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister www.sanbenitoarts.org

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

**SATURDAY APRIL 12**

**PSYCHOLOGY OF DOGS - A LIVE EVENT** Golden-statetheatre.com Monterey

**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.

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

**SUNDAY APRIL 13****FULL MOON IN LIBRA**

**TEATRO FAMILY DAY FUNDRAISER!** 12-4pm. RAFFLES! SURPRISES! FOOD! GAMES! ENTERTAINMENT! FAMILY FUN! TEATRO! El Teatro Campesino Playhouse, 705 Fourth St., San Juan Bautista. Elteatrocampesino.com

**FIBER DYING WITH LOCAL PLANTS WORKSHOP WITH KIRTI BASSENDINE & MATTHEW CASTRO** 2-4pm. FREE. Register at 831-623-2783. Luna Gallery 107 B, The Alameda, SJB Lunagallery.art

**AROMAS EGG HUNT** Aromas Community Park

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 16**

**BEAR'S HIDEAWAY EGG DECORATING!** 4pm. https://bears-hideaway.com/

**THURSDAY APRIL 17**

**CARMEL SUNSET CENTER PRESENTS: VIEUX FARKA**

**TOURE** 7:30pm. West African guitar ,echoed in American blues. Sunsetcenter.org

**FRIDAY APRIL 18**

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

**SATURDAY APRIL 19**

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION!** 11am-2pm. Downtown Hollister at 649 San Benito Street. Come and enjoy environmental booths, games, performances, and witness the Recology Art Poster Contest gallery and award ceremony! More information: sanbenitocountyca.gov/iwm 831.636.4110 @sbciwm

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

**AMAH-MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND GREEN FOOTHILLS** 5-7pm. Luna Gallery, 107B, The Alameda, SJB. Lunagallery.art

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

**GRAHAM NASH - MORE EVENINGS OF SONGS & STORIES** Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org

**FREMONT PEAK OBSERVATORY STARGAZING SOLAR PROGRAM** 2-5pm. FPOA.net

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

**SUNDAY APRIL 20**

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

*Continued on next page*





## Saturdays

**BIG GUY ORGANICS POP-UP AT VERTIGO** 8am-1pm. San Benito County Organic Produce Pop-Up. Every Saturday @ Vertigo Coffee Roasters, San Juan Bautista. Bigguyorganics.com. Pictured: Randy Romero of Big Guy Organics.

### MONDAY APRIL 21

**CARMEL GUITAR SOCIETY PRESENTS AN TRAN** 7pm. "Subtle graceful virtuosity" "Vietnamese Guitar Virtuoso" Sandboxsandcity.com

### THURSDAY APRIL 24

**WINES & LINE BOOK CLUB @ BEAR'S HIDEAWAY** 4pm. Last Thursday of the month. [https://bears-hide-away.com/](https://bears-hideaway.com/)

**FILM: AMERICAN AGITATORS THE FRED ROSS STORY** 8:30pm. Luna Gallery, 107 B The Alameda, SJB, lunagallery.art

### THURSDAY APRIL 24 - FRIDAY APRIL 25

**SPRING BREAK YOUTH ART CAMP** Info 831.623.2783. Luna Gallery, 107 B The Alameda, SJB, lunagallery.art

### FRIDAY APRIL 25

**DANNYOKE (KARAOKE) @ DAISY'S SALOON** 9pm-12am Daisy's Saloon, San Juan Bautista

### FRIDAY APRIL 25 - SUNDAY APRIL 27

**THE GREAT SAN JUAN BAUTISTA RIB COOK-OFF 3-DAY FESTIVAL!** Downtown San Juan Bautista. Award Winning Ribs! Arts, Crafts, Live Music, Pony Rides! Thegreatsanjuanbautistaribcookoff.net

### SATURDAY APRIL 26

**DEAD COWBOYS LIVE!** 7-10Ppm. Buena Vista Brewery, 65 Hangar Way, Watsonville

**VISION BOARD WORKSHOP** 1-4pm. @ Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com

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

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

### SUNDAY APRIL 27

**NEW MOON IN TAURUS**

**ADMISSION DAY-FREMONT PEAK CELEBRATION** 12pm. SJB VFW Flag Raising.

**AROMAS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION** Aromas Community Park

**BEGINNING ACRYLIC: CHILDREN'S MOTHER'S DAY PAINTING CLASS** 11am-1pm. Create a floral painting using acrylic paint for your mother! Led by Colibri Gallery's very own Jack Gonzales. Cura Contemporary, Morgan Hill. Curacontemporary.com

## Every Week

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**HOLLISTER CERTIFIED FARMER'S MARKET** 3-7pm. Downtown Hollister. April 16 through October 15. downtownhollister.org

**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. San Benito County Organic Produce Pop-Up. Every Saturday @ Vertigo Coffee Roasters, San Juan Bautista. Bigguyorganics.com

**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](http://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

### FRIDAY MAY 2

**DEAD COWBOYS LIVE!** 7-10pm. Grillin & Chillin Ale House, Hollister.

### FRIDAY MAY 2 & 9 SATURDAY MAY 3

**SAN BENITO STAGE PRESENTS: DISNEY'S MOANA JR.** 7pm. Visit [sanbenitostage.org](http://sanbenitostage.org)

### SATURDAY MAY 3

**HOLLISTER DOWNTOWN WINE & BEER STRILL** Downtownhollister.org

### FRIDAY MAY 9 - SATURDAY MAY 10

**SAN BENITO STAGE PRESENTS: DISNEY'S MOANA JR.** 1-pm & 7pm. Visit [sanbenitostage.org](http://sanbenitostage.org)

### SATURDAY MAY 10

**2025 SIP, SAVOR & CELEBRATE** 3-6pm. Swank Farms, Hollister. Casasandenito.org Benefiting CASA of San Benito County.

### SATURDAY MAY 10 & SATURDAY MAY 17

**SAN BENITO STAGE PRESENTS: DISNEY'S MOANA JR.** 1-pm & 7pm. Visit [sanbenitostage.org](http://sanbenitostage.org)

### THURSDAY MAY 15

**SAN BENITO COUNTY BINGO FOR BOOMSTICKS!** 5pm. Hapa Bros Food Truck! VFW Post #6539, 58 Monterey St., SJB. Info John Hopper 408.386.7301 Ducks Unlimited [sanbenitodu.com](http://sanbenitodu.com)

### SATURDAY MAY 17

**DEAD COWBOYS LIVE!** 5-8pm. Kelly Brewing Company, Morgan Hill.

**DISCOVER SOAP LAKE RANCH TOUR** 9am-1pm. Guided tour & lunch. Wildlife, wetlands, history & conservation. Visit [sanbenitolandtrust.org](http://sanbenitolandtrust.org)

### SATURDAY MAY 24

**SJB VFW FLEA MARKET** 8am-4pm. 58 Monterey St., SJB. Now accepting vendors call Augie Garcia 408.603.9065

### SUNDAY MAY 25

**DEAD COWBOYS LIVE!** 2-5pm. Harvest Time Roadhouse, Hollister.

### SATURDAY JUNE 7

**ROTARY OF SJB - RAINBOW RUN!** 9am. Historic downtown San Juan Bautista. 1k & 5K. Rotaryofsanjuanbautista.com



## Saturday, May 17

**DISCOVER SOAP LAKE RANCH TOUR** 9am-1pm. Guided tour & lunch. Wildlife, wetlands, history & conservation. Visit [sanbenitolandtrust.org](http://sanbenitolandtrust.org)



## IN MEMORY

## Lupe G. Juarez

Guadalupe “Lupe” Juarez was born January 11, 1927 in Riverside, California to Pascuala Corona and Pedro Gonzales. She passed away peacefully surrounded by family at 98 years old on January 11, 2025.

Lupe is survived by her husband, Apolonio Juarez, and daughters Margaret (Phillip), Esther, Terri (Fred), Sandi (Reuben), and daughter-in-law Nancy, her grandchildren Gina, Andrea, Jackie, Basil, Anissa, Christina, Felipe, Joshua, Adina, Yvette, Jacob, John Paul, Amia, Marcel, Josiah, Adrian, Olivia, Analia, 35 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren, whom she loved very much.

She leaves behind her siblings Linda (Elias), Mary Esther (Manuel), Rosalio, and Refugio (Espie).

She is preceded in death by her son Albert, son-in-law Edmond, grandson Albert, sister Phyllis, and her brothers Salvador, Cipriano, Leo, Joe, Peter, Edward, and Ernie.

Lupe had a special place in her heart for her beloved school Saint Boniface Indian School in Banning, California. This is where she received her educational and religious foundation and developed her love of music. She became passionate about music and learned to play the piano, the violin, and the guitar. She loved to sing, and if she wasn't singing, she was humming.

In 1940, her mother married Miguel Chavez (which Lupe fondly referred to as “Pa”), and at the age of 13 Lupe journeyed to Northern California with her newly blended family. This family consisted of 11 children in all (two of his, five of hers and 4 of theirs). Lupe

then attended her last year of school where she graduated eighth grade at San Juan Union School.

Lupe began working alongside her family as a farm worker. This was her first of many jobs which included the Nyland Potato Warehouse, Hollister Cannery, Ferry Morse Seed Company, Neil's Market, Instructional Aide at San Juan School, and cooking for the Migrant program. She retired after 15 years as a State of California Park Aide in Historic San Juan Bautista. She enjoyed her role of educating 4th graders on San Juan Bautista's history and making tortillas for the children. At this time she was offered the opportunity to return to school at night and received her high school diploma, which was a very proud accomplishment for her.

She loved entertaining others with her love



for music and was in the Mission Choir as a young girl in the choir loft and continued up until a few years ago. She often sang in family weddings and funeral masses. Lupe enjoyed singing alongside her brothers, sisters, and daughters, especially when her brothers were playing guitar. Many extended family memories were created from those moments.

She was one of the first Eucharistic ministers and lectors to be installed at the mission, and spent a few years caring for the altar linens. She was a member of the Guadalupe Society and assisted in the religious education program. She was very invested in her Catholic faith and San Juan Bautista Mission.

Lupe found great joy in acting with the Teatro Campesino in their Christmas presentation of the Miracle Play-La Virgen de Tepeyac. She had a major role in the play as “Hilario”, which was presented at the Old San Juan Mission.

Lupe was recently presented with the Senior Woman of the Year Award for her community service.

Lupe lived a long and blessed life with her husband Apolonio Juarez. Together, they raised four daughters and a son. They created many family memories together and built strong traditions that they were able to pass on to their grandchildren, one of which was their annual tamale making party. She was constantly surrounded by family and enjoyed telling stories. Everyone was welcomed in her home and she was always so hospitable. The welcoming smell of coffee or fresh home-made tortillas is a memory shared by many. She will always be remembered by the warmth she left you feeling in your heart because she “loved you more.” ■

## ARTS

## Celebrating arts, culture and creativity all month long!

April kicks off the seventh annual Arts, Culture, & Creativity Month (ACCM), focusing on the vital role of the arts in promoting “health, healing, and hope” across the state. In 2019, California for the Arts, a statewide arts advocacy organization, successfully campaigned for the state to recognize and celebrate the arts by declaring April as Arts, Culture and Creativity Month through a concurrent resolution passed in the California Senate. In 2021, an additional resolution was declared to recognize artists as second responders.

“Arts, Culture and Creativity Month is an opportunity to celebrate artists, creatives and culture bearers, activate community spaces through the arts and highlight the substantial impact that the creative sector has ... not only on our local, regional and statewide economies but also in the ways that creativity gives meaning to our daily lives,” says Jennifer Laine, Executive Director of the San Benito County Arts Council and Board Member of California for the Arts.

Locally, ACCM will be celebrated through the County Art Showcase at the Hollister Veterans Memorial Building on Thursday, April 10th, featuring thousands of artworks from local students, by the opening of a new art exhibition, Uprooted, at the Arts Council's Art Depot on Friday April 11, zine-making with Kanyon Sayers-Rood at the Luna Gallery on Thursday April 3 and First Fridays at Vertigo on Friday, April 4, to name a few



Arts Advocates, Sacramento, April 2024

activations. San Benito County Arts Council staff will also travel to Sacramento in mid-April to attend the annual Arts and Culture Summit, as well as meet with elected officials for Arts Advocacy Day to discuss the need to restore investments in programs that support arts jobs.

Funding for the California Arts Council, the State's arts agency, has remained stagnant since 2018. California now ranks 35th in the nation for arts funding, behind Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, New York, and Minnesota. Advocates will be urging their representatives to reverse a \$5 million cut to the California Arts Council's budget, support the Film/TV Tax Credit, California Cultural District Program and Museums Grant Program.

Arts Advocacy Day will also focus on legislation that has been introduced to support arts workers, including SB 456, authored by Senator Angelique Ashby of Sacramento, which creates a licensing exemption for muralists that will allow them to continue to engage in commissioned work for public and private art without obtaining a contractor's license.

For more information about Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month, please visit <https://www.caforthearts.org/programs/arts-culture-and-creativity-month>. For more information about local ACCM events, please visit [www.sanbenitoarts.org](http://www.sanbenitoarts.org) or email us at [info@sanbenitoarts.org](mailto:info@sanbenitoarts.org). ■

## Kick up your heels to support CASA!

CASA of San Benito County, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting youth and children placed in foster care is thrilled to announce its upcoming *Sip, Savor & Celebrate* event from 3 PM to 6 PM on May 10 at Swank Farms in Hollister. This event aims to raise vital funds directly impacting foster children in our county by providing essential resource and advocacy that assist each child in adjusting to one of the most difficult times in their life.

*Sip, Savor & Celebrate* will embrace a western theme, perfectly complimenting the stunning barn views at Swank Farms. Guests can enjoy delectable bites from a charcuterie table and other delicious food offerings, paired with

a complementary glass of wine. Additional drinks will be available for purchase at the bar. Guests can enjoy the sounds of an

acoustic duo while exploring the wide display of phenomenal silent auction baskets and items, including passes to local entertainment venues. The day's festivities will culminate in a live auction, offering the chance to bid on exclusive experiences, artwork and more. Generous donors from businesses and individuals have contributed fabulous items for both the silent and live auctions, including the exciting “Wine Heist”, where the winner will take home a wine refrigerator stocked with a selection of fine wines. As the music takes on a western flair, CASA members will hit the dance floor for some line dancing, and we invite you to join us in kicking up your heels!

As Nelson Mandela once said, “History will

**Sip, Savor & Celebrate**

judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”

CASA is committed to making that difference by advocat-

ing for abused and neglected foster children and youth in San Benito County, upholding their rights while pursuing a safe and permanent home for each child.

We invite the community to join us in supporting this worthy cause. Tickets can be purchased through our website: [casasanbenito.org/sip-savor-celebrate/](http://casasanbenito.org/sip-savor-celebrate/), or at Postal Graphics in Hollister. Presale tickets are \$65 per person or a reserved table of 8 for \$500 (save \$20) until the end of March. After March 31st, tickets will increase to \$75 per person or \$600 for a table.

Let's come together for a fun and meaningful day and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most! ■



## IN MEMORY

# Becky Grand Hart

Feb. 12, 1954 – Feb. 28, 2025

Becky Hart, a great endurance rider, great sportswoman, and magnanimous instructor, passed away on February 28, 2025. In July of 2022, she was diagnosed with corticobasal degeneration (CBD), a very rare neurodegenerative syndrome that afflicts only 5,000 people in the U.S. at any one time. She endured its debilitating effects with dignity, even during her final days of being relegated to a wheelchair or recliner and barely being able to stand. We were very lucky that she maintained her cognition and courage until her last breath.

Used to a physically active and challenging life, the pain and immobility that Becky was experiencing and the prognosis of further debilitation, encouraged Becky to exercise her right to use Medical Aid in Dying. She approached this choice to exit on her own terms with fierce determination – the same determination that helped her achieve so many glorious triumphs on horseback.

From her early youth, Becky's irrepressible love for horses guided her life. Her mother recently told me that, when Becky was five years old, the family would go to a restaurant located next to a horse pasture. Becky would steal sugar cubes off the table at the end of the meal so she could feed them to the horse. If her parents chose to go to a different restaurant, Becky would argue with them until they relented and went to the "horse restaurant." Though her parents worked for the local school district and were not wealthy, they indulged Becky's passion and bought her a horse. As a young woman she excelled in the show ring after years of lessons, joining Pony Club, and attending the Potomac Horse Center in Maryland. Then her farrier introduced her to the sport of endurance, and she never looked back. Endurance rid-

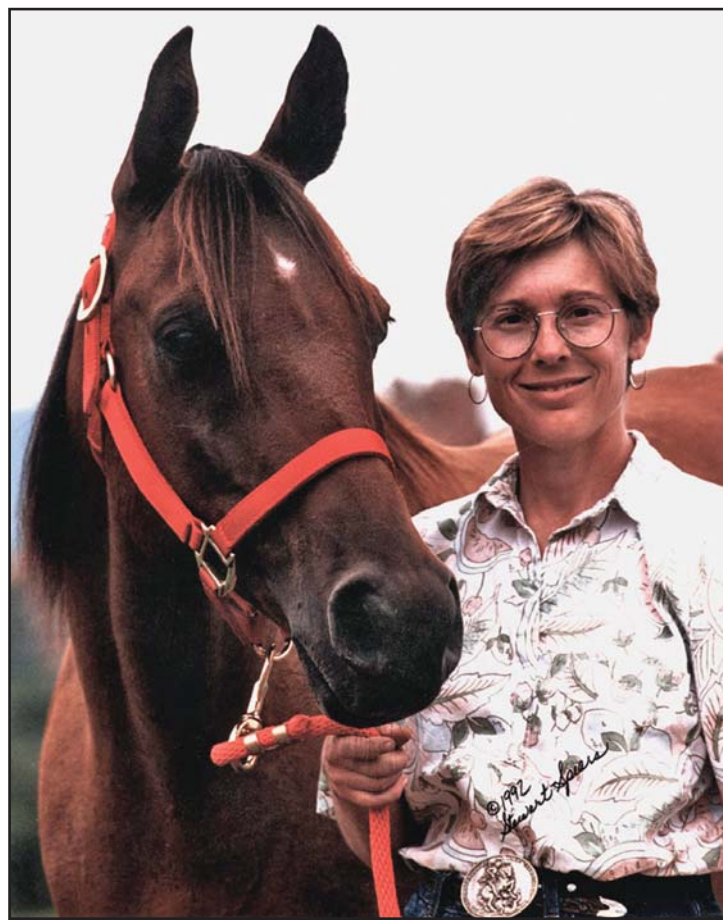
ing (overseen by the American Endurance Ride Conference or AERC) requires the horse and rider to complete a fifty-to-one-hundred-mile ride over varying terrain in one day. There are veterinary checks along the way where horses are confirmed fit to continue and both horse and rider can rest and eat for a given time. The vets examine various parameters of the horses' health, such as pulse, hydration, and soundness. If they pass the exam, they are allowed to continue the ride. Becky started with fifty-milers. Then her friend Julie Suhr, asked her if she could borrow Becky's horse Boo for the famous Western States one-hundred-mile ride over the Sierra, also known as the Tevis. In Julie's own words:

There are few things sadder than a Tevis Cup addict seeing the ride date approaching and they do not have a horse ready for it. One year I was one of those people and a neighbor said I could take her horse. I remonstrated that if her horse could do Tevis why was she not riding it rather than offering it to me. Her reply was, "Oh, I could never do that." She agreed she would crew for me because I did not know her horse very well and she would be at vet checks to assess him. I had him for about three weeks pre-Tevis to get acquainted.

So, with a horse named Boo I ventured out on my Tevis Cup fix knowing his owner would be watching closely. Boo found the hundred miles fairly easy going and we finished nicely. His owner was at the finish and said "Oh, I think maybe I could do that."

She rode that hundred miler on four occasions, in 1976, 1984, 1986 and 1988. She managed to win the Tevis Cup Ride on two of those years. Her name? Becky Hart.

Becky went on to complete over



21,000 miles of endurance races. Among those were gold medal wins with her great horse R.O. Grand Sultan (Rio) at three Endurance World Championships: first in Virginia in 1988, then in Sweden in 1990, and in Spain in 1992. She won the AERC National Championships twice, the North American Championships twice and the Race of Champions twice. Both

the Chronicle of the Horse and the United States Equestrian Team named her Equestrian of the Year in 1990. In 1992, the AERC inducted her into the Hall of Fame. Two of her horses, Khazen +/- and Rio +/-, joined her there. The International Arabian Horse Registry acknowledged her with a Special Achievement Award.

Becky served on the United States Equestrian Federation Board of Trustees, the AERC Board of Directors, worked as an FEI (International Equestrian Federation) three-star judge, a team selector for FEI competitions, and organized and managed over 75 endurance rides, including FEI two-star rides.

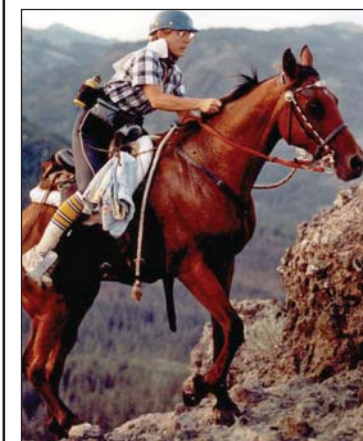
In 2007 Becky was appointed Chef d'Equipe for the U.S. Endurance Team. She coached and trained the U.S. Team through two World Championships in 2008 and 2010. In 2012 Becky was selected to be on the 2012 USEF World Championship Team with her horse, No Repeat (Pete). The pair held the 3rd fastest U.S. time for 100 miles: a blazing seven hours and 22 minutes. They flew to England for the competition, but Pete had a muscle cramp and did not start. He was purchased by the UAE and Becky was subsequently invited to go there to ride him in the President's Cup race in 2013. Riding in the UAE is very different from riding in the U.S. Here, we ride in varied and challenging terrain which determines the horse's speed. Technical areas give the horses a break from speed and challenge them mentally. In the UAE, the terrain is flat and the races fast. The horses must be trained differently. Five months of desert training was not quite enough for Pete. He and Becky started the race but at 75 miles, Becky felt that he had had enough of galloping through the desert, and she and his

trainer agreed to "rider option" him out of the race. Becky always chose the welfare of the horse over her own pride. Reuniting with Pete was enough of a reward for her.

This litany of accomplishments is impressive, but not really what I want to say about Becky. I want to reveal the deeper part of her personality that led to those successes and allowed her receive accolades without letting them go to her head. These aspects of her are elusive and every time I try to put them into words, they seem to fly out of my reach, maybe because she was very private and noble. Her wisdom came through her silences rather than through bravado. Here is a bit of history that exemplifies her determination.

In 1988 Becky finished the season with unrelenting back pain. She was diagnosed with a degenerating disc. Her doctor insisted that she stop riding. Not an option! Determined to continue her beloved sport of endurance, she attended a clinic with renowned equestrian, Linda Tellington-Jones, who developed both the restorative TTouch technique and gentle methods of horse training. Linda observed Becky's forward seat position and suggested that she try Centered Riding®. Becky followed that advice, began Centered Riding® lessons and was pleased that the changes she made in her own body freed up Rio's way of going. She became a level three Centered Riding® instructor and went on to teach all levels of riders, from children to adults, beginners to world class competitors. I believe that sharing her passion for horses and riding gave her even more satisfaction than gold medals. She gave generously of herself, sharing both her winning strategies in

See HART, next page





## Hart

*Continued from page 23*

endurance and Centered Riding® techniques.

Since her death I have received so many condolences from former students who commend her generosity and say they still hear her guiding voice when they ride, helping them breathe, center and grow and most of all, stay focused. This is what one of her students wrote to her: "My beautiful friend Becky, I will miss you and never forget you. I hope you are exploring a new world with Rio and all the good dogs and horses and souls you already knew. I hope there are high peaks and technical trails and wide-open high desert spaces for long gallops. And I just want to say thank you, Becky, for sharing so much knowledge with my daughter and me and, for the life lessons in clarity, balance, resilience, and fierce dignity. Thank you for being coherent, authentic, self-aware, unwavering you."

Becky's generosity also extended to sharing her world championship horse with other riders, including myself. Even when crewing for Rio, her determination led the way. I rode Rio at the 1993 North American Championship in Alberta, Canada. He had tied up three weeks before the ride. When we showed him at the pre-ride veterinary check, the vets thought he did not look quite like himself and refused to put him on the U.S. Team. He and I had to compete as individuals. Becky was fuming after she heard this decision. She turned to me and erupted with, "We're gonna win this fu\*king thing!" And we did, even though Becky forgot to bring grain pans and we had to feed Rio from a spaghetti pot (she was a much better competitor than crew).

During the last week of her life, I asked Becky what her favorite endurance memory was, and ever humble, she did not reply with some madcap race to a gold medal win, but instead replied, "The Castle Rock Ride, when I got to the top of the hill and all the baby bull frogs jumped into the pond."

I hope that she will be remembered not only for her natural talent and stellar endurance career, but also for so generously sharing her knowledge with equestrians all over the world. I am blessed to have shared 36 years of my life with her. Becky, I am with you, galloping up Mt. Umnhm on single track switchbacks, shrubs smacking us in the face as we whizz from shadow to light, giddy with the ecstasy rendered only by a wild ride.

If you would like to make a donation in Becky's honor, please send it either to CUREPSP (<https://www.psp.org/>), an organization that supports people suffering from CBD, PSP, FTD, or MSA – all rare brain disorders, or the Brain Support Network (<https://www.brainsupportnetwork.org/>). Becky donated her own brain and spinal cord to an on-going memory and aging study at

UCSF that is also researching her disease.

We will announce a celebration of life for Becky on Facebook. Go to Becky Hart's page or to my own, Judith Ogus. ■

### Notes

1. *Julie Suhr is now 100 years old. She is the first person to have finished the arduous Tevis 100-mile ride over 20 times. She has also written several books about her experiences as a passionate horsewoman: Ten Feet Tall, Still, ©Julie Suhr 2002; ...but it wasn't the horse's fault, ©Julie Suhr 2012; But It Doesn't Hurt when I Ride, ©Julie Suhr 2024.*

2. *Centered Riding® is a method of riding developed by Sally Swift and based on four basic concepts: soft eyes for better visual awareness and peripheral vision, centering the body as in Asian martial arts for strength, harmony and power, breathing—using the diaphragm to breathe and achieve better relaxation and energy, and building blocks to align the body and improve balance and ease of movement.*

3. *Tying-up or rhabdomyolysis refers to a syndrome caused by horses having too much lactic acid in their muscles, and thus experiencing painful cramping. It can occur in horses who are very fit who have a few days off and then go suddenly go back to work.*

## IN MEMORY

### Hapa dog, Cosmo Ricketts

#### Forever in our hearts

Cosmo, the family dog of the Hapa Bros for 14 years, grew up frolicking in the snow his first 8 winter years in North Andover, Massachusetts and then road tripped it to the sunny, historical town of San Juan Bautista, California. His favorites in town were hiking the De Anza trail, chasing his leash and frisbees at Luck Library, strolling by the mission and walking to auntie Amy's house for a pet and a special treat! Cosmo enjoyed every human and furry friend he encountered and was a lover and a fighter till the end! We will miss him dearly! ■



### The Telepathy Tapes

In a world that often dismisses the extraordinary as mere fantasy, The Telepathy Tapes dares to explore the profound abilities of non-speakers with autism—individuals who have long been misunderstood and underestimated. These silent communicators possess gifts that defy conventional understanding, from telepathy to otherworldly perceptions, challenging the limits of what we believe to be real. As the evidence mounts, the time has come to reveal what has been hidden in plain sight.



### Voice of Intuition

The No. 1 reason you run over your intuition is that you don't trust it. The Voice of Intuition Podcast will help you. Laura brings you practical advice about an intuitive life. She is a pioneer in the fields of intuitive medicine, business, and personal and spiritual development. Known world-wide for her unparalleled and exacting intuitive and visionary skills, Laura's teachings are a direct results of her life, personal death experience, and working with countless numbers of people from over 130 countries for over 40 years.



### Touch Grass

An app designed to combat phone addiction by requiring users to physically touch grass to unlock distracting apps. It uses computer vision for grass detection, encouraging real-world interaction and healthier habits. The free version lets you block up to 2 apps of your choice, includes our grass detection system, and shows your current screen time statistics. It's a great way to start building better habits. <https://touchgrass.now/>



### NASA's Eyes

NASA's Eyes is a suite of 3D visualization applications that allows everyone to explore and understand real NASA data and imagery in a fun and interactive way. The apps are all run inside a regular web browser, so any device with an internet connection and a browser can run them. Ready to explore hundreds of planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and NASA missions from start to finish? <https://science.nasa.gov/eyes/>

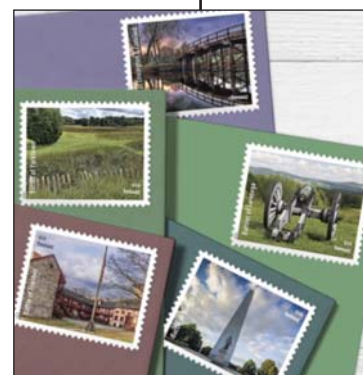


## GOING POSTAL

### Battlefields of the American Revolution

On farm fields and town greens, along countryside byways and city lanes, the people of a new nation, some famous, others forever unknown, committed their lives to American independence. As we prepare to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, we honor the battlefields where so many sacrificed to make our celebration possible.

This pane of 15 stamps includes five rows of three stamps each, with one row representing each of five battles. Each row features a photograph of a site associated with one of the battles. Spanning the adjacent two stamps in each row is a watercolor painting of a scene associated with that battle.



The battles include Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Saratoga and the Battle of Yorktown.

Many battlefields have been preserved or restored as national, state, or local parks, or as private sites open to the public. Each one offers a profound and highly personal opportunity to retrace the steps of those who

fought, hear echoes of hard-won victories and devastating losses, and keep their memory alive. During this time of celebration and reflection, visiting these momentous places can renew our appreciation for the promise of liberty.

Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp pane, with illustrations by Greg Harlin and photographs by Jon Bilous, Richard Lewis, Tom Morris, Greg Parker, and Kevin Stewart.

The Battlefields of the American Revolution stamps are being issued as Forever stamps. These Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate. ■



## #THE GOLDEN AGE

## Great news for SJB seniors!

By Leanne Oliveira

*"Age is not a barrier to success; it's a ladder to wisdom." - Unknown*

Had a great time passing out ponchos, emergency blankets, hand warmers, resource directories, and other goodies from the Aging & Long-Term Care Commission's booth at the recent Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center's Ribbon Cutting. Even with heavy rain, there was still a huge turnout of vendors and visitors and the raffle prizes were fabulous -- I even won a box of my favorite teas! Visit the new office at 301 The Alameda 5B in Windmill Plaza when you get a chance.

Philip Geiger of the Alzheimer's Association was emcee and attendees included MVSSC's Board of Directors, elected officials SJB Mayor Leslie Jordan, representatives from the offices of Senator John Laird and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, and Hollister City Councilman Rudy Picha.

Fantastic platters were catered by Windmill Market. Speaking of food, Martha's Kitchen was also onsite reminding folks that they are now offering two free meals Mon-

days 11:30 AM -1:30 PM at SJB's Community Center at 10 San Jose Street. Give them a try!

Senior Network Services' Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) is now also at the MVSSC on Fridays. In Hollister, they also help walk-ins Wednesdays at the Community Center and are hosting a Medicare Fraud workshop 4/9 at Vista Meadows Senior Apartments (108 E Park Street).

If you missed last month's column, we discussed many local freebies for goldens including caregiver support ([www.delmarcaregiver.org](http://www.delmarcaregiver.org)), smoke alarms, museum tickets, exercise classes, and library offerings (clubs, classes, toolkits, binoculars, telescopes, State Park passes, etc.). Email me [LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org](mailto:LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org) for details. Reminder that free tax help is also available at Project SCOUT (831-724-2606) through Tax Day 4/15.

**GOLDEN TIP:** The Alzheimer's Association offers a free online archive of video recordings at [www.alz.org/education](http://www.alz.org/education) and their April bilingual classes include "Navigating Dementia." Full list at [www.ALZ.org/CRF](http://www.ALZ.org/CRF). RSVP: 800-272-3900. ■

*Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) coordi-*



Mary Edge with scissors at the recent Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center's Ribbon Cutting with Mayor Leslie Jordan and MVSSC Board members in attendance. Congrats, San Juan!

notes 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](mailto:LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org) or visit [www.SanBenitoADRC.org](http://www.SanBenitoADRC.org).

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



**We are here for you. All day. All night.**  
**Estamos aquí para ti.**  
**Todo el día. Toda la noche.**

24/7 HELPLINE  
800.272.3900 | [alz.org](http://alz.org)

24/7 LÍNEA DE AYUDA  
800.272.3900 | [alz.org/español](http://alz.org/español)

**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®**

## id-i-om

**"Jorden er ikke arvet af vores forfædre, men lånt af vores børn."**

(Danish)

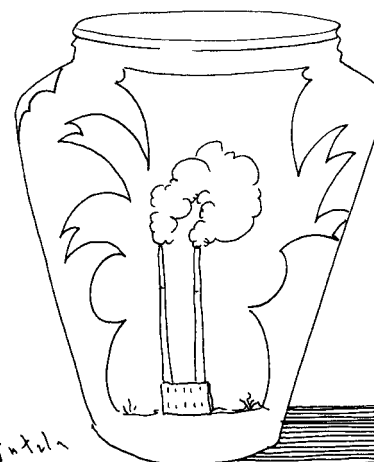
**Translation:** "The Earth is not inherited from our ancestors, but borrowed from our children."

**Meaning:** A reminder to care for the planet responsibly for future generations.



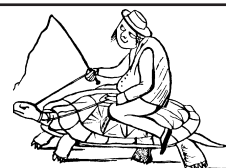
## NUTZLE

MODERN ANTIQUE.

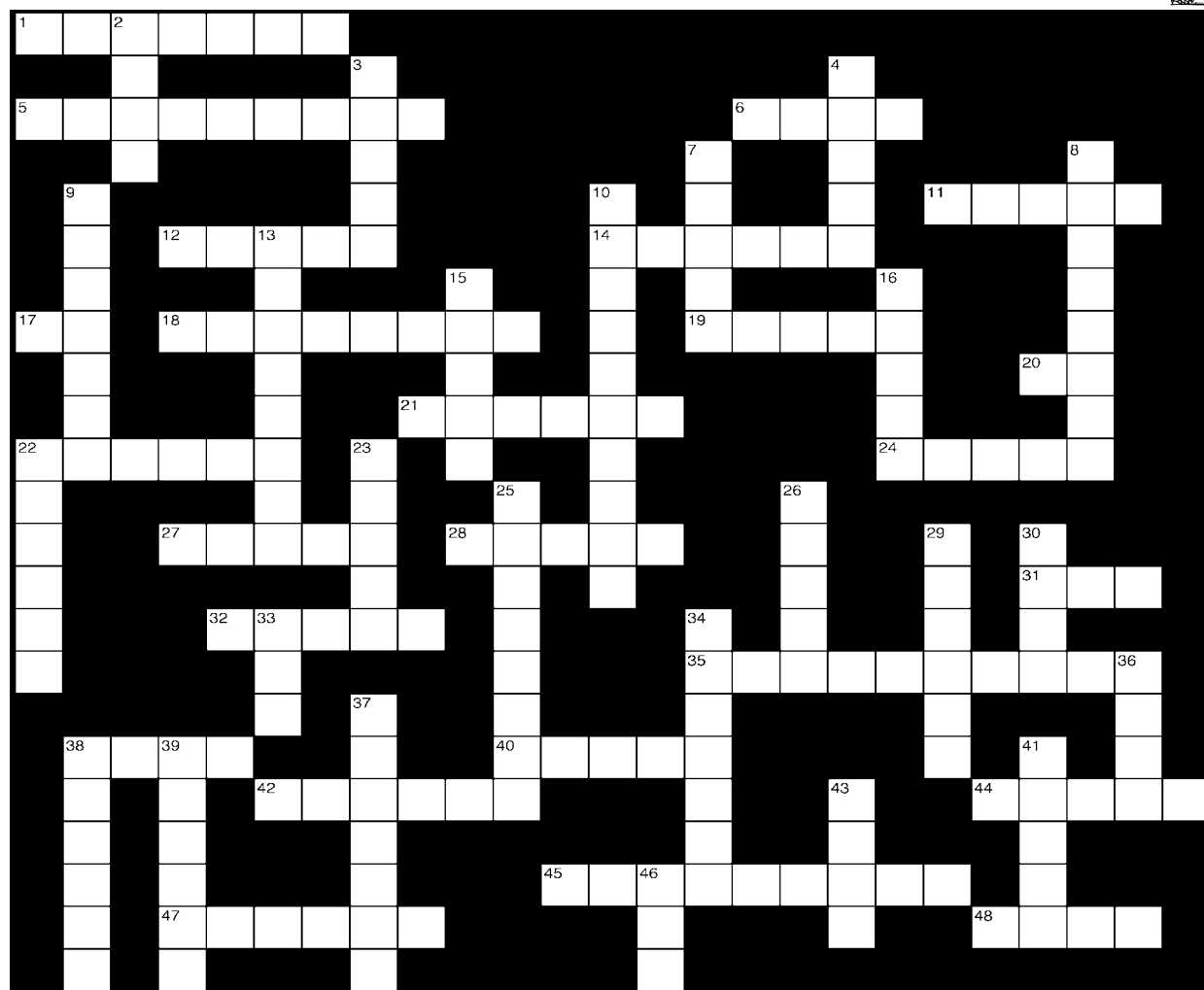




# Mission Village VOICE PASTIMES



## CROSSWORD SCRABBLED EGGS by Carlinka



### ACROSS

- 1 A pillowy pasta
- 5 + Huevos \_\_
- 6 + Color indicates double word
- 11 Lacking experience
- 12 + Using all 7 tiles is worth \_\_ points plus
- 14 + One way to play
- 17 + Two letter Q word
- 18 Unrealistic and impractical
- 19 + How many red squares
- 20 + Two letter Z word
- 21 + A winter drink
- 22 Port city in Ukraine
- 24 Overly sentimental
- 27 Bright signal light
- 28 + How many tiles

### DOWN

- 31 + How many blanks per game
- 32 Egg's middle
- 35 + How many tiles in a box
- 38 To joke or jest
- 40 Stands up for laughs
- 42 Orbiting orb
- 44 + Helpful scrabble draw
- 45 + "Double "or "triple" follower
- 47 + J plus B equal
- 48 + Holder of tiles

### 7 + X minus K equal

- 8 + Sunnyside up or \_\_
- 9 + Popular egg appetizer
- 10 + Eggs like a detective
- 13 + Italian egg dish
- 15 + Using all seven tiles is a \_\_
- 16 Mulligan and others
- 22 + Denver has one with ham etc...
- 23 Bit of dust
- 25 + Cloaked in Hollandaise
- 26 Hooch
- 29 + Z plus Q equal
- 30 + Symbol on scrabble board
- 33 + A and T value
- 34 + Eggs cracked in

### H20

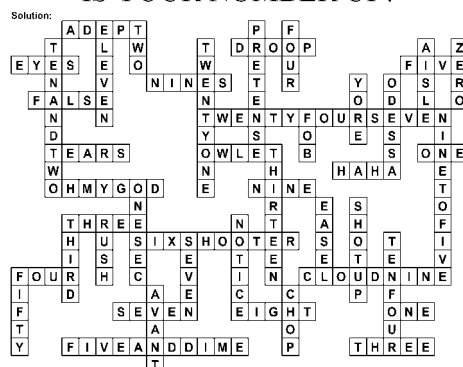
- 36 + One way to play
- 37 + Scrabble produced by Milton \_\_
- 38 + French egg pie with crust

### 39 Smoothed over

- 41 Town square
- 43 Clarinet's cousin
- 46 + Color indicates triple word

## Last month's puzzle solution

### ++IS YOUR NUMBER UP?++



## HOROSCOPE APRIL 2025 by Hilda De Anza



**ARIES**  
March 21-April 20  
Neptune moves into Aries. The last time this happened was in

1861. This is the beginning of a new epoch for you which will last 14 years. You are exploring new avenues in your mind, looking for something fruitful and meaningful, and you make the first steps towards defining your creative persona.



**TAURUS**  
April 21-May 21

Early April is a time when there is a very good chance of reconnecting with a friend or partner who has been patiently waiting for you. New trends start, and perhaps you feel that you need to get to know yourself better, rather than worrying about others.



**GEMINI**  
May 22-June 21

You are ready to leave behind a problematic professional scene to focus on interesting developments socially, which will probably affect your beliefs and allegiances for many years to come, and you may pioneer a new school of thought.



**CANCER**  
June 22-July 22

It is more important for you to work with something that is meaningful rather than working just for a living. Many opportunities arise now, particularly around the full moon when new ideas and inspiration come your way.



**LEO**  
July 23-August 22

April 20th, a transition which is not exactly peaceful, and you will not accept anything standing in your way. This time gives you the sense of philosophical renewal and inspiration.



**VRGO**  
August 23-September 22

A new era is beginning in your life, and you familiarize yourself with the unconscious currents that affect human behavior. This is a baptism in forces of nature which most people are completely unaware of. The spiritual and psychological perspectives are amazing.



**LIBRA**  
September 23 - October 22

Neptune, the planet of magic and mystery, moves into Aries for the next 14 years. You want to connect with a different set of people who are

motivated more by their creativity and ideals. The next couple of years will be a baptism in a whole range of beliefs and creative interests.

**SCORPIO**  
October 23-November 21



You are in the final, successful stages of a reconstruction process. Your efforts over the last many months have paid off, and one of the key take-aways from this period is your ability to build a bridge from the past to the future and bring innovative change.

**SAGITTARIUS**

November 22-December 21



Important changes are taking place that move the focus from home to a need for freedom to express yourself creatively. There is a second opportunity to make a love connection, but circumstances are a little strange and communication is unusual.

**CAPRICORN**  
December 22-January 20



The last couple of years have been characterized by efforts to improve skills and communication, not so much on a rational level, but more through a desire to express magic and creativity. April is a milestone for the successful creation of a bridge from the old to the new, and on a more personal level from the old generation to the new generation.

**AQUARIUS**  
January 21-February 19



Powerful collective forces awaken your mind and inspire you to develop new interests which can have a transformative effect on your life. New communication techniques and new people turn up to share ideas with you. During April, the gods smile on you.

**PISCES**  
February 20-April 19



This heralds an initial stage of a new phase in your life, when you take initiatives to consolidate the creative, personal and spiritual interests you have been developing over the last decade. There is a focus on the body and a new spectrum of possibilities regarding body consciousness which will have a transformative influence over your life in the coming years.



# Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital Celebrates

## NATIONAL DOCTORS DAY

March 30, 2025

We are proud to recognize our Medical Staff for their dedication and commitment to providing quality, compassionate healthcare in San Benito County. We honor your profession and thank you for choosing to practice at Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital.

### MEDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



**Michael Bogey, MD**  
Chief of Staff  
Chair,  
Emergency Department  
Chief Medical Officer



**Ralph Armstrong, DO**  
Vice Chief of Staff  
Chair,  
Perinatal Department



**Natalie LaCorte, MD**  
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Medicine Department



**Russell Dedini, MD**  
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**Richard Rupp, MD**  
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**Arminda Tolentino, MD**  
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Holly Aguilar, MD - Pediatric Hospitalist

Mohammad Al-Hasan, MD - Internal Medicine

Zarin Amin, DO - OB/GYN

Aytac Apaydin, MD - Urology

Maria Arambulo, MD - Endocrinology

Ralph Armstrong, DO - OB/GYN

M. Aslam Barra, MD - OB/GYN

Harneet Bath, MD - Internal Medicine/Hospitalist

Michael Bogey, MD - Emergency Medicine

Letitia Bradford, MD - Orthopedic Surgery

Martin Bress, MD - Internal Medicine

Lynn Bui, MD - Hematology/Oncology

Benedict Carota, MD - Family Practice

Cristian Carrillo, DO - Hospitalist

Dina Casparro, DPM - Podiatry

Tracy Chen, MD - Radiology

Margaret Cooper-Vaughn, DO - OB/GYN

Russell Dedini, MD - Orthopedics

Joshua Deutsch, MD - Hospitalist

Piyush Dhanuka MD - Gastroenterology

Joseph Fabry, DO - General Surgery

Taynet Febles, MD - Infectious Disease

Nick Gabriel, DO - General Surgery

M. Claudette Grageda, MD - Family Practice

Maria Granthom, MD - OB/GYN

Michael Gynn, MD - General Surgery

Claire Harlung, MD - Family Practice

Jehan Helmi, MD - Psychiatry

Guiqing Huang, MD - Pediatrics

Waleed Hussein, MD - Emergency Medicine

Vivek Jain, MD - Neurology

John Jameson, MD - Pathology

Joseph Jiang, MD - Cardiology

Kenneth Jiang, MD - Internal Medicine

Joseph Klapper, MD - Tele-Cardiology

Stefan Klein, MD - Orthopedic Surgery

Edward Kody, MD - Pediatric Hospitalist

Michael Koteles, MD - Endocrinology

Natalie LaCorte, MD - Family Practice

James Lilja, MD - OB/GYN

Hongguang Liu, MD - Gastroenterology

Roderick McBride, DDS - Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery

Michael McGinnis, MD - Pathology

Carol Mel, MD - Oncology/Hematology

Ghulam Moheyuddin, MD - General Surgery

B. Nicholas Namihas, MD - Gastroenterology

Thomas Mustoe, MD - Cardiology

Hue Nguyen-Ngo, DO - Pediatrics

Bob Peng, MD - OB/GYN

Paul Percival, MD - Family Practice

Gia-Cat Pham, DPM - Podiatry

An Phan, MD - Anesthesiology

Dennis Phan, MD - Nephrology

Barbara Rever, MD - Nephrology

Paul Rohart, MD - Emergency Medicine

Richard Rupp, MD - Radiology

Bensson Samuel, MD - Hospitalist

Edwin Savay, MD - Emergency Medicine

Michael Sepulveda, MD - Hospitalist

Saiham Shahabuddin, MD - Internal Medicine/Hospitalist

Rajesh Sharangpani, MD - Anesthesiology

Jiwu Sun, MD - Internal Medicine/Hospitalist

Lorilee Sutter, MD - Rheumatology

Arminda Tolentino, MD - Family Practice

Anita Tolentino-Macaraeg, MD - Pediatrics

Christopher Verioti, DO - Orthopedics

Steven Vetter, MD - ENT/Otolaryngology

Daniel Wang, MD - Family Practice

John Weimann, MD - Orthopedic Surgery

The Medical Executive Committee (MEC) is the primary governance for the independent members of the Medical Staff; Physicians and Surgeons.

The MEC makes essential decisions related to Medical Staff policies, procedures, and protocols, always with an emphasis on clinical quality and patient safety.



**Hazel Hawkins**  
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

911 Sunset Drive, Hollister • (831) 637-5711

[www.hazelhawkins.com](http://www.hazelhawkins.com)



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**And, we're *both*  
better for it!**



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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.

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