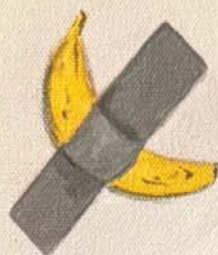


Mission Village **VOICE**



Seek Hideaway

Jen Clarke readies the storied
local haunt for a September
opening with some new flair
— See page 12

SBHF NEWS

San Benito Health Foundation Celebrates 50 Years

SBHF's Expansion as a Federally Qualified Health Center

Becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) was a pivotal and necessary change for the growth and success of SBHF. It provided the resources and revenue for the health center to more fully establish itself as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), also known as a Patient-Centered Health Home. The PCMH model makes the patient the center of attention and the clinic the "home base" for receiving primary medical care as well as dental, vision, nutrition and wellness services. It's approach is team-focused, allowing for coordinated, comprehensive and continuous care from all departments, maximizing health outcomes. Today, SBHF is recognized as a Level 3 PCMH, the highest designation given by the National Center for Quality Assurance (NCQA), signifying that it meets the rigorous standards for providing high-quality patient-centered access and care.

SBHF expanded beyond the clinic's home base in 2009, when it launched a new mobile clinic. This mobile outreach allowed SBHF to serve many rural and migrant families at schools, health fairs and community events. And in 2010, under the innovative leadership of Dr. Edwin Acosta, SBHF remodeled and enlarged its dental department. It now houses 8 dental chairs and state-of-the-art equipment including a digital panoramic machine. The next clinic addition was to vision care in 2015, when it received advanced diagnostic equipment generously donated by Dr. Nazhat



Parveen Sharma, SBHF's ophthalmologist.

But the biggest change came in 2019, when SBHF completely remodeled and refurbished the facility it had built 26 years earlier. In keeping with the PCMH model, it was designed with a circular flow for the patients to be served efficiently by all departments. A big conference room was also added to hold educational classes and events. However, what made this remodel unique was the addition of roof solar panels that allow the entire 17,000 square foot clinic to run on solar power for up to a week. This was a very important goal for SBHF, especially after its President and CEO, Rosa Vivian Fernandez saw the devastation Hurricane Maria caused to the health care system in Puerto Rico, along with the grid failures that were starting to happen in California with rising temperatures and wildfires. Now the facility is energy efficient and sustainable and can even serve as a cooling center for the community. SBHF is one of the few federally qualified health centers powered by solar and serves as role model for other health centers around the country.



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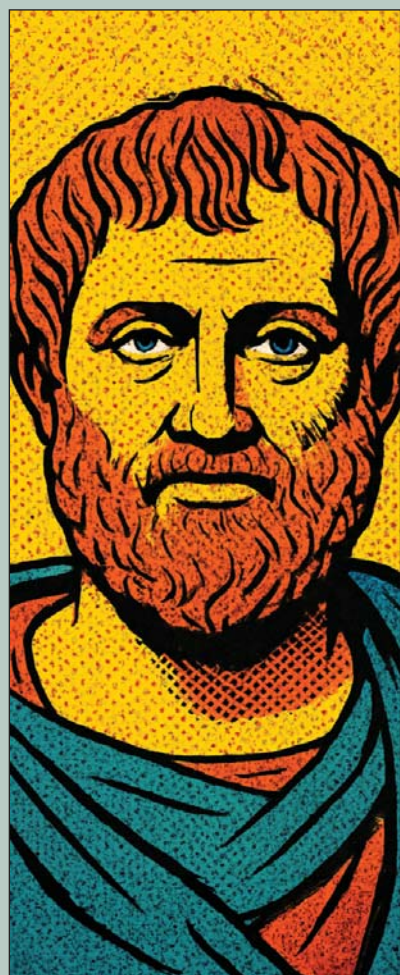
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A quote for our readers

"My best friend
is the man who
in wishing me
well wishes it
for my sake."
—Aristotle

On the cover

"6.2 Million" by artist Christine Tyler. For more information, see page 17.

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#BOOKWORM

Modern library offerings - and proposals!

By Leanne Oliveira

"I have an unshaken conviction that democracy can never be undermined if we maintain our library resources and a national intelligence capable of utilizing them."

- Franklin D Roosevelt

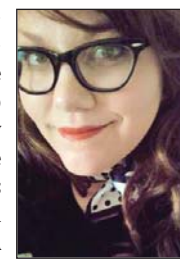
In a recent San Francisco Chronicle article "Young San Franciscans aren't going to bars - They're hanging at the library!" journalist Emily Hoeven describes how the SF Public Library has captured the attention of millennial and Gen-Z audiences, homeless, and seniors. (Plus, like Trader

Joe's bags, which have gone viral, SFPL has adorable mini totes!) Hoeven adroitly concluded, "Is it any surprise that young people like me are forgoing moody bars for free books when a glass of wine can set you back \$20?"

Libraries that focus on children and their mothers are literally a dying

breed. Catering to children is easy in libraries; the challenge is to cast a wider net to prolong the longevity of the institution. The most successful libraries focus on ALL ages and incomes EQUALLY. A library should have an equal ratio of adult-teen-youth offerings. When they do, especially when they promote intergenerational programs, amazing things happen!

More Library offerings attract a wider range of donors and sponsorships. Favoring one group over another severely hampers potential aid. Sure, an old fashioned youth-focused Library will receive related predictable partnerships (i.e. Office of Education, YMCA, Parks & Recreation) and those collaborations are still important, but libraries also need MONEY and the patronage of ALL elements of a community to survive, including seniors, homeless, handicapped, and childfree folks.



Leanne Oliveira

I urge you to do your homework and compare library offerings -- and if you don't like what you see, let those agencies facilitating the library know -- this would likely be a Board of Supervisors, City Council, Board of Trustees, etc. Make sure

you ask those facilitators if they have active library cards while you're at it. (Active cards! I guarantee that most do not.) Any agency that facilitates a library should be fully competent and informed on their facility's operation and offerings. No excuses! Neglect causes a host of issues and destroys community trust and respect. Food for thought!

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

Happy Birthday to writer-activist Ruby Bridges (9/8/1954)! In the Summer of 2021, Detroit educator Torie Anderson-Lloyd was looking for more community connection following the isolation of the pandemic. She

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Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, in partnership with the San Benito County Free Library and Friends of the San Benito County Free Library are hosting the following drop-in tech help sessions:

Location: Barbara Room
San Benito County Free Library
470 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 636-4107

Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Please bring your device and questions. There will be volunteers available to guide you with learning more about your cell phone or tablet. Guidance only - no device repairs provided.

RSVP to reserve a time: (831) 636-4107 or stop by for help on one of the dates above



Excited to announce FREE new volunteer-led Drop-In Tech Help Sessions! The project is a collaboration with Seniors Council (via the State's "Master Plan for Aging" initiative - visit mpa.aging.ca.gov), the San Benito County Free Library, and the Friends of the San Benito County Free Library.



Author Michelle Chouinard will be appearing this month at Hills Bookstore in Hollister.

posted on Facebook, 60 strangers showed up, and the first Black Girl Picnic (blackgirlpicnic.com) was born! Five years later, this hugely popular event is now ticketed and is running a literacy campaign designed to "center, celebrate, and affirm" Black girls and women through culturally responsive books with black protagonists. In collaboration with BLK GRL Conglomerate, 1000 books will be distributed!

FOURTH WING BOARD GAME

Coming soon! Visit tinyurl.com/4thWingGame.

FRIENDS OF THE SBC LIBRARY (HOLLISTER)

Reminder that our monthly book sale offerings are all donated and in beautiful condition, so very few are ex-library books. This month, grab some tea and cookies, classic books for school, holiday-themed materials, vinyl, and hundreds of DVD box sets. We also gratefully accept donations (of modern materials in beautiful condition only) at the sales although we must be picky due to very little storage space. Thanks for thinking of us!

HILLS BOOKSTORE (HOLLISTER)

This month, meet authors Michelle Chouinard and Hazel St. Lewis (exclusive early book release), poet Laura Lee, and more. Note that the shop will be closed 9/17-9/18 for a Bookstore Conference. All details at hillsbookstore.com.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

It's "Library Card Sign-Up" Month and "Be Kind to Writers and Editors" Month. Also: Read a Book Day 9/6, International Literacy Day 9/8, Libraries Remember Day 9/11) honoring the role of libraries in preserving history and promoting a free society), Read an eBook Day 9/18, Hobbit Day 9/22, Dear Diary Day 9/22, and National Comic Book Day 9/25. Birthday Babies: Jack Prelutsky (9/8/1940), Roald Dahl (9/13/1916), and Tomie DePaola (9/15/1934).

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY PROPOSAL

Congrats to @Madison.Leatherman (IG) whose fiancée proposed at a Little Free Library in Birmingham, AL!

LUCK LIBRARY (SJB)

Celebrating California's 175th Birthday 9/6 11AM-2PM! Thanks to Shawna Freels for the tip.

MAGIC TREE HOUSE VISITS MONTEREY

Mary Pope Osborne's 40th Magic Tree House book Sea Otter Surprise (July 2025) takes place in Monterey County!

SUMMER LIBRARY SCAVENGING

Patrons of the Ann Arbor Public Library District (AADL.org) in Michigan annually scavenge around town for hidden codes during their library's enormously popular summer reading program. So fun! ■

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

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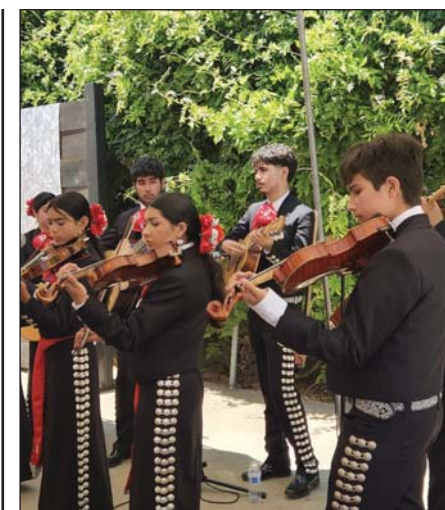
San Benito County Arts Council announces 2025 Arts Express Grant Program

The San Benito County Arts Council is excited to announce that applications are now open for its 2025 Arts Express Grant Program. This initiative is designed to provide vital funding opportunities for local artists, art groups, and cultural organizations, fostering a vibrant and diverse arts community in San Benito County. Our goal is to promote artistic and cultural engagement, accessibility, equity, and diversity throughout the region. To learn more about the Arts Express Grant Program and the application process, please join us for a Virtual Grant Workshop on Wednesday, September 10th, at 6 PM. The deadline to apply is Sunday September 28th. Register to attend and review guidelines on our website.



Fall youth art classes return

Get ready for a creative Fall! The San Benito County Arts Council is excited to an-



Mariachi Luz de Luna are former Arts Express Grantees.

nounce the return of its youth art classes. Young artists aged 5-15 are invited to explore the exciting world of paints, pastels, clay, and more in our Fall Youth Art Classes.

These classes provide a nurturing environment for students to unleash their creativity, discover new mediums, and develop existing skills. Classes are held weekly throughout September, October, and November.

Learn more about our programs and opportunities at www.sanbenitoarts.org. ■



Hollister Hills SVRA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) invites the whole family to its 50th Anniversary Celebration! Join us on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lower Ranch, Lodge Campground before or after you come out to play!

On this special day, the park will offer free day use access however normal camping fees will apply. Come stroll through rows of

OHV related exhibitors and vendors, view vintage motorcycles, enjoy family-oriented activities, food sold on site and more!

As one of California's first SVRA's, opening in 1975 the park has grown to be a valuable part of the OHV and surrounding communities. Hollister Hills SVRA is committed to protecting our natural and cultural resources through active resource management. As well as providing high-quality sustainable OHV recreational opportunities for generations to come.

Hope to see you for the 50th Anniversary celebration of this unique park and bring the whole family to play in the dirt!

Email Hollister.Hills@parks.ca.gov or call (831) 638-2065 for more information. ■

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Empowering women, strengthening communities: The Women's Fund of San Benito County

Since its founding in 2012, the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation for San Benito County has been a driving force for positive change, advocating for women and girls throughout the region. Rooted in the dedication of community volunteers, including educators, business owners, and philanthropists, the Women's Fund works closely with local leaders and nonprofits to identify and respond to the most pressing needs facing women and families today.

Guided by five core principles (creating a legacy of empowerment, promoting gender inclusivity, prioritizing education, welcoming innovation, and raising visibility), the Fund focuses on building a stronger, more equitable future. Through strategic grants and community collaboration, it supports programs that address critical issues such as child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, education, homelessness, human trafficking, mental health, and nutrition.

In 2013, the Women's Fund established an



thrive and teaching the next generation to succeed. This approach reflects the Fund's belief that when women flourish, so do communities.

Looking ahead, the Women's Fund is excited to announce that its 2025 Grant Cycle is on the horizon. Nonprofits and community partners are encouraged to stay tuned for more details coming soon. Together, through shared vision and continued support, we can create lasting change for women and families in San Benito County. ■

IN MEMORY

Dolly O' Neil

With broken hearts, we say goodbye to our sweet and loving Dolly, our 14-year-old beautiful Chihuahua. Dolly joined our family four years ago from the Monterey Peninsula SPCA after her first fur parent passed. Always the sweetest little lady, everyone who met Dolly loved her.

Dolly was a seasoned traveler, a pro at both road trips and airplanes. Her quiet nature made her the perfect companion. While Dolly enjoyed exploring, her favorite activity was working alongside her fur mommy, curled up in a warm bed with a blanket.

Thank you, Dolly, for joining our family. You made our lives so much richer, and we miss you dearly. We will see you again over the Rainbow Bridge. ■



MVV ēvz drāp

At the farmer's market:

Woman 1: "Is that your ex?"

Woman 2: "No, that's a learning experience in cargo shorts."



Gavilan College graduate receives her diploma from President Pedro Avila during the 2025 commencement ceremony. (Photo by Chris Mora)

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE Community Bulletin Board

San Benito Stands Together:

A Suicide Prevention Resource Fair

Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Location: Gavilan College, 505 Fairview Rd, Hollister.

This event is hosted in partnership with Gavilan College and San Benito County Behavioral Health. It will bring together community partners, residents, and organizations to share resources, foster connection, and raise awareness about suicide prevention. The fair will feature resource tables, informative talks, interactive activities, and opportunities to connect with local mental health and wellness services. The event is free and open to the public. We welcome community members to join us in creating a safe and hopeful space.

Gavilan College Recognized for Strong Return on Investment in New Statewide Report

Gavilan College has been ranked 16th statewide and 5th in the bay area among 327 community and career colleges in California for return on investment, according to a new report from College Futures Foundation and the HEA Group.

The Golden Returns report shows that students at Gavilan recover their college costs in less than four months. With a total net cost of \$4,488 for a two-year student and with average earnings nearly \$15,000 higher than those with only a high school diploma, Gavilan stands out for affordability and impact.

"This reflects the heart of our mission," said Dr. Pedro Avila, President/Superintendent of Gavilan College. "We serve students who are often working, parenting, or the first in their family to attend college. We have a responsibility to ensure their time here leads to real opportunity."

This spring, more students graduated from Gavilan than in any previous year in the history of the college,

a sign that enrollment is growing and students are completing what they start. The recognition from Golden Returns affirms that students aren't just enrolling at Gavilan, they're graduating, advancing, and earning more.

Whether students are preparing to transfer or enter the workforce, Gavilan's programs give them tools to move forward. In a region where cost and access are real barriers, public education still has the power to open doors.

Fall classes begin August 25, and there's still time to register. Students can visit www.gavilan.edu to explore programs, apply, and get support with financial aid, counseling, and enrollment.

Gavilan College is a public community college serving Gilroy, Hollister, Morgan Hill, San Martin, San Juan Bautista, and the surrounding areas of southern Santa Clara and northern San Benito counties. With over 100 degree and certificate programs, clear transfer pathways, and strong student support, Gavilan helps students reach their goals and strengthen their communities.

Judges is the Classroom

The Superior Court of San Benito invites teachers to participate in the Judges in the Classroom program. Local judges are available to visit classrooms Thursdays throughout September. To learn more and sign up visit: www.sanbenito.courts.ca.gov/outreach.

Limited-Term Attorney to the Self-Help Center

Welcoming a new Limited-Term Attorney to the Self-Help Center. They are available to assist the public with basic legal procedures, court forms, and explain available legal options. Visit the Self-Help Center located inside the Superior Court of San Benito. Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Learn more at www.sanbenito.courts.ca.gov/selfhelpcenter.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Exotic Ginger Cumin Chicken

Exotic ginger cumin chicken is a dish that combines two spices with deep, ancient culinary roots: ginger and cumin. The flavor profile is warm, aromatic, and slightly pungent, with ginger providing a zesty, fresh heat and cumin offering a deep, earthy, and slightly nutty undertone. Together, these spices create a layered taste that balances brightness and warmth, often complemented by garlic, onion, or coriander in various recipes.

Flavor Profile

Ginger contributes a lively, almost citrus-like spice with a touch of sweetness and a bit of heat, especially when used fresh.

Cumin adds a grounding element: musky, warm, and slightly peppery, with a toasted edge when the seeds are dry-roasted or bloomed in oil.

When paired with chicken, these spices often produce a dish that feels both light and hearty; aromatic without being overpowering.

Historical Background

Ginger has been used in cooking and medicine for over 5,000 years, originating in Southeast Asia and traded extensively along ancient spice routes into India, the Middle East, and Europe.

Cumin is even older in documented culinary history, with seeds found in ancient Egyptian tombs, used in Mesopotamian stews, and widely cultivated in the Middle East and South Asia for millennia.

A dish like ginger cumin chicken likely evolved in South Asian or Middle Eastern cuisines, where both spices are staples. In India, for example, ginger and cumin often form part of a masala base for curries or dry-fried chicken dishes, while in the Middle East, cumin is central to many spice

blends (like baharat or ras el hanout), and ginger appears in both fresh and dried forms. The dish probably spread and adapted through centuries of trade and colonial exchange, finding its place in diverse kitchens.

Exotic Ginger Cumin Chicken

Prep time: 15 min; Cook time: 20 min;

Servings: 8

Ingredients

1 Tbsp Vegetable Oil, divided
2 lbs Boneless Skinless Chicken, cut bite-size
2 tsp Garlic, minced
1/2 cup Onion, chopped
1 Tbsp Ginger Root, minced
1/2 tsp Cayenne Pepper
1 tsp Cumin
1 tsp Turmeric
1/2 cup Chicken Stock
1 can (19oz) Stewed Tomatoes
2 Tbsp Tomato Paste
1 tsp Sugar
3/4 cup Low Fat Plain Yogurt

Directions

In large saucepan heat 2 tsp. oil over medium heat. Add half of the chicken and cook 3 minutes until brown. Remove from pan and set aside. Repeat with remaining chicken.

Add remaining oil to pan; add garlic, onion, and ginger. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring constantly for 5 minutes or until soft. Stir in cayenne, cumin, and turmeric; saute for 1 minute.

Stir in stock, tomatoes, tomato paste, and sugar; return chicken to pan. Bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes.

Stir in yogurt and simmer 2 minutes. ■

Recipe courtesy of Joel Maxuel from publicdomainrecipes.com.

SNIPPETS FROM THE MILLIKEN FILES

Riding goats

From an interview with San Juan resident Mark Regan, 1928

Submitted by Joe Claus & John Grafton

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

There were many Mexican sheepherders all over the hills, and their children had many pet lambs and goats broke to ride. Some wag rode around among these people and told them that the Masons were going to establish a lodge and that every Mason would have to have a goat to ride and that the children could make a lot of money selling goats to the Masons.

So the afternoon before the Masons were going to meet, the Mexican children began arriving in town and by evening the old National Hotel was fairly surrounded with Mexican children with goats to sell. "Don't you want to buy this goat?" they would cry out to every man that passed. The Masons did not get wise to what was going on until finally one boy rode his goat right up the



stairway. When he found out that the Masons didn't want to buy any goats, he rode back down the stairs and told the children that nobody would buy any goat.

The Masons by this time had found out what had brought the assemblage of goats

and Mexican children. They thought it a shame to fool the children that way. So they took up a big collection and gave it to the children to buy candy and presents with, and they all went back to their homes singing at the top of their voices. ■

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Planning your business exit: Start with the end in mind

If you own a business, you've probably spent countless hours thinking about how to grow it, manage daily operations and serve your customers. But have you thought about how you'll eventually step away from it? While it might seem premature, planning your successful exit from your business is one of the smartest moves you can make as an owner.

The reality is that most business owners have 80% to 90% of their net worth tied up in their companies, according to the Exit Planning Institute. That's a significant investment that deserves careful planning to protect. Unfortunately, 70% to 80% of businesses put on the market don't sell, and about half of all business exits are involuntary due to unexpected circumstances like health issues, family emergencies management disputes or economic downturns.

Exit planning is more than preparing for retirement. It's taking control of your future and ensuring you can transition away from your business when and how you choose. You can start with the end in mind – a proactive approach that can inform your current business decisions and help increase your company's value and marketability.

Begin by articulating your personal goals for both the transaction and your life afterward. Maybe you want to sell only a portion of your

business, stay on as a paid consultant or use the proceeds to start your next venture. Understanding your vision helps shape everything else.

You'll want to calculate how much money you'll need to fund your desired retirement lifestyle, accounting for expenses that may be currently covered by the business, like your cell phone, vehicles, travel and health care. Don't forget about your legacy goals too – what you want to leave for your family or charitable causes.

Getting started requires building a strong professional team. At the center should be a financial advisor who can help you through the planning, execution and post-sale phases. You'll likely also need a tax professional, legal advisor, commercial banker and business valuation expert. Depending on your exit strategy, you might later add specialists like business brokers, investment bankers or employee stock ownership plan advisors.

Understanding your business's current value is crucial. It's a good idea to get a calculation of value at least three to five years before your planned exit. This isn't as formal or expensive as a qualified appraisal, but it gives you a realistic range of what your business might be worth.

This step may reveal a gap between what you need financially and what your business could

sell for. If so, don't panic. You have several options: work longer, adjust your spending expectations, save more outside the business or focus on increasing your company's value. You can boost value by increasing profits through higher market share, new products, better pricing or reduced costs. You can also improve intangible assets like employee expertise, operational systems and customer relationships.

Finally, consider who your successor might be. Selling your interest to family members, business partners or employees often provide

more control over timing and lower transaction costs, though they may result in lower sale prices. Selling the business to third parties typically bring higher proceeds but less control over the process.

The key message is simple: it's never too early to start planning your exit. Whether you're thinking about stepping away next year or in the next decade, taking proactive steps now puts you in control of your business's future and your own financial security.

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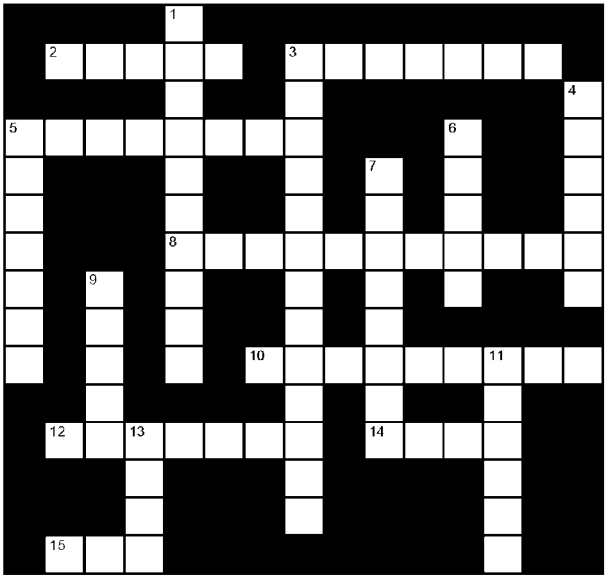
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Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

HOPE NEVER GIVES UP

Cecilia and Angel's love story is no puzzle

Cecilia Ponce and Angel Ortiz grew up in the small town of Castroville, CA. Each of them lived their journey almost parallel to each other, with lots of mutual friends and very similar upbringings. Their paths wouldn't meet until later in life. Cecilia moved up north to the city of San Francisco after high school while Angel stayed local. They both went on to accomplish great things for themselves. Cecilia went on to receive her master's degree and became an elementary school teacher, where she now passes her amazing light to her students. Angel went on to receive his Bachelor of Science degree, the first science degree in his family. First in their families to achieve such marks, their stories



would come together in the summer of 2020. The world stopped in 2020, and as everything was coming to a halt, a new story of love was emerging. Forced to work from home, they were limited to a life that took away normal activities. One thing that didn't change was their love for early morning coffee and a nice park to enjoy it at. On a courageous day, Angel decided to reach out to Cecilia after he noticed she was also in those early mornings. She agreed, and a date was set up. This was the beginning of their story. For months, they would grab a coffee at Vertigo Coffee Roasters in San Juan Bautista, CA, and as a pastime they began reading *Mission Village Voice*. Within that newspaper, they found Carlinka's crossword puzzles. These puzzles kept them coming back month after month, where every clue

they solved was unknowingly another step to a beautiful relationship. After five years and many adventures throughout their lives together, Angel decided to come back one more time to San Juan Bautista, but this time it wasn't just for coffee and a crossword. This time it was to ask Cecilia to become his wife. Their stories are now embedded here as a memory of how they met and where they decided to make it forever. From Angel and Cecilia: "Thank you, *Mission Village Voice*, Vertigo Coffee Roasters, Mission San Juan Bautista, and to all our friends and family who supported us throughout the years! We would not be us without everyone involved. We hope our story inspires others to not give up hope on true love." Footnote: For his proposal, Angel had reached out to *Mission Village Voice* to create a special crossword puzzle for Cecilia, which appeared in the July 2025 issue, and is reprinted below. MVV was deeply honored to be part of this moment, and we know Carlinka is smiling from heaven. ■

- Across**
- 2 Loving boyfriend (5)
 - 3 An honorable career (7)
 - 5 Proposal (8)
 - 8 Artichoke Capital (11)
 - 10 Carlinka (9)
 - 12 Best coffee on a date (7)
 - 14 I ---- you (4)
 - 15 Small insect (3)
- Down**
- 1 City founded on the ruins of Tenochtitlan (6,4)
 - 3 U.S. Highway Route 66 (3,6,4)
 - 4 Best drink for crosswords (6)
 - 5 San Juan Bautista destination (7)
 - 6 Pandemic (5)
 - 7 Will you marry me? (8)
 - 9 Perfect with Vertigo Coffee (5)
 - 11 Port City in Russia/Ukraine (6)
 - 13 Put a ---- on it (4)

(Solution below)

KUDOS

Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center raises over \$13,500 at their successful first annual fundraiser

Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center raised over \$13,500 at their first annual fundraiser. The goal is to provide a permanent location for the center in San Juan Bautista. Over 60 attended the event at the St. Francis Retreat on August 7 who were able to view the architectural plans and renderings placed around the room on easels. Donations were received in the amounts of \$5,000, \$1,200, \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 and various other amounts. Fr. Paul of the St. Francis Retreat

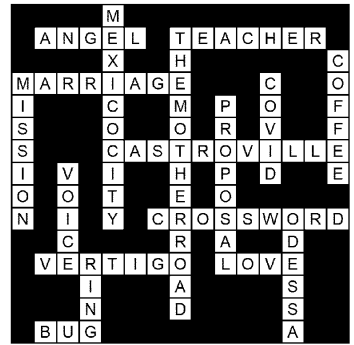
gave the invocation, and MC duties were performed by Philip Geiger, Regional Director of Alzheimer's Association of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. A lunch of heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine was prepared by the St. Francis Retreat. A video about the Senior Center produced by CMAP by Noah Fox Chapul with support from Cesar Flores was viewed by the group. The video highlighted the inception of the organization and a brief history of the Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center. The



video explained the significant influence the Wednesday lunches serving local seniors has provided the community since service began in May of 2024. The video is available on YouTube. The proposed location of the Senior Center is at Luck Park with the City Library and City Museum. The next step is underway to bring the proposal and plans to the City Planning Commission. Providers of services frequently needed by seniors are welcome to make informational presentations. Interested providers may schedule available dates by contacting Mar-

leen Trujillo at (408) 337-7816. For questions or more information, contact Mary Vazquez Edge at (831) 262-3484. Donations are welcome and may be mailed to the Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center, PO Box 467, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045. **About the Mary Velasco Sellen Senior Center** We provide a homemade lunch every Wednesday at Casa Maria, Old Mission San Juan Bautista's Parish Hall, 600 1st St. The schedule is: • 11 AM Chair Yoga • 12 Noon Lunch is served

- Bingo follows lunch
- Lunch is by donations, and everyone gives from the heart! ■



California's Budget Decisions Are Failing Its Most Vulnerable Children

Difficult decisions were made to pass the California state budget this year. We understand lawmakers worked hard to protect essential programs. However, much more could have been done for foster and justice-involved youth. Among the most alarming cuts was the elimination of statewide CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) funding, including for programs serving children in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Many vulnerable communities will feel the impact of these budget cuts, but for foster and justice-involved youth, being overlooked is nothing new. They are often left out of critical decisions and treated as an afterthought. Yet the state has both a legal and moral obligation to protect them. With the fourth-largest economy in the world, California has the resources. Lawmakers can choose to prioritize these children.

CASA programs are not only essential to foster children, they are required by law. California's Rule of Court 5.655 outlines the legal and fiscal standards CASA programs must meet. Yet the lack of steady, adequate state funding undermines the state's own mandate. This means fewer volunteers, fewer children served, and more young people navigating hostile systems alone, putting them at greater risk.

State funding could have ensured that children across all counties would be served by a trained Advocate. Without it, support now varies wildly by region. Smaller and rural counties, with fewer resources, have been hit hardest, resulting in children being denied support because of where they live.

This cut to the state budget isn't just a missed opportunity. It's a crisis. Children we fail today grow into struggling adults tomorrow. Without intervention, over half of youth who age out of foster care face homelessness, incarceration, or unemployment within two years. Nearly 80 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system end up involved in the adult criminal system.

When children receive early and consistent support, they are more likely to thrive into adulthood. CASA services lead to reduced time in the system, stronger educational outcomes, and lower rates of recidivism. Trained volunteer advocates help ensure each child's safety and well-being while guiding them through complex systems. These outcomes save the state and counties money in the short term and lessen future spending on costly adult systems of care.

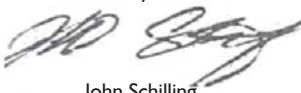
We are deeply grateful for our local community members, partners, and donors stepping up to protect these life-changing services. And we thank those lawmakers, including Assemblymember Gail Pellerin and State Senator John Laird, who fought to protect programs like CASA this year. We look forward to working with lawmakers to restore this vital funding in the future.

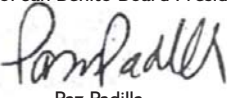
None of us condone the abuse and neglect these children have suffered. None of us want to leave a child in danger. California has made repeated commitments to child well-being but continues to leave foster and justice involved youth behind. So, let's align our values with meaningful investment. These children deserve better.

CASA of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties advocate for and mentor children in foster care and juvenile court systems and will keep demanding the resources necessary for them to heal and thrive.

Signed,



Juliet Del Rosario
CASA of Monterey Board President


John Schilling
CASA of San Benito Board President


Paz Padilla
CASA of Santa Cruz Board President


Beth Wilbur
CASA of Monterey Executive Director


Jessica Ravetz
CASA of San Benito Executive Director


Lynne Petrovic
CASA of Santa Cruz Executive Director



Paid for by CASA San Benito County.

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Jen Clarke, new owner of The Hideaway (opening in September!)

By Anne Caetano

When longtime Bear's Hideaway owner Lori Wilson passed the torch, it didn't land in just anyone's hands. It found its way to someone who feels like she was meant to be here. Enter Jen Clarke: Illinois farm girl turned California ag professional, wine lover, beekeeper, and off-road adventurer. After moving to San Juan Bautista a year and a half ago, Jen quickly fell for the town's charm, friendly faces, and mix of characters. One serendipitous weekend, Lori's final days behind the bar, turned into a life-changing opportunity. Now, with the relaunch as The Hideaway, Jen is keeping the cozy, music-filled spirit locals love, while adding her own touches: boutique wines, craft beers, French press coffee, pet-friendly patios, and a welcoming space for meetings, music, and community connection. During our chat, Jen shares her trek from cornfields to leafy greens research, the twist of fate that led her to The Hideaway, and why she believes San Juan Bautista is the perfect place for her next adventure.

FB: The Hideaway SJB, Instagram: @thehideawaysjb. Address: 402 #B 3rd Street, San Juan Bautista. thehideawaysjb@gmail.com

MVV: Tell us about your background. Where did you grow up?

Jen: I'm originally from a farm family in Illinois, surrounded by corn and soybeans. My earliest memories are of long, green fields, cows, farm dogs, and a pace of life that was tied to the seasons. When I was 10, my family moved to Califor-

nia, but Illinois always feels like part of me. Most of my extended family still lives there, and I visit whenever I can.

Here in California, we settled in Lodi, in the Stockton area. It was rural, unincorporated, and the kind of place where you knew your neighbors but also had a lot of open



Jen Clarke will open The Hideaway in early September.

space. I went to school in Lodi, spent weekends outdoors, and learned early on how much I loved being in nature.

I've always been independent. I moved out at 19 after starting junior college and then moved to South Lake Tahoe where I got my AA Degree. I didn't leave for any other issue other than just wanting to live life on my own terms. I knew if I stayed home, I'd need to follow my parents' rules, so moving out was a way to give them respect while giving myself freedom. I shared an apartment with girlfriends and learned how to budget, cook, and keep a roof over my head.

How did agriculture become such a big part of your life?

I've always been drawn to biology, plants, and the outdoors. Agriculture felt like the perfect marriage of science and nature. When I transferred to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, I dove deep into the ag program. I minored in viticulture, which focused on vineyard management, and spent a lot of time in the field learning from people who had been growing crops their whole lives.

After college, I started working in tasting rooms and vineyards. Brander Vineyards in Santa Ynez was my first job out of college. I ran their tasting room, helped market a second label, and even handled grape sampling for harvest. I loved the hands-on side of it, but eventually, I moved into production agriculture for a more stable income.

Today, I'm the Executive Director of the California Leafy Greens Research Board. We work under the California Department of Food and Agriculture, focusing exclusively on iceberg, romaine, red leaf, green leaf, butter lettuce, spinach, and spring mix. Our program is entirely research focused. The industry funds it through a per-carton assessment, and most of our budget goes toward plant breeding, with a special focus on developing pest- and disease-resistant varieties.

When I first started, the genetics side was overwhelming. I'd taken one genetics class in college and found it fascinating but tough. Over the last seven years, I've read a lot, asked endless questions, and gotten to the point where I can talk confidently about plant breeding and disease resistance. It's been a rewarding challenge.

You moved to San Juan Bautista recently, right?

Yes, about a year and a half ago. From the moment I arrived, I knew I'd found a special place. The town is charming, the pace is humane, and the people are genuinely warm. There's such a great mix here, you'll find 20-somethings hanging out alongside retirees, artists chatting with farmers, and everyone mingling in the same space. It's the kind of town where someone will give up their seat for you without thinking twice.

One of my early visits to Bear's Hideaway was with my dog, Pepper.

It was busy, but a young couple immediately offered me their couch spot so Pepper and I could sit comfortably. That simple kindness really stuck with me.

So, how did you end up buying Bear's Hideaway?

Honestly? It was pure timing and a little bit of fate. A friend first brought me here, and I loved the atmosphere. Later, another friend and I wandered into Bear's Hideaway without realizing it was Lori's final weekend before retiring. The place was buzzing. When Lori told me she was closing to travel, I asked why she wasn't selling. She said she'd tried, and before I could overthink it, I said, "Well, maybe I want to buy it."

We talked briefly; I went home to sleep on it and came back the next day with a Yes. In the process, we realized how many mutual friends we had, especially in the ag community. It felt like one of those "meant-to-be" moments where the pieces just fall into place.

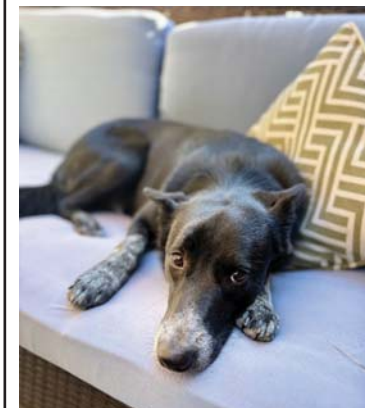
You're renaming it The Hideaway. What's the vision?

I love the name. It keeps the spirit of Lori's place while making it my own. "The Hideaway" has that sense of comfort and escape, somewhere you can slip away for a quiet glass of wine, a conversation with friends, or a night of live music.

I'm keeping the music, open mics, and Friday jam sessions. I've already got the sports package for the big TV so people can catch games. I'm adding more seating. I'd love to put in a long bar table along the window like the old 18th Barrel had. I want to make the space more comfortable for both locals and visitors.

Will food be part of the picture?

I'll have simple, packaged snacks like pretzels and chips, and people are always welcome to bring food





from local restaurants. I'll have menus from around town so visitors can see what's available. I'm also adding French press coffee from Vertigo and loose-leaf tea, perfect for morning or midday meet-ups.

One of my friends often drinks coffee while I drink wine, so I joke that the coffee menu is basically for her, but I know it'll be a hit with others, too.

What about the backyard space?

It's one of my favorite features. In the short term, I'll keep it casual with cornhole, a "dog relief station," and comfortable seating. Longer term, I want to enhance it for music, special events, or just lazy afternoons. It's already a great spot for a cigar and a conversation.

You're a wine person yourself, aren't you?

Absolutely. Wine was my first love in agriculture. I've spent time in vineyards, tasting rooms, and a little time in marketing, and I love the way wine connects people. It's been fun to get behind the bar here and talk wine again. I'll keep the boutique wineries and craft beers that regulars love, but I'll also explore adding new labels and varietals as I learn what my customers enjoy.

You seem like someone who enjoys variety in life. Any other hobbies?

I'm a beekeeper; bees are fascinating, and I could talk about them all day. I garden. I'm handy thanks to my upbringing. My sister and I grew up helping our parents fix things around the house, so I'm not afraid to use tools.

And then there's my off-roading side. In 2017, I competed in the all-women's Rebelle Rally, a 10-day, map-and-compass navigation challenge from Squaw Valley to Glamis Dunes. No GPS allowed. We camped every night, plotted GPS coordinates by hand, and found checkpoints based on our accuracy. My teammate and I were thrilled to place solidly in the middle our first time out, especially compet-

ing against women who do this regularly.

These days, I love taking friends four-wheeling in the Shaver Lake area. Some people don't "get" Jeeps until they're out on a trail, far from the nearest road, realizing they're truly off the grid.

How have the other business owners in San Juan welcomed you?

The support has been incredible. Lori has been introducing me to everyone, Daisy's, Smoke Point, Lolla's, to name a few, and I've met so many great people in the process. I am excited to meet everyone. It's collaborative, not competitive, and that's rare. Everyone genuinely wants the others to succeed.

Will The Hideaway be available for private events or meetings?

Definitely. I'm open to hosting morning or lunchtime meetings, ag industry gatherings, club meetups, anything that brings people together. There's Wi-Fi, coffee, tea, and plenty of comfortable seating. I want people to feel like this is their place.

You recently hosted a big dinner here before you even officially opened. Tell us about that.

Every year, the California Specialty Crop Council organizes a "regulator tour" for state and federal officials who oversee pesticide use. We take them through the Salinas Valley to see agriculture up close, and then end with dinner. This year, I hosted it here. It was so much fun to see the space full of people, and it helped me think through how the flow works for events.

Your approach seems to be "keep the best of what works and add your own touches."

Exactly. I want to keep the heart of the place the same. Over time, I'll adjust based on what customers want, more non-alcoholic options, new wines or beers, maybe a wine-tasting series. I'm always open to suggestions. I tell people, "I'm happy to hear any advice, I may or may not take it, but I'm listening."

What's your favorite part of this new adventure so far?

The people. Meeting neighbors, chatting with regulars, making new friends; it's been wonderful. Sometimes even dogs walking by want to stop and come in! Personally, it feels like everything lined up at the right time. This space checks so many boxes for me: it's creative, social, connected to the community, and still ties in my love of wine and hospitality.

When do you expect to open?

I am opening early September. The permit process takes time, but it gives me a chance to finish sprucing up the space, add my touches, and get comfortable before the doors open.

Any final thoughts for the community?

Come by and say Hi, whether you're here for wine, coffee, music, or just good conversation. The Hideaway is your spot to relax, connect, and feel at home. I can't wait to welcome everyone in. ■

WHO KNEW? SUNDAY STORIES

Valerie Eglund
on Bavarian Artist
Alex Zeller



Thank you!

Our first Sunday Stories was a great success. Special thanks to Valerie Eglund, Wanda Guibert, San Juan Bautista VFW Post #6359, Will Chapman, and all who shared their Alex Zeller stories and artwork, and to those who helped make this engaging event happen — you know who you are.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Ship happens! L-R: Carol & Teresa Lavagnino, Joanne Bravo, Mari Rossi & Lynn Jacobson sipping their way to nautical nonsense and plotting a mutiny by happy hour.



SBALT Volunteers installed an owl box courtesy of Paul Hain's craftsmanship. Back: Paul Hain, Andoni Isasi, Mia Molina, Mary Watson, Nat Wong, Margret Ellwanger. Front: Trina Higuera-Coates, Alan Robertson, Emmanuel Molina, Kris Hernandez, Al Key.



San Juan Bautista traffic jam, vaquero encanto, as seen through the lens of Judith Ogus.



Ruth Asawa: Retrospective - SF MOMA.



Celebrating Gilbert Perreira's 88th in fine form! L-R: Gary Perreira, Cathy Goularte Ayers, the birthday gentleman himself Gilbert Perreira, & Jane Flood.



Caryl Chrisman shares a 1939 housewarming carving by Alex Zeller for her grandparents at Sunday Stories, led by Valerie Eglad.



Sighting: Matt & Danny, raising glasses and eyebrows, at California Grill in Watsonville.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Giddy-up! Linda Wieck's farm in Aromas is the perfect place for a pony party.



Mandisa Snodey painting the Credo Studio & San Benito Arts Council Mandala in San Juan Bautista.



San Benito Arts exhibition "Summer Skies" featuring Pinnacles Quilters of SBC.



Clay Kempf, Executive Director of the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties presenting on the Master Plan for Aging playbook & the SBC Volunteers website.



The best gift of all, Sandra's Casarez's surprise birthday hug from her daughter Davina.



San Benito Arts teaching Artists prepare for a new school year of art.



EVENTS
San Benito County Fair promises to 'let out' all the fun

As we eagerly prepare for the 2025 San Benito County Fair, we're asking the pressing question, "Who Let the Cows Out?"

The answer eludes us. But we can tell you who's going to "let out" all the fun, food, rides, concerts and entertainment-- we are!

Mark your calendars! The 2025 Fair takes place at Bolado Park, October 3rd-5th.

Fairgoers can look forward to live concerts including The Outlaw Mariachi, back by popular demand! We also have the Bucking Bash and Truck Pulls!

Plus, the Junior Livestock Auction, carnival rides, sweet and savory treats... and the best of the best offered by community members-- baked goods, quilts, photography, art, textiles, veggies and more.

This year, we're offering new discounts on select, pre-sale carnival tickets:

One Day Unlimited Carnival Pass - \$30 (down from \$35)

Family Fun Pack - \$40 Includes admission for 2 adults, 2 kids and parking any one day of the Fair. (\$52 value)

Starting September 2nd, fairgoers can purchase their discounted pre-sale tickets at the following locations:

- Ace Hardware, Hollister
- True Value Hardware, Hollister
- Postal Graphics, Hollister
- Pizza Factory, San Juan Bautista
- Tres Pinos Farm Stand, Tres Pinos

And, tickets are always available



at the Fairgrounds Business office, during business hours.

Pre-sale ends Thursday, October 2nd at 3:00pm-- or when sold out!

Save the dates to save money on all the Fair fun!

Entertainment Line-Up

Is it a county fair or a dance party? Fairgoers will have to decide for themselves once the bands take the stage!

Our live concerts this year include The Outlaw Mariachi, Justin Lawrence and the Double Average Band and The Junebugs!

The entertainment doesn't stop there! Fairgoers will be delighted by Hillia Hula Hoop Extraordinaire, POWERHOUSE!!! Percussive Dance, Rebecca Fireplug and Ventriloquist Vikki!

REMINDER: You can do more than attend the Fair... you can enter the Fair!

Art, Textiles, Vegetables, Livestock, Quilts, Baked Goods, Flowers, Photography and Preserved Foods—bring us your best!

ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 25th—so don't delay!

More details at sanbenitocounty-fair.com. ■



Mark your calendars! The 2025 Fair takes place at Bolado Park, October 3rd-5th.

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COVER ARTIST

Christine Tyler

Atlanta based artist Christine Tyler is a painter who has been creating and selling her art for the past thirty years.

Christine learned her craft by doing. As a child she spent hours making elaborate drawings of imaginary landscapes, farms, cities, people and even a fully costumed opera starring frogs. She also loved the illustrations in children's books and studied them closely. You can see the artistic influences of illustrators such as Tove Jansson, Mary Chalmers, and Kay Thompson in her work.

Christine's works begin a story and then allow the viewer to use their imagination to take the narrative to their own conclusion. The paintings provide a spark to ignite a memory, a dream, or an emotion. Combining



juxtaposed visual elements has been a subtle recurring theme in her work. She enjoys pushing the obvious in a whimsical way hoping to invite her audience to see our world and culture with enchantment, laughter, and joy.

Christine has sold her work in many shops, festivals, and galleries around the country including Kentucky Festival of the Arts, Atlanta Dogwood Festival, and the Cottonwood Arts Festival in Dallas.

Interestingly, Christine recently found her birth family and was delighted to find that she comes from a lineage of artists!

Christine lives with her husband, a pack of dogs, a herd of miniature donkeys, and a gaggle of geese on their farm in Jackson GA.

For more information, visit Christine tylerartworks.com and visit her on Instagram @christinetylerartworks. ■

Above: "Misunderstood," and left: "Go Ask Alice" by Christine Tyler.



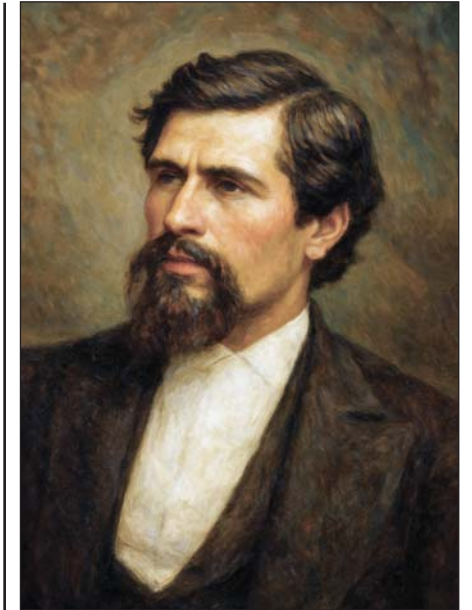
DEARLY DENOTED

Tiburcio Vasquez

Tiburcio Vasquez, born on April 7, 1835, in Monterey, Alta California, México (modern-day Monterey, California), was one of the most infamous outlaws of the American West. Living during a turbulent era of cultural transition, Vasquez became known as the last of the Mexican banditos to terrorize California in the 1870s.

His early life took a dark turn in 1853 when he became involved in the murder of Constable William Hardmount in Northern California. Convicted as a horse thief, he served three terms in San Quentin Prison before his release in 1863, but the lure of an outlaw's life proved too strong.

Following his release, Vasquez embarked on a spree of robberies, horse thefts, and violent crimes, including two murders in Tres Pinos, which earned him a \$8,000 bounty, dead or alive. His notoriety spread throughout California as he led a band of followers



across the state, eluding lawmen for years.

He was finally captured in May 1874 in the Arroyo Seco area near Los Angeles. Tried and sentenced to death, he was hanged on March 19, 1875, in San Jose, Santa Clara County, at the age of 39. Before his execution, Vasquez stated, "A spirit of hatred and revenge took possession of me. I had numerous fights in defense of what I believed to be my rights and those of my countrymen. I believed we were unjustly deprived of the social rights that belonged to us."

Vasquez was laid to rest at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, where his headstone remains unique for its angled placement in the baby section of the cemetery. The original site once held a large palm tree that was removed to protect surrounding graves.

Today, Tiburcio Vasquez's name lives on through Vasquez Natural Area Park in Southern California and his portrayal in the Hollywood film "Mexican Bandit." Though he is remembered as an outlaw, his life reflects the tension and resistance of a people struggling for their rights during a period of great upheaval in California's history. ■



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



THEN (left): Breen Memorial Plaque, 2013. Photo credit: Barry Swackhamer. NOW (right): bare brick wall with no plaque.

Then... and Now: The first contribution of a 65-year-old local non-profit

By Wanda Guibert,
San Juan Bautista Historical Society

On September 1, 2025, the San Juan Bautista Historical Society celebrates its 65th anniversary as a 501c3 non-profit! According to its Charter, "The specific and primary purposes are to discover, procure and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, ecclesiastical and architectural history of San Juan Bautista; to establish and maintain collections of photo-



Ed F. Pearce and Marian Hublit
Photo credit: Ed Lamb

graphs, information and memorabilia of every kind relating to the City of San Juan Bautista; to arouse interest and appreciation in the historical heritage of San Juan Bautista, and to compile and publish books relating to the history of said city." We have indeed compiled a large collection of vintage photos (glass + film negatives as well as print and digital files), facilitated in the publication of close to a dozen books, and contribute a monthly "Then and Now" column in *Mission Village Voice* in addition to many other contributions to the historic preservation of San Juan Bautista and promotion of heritage tourism. We participated in and were major funders of the San Juan Bautista Historic Walking Trail and installed Historic Highway 101 signs along Third Street.

On file at the State of California Office of the Attorney General, the Registration of Charitable Trust document states: "On this 1st day of September, 1965, before me, a Notary Public for the State of California, with principal office in San Benito County, personally appeared Adele Nyland McConnell, James E. Mansmith, Martin Penn, and Father George McMenamin..." They were Charter Members of the newly formed organization and on the Board of Directors. The Notary Public was none other than Marjorie Lamb, who along with her husband Ed, published the weekly *San Juan Mission News* until 1969.

A headline in the 3 September 1965 issue of the *Mission News* proclaims, "City of History has its own Historical Society." The article states, "San Juan Bautista is a 'treasure-house' of history but that much of it has



Historical Society President Martin Penn.
Photo credit: Ed Lamb

been forgotten in the past." In addition, "Many of the old photographs taken in the last half of the 1800s have been thrown away, and only a precious few remain to tell the story of one of California's oldest cities." Many vintage glass and film photos were digitized in recent years by the late Ken Halla.

Ralph L. Milliken, historian and an authority on the history of San Juan Bautista, was the honorary President of the 57-member group. The officers were Martin Penn, President; Richard Gulate, Vice-President; Anna Baccala, Secretary, and Marian Hublit, Treasurer.

One of the first of many contributions was featured in the 7 June 1968 *Mission News*, announced by the headline of the article,

"Breen plaque dedicated by Historical Society." The San Juan Bautista Historical Society dedicated a bronze plaque at the San Juan Bautista District Cemetery on Sunday, June 2, at 2:15 p.m.

The plaque, honoring the lives and final resting place of Patrick and Margaret Breen, was donated by Arthur S. Nyland, a descendant of the Breens. Mrs. Marian Hublit, treasurer of the Historical Society, acted as Mistress of Ceremonies, and Father George McMenamin delivered the invocation. A crowd of perhaps 200 witnessed the brief ceremonies and unveiling of the plaque by Mrs. Blanche Moore, great-granddaughter of Patrick and Margaret Breen. The text on the bronze plaque reads as follows:

IN MEMORIAM
PATRICK AND MARGARET BREEN
These pioneers left County Carlow, Ireland,



Margaret and Patrick Breen



Left: A.S. Nyland speaking. Right: Mrs. Blanche Moore, Paul Hudner, Fr. George McMenamin, and Marian Hublit, Mistress of Ceremonies. Photo credits: Ed Lamb

in 1828. By 1845 they were owners of a farm in Iowa Territory. Heading westward again, they joined the Donner Party, whose heroic struggle to survive the winter of 1846 in the snows of the Sierra Nevada is widely known.

In February 1848 the indomitable Breen family became the first English-speaking settlers in this valley. Patrick Breen died at San Juan in 1868, Margaret in 1874. They are buried on the hill above this marker.

San Juan Bautista Historical Society
June 2, 1968

Mrs. Hublit introduced personalities present who were not members of the Breens: Carlos Ramires, Judge of the Justice Court; Dean Waddingham, Commander of the VFW Post; Louis Pirtano, 12th District VFW Commander; Anthony Botelho, member of the City Council and Cemetery District Board, and Herman Botelho, Supervisor, District 2.

Philip Hudner of San Francisco – attorney and a descendant of the Breen pioneers – was the main speaker. He told



of the hardships the Breens endured on their journey to California. Martin Penn, President of the Historical Society, shared an overview of the many members of the Patrick and Margaret Breen family and their descendants. Ed F. Pearce, Cemetery Board member, spoke about the several cemeteries that existed in the past in San Juan Bautista and private burial grounds of the early pioneers.

The Historical Society hosted the event at the VFW Post Home just across the street and provided cookies and coffee. Several copies of Historic San Juan Bautista were sold, and memberships

(\$5) in the Society were received.

This was just the first of many special events and meetings hosted by the San Juan Bautista Historical Society over its 65-year history. Unfortunately, in about 2013, 2 bronze plaques located at the base of the Cemetery and 1 at the VFW were stolen and never recovered. The Breen Memorial Plaque was among them. To the right of the main road – across from that plaque – was a matching brick wall with a bronze plaque honoring the Larios Family; that wall was damaged and later removed. Just to the south at the VFW, the bronze plaque located in the front listing the local soldiers who died in WWII was stolen.

How sad and disrespectful to the memories of the Breen family, the Larios family, and the veterans who sacrificed their lives in WWII. Perhaps it is time to restore the plaques, in a durable yet less valuable material that will not attract thieves. If you'd like to join the Historical Society and help keep the past ever present, please send a \$15 check to San Juan Bautista Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, SJB, CA 95045. ■



Left: Arthur S. Nyland, Paul J. Hudner and Martin Penn. Right: Mrs. Blanche Moore, great-granddaughter of Patrick & Margaret Breen, unveiled the plaque. Photo credits: Ed Lamb

EVENTS

Dance journal helps youth express emotion

“My Emotions Dance Journal” invites kids to explore grief, big feelings, and self-discovery through movement.

Veronica Vasquez, a Hollister-based nonprofit leader, dance educator, and wellness coach, is launching her debut book, *My Emotions Dance Journal*, a guided, movement-based resource designed to help children and teens express, understand, and regulate their emotions.

“This journal was born from grief,” Vasquez shared. “I needed a way to honor my dad while also creating something that makes emotional expression more accessible for young people, something that helps them feel safe, seen, and supported.”

What began as a personal healing tool has grown into a resource for the next generation, especially for kids navigating trauma, loss, and overwhelming emotions in a world that often asks them to stay quiet. Blending trauma-informed practices, social-emotional learning (SEL), and expressive movement, *My Emotions Dance Journal* offers thoughtful prompts and physical exercises to help children move through sadness, anger, anxiety, and joy.

The book also reflects the mission of JMM Dance Co., the nonprofit Vasquez founded in her father's honor. JMM Dance Co. provides inclusive, healing-centered programs for youth across California, particularly children with disabilities, trauma histories, or limited access to wellness services. Proceeds from journal sales will directly support these community programs, funding free and low-cost emotional wellness classes, school-based residencies, and trauma-informed movement workshops.

Book Launch Events

Free & Open to the Public
Hills Bookstore – Hollister, CA
Saturday, August 30 / 11:00 AM
Barnes & Noble – Gilroy, CA
Saturday, September 6 / 12:00 PM

Upcoming Speaker Series

Building Inclusive Communities

In September, JMM Dance Co. will launch a free speaker series designed for those who support children—therapists, educators, guardians, and court-appointed advocates.

Register at: info@jmmdanceco.org | www.jmmdanceco.org
Contact: raymond@jmmdanceco.org | 408-771-1364 ■



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | SEPTEMBER 2025

Calendar

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1

FALL YOUTH ART CLASSES BEGIN Vist Sanbenitoarts.org

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2

DROP IN ART CLASS FOR CHILDREN Info 831.623.2783 Lunagallery.art, San Juan Bautista

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4

DROP IN ART CLASS FOR ADULTS 6pm. Lunagallery.art, San Juan Bautista

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5

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

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7

MONTEREY FESTA ITALIA FREE ADMISSION. FestaltaliaMonterey.org

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6

COME CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA'S 175 BIRTHDAY! 11am-2pm. Kids' art booth, California birding, gardening, surfing, tree seedlings & native plant drawing, giveaways & prizes & adult trivia. Luck Museum open 11-2. Luck Library Memorial Park, San Juan Bautista

BETWEEN PATTERN AND PULSE OPENING RECEPTION 4-6pm. Iowa City-artist Susan Chrysler White. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

DINNER WITH ARTIST SUSAN CHRYSLER WHITE 6:30pm. A generous sampling of seasonal items from our restaurant, Vera.Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

GRANITEROCK RIVER RUN Meander through a working sand and gravel quarry @ Southside San and Gravel Quarry and see the working quarry site, the banks of the San Benito River, specialized equipment that process the rock and beautiful natural surroundings. Runsignup.com/Race/CA/Hollister/thegranite-rockriverrun

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

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

SJB VFW FLEA MARKET 8am-4pm. VFW, San Juan Bautista. Canteen open. Vendors call Augie Garcia 408.603.9065

MEET THE AUTHOR & MOVEMENT EXPERIENCE - MY EMOTIONS DANCE JOURNAL 12pm. Barnes & Noble, Gilroy.

COLIBRI GALLERY OPENING NIGHT FALL EXHIBITION 6-4pm Evoking feelings of Autumn through watercolor, gouache, oil, pastel, woodblock printing, and encaustic. Colibrigallery.com, Morgan Hill.

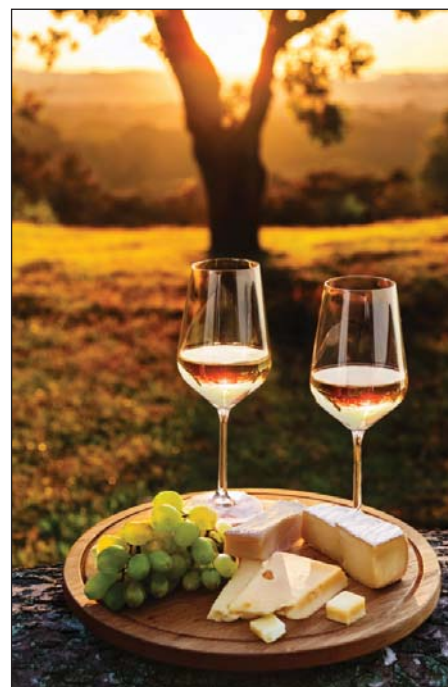
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7

JERRY AVETA FROM MARYLAND, AUTHOR OF WHEN LIBERTY ESLAVES, MEET & GREET/BOOK SIGNING 4-6pm. San Juan VFW, San Juan Bautista.

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

AROMAS HARVEST FAIR Tasting tomatoes, shelling beans, making apple juice, or watching the Great Aromas Zucchini Race. And much more! info@transitionaromas.org

BEGINNING ACRYLIC: ABSTRACT PATTERN & THE ART OF SYMMETRY 10am-5pm. Join artist Susan Chrysler White for an explorative, abstract & fun acrylic painting class. Curacontemporary.com, Morgan Hill.



Saturday, September 6

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



Sunday, September 7

AROMAS HARVEST FAIR Tasting tomatoes, shelling beans, making apple juice, or watching the Great Aromas Zucchini Race. And much more! info@transitionaromas.org

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

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8

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

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10

ARTS EXPRESS VIRTUAL GRANT WORKSHOP https://forms.gle/mDQJMTeoQauqP3JaA

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13

CHITACTAC FAMILY DAY 10am-1pm. Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park, Gilroy. Info interp@prk.sccgov.org

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

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

HOLLISTER CONCERTS PRESENTS: TOBY - TRIBUTE TO TOBY KEITH & CASHED OUT- TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH Hollisterconcerts.com

FREMONT PEAK OBSERVATORY STARGAZING 2-5pm. Solor Program.FPOA.net

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

MAKING WATERCOLOR PAINT FROM NATURAL PIGMENT 10am-4pm. Curacontemporary.com, Morgan Hill.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14

OPEN MIC/POTLUCK SAN JUAN VFW 2-5pm.

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

FIGURE DRAWING COLLECTIVE 2-5pm. Self-guided drawing. Curacontemporary.com, Morgan Hill.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20

THIRD SATURDAY RECEPTION - LIVE MUSIC 5-7pm. Lunagallery.art, San Juan Bautista

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

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.

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

DOWNTOWN HOLLISTER COMMUNITY CLEANUP 9am-12pm.. Meet at Hollister High School, Multi-purpose field parking lot. Join us on Coastal Cleanup Day to help keep San Benito clean and litter free! www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/cleanups

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

VFW POST #6359 ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF 10am-5pm. 58 Monterey St., San Juan Bautista. Info - Augie 408.603.9065

AROMAS GRANGE PRESENTS: DAN (FRECHETTE) & LAUREL (THOMSEN) QUARTET Doors 3:30pm. Show 4:30pm. Aromas Grange. Info Aromasgrange.org

CHILDREN'S FALL WATERCOLOR LEAVES 11am-1pm. Curacontemporary.com, Morgan Hill.

Continued on next page

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25

CHITACTAC DOCENT OPEN HOUSE 10am-12pm. Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park, Gilroy. Info interp@prk.sccgov.org

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA COMMUNITY CLEANUP 9am-12pm. Luck Park, 801 Second St., SJB ciwm@sanbenitocountyca.gov

SAN BENITO STANDS TOGETHER: A SUICIDE PREVENTION RESCOURCE FAIR 12-3pm. Gavilan College, 505 Fairview Rd., Hollister. Free and open to the public. Cisneros.c@fsa-cc.org

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S - SANTA CRUZ Seascape Park & Resort. Alz.org/santacruzwalk

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

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

NATURE STROLL IN SOUTH COUNTY FOR SENIORS 9:30-11:30am. Martin Murphy Trail @ Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear County Park. Info interp@pk.sccgov.org

YOGA IN THE GALLERY 9-10am. All levels. Curacon-temporary.com, Morgan Hill.

DEAD COWBOYS LIVE @ GRILLIN N CHILLIN ALE HOUSE 8-11pm. 831beer.com Hollister

FREE COMPOST WORKSHOP 10am-12pm. Learn about Composting Biology from Master Composter Otis Johnson. At 2301 Technology Pkwy, Hollister.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28

HOPE HARVEST FESTIVAL 10am -5pm. San Benito County Historical Park, 8300 Airline Hwy, Tres Pinos. Info hopeharvestfestival.com or hopeharvestfestival@gmail.com

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

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28

ARTS GRANT SUBMISSION DEADLINE Sanbenitoarts.org

AUTUMN BINGO IN THE PARK Aromas Community Park. Info aromassportspark.org

Every Week**TUESDAYS**

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

INDUSTRY NIGHT @ DAISY'S If you work in San Ben-

**Saturday, September 27**

HOLLISTER 2025 STREET FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW 10am-4pm. 250+ fabulous vehicles on display! Live entertainment, food, vendors. downtownhollister.org. Photo by dimitru B via pexels.com

ito County, you get \$1 off every drink. daisyssaloon.com San Juan Bautista.

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

SATURDAYS

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

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

SUNDAYS

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

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

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

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA'S FARMER'S MARKET 11am-

3pm. Local produce, food vendors. Info DSJB.ORG Thru Nov 2nd.

Save the Date**FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 - SUNDAY OCTOBER 5**

102ND SAN BENITO COUNTY FAIR Our live concerts this year include The Outlaw Mariachi, Justin Lawrence and the Double Average Band and The Junebugs! Fairgoes will be delighted by Hillia Hula Hoop Extraordinaire, POWERHOUSE!!! Percussive Dance Rebecca Fireplug & Ventriloquist Vikki! Bolado Park, Tres Pinos.

**Friday, October 3 - Sunday, October 5**

102ND SAN BENITO COUNTY FAIR Our live concerts this year include The Outlaw Mariachi, Justin Lawrence and the Double Average Band and The Junebugs! Fairgoes will be delighted by Hillia Hula Hoop Extraordinaire, POWERHOUSE!!! Percussive Dance Rebecca Fireplug & Ventriloquist Vikki! Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. Sanbenitocountyfair.com

Sanbenitocountyfair.com

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

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

HOLLISTER HILLS SVRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! 10am-2pm. at the Lower Ranch, Lodge Campground before or after you come out to play! Hollister.Hills@parks.ca.gov or 831.638.2065

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

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

TERESSIE WHITE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONCERT EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING A.C. MYLES & DEAD COWBOYS 2-5pm. Fantastic food, premium beer & wine. Wear your dancing shoes! Aromas-grange.org

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

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 - SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18

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

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8

BEETLEJUICE JR. - THE FRIGHTFULLY FUNNY MUSICAL 7pm & 1pm Matinee performances. San Benito Stage Company @ 549 San Benito St., Hollister. Sanbenitostage.org



Archaeology students and Amah Mutsun Tribal Band members gain hands-on experience in survey and excavation.

SBALT NEWS

Amah Mutsun Youth and University of Oregon students unearth history at Nyland property

By Candy Coleman (PR/Events Committee Chair), edited by Dr. Gabriel Sanchez and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust

If you noticed activity on the Nyland property in July and wondered what was happening, the answer is archaeology in action. It was organized through the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, which holds a cultural easement on the property. Members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and University of Oregon's summer field school students gained hands-on experience in archaeological survey and excavation. The Amah Mutsun youth also conducted cultural and botanical surveys beyond the excavation site.

Under the guidance of Dr. Alec Apodaca, Cultural Resource Program Manager for the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, and Dr. Gabriel Sanchez, Department of Anthropology at the University of Oregon, these students learned how to conduct a professional ar-



chaeological dig.

They used advanced technology, including ground-penetrating radar, to search for remnants of the past. Early results are promising—they believe they have located the outer wall footings of a historic building. Their main goal is to find the remains of the "Larios Adobe," an old adobe home belonging to Don Manuel Larios (1798-1865) thought to lie beneath the footprint of the more recent American barn and house built in the 1920s-30s.

It is remarkable what stories can be uncovered from tiny fragments of glass, pottery or even seeds. Each discovery helps piece together the history of the land and the people who lived there.

As stewards of the Nyland property and other lands across San Benito County, the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT) is dedicated to preserving the region's agricultural heritage and rural way of life for future generations. ■



VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Oh, bless it all

By Halina Kleinsmith

Observances will often start or conclude with a specially worded blessing, to convey a group's approving and encouraging wishes for a community recognized right of passage.

This testimony of focused positive intent is often ecumenical, and through faith based practices, blessings are aligned from a recipient's birthright, to their final moments.

In a secular sense, it's brick and mortar businesses that become blessed, through events like Grand Openings and ribbon cuttings, when communities congregate to celebrate best wishes for an endeavour's commercial or professional success.

The expression of 'feeling blessed' is often compared to that of feeling happy, as both command introspection and appreciation, in order to emotionally recognize good fortune. When we do, it's part of human nature to respond to another's great personal

news by proclaiming, "You are so blessed!"

With great enthusiasm, we might tell of an occasion that was a 'truly blessed experience', like reuniting with a longtime friend or family member, whom we haven't seen for years.

Depending on where this occurs, such a joyful reunion can often be punctuated in a particularly charming American regional manner by saying, "Well, bless my heart, it's great to see you!"

In a more casual vein, if we've just learned about a surprising or annoying development affecting that good pal or family member, we might inadvertently blurt out an "Oh, God bless!!" in sympathy.

Although we may not overtly consider ourselves as special, given our experiences and heightened awareness, others could proclaim us as being 'blessed souls' in observing our own choices and actions.

A 1954 holiday feature film debuted an entire song that relays, "If you're worried and you can't sleep, just count your blessings instead of sheep. And soon you'll fall asleep, counting your blessings."

G'nite! ■

id-i-om

"Camarón que se duerme, se lo lleva la corriente"

("The shrimp that falls asleep gets carried away by the current")

This popular saying from Latin America reminds us to stay alert, engaged, and active, especially in the face of change or challenge. It speaks to resilience, adaptability, and the importance of community vigilance, alues that echo across Hispanic culture and history.

This idiom honors the spirit of perseverance and alertness that runs deep through generations of Hispanic families, whether navigating new shores, holding onto tradition, or forging ahead in times of uncertainty. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate those who stayed awake, stood strong, and shaped the current. ■





COMMUNITY

Hope Harvest Festival unites community for cancer support and Fall fun

Two days of celebration and hope at San Benito County Historical Park

The Hope Harvest Festival returns this fall to bring the community together in celebration, support, and hope. Held at the San Benito County Historical Park on Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day, the festival promises two unforgettable days of fun, food, and heartfelt giving.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Hope Harvest Cancer Fund, a grant held at the Community Foundation of San Benito County. This fund directly supports San Benito County residents battling cancer. Every ticket sold, every treat enjoyed, and every attraction visited helps provide relief and essential resources for neighbors facing some of life's most difficult challenges.

"This festival is more than a celebration of fall—it's a celebration of our community's strength and compassion," said Cathy Alameda, longtime volunteer. "Every dollar

raised directly supports individuals and families facing cancer right here in San Benito County."

Event Highlights Include:

- Live music and entertainment
- Food and artisan vendors
- Pumpkin patch and produce market
- Kids' zone with games and crafts

Admission is just a \$5 parking donation, making it an affordable way for families and friends to come together and make a meaningful impact.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities, or to get involved, visit www.hopeharvestfestival.com or contact hopeharvestfestival@gmail.com. ■



HEALTH

Insight Health steps away from negotiations amid national health-care uncertainty

Organizations commit to exploring other partnership opportunities to protect healthcare access in San Benito County

The San Benito Health Care District announced today that Insight Health is stepping away from negotiations on a proposed lease-to-purchase agreement, citing unprecedented uncertainty stemming from the recently signed One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). The legislation will cut \$1.1 trillion from healthcare, with \$137 billion in reductions projected to directly impact rural healthcare.

In November 2024, voters in San Benito County approved a ballot measure that authorized the District to lease certain District real property assets, and selling substantially all other District assets, to Insight Health or another qualified buyer for fair market value.

After months of constructive discussions between the District and Insight Health leadership, Insight decided that due to the shifting

financial landscape it was prudent for them to withdraw from the proposed transaction.

"Our community relies on the stability of our service lines, and any agreement had to prioritize protecting those services while also identifying ways to grow and expand over time," said Mary Casillas, HHMH CEO. "OBBBA has created a level of uncertainty for us here in San Benito County that we have never seen before. While we have yet to fully understand OBBBA's impact, we know it has affected the potential transaction with Insight and is having similar consequences for rural hospitals across California and the nation."

Nationwide, nearly one-third of rural hospitals are in danger of closing—700 are at risk, with an additional 300 considered at immediate risk—according to the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform.

Moving forward, the District will concentrate on strengthening its financial position while developing new strategies to ensure its long-term viability.

"While this is a disappointing turn in our journey with Insight Health, our commitment to protecting the future of Hazel Hawkins is unwavering," said Bill Johnson, President of the District Board. "Weathering the coming storm of OBBBA will require the dedication, creativity, and collaboration of leadership, staff, physicians and our partners. We look forward to finding ways to discuss other meaningful opportunities with Insight as part of this ongoing effort." ■

EVENTS

Teressie White Memorial Scholarship Fund is throwing a party in Aromas

The Aromas Grange Scholarship Foundation was incredibly proud this year to award a total of \$8,400 to eight deserving high school graduates from the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District. These kids have overcome many challenges and have worked hard to succeed. Our scholarship scoring is designed to give kids a chance who are not necessarily straight-A students, but who are brilliant, hard-working, kind, community-minded kids who deserve a good education.

The Aromas Grange formed the Teressie White Memorial Scholarship Fund (TWMSF) on May 13, 1977, to honor a fallen member. Teressie White moved to Aromas with her husband, M. L. 'Dan' White, in 1934 during the Great Depression. They opened White's Grocery Store on Blohm Avenue, which they

owned and operated until Dan's death in 1942. For decades, Teressie was the beloved face behind the counter of the local market, the soda shop, and the Post Office. When she was murdered in her home by a burglar who stole the Grange cash box, her family requested that the Grange form the Scholarship Fund in her memory. The fund opened with a balance of \$554. The first scholarship on record was \$100 given to Pat McCandless in October 1978.

As of this year, TWMSF has given over \$100,000 to our amazing local high school graduates. Raising money for these kids is a joy. Come celebrate with us, because we are throwing a party! On Sunday, October 12th, there will be a fundraising concert extravaganza at the Aromas Grange Hall from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. The Dead Cowboys Band will open for our headliner, A.C. Myles (pictured left). The music will be country rock and rockin' blues, the food will be a fantastic salad and baked potato bar, we'll be serving premium wine and beer, and our roomful of raffle items will put stars in your eyes. So save the date and plan to come—October 12, 2-5 p.m.—and wear your dancing shoes. ■





What We Spend

Shepherded by Courtney Harrell, What We Spend swiftly reveals itself to be a thoughtful, revealing, and illuminating series of windows into the inner lives of others as refracted through their expense sheets. Even at this early stage, What We Spend shows signs of greatness in the simplicity of its approach; an example of how asking the most basic of questions — what do you spend on in a week? — can hold the deepest punch of human experiences. You'll leave each episode wondering how we ever make it out of modern society alive.



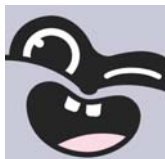
Create Tomorrow, The WGSN Podcast

"Create Tomorrow, The WGSN Podcast" is a semi-monthly insight series from WGSN. Each episode digs into a specific market, topic, or trend, whether it's emerging consumer behaviors, shifting cultural mindsets, or innovations spanning fashion, beauty, lifestyle, or technology. Hosted by Cassandra Napoli, the show combines WGSN's expert forecasting and data science with real-world brand and strategist interviews. It's ideal for professionals needing forward-looking insights to inform product development, strategy, or creative storytelling.



BitePal

BitePal is a fun, photo-based food tracker that uses AI to identify your meals, estimate calories, and provide instant nutrition feedback, no manual logging required. Just snap a pic, and BitePal does the rest. Your virtual raccoon pet adds playful encouragement as you build healthier habits without guilt or pressure. Designed to be ADHD-friendly and stress-free, BitePal makes mindful eating simple and consistent. You can upgrade to premium for more detailed editing and calorie input options. Whether you're tracking progress or just curious about your meals, BitePal helps you eat better, one bite at a time. Available on iOS.



SpotHero

SpotHero is a leading parking reservation app that helps drivers in over 300 U.S. and Canadian cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco, find, compare, and reserve hourly, monthly, airport, and event parking spots (all prepaid with digital passes). Users receive an instant parking pass (QR code or license-plate scan), and can cancel up to the start time for a full refund. SpotHero integrates with CarPlay, Android Auto, Google Maps, and Waze for seamless navigation to your spot. A parking guarantee backs each reservation, guaranteed or your money back.



GOING POSTAL Elie Wiesel

The 18th stamp in the Distinguished Americans series honors Elie Wiesel (1928–2016), a survivor of Nazi concentration camps whose writing about the Holocaust is forever seared on the public consciousness.

This two-ounce stamp features a 1999 black-and-white photograph of Wiesel in a suit and tie with a pensive expression on his face.

Embodying the struggle and urgency of the Holocaust, Wiesel became the voice for victims and survivors, fighting for human rights at every opportunity. He wrote *Night* (1960), which would become one of the most powerful accounts of the Holocaust. Using his devastatingly minimalist style, Wiesel published dozens of



works throughout his career that focused on the Holocaust and the Jewish experience.

Wiesel became a United States citizen in 1963. He was appointed chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust in 1978, which led to the opening of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 as a "messenger for mankind." Wiesel and his wife Marion established the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity with the prize money.

Wiesel's remarkable body of work ensures future generations will bear witness to the Holocaust while his resilience and compassion continue to be a source of inspiration.

Art director Ethel Kesler designed the stamp

with a photograph by Sergey Bermeniev.

The words "Two Ounce" on this stamp indicate its usage value. Like a Forever® stamp, this stamp will always be valid for the rate printed on it. ■

THOMMELIER

The Golden Age of Wine

Why now is the best time in history to drink it

By Thomas Brenner

Wine has been part of human life for thousands of years. It filled amphorae in ancient Greece, flowed at Roman banquets, and appears throughout the Bible. For much of history, wine was more than just a drink -- it was a symbol of culture, celebration, and daily sustenance. But here's the twist: for all that tradition, the best time to drink wine was never during a period in the distant past. It's today! This very moment! We are indeed living in the golden age of wine.

For centuries, wine was unreliable. Without refrigeration, airtight storage, or knowledge of fermentation science, even the finest wines often spoiled. White wines in particular had short lifespans, turning flat or sour long before they were meant to be enjoyed. Even as recently as the early 2000s, some of Burgundy's most prized wines fell victim to premature oxidation, collapsing in the cellar before their time. And corks? They were always a gamble. A single tainted closure could ruin years of work.

When people wax nostalgic about the "good old days" of wine, it's worth remembering: those days often left drinkers disappointed.

What's changed is the marriage of modern science with age-old tradition. Today's winemakers have tools their predecessors could only dream of. Stainless steel tanks allow precise temperature control during fermentation. Cold stabilization keeps wines bright and fresh. Advances in closures, from high-quality corks to screw caps, have nearly eliminated the heartbreak of opening a flawed bottle.

Even shipping has been transformed. Wines now travel across oceans in refrigerated containers and arrive tasting just as the winemaker intended. Imagine trying to ship a delicate Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand to California in the 18th century. It would have arrived as vinegar. Today, it's a Tuesday night option at the local grocery store.

For most of history, wine was always local.



Villagers drank what grew in nearby fields, and only the wealthy could afford the luxury of imported bottles. Nowadays the variety is staggering. A single shop in California might offer Riesling from Germany, Malbec from Argentina, Shiraz from Australia, and Pinotage from South Africa, all at prices more reasonable than ever (when adjusted for inflation.)

And that's the key: wine today is both better and more affordable. A generation ago, a \$12 bottle often meant something imperfect or simple and unbalanced. Today, inexpensive wines are clean, well-made, and often delicious.

Another reason that we live in the golden age is our knowledge. Never before have there been so many trained winemakers, viticulturists, and sommeliers. Universities around the world offer degrees in wine science. Educators share information freely, and consumers themselves are more curious and informed. Someone new to wine might start with Monterey Pinot Noir, then branch out to a Chenin from the Loire Valley or Chilean Carménère, guided by tastings, podcasts, or even a quick internet search.

Ironically, all this is happening at a time when global wine consumption has softened. Younger generations are drinking less, and in Europe, wine is no longer the daily staple it once was. But for those who do enjoy wine, or have an interest in the finer things in life, this dip in demand is a blessing. Producers are competing harder for attention, which means higher quality and better value in the bottles that make it to market. What a relief!

Even if you're not a regular wine drinker, it's worth pausing to appreciate this moment. Wine is history in a glass, connecting us to ancient traditions while showcasing modern science and craftsmanship. And never before has it been so reliable, so accessible, and so diverse.

The golden age of wine isn't a memory of the past. It's here and it is now, every time you pour a glass that's better, cleaner, and more enjoyable than what your ancestors could have imagined.

So, the next time someone sighs for the "old days of wine," you can smile and remind them: the best time to drink wine is today. Preferably now. ■



VUE A LA LOO

The Toilet Seat Art Museum in San Antonio, TX

Tucked in a residential garage on the outskirts of San Antonio once stood one of America's strangest shrines: Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Art Museum. A retired master plumber and part-time folk artist, Barney (pictured in 2009, right) spent over 50 years turning discarded toilet seats into storytelling canvases, decorating more than 1,400 lids with everything from rusty tools to Pez dispensers, presidential portraits, Bible verses, and bubblegum.

He called it "commode art with heart."

Each seat had a theme, 9/11, Elvis, NASA, Y2K, even one dedicated to chewed gum from around the world. Visitors signed guest-book pages stored in, you guessed it, a toilet bowl.

Though Barney passed away in 2019 at the



age of 98, the museum (now relocated to The Colony, TX) still celebrates his oddball genius and reverent irreverence. Proof that even the humble toilet seat can be a vessel for memory, humor, and Americana. ■

Photo credit (top) sillyamerica.com; (inset above and below) juliegomoll (CC2.0 via Flickr.com)



Barney's original toilet seat display in 2009.

CALIFORNIA VIGNETTES

Minerva, the Miner, and a Motto

September 9th is California's 175th anniversary

Do you know why the goddess Minerva is the central figure of California's "coat of arms"?

She was chosen to symbolize our state's unusual political birth. According to Roman mythology, Minerva sprang full-grown from the brain of Jupiter. And California became a full-fledged state without going through the "childhood" phase of being a territory.

Some people say that perhaps it was the discovery of gold that prompted Congress to speed up the admission process. Whatever the reason, on September 9, 1850, California became the 31st state in the Union. (Notice the 31 stars around the rim of the Great Seal.)

Another figure on California's "coat of



arms" is the grizzly bear, symbolizing strength and courage. The miner represents our mineral resources, the wheat and grapes—our agricultural wealth, the shipping scene—our commercial greatness. And the snowcapped peaks remind us of the beautiful Sierra Nevada. The state motto "Eureka" also appears on the Great Seal. It is a Greek word meaning "I have found it."

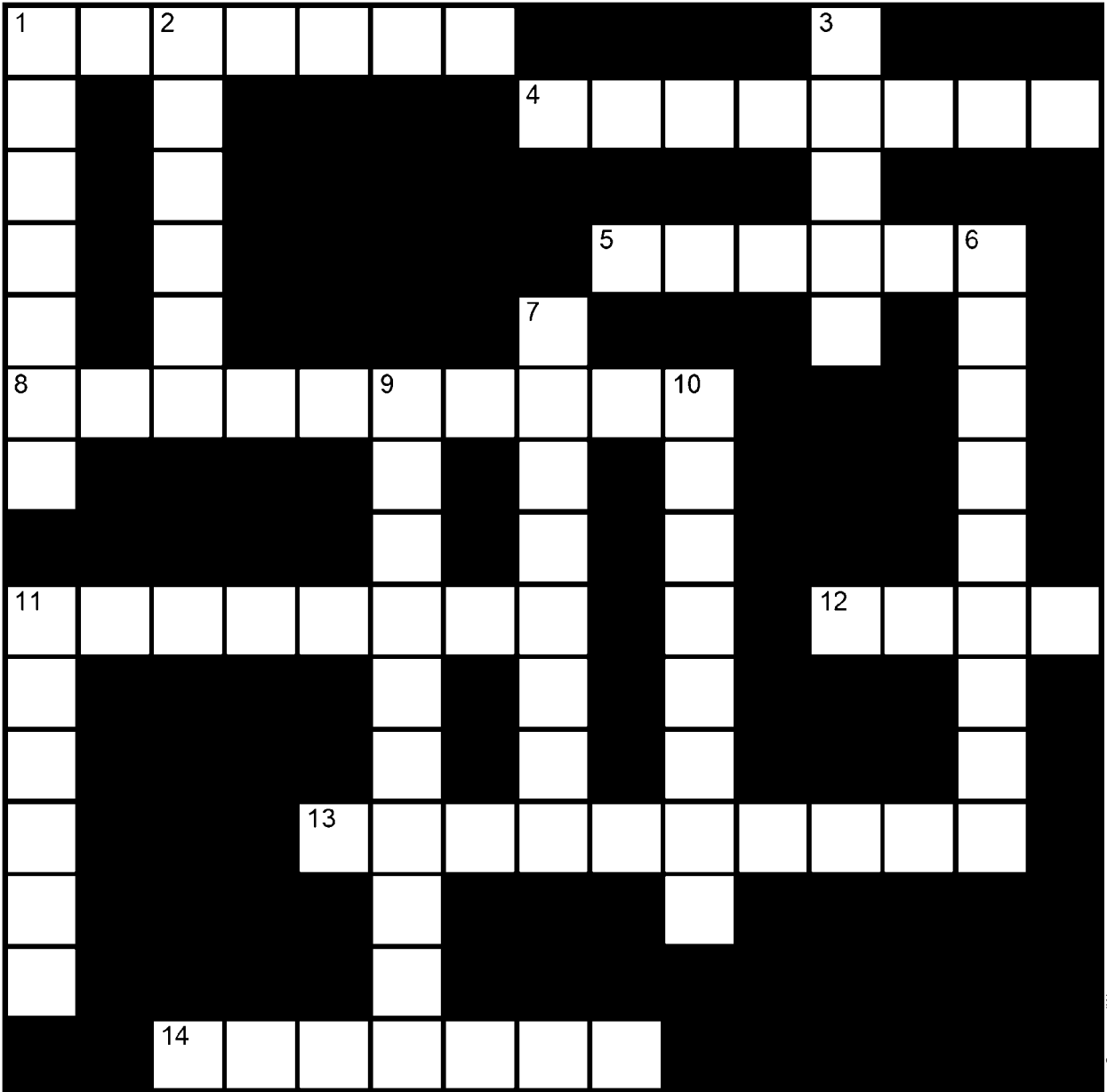
The design of California's official seal was adopted in 1849 by the delegates to the convention which framed our State Constitution. ■



Mission Village **VOICE** PASTIMES



CROSSWORD **FALL FESTIVITIES** By Carlinka



Across

- 1 Pullover sweatshirts with head coverings (7)
- 4 Festive farm tours on wagons filled with straw (8)
- 5 Daisy-like flowers that bloom late in the year (6)
- 8 Field guardians made of straw and old clothes (10)
- 11 Relating to the season after summer (8)
- 12 Short-named chrysan-

themum flowers (4)

13 Photographers' term for ideal lighting before sunset (6,4)

14 Equal distribution of weight or elements (7)

Down

- 1 Gathering of crops when fully grown (7)
- 2 Port City in Russia/Ukraine (6)
- 3 Pressed apple beverage,

often served warm with spices (5)

6 Month when school typically resumes (9)

7 Area covered with trees and undergrowth (8)

9 Horn-shaped basket overflowing with produce (10)

10 Process of trees losing their leaves (8)

11 Oak tree seeds with distinctive caps (6)

Last month's puzzle solution:



HOROSCOPE **SEPTEMBER 2025** by Hilda De Anza

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

September shifts your focus to the fine print of daily life. Instead of pushing forward at full speed, the universe invites you to pause and polish. Routines, health habits, and overlooked responsibilities ask for your attention. Efficiency isn't exciting, but it is empowering.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You're craving joy with more depth, something beyond fleeting pleasure. This month lights up creativity, romance, and self-expression. If your inner artist has been silent, invite them out to play. Love is possible, but so is frustration if you cling too tightly. Let beauty be wild.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

The season invites nesting, reflection, and reconnection with your roots. Whether it's literal home improvement or emotional repair, your foundations are shifting. Family dynamics may need a revisit, but don't try to fix everything at once. Slower conversations, deeper listening, and cozy spaces will support your growth.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

This is a month for meaningful words, short trips, and messages that land. Conversations spark insight, and a sibling or old friend might pop back into your orbit. It's also a powerful time to write, journals, stories, lists, letters. Speak with care and courage. Say the thing you've been avoiding.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

You've had your solar moment. Now, the focus shifts from who you are to what you value. Money, time, and energy, all are precious currencies. September asks: Are you spending them wisely? Ground your confidence in practical action. Earning, saving, and setting boundaries will all fuel your next leap.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

It's your season, Virgo, and you're finally stepping into clarity after a foggy stretch. The spotlight doesn't demand perfection, it wants presence. What do you want to build? Set intentions with care, not criticism. Your voice holds more weight than you think. Own your gifts. Celebrate yourself. This month is yours.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

You're in your annual liminal space, between endings and beginnings. September is a backstage month, preparing you for your solar return. Let yourself rest. Let go. What's leaving your life is making room for something better. Silence isn't empty. It's where the next idea is waiting to bloom.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

You're stepping into your community role in a new way. This month highlights friendships, collaborations, and future dreams. Which circles lift you, and which drain you? Be willing to adjust your orbit. It's a great time to plan ahead, join forces, or spark something collective.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – December 21)

Your ambitions sharpen, but so does your awareness of limits. Career goals rise to the top of your list, and it's time to clarify what success means now. Expect recognition if you've done the work. If not, recalibrate. No shame, just renewed focus and better direction.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – January 19)

This is a perspective-reset month. Broaden your horizons through travel, study, or spiritual seeking. You're being asked to trust life beyond the checklist. The big picture matters. What are you really building, and why? Let wonder interrupt your efficiency. Not everything worthwhile can be planned. Some truths arrive like lightning.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Depth is your teacher this month. You're navigating shared resources, emotional ties, and transformation. Money and intimacy themes may surface, lean into the discomfort. You're evolving, shedding old skins. Let others in where it matters, and lock the door where it doesn't. Power doesn't mean control, it means presence.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Partnership is your mirror this month. Whether romantic, platonic, or professional, you're seeing yourself reflected through others. What's working? What isn't? Avoid people-pleasing at the cost of your truth. Balance takes effort, not magic. Speak gently but honestly. You deserve connection that nurtures, not drains.

#THE GOLDEN AGE

Seeking a caregiver or companion?

By Leanne Oliveira

"The best thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been."

- Madeleine L'Engle

Happy Fall! At the ADRC office, my #1 request is caregiving. Before anything else, I ask the client to consider whether they actually need a caregiver (i.e. a qualified/certified medical professional or nurse) or whether a "companion" would be a better fit for their needs and budget. Companions cost less and are basically personal assistants whose duties vary but typically include transportation to doctor's appointments, plant watering, pet feeding, housekeeping, organizing, cooking, grocery runs, respite care, etc.

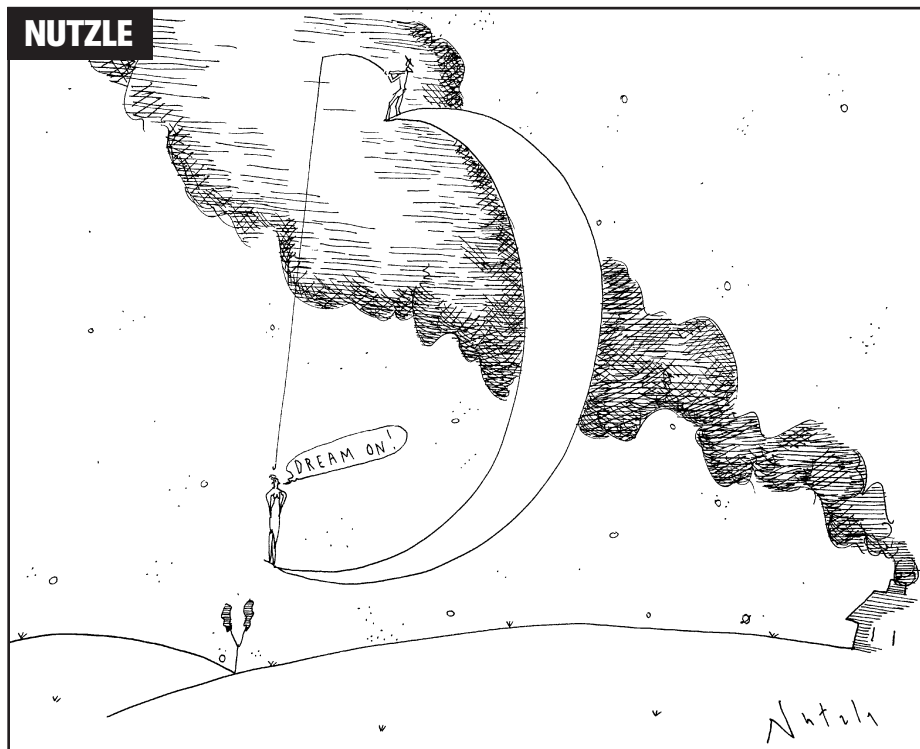
I recommend first emailing me (LeanneO@seniorscouncil.org) for a current list of available caregiver/companion options or referrals including Enhanced Care Management programs (ECM) which are popping up like daisies around the State. These one-stop-shops offer FREE services to low-income folks insured by Medi-Cal. You'd be shocked by the array of offerings! My favorite (and often requested) service? Yard maintenance! If you don't think you are low-income, you might want to reconsider.

Given the high cost of living in our area, the "low-income" range might surprise you. You could be eligible for a variety of supports and not realize it.

Another recommendation is to make sure you are on the right Medicare plan (many are not!), which may provide caregiving opportunities or assists that you could be unaware of. For FREE unbiased non-profit Medicare counseling in Santa Cruz or San Benito Counties, call HICAP at 831-831-637-0630 to make an appointment. Also, if you are paying a caregiver out of pocket, urge them to become "official" by registering with your County's In-Home Support Services program (SBC: 831-634-0784, SCZ: 831-454-4101), who is desperate for caregivers! IHSS offsets your expenses by having the State pay a significant portion of the caregiver's wages instead.

Lastly, I realize these are unstable, unprecedented times. If you need free help, please call us at 888-637-6757. Hang in there, Goldens! ■

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

Elder Care
Hollister Campus

This program is designed to train caregivers, healthcare students, and family members in providing effective hands-on care to older adults.

Date & times

September 6, 2025 -
November 15, 2025
Saturdays only
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cost

\$1,200

Topics that will be covered

- home safety & fall prevention
- hygiene care
- mobility & safe transfers
- review common conditions
- mental health
- nutrition
- end of life planning
- caregiver success
- stress management
- community resources

For more information, call (408) 848-4732
or visit: www.gavilan.edu/ce

NOW

IS OUR MOMENT.



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

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



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



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

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