

Puzzle

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Special Deliveries

Nurse Marion Torres brings joy to the labor and delivery room — See page 12



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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services

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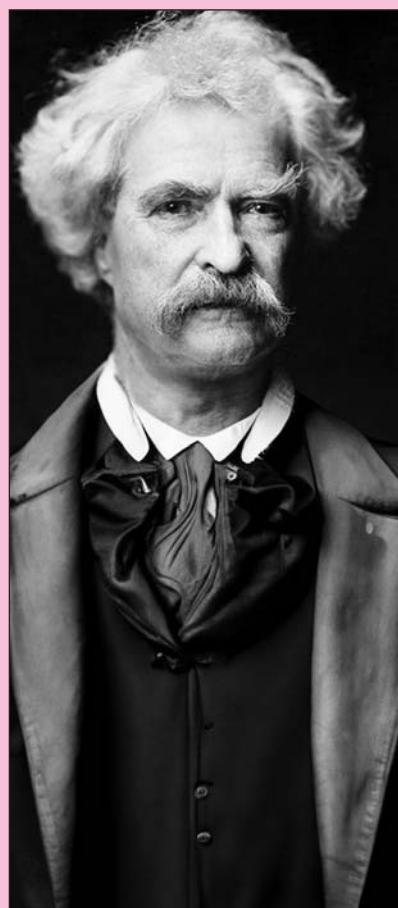
**Published Monthly by
Mission Village Voice Media, LLC.**

P.O. Box 999

San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Email: missionvillagevoice@gmail.com

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A quote for our readers

"My mother had
a great deal of
trouble with me,
but I think she
enjoyed it."

– Mark Twain

On the cover

"Red Onions", oil on newspaper, 11.8 W x 11.8 H by cover artist Elena Tronina from Leonberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. For more information, see page 16.

BREATH AND YOGA

Fridays 9am
Sundays 10am

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Monday, May 12th 6pm
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SBHF NEWS

San Benito Health Foundation Celebrates 50 Years

How SBHF Came to Be

On May 20, 2025, San Benito Health Foundation will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Its current state-of-the-art facility and federally funded health clinic is a testament to how far SBHF has come from its humble beginnings. And its roots in the community began long before its non-profit incorporation in May of 1975.

More than a decade before, the federal government passed the Migrant Health Act (1962), which established the first provision of health services for migratory farmworkers and their families. A few years later, the first two "neighborhood health centers" in the country were founded by Drs. H. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson. As more rural health centers started opening across several states, local Latinos including Victoria Montoya, Pauline Valdivia, Maria Flores, Estaban Urbina and Ventura Huerta among others saw a need for health-care and social services for their underserved community. The fields and tomato canneries brought many agricultural workers to the area and there was a great demand for a migrant health center.

They would come together in a little office that served as an information hub and resource center for the farmworkers. It was known as Consumers, and it was located by the A&W restaurant near the canneries. In 1971, Dr. Count Gibson came to Hollister and met with community organizer Victo-

ria Montoya. It was from this meeting and much community and farmworker organizing that the first iteration of San Benito Health Foundation came to be. It had only one part-time doctor who volunteered his time... bare bones, but a beginning.

As the movement to establish rural health centers grew in the early 1970's, California passed a couple of bills that provided start-up funding for eligible clinics. This allowed for SBHF's expansion into its second phase as a community health clinic—Consumers became Hollister Clinica de Salud Para Familias, and it found a home in the abandoned Hazel Hawkins hospital building on 910 Monterey Street. It was here on May 20, 1975, that SBHF became incorporated with farmworkers serving on its Board. However, it wasn't until 1992 that its name was officially changed from Hollister Clinica de Salud Para Familias to San Benito Health Foundation.

Stay tuned for more stories of how San Benito Health Foundation has grown over its 50 years in the community.



SBHF made its first "home" in the old Hazel Hawkins hospital building.



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#BOOKWORM

L'Amour & Libraries

By Leanne Oliveira

"Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities." - R David Lankes

First, brightest birthday blessings to two of my favorite readers who recently celebrated birthdays: Jennifer Coile and Joe Fusco! Second, we are selling a collection of 123 Louis L'Amour books to benefit the Friends of the SBC Library! These are brown leatherette hardcovers featuring L'Amour's embossed gold signature. Asking \$150 OBO. Contact mpschne@att.net for pictures and a complete list of titles.



Leanne Oliveira

I also wanted to provide an update on how the recent elimination of The Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) will affect your local libraries since some receive more local and state support (ie less federal funding) and are therefore less impacted by the IMLS closure than others.

For example, the Watsonville Library pulls minimal federal funding due to receiving that City's General Funds and a hefty quarter-cent sales tax. The Gilroy Library is primarily funded by property taxes and corporate donations. By contrast, libraries in SBC and other rural and/or tribal locations are more dependent on federal funding for literacy programs, career development, Internet connectivity, and more.

Magical things happen once a community supports its library and understands how everyone benefits from an effectively presented collaborative space. Consider this a reminder for you and those providing oversight to your library (i.e. City Council members or County Board of Supervisors) to get library cards and -more importantly- ensure they are active!

"FICTIVE" BOOKS

Watch the Book Club of California's presentation of "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" at youtu.be/M75FjR59Tes?si. Hilarious! (Courtesy #Bookworm Jennifer Coile who learned of the project in Watsonville writer Laurie R King's email newsletter.)

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL) - HOLLISTER

Reminder that the Friends is a nonprofit



To celebrate National Library Workers Day, the Friends of the SBC Library recently honored staff with a festive lunch. Pictured (L-R): Austin Curtis, Manny Gonzalez, Becky Feagan, and Juan Perez.

organization independent of the SBC Library who fundraise for its services. FOL recently held a sold out Tea Party and hosts monthly Used Book Sales every second Saturday 9-11:30 AM behind the Library in downtown Hollister. Next sale is 5/10! Donations of A+ used books and vinyl gratefully accepted. Refreshments (including dog treats) will be served.

GATSBY'S 100TH BDAY TRIBUTE

The Empire State Building was recently given a green glow to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic. More at tinyurl.com/GatsbyGreenLight.

HILL'S BOOKSTORE

Stay tuned to HillsBookstore.com for goodies including author events 5/10 and 5/31, bilingual storytimes, activities, and 4 book clubs!

HUMAN CHAIN BOOK BRIGADE

300 bookworms formed a human chain to pass 9,100 books in under 2 hours to relocate Serendipity Books in Chelsea, MI - and even put the books back on the shelves in alphabetical order!

JOAN'S JOURNALS

Given the newly-released *Notes to John*, one wonders how Joan Didion would have felt about her painful therapy session notes published posthumously. More at tinyurl.com/JD-Journals.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Happy Harry Potter Day (5/2 - aka the Battle of Hogwarts), Intergalactic Star Wars Day and Free Comic Book Day (5/4), Peter Pan Day (5/9), Limerick Day (5/12), Eliza Doolittle Day (5/20), Towel Day - Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Day (5/25).

Lots of Birthday Babies including Rabindranath Tagore (5/7), . (5/15), Persian
See next page

ARTS

Five local artists selected for inaugural Monterey Biennial

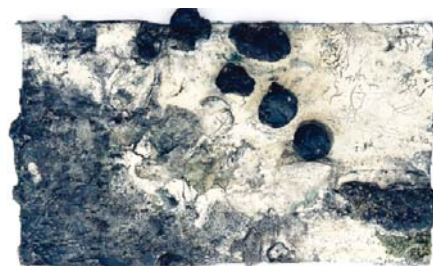
By San Benito County Arts Council

Five San Benito County artists have been selected to participate in the inaugural Monterey Biennial: Celebrating Central California Artists at the Monterey Museum of Art (MMA). The local artists, including Katherine Filice (pictured, below), Megan Gnekow, Karen Percival, Georgina Rios, and Kathleen Sheridan, were selected after a rigorous juried selection process that involved reviewing over 800 artist submissions from 7 eligible counties in Central California.



Following the theme of Resonance and Reflection, 122 artists, representing a variety of different media and artistic disciplines, were chosen for the inaugural Biennial for the ways in which their artwork resonates with cultural, social, and personal contexts to foster public dialogue about contemporary California art. The exhibition will be on view May 15 – August 31, 2025, at MMA's Pacific Street location.

MMA Executive Director Corey Madden states "We were thrilled at the response from artists submitting their work for the Monterey Biennial. This exhibition underscores the extraordinary breadth of artistic talent in Central California and provides a



"Signs Of Life" by Katherine Filice, bark, paper, ink, on buried canvas, 2024.

platform to amplify the voices of artists working in this culturally rich and ever-evolving region."

San Benito County-based artist Kathleen Sheridan states, "I am thrilled to be a part of an exhibition presented by such an important cultural institution as the Monterey Museum of Art. It's an opportunity to show the world the vibrant and sincere art community that lives and works in San Benito County and the Central Coast."

Similarly, artist Karen Percival shares that she is "especially honored to be one of those representing the creative output of San Benito County," and that "it was in large measure due to the San Benito County Art Council's adult art classes and Open Studio events that I began my watercolor journey."

The Monterey Museum of Art invites community members to the Biennial's upcoming events:

- **Opening Celebration** – Saturday, May 17, 2025

- **Juror Round Table Discussion** – Saturday, June 21, 2025

- **FREE Museum Admission** – Every Sunday through the run of the exhibition

For more information, please visit www.montereyart.org. You may also contact the Arts Council at info@sanbenitoarts.org or at 831.636.2787. ■

#Bookworms, continued

poet Omar Khayyam (5/18), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (5/22), Margaret Wise Brown (5/23), Robert Ludlum (5/25), Rachel Carson and Tony Hillerman (5/27), Ian Fleming and Maeve Binchy (5/28), and Walt Whitman (5/31).

MILITARY LIBRARY PURGE

Pete Hegseth's office recently ordered all Army and Air Force libraries to remove books with "DEI material." Last month, 380+ books were removed from The US Naval Academy's Nimitz Library including books on the Holocaust, histories of feminism + civil rights + racism, and Maya Angelou's autobiography.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

Highlights of The Folio Society's Spring Collection launch include Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*, Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, and Agatha Christie's *And Then*

There Were None.

WORTHLESS WRITING?

As more agencies and authors (including Pulitzer Prize winner Andrew Sean Greer and National Book Award winner Ta-Nehisi Coates) continue to file lawsuits against Meta, newly unsealed case files reveal that the company shockingly believes that its sourcing of seven million books to train its AI constituted "fair use" and the material would have been "worthless" otherwise. Info: vanityfair.com/news/story/meta-ai-lawsuit ■

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, which is recruiting! Visit <https://linktr.ee/sbleadership>.

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WILL COOK FOR WINE

Lemon-Thyme Shortbread Cookies

By Chef Liz

You are going to love these cookies! They are super easy to make, delicious and the perfect treat for your Mother’s Day celebration. This recipe makes between 2 and 3 dozen cookies (depending on the size of your favorite cutter -- we used a simple circle about 2-inches across). Adapted from Southern Living Magazine, by Alana Al-Hatalni.



Ingredients

- 3/4 C unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 C powdered sugar (divided)
- 2 Tbsp. lemon zest, plus more for garnish
- 1 1/2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme, plus more for garnish
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla bean paste
- 1 1/2 C all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice

Method

Whisk together flour and salt. Set aside. Beat butter and 1/2 C of the powdered sugar in a stand mixer with the paddle attachment on medium speed until smooth - about 1 minute. Beat in lemon zest, thyme and vanilla paste until combined. Scrape down bowl as necessary. With mixer on low speed, add flour mixture to butter mixture until dough comes together. Scrape down bowl as necessary. Pro tip: roll dough between 2 pieces of plastic wrap or parchment paper to about

1/4” thick. Refrigerate till firm, about an hour. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Cut desired shapes and place about 1” apart. Re-roll and cut scraps as needed. Chill in freezer until firm -- about 10 minutes. Bake in preheated oven till edges are golden brown -- 14-16 minutes. Let cool completely -- about 30 minutes. In a medium bowl, whisk together remaining 1 C powdered sugar and enough lemon juice to desired thickness. Dip, drizzle or spread glaze over cooled cookies. Sprinkle lemon zest and thyme leaves over cookies. Let stand until glaze is set, about 30 minutes. Enjoy! Did you make this recipe? Let me know how you liked it! Email your pics and thoughts to me at creme-cake@sbcglobal.net. Also, let me know what types of recipes you’d like to see in future columns! ■



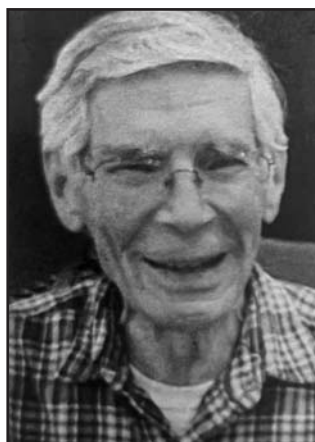
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Courtland Nichols: A life rooted in giving

For Courtland Nichols, philanthropy isn't just something he took up later in life. It's been a steady thread, woven through decades of thoughtful, purpose-driven giving. From his early days in agricultural science to his current role as a community benefactor, Nichols has quietly shaped a legacy defined by generosity.

A longtime tomato breeder for the California canning industry, Nichols spent years developing crop varieties to help feed communities. However, his dedication to giving didn't stop at the field's edge. As soon as he was able, he began donating to wildlife conservation efforts, particularly focused on elephants and cheetahs, two of his lifelong favorite animals. His bedroom walls still reflect that passion, adorned with images of the species he's helped protect through years of support.

Over time, Nichols expanded his giving to include humanitarian causes. Today,



Courtland Nichols

he channels a substantial portion of his charitable support through a pass-through fund at the Community Foundation. By transferring funds directly from his IRA, he can contribute over \$10,000 annually to nonprofits of his choosing, minimizing tax burdens while maximizing impact.



Perhaps his most personal philanthropic effort is the William Burton Nichols Memorial Scholarship Fund, created in honor of his late son. Inspired by his daughter Alice, the scholarship has gone on to support two students pursuing nursing careers. Its first recipient, Magaly del Rio, recently graduated from Gavilan College, while the second, Mia, is thriving at UC Davis. Nichols considers this an investment in both the individual recipients as well as the health of the broader community.

Nichols' contributions also extend to the arts. Until last year, he was a dedicated member of the Oriana Chorale since 1986, and served on the board of the Oriana Chorale since 1988. Now retired, supported by his daughters and inspired by the memory of his son, he can help his community in the ways he finds most impactful. His story is a quiet but powerful reminder that philanthropy, when lived with heart, becomes a legacy. ■

DEARLY DENOTED

Seabiscuit's resting place

Seabiscuit is buried at Ridgewood Ranch in Willits, California, the property once owned by Charles and Marcela Howard where 'Biscuit' spent his final years. Seabiscuit was privately owned by the Howards, not by a racing syndicate, and when he died an untimely death at Ridgewood Ranch on May 17, 1947, the Howard family wanted his burial to be personal and private. Their sense of loss was said to be profound and long-lasting.

Charles and Marcela Howard have both passed. Nevertheless, upon Charles Howard's death in 1950, Ridgewood Ranch was sold to a logging concern, Welch & Welch. As part of the condition of the sale, the original statue of Seabiscuit was removed by Lindsey C. Howard, Sr. and the site where it stood was paved, permanently changing the landscape.

The statue stood for the next half-century at BingLin Stock Farm, Moorpark, CA and was eventually donated to the National Museum



of Racing Hall of Fame, Saratoga Springs, NY by the Howard family. In 2007, a replica of this statue was installed at Ridgewood thanks to the generosity of Chris and Anita Lowe of Wiltshire, England. ■

(Credit: <https://www.seabiscuitheritage.org/seabiscuit-gravesite/>)



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MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE Community Bulletin Board

Native Daughters of the Golden West Student Art Contest to be held

Entry Deadline: May 2, 2025

Theme: "What Makes California Wonderful"

All entries must exemplify the theme in some way.

Open to all 9th–12th grade students in San Benito County.

Accepting entries of any 2D or 3D art, including photography or crafts, created within the last 2 years. Maximum size: 20" x 30" and 20 lbs.

No entry fee – Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. 1st place winner advances to the state competition on June 1, 2025.

Contact: Shawna (831) 801-3490 or Ana (831) 207-0932

Hosted by San Juan Bautista Parlor No. 179, NDGW

Apply now to become a Civil Grand Juror

Superior Court to Hold Informational Meeting on Becoming a Civil Grand Juror

The Superior Court of San Benito County is now seeking applications to become a member of the San Benito County Civil Grand Jury. The civil grand jury is an historic institution and serves an important role in local society. Serving

on the civil grand jury gives residents an exciting and unique opportunity to have a significant impact on local government. The 19-member civil grand jury is an independent body empowered to investigate operations of city and county governments as well as other tax-supported agencies and special districts—responding also to citizen complaints on government issues.

To qualify to be on the grand jury, you must be United States citizens, at least 18 years of age, have a working knowledge of the English language, and have resided in the county of San Benito for at least one year. The court seeks volunteers who represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of the communities within the county. All qualified citizens interested in serving on the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury are invited to submit an application to the Superior Court of San Benito Cruz County for consideration.

The Superior Court will hold a remote informational meeting about becoming a grand juror on Thursday, May 1, 2025, starting at 5:30 p.m. A link to the meeting can be found on the court's website. Interested members of the community are invited to join the meeting to learn about the benefits of becoming a grand juror from people who have served on previous juries.

For applications and more information, visit the Superior Court's website at www.sanbenito.courts.ca.gov or visit the San Benito Courthouse at 450 Fourth Street in Hollister to pick up an application. All applications must be received by Monday, May 16, 2025.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Hear ye, hear ye!

With joyful hearts, we proudly announce the marriage of Luke Daniel Kerbs and Bella Lucille Marquez, now officially Mrs. Bella Lucille Kerbs. Married April 11, 2025, at the San Benito County Clerk's Office.

Whatever the question, love is the answer.

Huzzah! ■



SNIPPETS FROM THE MILLIKEN FILES

The Breen Family arrives at San Juan

As told by Diego Soto

Submitted by Joe Claus and John Grafton

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

When the Breens came to San Juan, they had a big wagon and were camped on the Plaza. Diego Soto's mother was born in 1830 and was just a young girl at the time. There was an Indian girl named Gertrudes in the Larios family about the same age as Diego's mother. The Larios girl was baking some round sweet bread on the orno -- the place where they cooked out of doors.

Soto's grandmother -- Mrs. Larios -- told her daughter and Gertrudes to take some meat and some of this sweet bread over to the Breen camp, which they did. Manuel Lar-



ios asked Pat Breen where he was going. Breen told him to San Diego. Larios asked him why he was going to San Diego when he could do better right there in San Juan. "If you want to farm here, I will help you."

Larios asked Breen if in case he didn't like San Diego, "Will you come back?" About a year later, the Breens were back in San Juan.

The Breens raised wheat and later had a mill.

Allifonzo Ramirez married Gertrudes. He came from Mexico. He had blond hair and blue eyes and was very fair. He was a great puzzle to people who were surprised to find that he really was a Mexican. He was as fair as any American. ■

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Carefully consider Social Security decisions

Your Social Security benefits can be an important part of your retirement income — but when should you start collecting them? It's a big decision, so you'll want to consider your options carefully.

Essentially, you'll need to decide whether you're going to take your benefits as early as possible — age 62 — or if you should wait until your "full retirement age" or even longer. If you begin accepting benefits at 62, they'll be about 30% lower than if you waited until your full retirement age, which is 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you wait until 70, your benefits will be about 24% higher than at your full retirement age.

In deciding when to claim benefits, you'll want to weigh these factors:

- **Income needs** — If you need the money to help meet your daily cost of living, then you may not feel you have much of a choice about when to take Social Security. However, if you have sufficient income from other sources, such as your 401(k) or other retirement accounts, you may be able to delay taking benefits until they're much larger.

- **Employment** — If you're still working and you haven't reached your full retirement

age yet, it might be a good idea to wait before claiming Social Security because your benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned above \$23,400. In the year in which you reach your full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$3 earned above \$62,160. (But once you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will adjust your payments to credit you for the months during which your benefits were lowered because of your income.)

- **Life expectancy** — None of us can say for certain how long we'll live — but you may have some hints. For example, if you have a family history of longevity, and you're in good health, you might decide it makes sense to delay taking Social Security until your full retirement age, or even later, as you could potentially have more years of receiving larger checks.

- **Spouse** — If you're married, decisions about when to claim benefits could affect you or your spouse. The spouse with lower Social Security payments may be eligible to receive spousal benefits, which, when combined with their own benefits, can reach up to 50% of the higher-benefit spouse's payment at their

full retirement age. To qualify, the lower-benefit spouse's benefit at their full retirement age must be less than half of the other spouse's full-retirement-age benefit. But if the lower-benefit spouse claims their benefits before their full retirement age, their own retirement benefit and the spousal benefit will be reduced. Also, the lower-benefit spouse reaches their maximum benefit amount at their full retirement age — they won't receive additional benefits even if they or the higher-

benefit spouse delays taking benefits past their respective full retirement ages.

One other point to keep in mind: If the higher-benefit spouse claims early, the survivor benefit to the other spouse is reduced, but if the higher-benefit spouse delays their benefit beyond their full retirement age, the survivor benefit is increased.

By making the appropriate choices, you can help maximize your Social Security benefits — and possibly enjoy a more comfortable retirement.

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

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MISSION VILLAGE
VOICE Q&A

Dead Cowboys band

By Anne Caetano

It all started with a jam session in a San Juan Bautista music room. Steve Harris, John Dominguez, and a few friends were just messing around—until an idea took hold: pay tribute to the greats by covering songs only by artists who've passed on. From Buck

Owens to Tom Petty, The Allman Brothers to Lynyrd Skynyrd, their playlist reads like a memorial to American music's legends. They call it "Retro Americana," but Dead Cowboys are more than just a band with a clever concept. They're a brotherhood.

What began casually grew into

something much bigger. With a little hustle, a lot of heart, and a Honda motorcycle entrance straight out of a movie, the band started landing gigs—from Bear's Hideaway to the Gilroy Rodeo. And as the stages got bigger, so did their connection with the crowd. Their performances blend tight

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musicianship with deep emotion and a sense of community that runs through every note. Now, they're helping to organize international events like Play Music on the Porch Day and drawing fans of all ages—dogs and cats included. Because for Dead Cowboys, it's not just about music. It's about making memories that last longer than the songs.

Dead Cowboys talented lineup includes Steve Harris, John Dominguez, Chris McDougall, Dyllon Jacobson, Mark Saxton, Johnny McGuire, Travis Hill and Joe Rosales. Visit deadcowboys.music FB YouTube & Linktree

MVV: Who wrangled up Dead Cowboys in the first place?

Steve Harris: While at San Juan School for Guitars Not Guns, I met John Dominguez, who mentioned he played guitar. I invited him over, and we started jamming in my music room. Jeremiah Martinez joined in on bass, and later our friend Bruce Gilsenan dropped by and started playing too.

I shared my idea of performing songs by musicians who had passed away. They liked it, so we put together about ten songs and played for fun at the Aromas Grange.

That's when Chris McDougall rode up on a little Honda motorcycle. We recognized him from the band Red Tail. He said he liked what we were doing and thought

we needed a lead guitarist. I told him we practiced Tuesdays at 6:30 at my house; he showed up and started playing with us.

We played a few more gigs, but our first real show was Day of the Dead at Bear's Hideaway. By then, Dyllon Jacobson had joined on bass, filling in for our regular player Jeremiah Martinez.

MVV: Why Dead Cowboys?

SH: A lot of the music we play is the cowboy music I grew up with, but we usually describe it as Retro Americana. Our set includes everything from Buck Owens to Tom Petty, The Allman Brothers, and Lynyrd Skynyrd—mostly artists who've passed on.

MVV: So, the rule is: make sure the artist is dead first?

SH: That way the royalties might be cheaper. (Laughs)

MVV: How did you start booking gigs?

SH: We asked Lori at Bear's Hideaway if we could play there. She said, "Yeah, sure," and hired us. From there, we started visiting other bars and handing out business cards.

John Dominguez landed one of our first real gigs at the Buena Vista in Watsonville through a family friend, Dan.

After that, people started approaching us at shows, saying, "Hey, I've got a place; maybe you could play there." That's how it started building. Of course, the

VFW here has their own events too, and we're local boys, so it made sense to play there as well.

MVV: It's clear you all have a lot of fun performing.

SH: You know what's funny about this band? We genuinely like each other. It's not some fake stage act; we've become really good friends.

John Dominguez: Yeah, dead cowboy brothers. It's a real band of brothers.

MVV: You've developed quite a following.

SH: Yes, we're especially excited for the Gilroy Rodeo on August 10. We'll be the finale act, and there will be about 6,500 people. We have also been invited back to Kingston, Washington in July to play for the Leachstock, a music festival.

MVV: I've seen you perform; it's a full-scale setup.

JD: When we put on a show, we're not just playing music -- we're performing. That's what makes it exciting for us. It's about creating an experience, not just for us, but for the audience.

Sharing music brings joy and comfort. Everyone connects with a great song, and that's what we aim to deliver.

Some songs have powerful lyrics that people really respond to. We've had folks request certain songs over and over, and others ask us not to play something because it hits too hard emotionally. That's the kind of music we gravitate toward, songs by artists who've lived through life's struggles and triumphs.

What's compelling for all of us, and Steve said this the other day, is that we have to keep challenging ourselves. We're not getting any younger, but our musicianship can still grow.

We've learned how important dynamics are in a live show, how you choreograph a song adds so much depth, even without turning up the volume.

Beyond that, it's the social connection, the creativity in how we arrange songs, and the joy of performing. We play a wide range of music that resonates with different communities, and we're proud of that.

There are also therapeutic benefits, for us and the audience. When we see people dancing, it gives you a whole different kind of rush. Sometimes, we end a song and get this huge wave of applause. It's not about us; it's about how much fun everyone's having.

MVV: What is Play Music on the Porch Day?

SH: We started organizing it here in San Juan Bautista, but it's actually an international event celebrated in over 80 countries. It takes place on the last Saturday of August, and the idea is simple: what if everyone just stopped what they were doing and played music on their porch for a day?

This year, we'll kick off in Rancho Vista,



where homes will be marked with big orange banners. From there, we'll have a musical procession into town, ending with a finale at LUNA Gallery. Caitlin Brady from the City is helping us organize, and there will be a map available.

Leading up to the big day, we've been building momentum. Since March 29, we've been holding acoustic jam sessions at Windmill Market here in SJB from 3-5 PM on the last Saturday of each month. Any participating musicians are welcome to join. There are currently 12 porches signed up.

MVV: Do you still rehearse at Steve's house?

JD: Yep, we still practice there—though we've got a new venue coming up too.

If you want to perform well, you've got to put in the time. The saying "You play like you practice" is true. It's hard because we're all busy with our own lives, but we make time for it.

For a little cover band, the support and appreciation we've received from the community has been incredible. We've been fortunate in that we have a following. People keep showing up, and they certainly seem to love our shows, and we definitely don't get enough of them.

One thing I really respect is that we play clean. We don't drink while we're performing. Maybe occasionally, a couple of us will enjoy an adult beverage preshow, but that doesn't happen very often. Now, the after parties may be a different story.... It's all Stuff that Works!

MVV: You're sober on stage?

JD: Yep. (Laughs)

SH: I also want to thank all our families for their support. Chris has two kids and a wonderful wife. John's often working out of town, so he doesn't get to be home much. My wife's incredibly supportive, and she comes to all the gigs.

■ May 2nd **Grillin & Chillin**, Hollister 8-11pm

■ May 17th **Kelly Brewing Company**, Morgan Hill 5-8pm

■ May 25th **Harvest Time Roadhouse**, Hollister 2-5pm

■ June 7th **Box Seat Sports Bar**, Morgan Hill 7-10pm

■ June 29 th **Grillin & Chillin**, Hollister 2-5pm

■ July 4th **Buena Vista Brewery**, Watsonville 5pm

■ July 12th **Smoke Point BBQ**, SJB 2pm.

■ July 19th **Leachstock Music Festival** Kingston, Washington

■ August 10th **Gilroy Rodeo Finale!** 3-6pm

■ August 23rd **Smoke Point BBQ**, SJB 2pm.

■ September 27th **SWANK FARMS BEER FEST**

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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Marion Torres, Labor and Delivery Nurse

By Anne Caetano

Back in February 2025, MVV had the pleasure of chatting with delightful Scottish-born Frances Cooper, who winters in San Juan Bautista with her daughter Marion Torres and does a brisk walkabout town twice a day. This month we enjoyed getting to know her daughter -- “the apple does not fall far from the tree.” Originally from Canada, Marion now makes San Juan Bautista her home and works as a labor and delivery nurse at El Camino Hospital in Los Gatos. Marion is both a very kind and nurturing person as well as very calm and soft spoken – perfectly suited to her vocation. Marion comments, “There’s something very special about women encouraging women.” Happy Mother’s Day, Ladies, and heartfelt thanks to all the labor and delivery nurses who support laboring mothers.

MVV: What drew you to labor and delivery?

MT: I think it’s because I started in labor and delivery as a unit clerk. It’s a unique area to be in. When it’s bad, it can be really bad—but most of the time, it’s very good. It’s a joyful place to be in the hospital. There’s something very special about women encouraging women.

You have two children, so you know what they’re going through.

Yes, and after I had my own children, I was able to relate much more to my patients.

Do most expectant parents know the gender? Are there still some who want to be surprised?

Most do find out now; very few decide not to. And we’re always just a little more excited about those! Usually, we have the father announce the gender to the mom, so it’s a bit more special. There are not many surprises left in the world!

Do you perform a lot of C-sections?

Yes, we do some, but we have a low cesarean section rate. I work at the smaller El Camino Hospital in Los Gatos, which is a low-risk facil-

ity. We don’t have many high-risk patients, so we see fewer C-sections, but we still do about two or three a week.

Are most of the fathers in the delivery room?

Yes. I love it when the dad breaks down and cries at delivery. It gets me every time.

Do most moms get epidurals?

More of my patients do get the epidural than don’t. I always tell them, “You wouldn’t get your wisdom teeth out without some anesthesia. That’s why we have it.” I want them to never feel guilty if they’re on the fence about getting an epidural.

What happens when women are pushing or getting an epidural?

Especially during epidurals, we always have the fathers sit on the opposite side from the procedure because we’ve had dads pass out after seeing the needle. The policy now is to have them sit down. We don’t want another patient on the floor!

Ironically, it’s always these big burly guys who swear they’ll be fine. And then—boom—down they go.

Have you ever had any surprises?

Yes, I’ve had patients expecting one gender and end up delivering the other.

How do they react?



They’re shocked but still very happy. Then they start talking about returning all the things that they purchased for the other gender!

Do you deliver a lot of twins?

We do. And in our hospital, they always seem to come in threes for some reason. Once we get a set of twins, it’s like—here come a couple more.

Have you delivered identical twins? How do you know if they’re identical?

Yes, we’ve had identical twins. You can’t always tell at birth, especially if they have separate sacs. Often, it’s confirmed later through DNA testing or blood type matching. Identical twins come from a single fertilized egg that splits whereas fraternal twins come from two different eggs.

Do you deliver surrogates?

Yes, we have about three or four surrogate births a year at our hospital. We’re really good at setting up

an extra room so the intended parents can be present for the birth and have their baby brought to them right away. The surrogate has her own recovery space.

In a normal situation, what does the doctor do with the baby immediately after birth?

The baby goes right onto the mom’s chest, even before the cord is cut. As the baby is coming out, we pull the mother’s gown down for skin-to-skin contact. We dry the baby on the mom and try to keep them together for at least an hour or more.

Does the father cut the cord?

A lot of dads do. Some don’t want to if they’re squeamish—we call them “Northerners.” They don’t want to be “down south” looking at anything, so we say, “You’re staying at the head of the bed.”

Are there a lot of Northerners?

Oh yes! But then there are also some dads who want to catch the



baby. They don't actually do the delivery, but some doctors or midwives let them put on gloves and help guide the baby out. That's really special too.

On average, how many babies do you deliver in a day?

Anywhere from zero to six or seven.

Do you deliver more during full moons?

Yes—it's real! Ask any labor or ER nurse. My kids even text me when there's a full moon and ask if I'm working the next day.

What are your busiest birth months?

We see a lot in September, the spring, and June.

Do you notice more of one gender being born?

It varies. Sometimes we'll have a stretch where all the babies are girls, or all boys—it's kind of funny when that happens.

Is there a big difference in the age of mothers?

Yes, it's getting older. First-time moms are often in their late 30s or even 40s, especially with IVF. Many of our patients in Los Gatos are professionals who have focused on their careers before starting families.

Do you have any funny stories?

Yes! One time, a mom in labor got up to use the restroom, and I noticed the baby's heart rate drop on

the monitor. When she returned, I checked her, and she had a cord prolapse—where the umbilical cord falls ahead of the baby's head. That's a STAT C-section situation.

I was eight months pregnant myself. Once I felt the cord, I couldn't remove my hand from my patient—I had to keep the baby's head from pressing on it. I had to climb up on the bed, still keeping pressure off the cord while they wheeled her to the OR. I stayed on the bed while they prepped her, then crawled down once she was draped. I always laugh about that—there were four people on the bed: me, the mom, her baby, and my baby.

Do your daughters have an interest in medicine?

Yes. My older daughter is currently studying to become a labor and delivery nurse, and my younger daughter, a high school senior, wants to become a physician.

How has nursing affected your parenting?

All the stories I tell at the dinner table! My family is so used to the gross stuff—it doesn't faze them anymore. And they really have to be badly hurt to get my sympathy. A runny nose? Sorry. Your arm's falling off? Okay, now I'm paying attention.

When did you arrive in the

States?

In 2002—just after September 11. I originally came for three to six months to do travel nursing and see a bit of the country. I had written my nursing exam in Canada and passed the U.S. NCLEX too, just

in case I wanted to travel one day. **Where were you scheduled to go when you first arrived?**

I was supposed to go to Alaska, but it fell through at the last minute—they decided they didn't need an extra nurse. I was already

halfway across the country and told my agency, "Just send me to the next place that opens." That turned out to be St. Louise Hospital in Gilroy—and that's when I met my husband. I never left. California has spoiled me! ■



VUE A LA LOO

Segantini Hut restroom, Switzerland

Austrian-born 19th-century painter Giovanni Segantini lived his last years in a St Moritz alpine aerie now known as Segantini Hut, capturing the Swiss peaks with his palette. The hut, perched at 2731 m. (8960 ft.), is currently a lodge, where visitors to the iconic outhouse enjoy eye-watering valley views of the Engadine. ■

Photo by Hans Georg Eiben / Getty Images.

RAINBOW RUN

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

Dogs on leashes are welcome to participate!

Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista

SCAN ME

June 7, 2025

San Juan Bautista, CA

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

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

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Congratulations to Luke Daniel Kerbs and Bella Lucille Marquez, now officially Mrs. Bella Lucille Kerbs. Married April 11, 2025, at the San Benito County Clerk's Office.



Margot Tankersley of Margot's Ice Cream Parlor represented Spirit of San Juan Bautista at the Earth Day celebration promoting San Juan Bautista Certified Green Businesses.



The annual Recology Art Poster Contest winners Elizabeth Schroeder, Sam Medina, & Frances Fajardo were awarded at the County's Earth Day Celebration in Hollister.



Electric Vehicle resources are here! the EVs for Everyone crew (Jakki Castorena-Davila – Left and Claudia Villalta-Mejia- Right) ready to answer any questions and help community member test drive EVs at San Benito County's Earth Day Celebration.



The 2025 Recology Art Poster Contest Winners were awarded at the Earth Day Celebration in downtown Hollister. Congratulations to the winners! Thank you to everyone that came out and supported!



SBC Arts Council Team at 2025 Arts & Culture Summit, Sacramento.



E Clampus Vitus members are placing a cross above San Juan.



SBALT's April Ranch Day @ Rancho Larios open space. L-R: Ray Trabucco, Kristina Hastings, Alan Robertson, Bob Connolly, Mariah & Beth Roybal, Mary Watson, Peggy Pavese and Andoni Isasi.



A few PJIFF team in Hollister celebrating the closing of this year's film festival. Mattie Scariot, Connie Werolin, Peter Serracino, Bill Doherty, Fran Fitzharris, & film makers from "The Way We Speak."



Fat Mascara

Hosts Jessica Matlin and Jennifer G. Sullivan bring you the big, juicy world of beauty on their bi-weekly podcast. Fat Mascara leads the global beauty conversation with candor, humor, and unparalleled access to the celebrities, experts, and industry insiders who make the beauty world turn, including sharp analysis of the news and trends, advice, and product recommendations. Past guests include celebrities, as well as makeup artists, hair stylists, and other experts like dermatologists, brand founders, manicurists, perfumers, psychologists, and more.



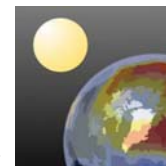
Gloss Angeles

Launched after friends and fellow beauty journalists Kirbie Johnson and Sara Tan decided to put all of their DMs, emails and text messages out into the world as a podcast. Gloss Angeles is an "edu-tainment" podcast, combining their passion for beauty with their love of Los Angeles and celebrity culture. With over 1.5M downloads, the podcast continues to be one of Apple's Top 10 Fashion & Beauty offerings.



SpaceWeatherLive

SpaceWeatherLive is the ultimate app for those who are interested in seeing the northern lights or want to know everything about the activity on our Sun. With this app you will be able to see and understand how active the aurora is right now and if there might be a good chance to spot the northern or southern lights in the coming days. You will never miss an aurora display again with this app in your pocket no matter where you go!



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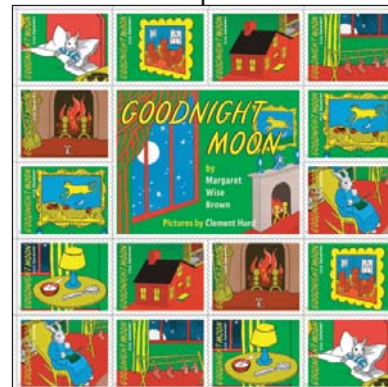
Control your tablet or smartphone without touching the screen! Spatial Touch™ is an AI-based hand gesture remote controller that allows you to control media apps from a distance without touching the screen. You can control YouTube, Shorts, Netflix, Disney Plus, Instagram, Reels, Tiktok and more apps are being added. When you're leaned back watching a video with your device on the table, when your hands are wet from doing dishes, or when you eat and you don't want to touch the screen, Spatial Touch™ lets you easily control your devices in any of these cases.



GOING POSTAL Goodnight Moon

Written by Margaret Wise Brown (1910–1952) with artwork by Clement Hurd (1908–1988), *Goodnight Moon* revolutionized children's publishing when it debuted in 1947 and has since become favorite bedtime reading for millions of families around the world.

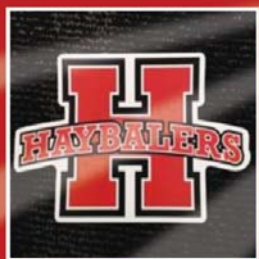
This pane of 16 stamps features eight details from the beloved picture book, including the young bunny tucked into bed; the painting of three little bears; the toy house on the bedroom floor; the mittens and socks hung to dry; the tiny mouse paused for just a moment in front of the fireplace; the painting of the cow jumping over the Moon; the older bunny sitting in the rocking chair with her knitting; and the comb, brush, and bowl of mush atop the young bunny's bedside table.



Goodnight Moon encourages children and their parents to imagine themselves in the book's familiar "great green room," where a young bunny has been tucked into bed. The lilting, hypnotic rhythm of the text casts a tender spell over young listeners, who bid goodnight to everything they see in the book—from the toy house and kittens playing on the bedroom floor to wall paintings, a red balloon, and the Moon in the night sky. The book's remarkable rise in popularity began in the 1950s, in large part due to word of mouth among parents. Today, *Goodnight Moon* has sold a total of more than 48 million copies, placing it among the best-selling children's books of all time.

Art director Derry Noyes designed the pane using existing art by Clement Hurd.

The *Goodnight Moon* stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps. These Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail® one-ounce price. ■



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COVER ARTIST

Elena Tronina

I was born and grew up in the small town in Russia. I have been interested in painting and drawing since childhood. This led me to study at the Moscow Academic Art College, which I completed in 2003 with a qualification in art education.

Since 2005, my family and I have been living in Leonberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

After a long period of parental leave, I work as a freelance artist and sell my works online. I regularly participate in regional art markets and show my work process on social media. I love to paint food and try to convey its maximum beauty and authentic-



ity. Food carries deep symbolism in art, depending on the cultural and historical context. It is connected to many of our attachments and memories. In my work, I would like to capture them. Moreover, many of the objects I depict appear to me to be the epitome of perfection in their shapes and colors. A newspaper background gives the paintings an interesting 3D effect. It also gives the newspaper a second life, transforms an everyday object into a work of art, and is associated with something cozy.

Pictured: Pears, Oil on Newspaper, Size: 11.8 W x 11.8 H.

Instagram: Tronina.art. To see more work or purchase prints, visit <https://www.saatchiart.com/account/artworks/2109651> ■

LOCAL HISTORY

Preservation matters

To celebrate National Preservation Month in San Juan Bautista, City of History, the Historic Resources Board has, since 2012, recognized business or property owners for rehabilitating their historic properties.

The guidelines are the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, "intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation's irreplaceable cultural resources." Previous recipients include the owners of Ponzini Insulation, Mission Clocks, Vertigo Coffee, La Calavera, Glad Tidings Church, 1111 First Street, Casa de Anza Adobe, Texas Lodge #46 Masonic Hall, 18th Barrel Tasting Room, the Gardella House, Bluebird Hotel, Inaka Japanese

Restaurant, the Rippenburg House, 607 Third and 307/309 Third, NDGW 1836 adobe home at 203 Fourth Street, 1898 cottage at 201 Fourth Street, Plaza Market/Tucchetto Hall and the Lovett House.

At its May 22 City Council meeting, property owners of two cultural resources (a public-use building and a private-use building) will be announced and honored with Certificates of Recognition for their investments of time, talent and treasure. These property owners have modeled responsible stewardship of historic buildings that welcome visitors and residents to the nationally-registered Third Street Historic District. The many character-defining features of these structures have been preserved, and the rehabilitations have extended the economic lives of the buildings and enhanced the historic ambiance of authentic San Juan Bautista.

Congratulations and gratitude to the property owners and to the City of San Juan Bautista for recognizing their efforts! Kudos to the San Juan Bautista Historical Society for their research and recommendations. ■



San Benito County's Earth Day celebration featured an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride & Drive event.



Green Business Tips

Embrace the Electric Revolution: EV Ownership in San Benito County

San Benito County is no stranger to embracing sustainability, and one of the most impactful ways residents and businesses can contribute is by switching to electric vehicles (EVs). San Benito County's Earth Day celebration featured an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride & Drive event designed to educate the community about the wide range of options available for making the switch to electric. Electrify America and Ecology Action were on hand to provide free technical assistance, helping attendees navigate the various rebates and incentives available for EV purchases.

Throughout the day, a dedicated team of volunteer EV owners—including Supervisor Angela Curro and former SJB Councilmember John Freeman—shared their firsthand experiences with 79 community members. Attendees also had the opportunity to get behind the wheel and test drive several electric models, thanks to the participation of Greenwood Chevrolet and Hyundai of Gilroy.

The event created a valuable space for

community members to connect directly with both local dealerships and experienced EV drivers, sparking meaningful conversations and building excitement around sustainable transportation.

Beyond the obvious environmental benefits, there are numerous advantages to making the switch.

- Owning an EV significantly reduces your carbon footprint, contributing to cleaner air and a healthier environment for all. Additionally, local chargers can be easily found on www.plugshare.com

- For businesses, installing EV chargers can attract more customers. EV drivers often plan their routes based on charging station availability, making businesses with chargers a preferred stop. Ecology Action's EV Charging Services go beyond just installation. Their team provides technical site assessments and customized project designs, tailored to the specific needs of your property.

Need more information before making the switch? Visit ecoact.org/our-work/sustainable-transportation/ev-charging-installation to learn more about how Ecology Action can help your business, and visit sanbenitocountyca.gov/services/environment-sustainability/energy for more information on electrification. ■

CELEBRATIONS

Henry & Alma Cooper: 70 Years of Marriage

By Ko Cooper

Dad (Henry William Cooper) was born at home just outside of Lubbock, Texas, on May 25, 1933. In 1939, his parents moved west to work as migrant laborers in the cotton and lettuce packing sheds of Yuma and Salinas. They eventually settled in Hollister—fun fact: my dad was at the original "Wild Ones" motorcycle rally there and later became an avid Harley rider for many years. The family later moved to Salinas, where he attended Salinas High School, graduating in 1952. He went on to graduate from Hartnell College.

Meanwhile...

Mom (Alma Jean Cooper) was born at home on December 10, 1935, just outside Durant, Oklahoma, in a small town called Siloh. Her family migrated west in 1941 and settled in the Alisal area of Salinas. Her father worked in the lettuce packing sheds, while her mother was a cook at the hospital. Like my dad, she attended Salinas High School and graduated in 1953.

They met in Salinas in 1950 and married on April 18, 1955. The following year, my father was drafted into the Army and served 18 months in the Panama Canal Zone, where their first child—my oldest brother—was



born. They went on to have five more children and eventually settled in Cupertino, where my dad worked as an engineer until 1974.

In 1974, they moved to San Juan Bautista, where they lived until 2003. During those years, they attended Glad Tidings Church and formed close friendships with Pastor John and Joe Amelio, along with many others who are still part of the church community today.

Meanwhile.....

In 2003, they settled in Marsing, Idaho where they have resided since. April 18th 2025 they quietly celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary. ■

Let's Dance!

Dance Party

on 5/16

Friday May 16th | 6-9pm-ish

SJB VFW

Cash Bar

Bring your own snacks

California Contemporary artist
FUTZIE NUTZLE

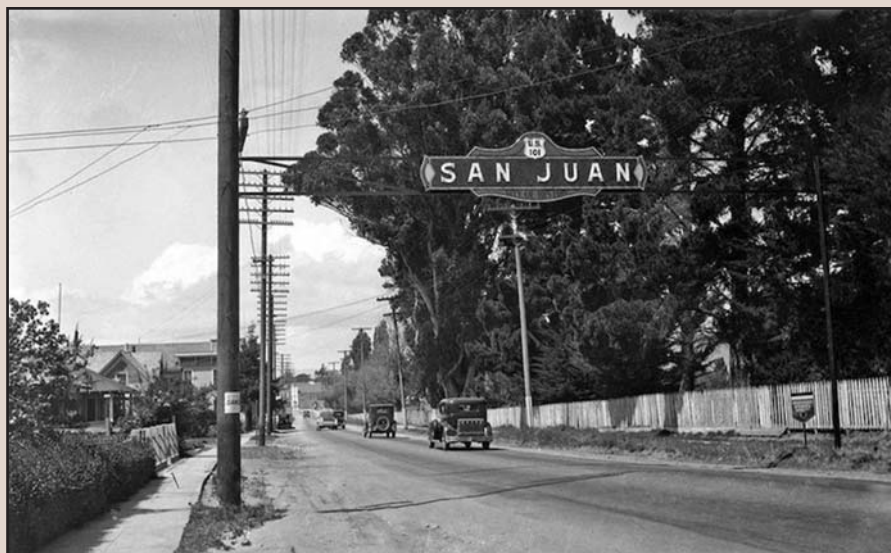
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and *Mission Village Voice* (2014 to-date). www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/art-galleries.



Big Sign To Be Lighted

Says Monday's Advance: J. H. Garner, secretary of the San Benito county chamber of commerce, yesterday signed the contract awarding the wiring of the newly acquired electric sign at San Juan to the Hollister Motor Works, Hatch Brothers, proprietors. Figures are not available but the above firm's bid was the lowest. Work will be begun at once and hurried to completion.

The sign is located on land of Steve Lavagnino at the junction of the highway over Salinas grade and the road to Hollister. It is handsome and durable, easily read and should be of great help to the motoring public.

ABOVE: THEN - San Juan Sign on Alameda, looking north. CENTER: NOW - the current city motto (under a detail of the 1915 sign). RIGHT: "Big Sign to be Lighted," Mission News, 28 March 1925.

Then... and Now: San Juan Bautista, 'The City of History'

By Wanda Guibert,
San Juan Bautista Historical Society

Incorporated in 1869, the City of San Juan Bautista can certainly claim bragging rights as "The City of History." Indeed, with the historic Mission San Juan Bautista, founded in 1797; San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, designated in 1933; San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District, listed in 1969; San Juan Canyon Historic District, identified in 1981; San Juan Bautista Third Street Historic District, listed in 2009, as well as 5 buildings individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, we can justifiably lay claim to that title.

For centuries, San Juan Bautista has been

San Juan Grade Will Be Open Saturday

The official opening of the new San Juan grade will take place next Saturday, New Year's day.

The opening of the newly macadamized grade will be a big boon to all motorists, who have been forced to go over the old steep grade or through the Chittenden pass route. Many through tourists have been going through Tres Pinos in addition to these two routes.

With the knowledge of the reopening of the grade, an increase in the number of autos passing both north and south should be noted.

San Juan Grade Opening 1 Jan. 1916,
King City Rustler, 31 December 1915.

at the crossroads of trade and transportation in the State of California. A trail that later became known as Old Stage Road may have been used by the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition in 1775-1776 to cross the Gabilan Range. This trail became a segment of El Camino Real when Mission San Juan Bautista was established in 1797, functioning as the main route connecting San Juan Bautista to several regions until the early 20th century.

The passage of the 1909 First State Highway Bond Act led to the creation of a new State highway from San Francisco to San Diego, which later became Legislative Route 2. Due to the poor condition of Old Stage Road, the San Juan Grade of Legislative Route 2 was ultimately constructed, providing a modern concrete link between San Juan Bautista and other parts of the State that still

exists. Subsequently, Old Stage Road was abandoned, and the San Juan Grade then became part of Highway 101 in 1926. Newspapers around the State touted this new roadway and encouraged motorists to "...take time for a side trip to San Juan Bautista, 'City of History,' with its mission and other pioneer buildings about the plaza." (21 July 1932, *Daily News*, Los Angeles).

The 28 March 1915 *San Juan Mission News* announces "Big Sign to Be Lighted," depicted in the Then photo - there is a US 101 shield atop SAN JUAN with City of History below. The article continues, "The sign is located on land of Steve Lavagnino at the junction of the highway over Salinas grade and the road to Hollister. It is handsome and durable, easily read and should be of great help to the motoring public." This was a large overhead sign spanning The Alameda between the Steven Lavagnino house at 415 The Alameda ("S. Lavagnino" is imprinted on a granite marker embedded in the front walkway) to the former the Taix Lot, now Hacienda de Leal - at the intersection of the San Juan-Hollister Highway.

The City had been known simply as San

Spend a day in
"The City of History"

**SAN JUAN
BAUTISTA**

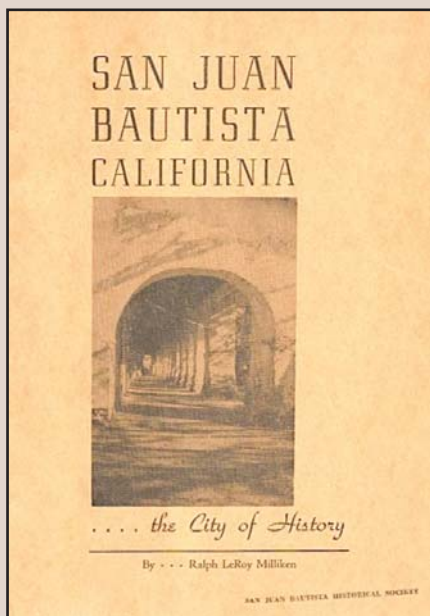
**Beautiful old Mission
State Historic Park
Distinctive Shops and
Fine Restaurants**

Santa Cruz Sentinel, 6 August 1967.

Juan until 1942 when the San Juan Service Club circulated a petition to change the name to San Juan Bautista, "...not only to correspond with Mission San Juan Bautista, largest in the state, but to be the same as that of the post office." The sign remained until 1941, when it was removed due to damage sustained during high winds.

Relying heavily on the rise of history-based and automobile tourism, the City of San Juan Bautista adopted the motto "The City of History" in 1928. The first documented reference to that motto appears in a subheading of the 7 September 1928 *San Juan Mission News* which states, "Town Signs Will be Changed and Will Have Words, 'City of History' Painted on Them." The City Council meeting report goes on to elaborate, "This matter of adding to our town signs the words 'The City of History' was brought before the Council and Trustee I.G. Grundell was

Continued, next page



San Juan history book by Ralph LeRoy Milliken.



Californian (Salinas), 9 July 1962.

appointed to make a sketch of such addition."

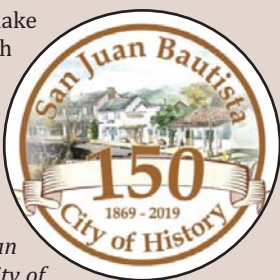
In 1951 Historian Ralph L. Milliken of Los Banos wrote a small brochure entitled *San Juan Bautista...the City of History*, featuring various historic elements around town. In the chapter titled "City of History," he recounts the "short-sightedness of its early merchants and businessmen" who declined an offer by railroad officials to route the train through San Juan and build a depot site. Milliken closes that chapter with this remark, "San Juan had lost its opportunity. It had reached its zenith as a commercial center. From then on, it gradually became a city of history – charming, fascinating, quaint. Now, thirty thousand tourists visit its Plaza and monuments each year, for the 'City of History' – San Juan Bautista – has that intangible something that cities without a past do not possess."

In 1958 Monterey historian and journalist Mayo Hayes O'Donnell wrote a lovely entry in her Peninsula Diary entitled "City of History," with descriptions of the key landmarks. In paragraph 2, she writes, "The San Benito County Chamber of Commerce has named San Juan Bautista 'The City of History.' In the opinion of the membership it is a jewel in a perfect setting. In it is one of the few places where oldest California history, in a most scenic setting, is undisturbed by turbulent, modern times, and where history joins hands with the present." The document can be read in its entirety here: <https://indexes.montereyhistory.org/sites/default/files/peninsula-diary/1958/11-14-1958.pdf>.

"At San Juan Bautista there lingers more of the atmosphere of the olden time than is to be found in any other place in California," wrote Helen Hunt Jackson, who is said to have started writing her famous novel *Ramona* during her stay in San Juan Bautista in 1883. She added, "San Juan has a charm of sun, valley, hill, seaward off-look, unsurpassed in all of California."

May is National Preservation Month, and we must preserve the quaint, historical buildings, ambiance, and small-town charm of San Juan to encourage heritage tourism and sustain our economic vitality. That should be the mission of the City, the State Park, the Mission, and every business in town.

RIP, Historical Society volunteer Ken Halla, who digitized and enhanced hundreds (thousands?) of our vintage photographs for us to share with the public.



IN MEMORY

Ken Halla

Ken Halla passed away on April 12, 2025 with his wife and children around him. He had been fighting brain cancer for almost two years and other illnesses.

Ken was born on June 11, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois and the family later moved to California for his high school and college years. He met and married his wife, Valerie, on July 24, 1971. They were both educators and later had three children -- Matthew, Morgan and Caitlin -- who each attended San Juan Elementary School where Valerie and Ken both worked. Later Ken became principal of Aromas School. Ken also worked later in his career at CSUMB where he wrote a teacher grant.

He enjoyed fishing, gardening, travel, reading and volunteering for the San Juan Historical Society. Later he also worked with the My Carmel Oral History Project. He met and interviewed many interesting Carmel residents.

He is survived by his wife and three children, two brothers -- Allan and Paul Halla -- two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

His shy demeanor, handsome smile and dry sense of humor will be missed. ■

LETTERS

Thanks for the great work

Dear Editor,

Thank you all for the great work you do! Since I retired and moved out of California, this is one of the few things besides family that keeps me in touch with my roots. I am proud of the work you do and appreciate it very much! Keep up the good SJB work!

- Carey Pearce

THOMMELIER

Why cheap wines taste cheap — and how to spot the good stuff

By Thomas Brenner, Sommelier

Let's face it: not all wines are created equal. One's sip might be juicy and refreshing, the next watery and flat. So, what makes some wines taste "cheap" while others feel rich, layered, and luxurious? It's not just about price — it's about how the wine is grown, made, and aged.

When wine professionals describe a wine as cheap, we're not just talking about the price tag. We're talking about how it tastes. Cheap wines often feel thin, simple, or "flabby" (a term for wines with low acidity and no structure). They lack complexity and disappear quickly from the palate.

In contrast, rich or structured wines have depth. They feel balanced, with concentrated flavors, firm tannins (in reds), refreshing acidity (especially in whites), and often a long, lingering finish. These wines are built to impress—and sometimes to age.

The journey to quality begins on the vine. High-yielding vineyards—common in places like California's Central Valley or parts of Spain's La Mancha—produce lots of grapes, but at the cost of flavor. When vines are pushed to produce more, each grape gets less of the vine's energy, resulting in diluted, one-dimensional wines.

Smaller yields, on the other hand, mean fewer grapes with more intensity. These grapes are often hand-picked at peak ripeness and grown in carefully selected soils with great drainage and sun exposure. Regions like Napa Valley, Burgundy, and the Mosel have built their reputations on this kind of precision farming.

Cheap wines are typically made for speed and volume. They're machine-harvested, fermented quickly in steel tanks, stabilized, filtered, and sent to store shelves within months. There's little room—or budget—for oak barrels, aging, or natural fermentations (save for some cheap additives to try



and make up for the shortcomings).

Richer wines go through more nuanced processes: oak aging (which adds texture and flavor), malolactic fermentation (which softens acidity), extended maceration (adding color and tannin), and even lees aging (which creates roundness and complexity in whites). These techniques take time and money—but they're worth it.

There's also a world of difference between industrial wine production and artisanal winemaking. Bulk regions focus on consistency and volume, often blending wines across large areas and vintages. That's how your \$5 bottle can taste exactly the same every year.

Artisanal producers aim to express a sense of place. They highlight the uniqueness of a vintage or vineyard, use minimal intervention in the cellar, and often age their wines before release. That's what makes a good Chablis mineral-laden and crisp, or a Northern Rhône Syrah savory and spicy.

Of course, money plays a role. Aging wine in barrels and storing it for years before release is expensive. So is hand harvesting, small-scale farming, and natural fermentations. That's why the best wines often carry a higher price tag—they've had more care and investment along the way.

But intent matters too. Some producers aim to flood the market with affordable, easy-drinking bottles. Others focus on crafting wines that tell a story, pair beautifully with food, and age gracefully. Both have a place, but only one will make your palate sing.

Next time you open a bottle, pay attention to how it feels. Does the wine have a beginning, middle, and end? Does it hold your attention? Does the flavor linger? These are signs of a well-made wine.

If it tastes flat, watery, or vanishes quickly, chances are you've got a cheap one.

And that's okay! Every wine has its moment. But knowing why some wines taste cheap and others taste rich helps you make better choices. Whether you're spending \$10 or \$100, knowing what's in your glass is part of the fun. ■

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | MAY 2025

Calendar

THURSDAY MAY 1 -
SATURDAY MAY 31

YOUTH ART CLASSES AT THE ART DEPOT Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com

FRIDAY MAY 2

CULTURE TREE VISION BOARD WORKSHOP 3-6pm. Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com

KARAOKE WITH DAN @ DAISY'S SALOON 9pm. Daisy's Saloon, San Juan Bautista.

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

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

FRIDAY MAY 2 - SATURDAY MAY 3

2-DAY VOLUNTEER PLANTING EVENT @ SBC HISTORICAL PARK 9am-12pm. SBC Historical Park, Tres Pinos. RSVP <https://bit.ly/SanBenito2025>. For notification info@rcdsanbenito.org".

FRIDAY MAY 2 & 9 &
SATURDAY MAY 3, 10 & 17

SAN BENITO STAGE PRESENTS: DISNEY'S MOANA JR. Visit sanbenitostage.org

SATURDAY MAY 3

CLOUD INSCRIPTIONS OPENING RECEPTION- A SOLO SHOW BY HAORYUN ERIN 4-6pm. Haoyun Erin Zhao is a multidisciplinary artist based in San Francisco. Paying particular attention to the interaction of light, color, and form, Zhao uses transparency and abstraction to emulate the ethereal and elusive nature of human consciousness. curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill

RECEPTION FOR EXHIBITIONS "CONNECTIONS" & "COLORS OF THE MONTEREY BAY" 5 - 7 pm Free music by Team Unco. Luna Gallery San Juan Bautista. Lunagallery.art

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2025 10am-8pm. Bill's Bull Pen, Hollister. Costumed Super Hero Appearances. 12-2pm. All ages costume contest

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

HOLLISTER DOWNTOWN WINE & BEER STROLL Downtownhollister.org

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

SUNDAY MAY 4

FIGURE DRAWING COLLECTIVE 2-5pm. For intermediate & advanced artists who would like to draw from a live model. 1st Sunday of every month. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill



Saturday, May 17

A CREATIVE PATCHWORK OF RENEW AND REUSE 10am-3pm. Morgan Hill artist Geri Patterson-Kutras teaches embroidery techniques including Japanese Boro & Sashiko stitching with running stitches, applique, fabric patches to embellish clothing. Ages 12-Adult. Curacontemporary.com Morgan Hill.

San Benito Stage Company PRESENTS

Disney MOANA JR.

May 2 - 7pm
May 3 - 7pm
May 9 - 7pm
May 10 - 1pm & 7pm
May 16 - 7pm
May 17 - 1pm & 7pm

San Benito Stage Company - new location!
549 San Benito Street in Hollister

Tickets available at:
bit.ly/SBSCTickets

Friday, May 2 & 9, Saturday, May 3, 10 & 17

SAN BENITO STAGE PRESENTS: DISNEY'S MOANA JR. Visit sanbenitostage.org

15 AWARD WINNING ARTISTS PAINT LANDSCAPES OVER THE COURSE OF 3 DAYS - COLIBRI GALLERY 3-6pm. Awards ceremony and "wet paint". Info@colibrigallery.com Morgan Hill

LINE DANCING STARTS @ DAISY'S SALOON! 6pm Lesson & free dance in between. The back Patio every Sunday.

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

TUESDAY MAY 6 - MONDAY MAY 12

HAZEL HAWKINS HOSPITAL HONORS NURSES WEEK
FRIDAY MAY 9

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

FRIDAY MAY 9 - SATURDAY MAY 10

GILROY ASSISTANCE LEAGUE HOME + GARDEN TOUR & ARTISAN MARKET 10am-5pm. Foothills of Gilroy. GilroyAssistanceLeague.org

SATURDAY MAY 10

CREDO STUDIO PRESENTS - 2025 STREET MANDALA 9am-Sunset. 1 Polk St., San Juan Bautista. (Across from the Bakery). Credostudio@gmail.com Sanbenitoarts.org

SBC RECYCLE DAYS 9am-1pm. @ 2301 Technology Pkwy, Hollister. Residents may dispose of up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of household hazardous waste, mattresses, tires, and e-waste. www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/HHW

FLOWER CROWNS & TEA PARTY 11:30am-2pm. Step-by-step process, creating a beautiful flower crown with fresh flowers & greenery. Tea & coffee with beautiful desserts & tea sandwiches. Ages 8+. Curacon-

temporary.com Morgan Hill

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

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

THE GROOVE SJB - MAKERS MARKETS 12-4pm. La Posada, San Juan Bautista

SIP SAVOR CELEBRATE 3-6pm. Swank Farms, Hollister. Casasanbenito.org

SATURDAY MAY 10 - SUNDAY JUNE 1

EL TEATRO CAMPESINO PRESENTS: ADIOS MAMA CARLOTA BY LUIS VALDEZ Previews May 2, 3, 4 & 9th. Tickets ELTEATROCAMPESIONO.COM

SUNDAY MAY 11 - SUNDAY MAY 17

HAZEL HAWKINS HOSPITAL HONORS HOSPITAL WEEK & SKILLED NURSING WEEK

TUESDAY MAY 13

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL GRANT WORKSHOP 5:30-7pm. El Teatro Campesino, 705 4th St., San Juan Bautista. Sanbenitoarts.org

THURSDAY MAY 15

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

FRIDAY MAY 16

DANCE PARTY @ SJB VFW!!! 6-9pm-ish. Cash bar, bring your own snacks.

KARAOKE WITH DAN @ DAISY'S SALOON 9pm. Daisy's Saloon, San Juan Bautista.

Continued on next page

SATURDAY MAY 17

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP 9am-12pm. Meet in Luck Park. We supply gloves, trash grabbers, bags & vests. Bring your enthusiasm & water bottle!

A CREATIVE PATCHWORK OF RENEW AND REUSE 10am-3pm. Morgan Hill artist Geri Patterson-Kutras teaches embroidery techniques including Japanese Boro & Sashiko stitching with running stitches, applique, fabric patches to embellish clothing. Ages 12-Adult. Curaccontemporary.com Morgan Hill

LIFE SKILLS EXHIBITION 10am-12pm. Art Depot, 35 5th St., Hollister. Sanbenitoarts.org

DEAD COWBOYS LIVE! 5-8pm. Kelly Brewing Company, 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 of the month.

DISCOVER SOAP LAKE RANCH TOUR 9am-1pm. Visit sanbenitolandtrust.org

MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ARTS BIENNIAL OPENING CELEBRATION FREE Admission every Sunday through the run of the exhibition. Montereyart.org or info@sanbenitoarts.org

SUNDAY MAY 18

FREE COMPOSTING WORKSHOP 10am-12pm @ the Dunne Park Clubhouse, 600 West St, Hollister. Learn how easy it is to compost your food scraps and yard trimmings at Home.

AROMAS GRANGE PRESENTS: THE T SISTERS 3:30pm Doors, 4:30pm Show. Visit aromasgrange.org

WINE EVENT - AROMAS COMMUNITY PARK 11am-3pm. Info <https://www.aromassportspark.org/>

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

THURSDAY MAY 22

CAREGIVER WORKSHOP-CASA MARIA SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 5pm Doors, 5:30-7:30pm Workshop. Topics: Communicating Effectively, Challenges with Personal Care. Register FREE 831.262.3484

FRIDAY MAY 23

DAISY'S SALOON - BEER PONG TOURNAMENT 9:30pm. \$10 per team of two, cash and merch prizes for first place.

FRIDAY MAY 23, 30 & SUNDAY JUNE 1

SAN BENITO ORIANA CHORALE SPRING CONCERT WITH THE PACIFIC POP N JAZZ BAND Fridays 7:30pm, Sunday 3pm. Songs from stage and theater. Tickets Postal Graphics, Hollister.

SATURDAY MAY 24

SJB VFW FLEA MARKET 8am-4pm. SJB VFW. Vendors call Augie 408.603.9065

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

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

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

**Sunday, May 18**

FREE COMPOSTING WORKSHOP 10am-12pm @ the Dunne Park Clubhouse, 600 West St, Hollister. Learn how easy it is to compost your food scraps and yard trimmings at home.

SUNDAY MAY 25

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

WEDNESDAY MAY 28

HERS, HIS, THEIRS, OURS: QUEER EXPRESSION! 11am-4pm. Pajaro Valley Arts, Watsonville. Pvarts.org

THURSDAY MAY 29

WINES & LINE BOOK CLUB @ BEAR'S HIDEAWAY 4pm. Last Thursday of the month. <https://bears-hideaway.com/>

SATURDAY MAY 31

RECOLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL DAY - HOLLISTER 9am-1pm at Brigantino Park, 2100 San Juan Hollister Road, Hollister. Drop off unwanted e-waste, secure document shredding, compost giveaway. www.recology.com

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

LIVE MUSIC @ WINDMILL MARKET SJB 3-5pm. Last Saturday of the month.

Every Week**WEDNESDAYS**

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

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S SALOON 6-9pm. Daisy's Saloon San Juan Bautista

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

SATURDAYS

BIG GUY ORGANICS POP-UP @ VERTIGO 8am-1pm. Every Saturday @ Vertigo, SBC Bigguyorganics.com

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

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

SUNDAYS

LINE DANCING @ DAISY'S SALOON 6pm Lessons & free dance in between. On the back Patio every Sunday.

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

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

Save the Date**SATURDAY JUNE 7**

RECOLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL DAY - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 9am-1pm at Brigantino Park, 2100 San Juan Hollister Road, Hollister. Drop off unwanted e-waste, secure document shredding, compost giveaway. www.recology.com

SATURDAY JUNE 7

ROTARY OF SJB -3RD ANNUAL RAINBOW RUN! 9am. Historic downtown San Juan Bautista. 1k & 5K. Best human & pet costume win a prize! Rotaryofsanjuanbautista.com

SATURDAY JUNE 14

HOLLISTER COMMUNITY CLEANUP 9am-12pm. Meet @ Veterans Park, 1023 Memorial Drive, Hollister. Join neighbors and community groups to help keep San Benito clean and litter free! www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/cleanups

SATURDAY JUNE 14

FREE VERMICOMPOSTING WORKSHOP 10am -12pm. @ Community Foundation Epicenter, 440 San Benito St, Hollister. Learn how easy it is to compost your food scraps and yard trimmings at home.

SATURDAY JUNE 21

SAN BENITO SADDLE HORSE SHOW DOWNTOWN PARADE 11am. Downtown Hollister. Info downtownhollister.org or development@downtownhollister.org 831.636.8406

FRIDAY JUNE 27 - SUNDAY JUNE 29

91ST SAN BENITO COUNTY SADDLE HORSE SHOW & RODEO Bolado Park, Tres Pinos. Schedule & tickets sanbenitocountyrodeo.com Info 831.628.3545

SATURDAY JUNE 28

FREE HOT COMPOSTING WORKSHOP 10am-12pm. @ Community Foundation Epicenter, 440 San Benito St, Hollister. Learn new tips and tricks about composting from Master Composter Otis!

SATURDAY JUNE 28 & SUNDAY JUNE 29

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

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

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

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



Discover Soap Lake Ranch Tour: Immerse yourself in wildlife, learn about the ranch's rich history, and discover its role in wetland and conservation efforts.

SBALT NEWS

Discover Soap Lake Ranch

By Laura Kirschmann

Cattle, wildlife, wetlands, and history — Soap Lake Ranch has it all. This unique landscape in northern San Benito County is where ranching and conservation come together in a delicate balance.

How do you operate a cattle ranch where it floods? Where do ducks go if the lake is drained for pastures? How does a family run a business when water agencies have large infrastructure on its land? And how does wildlife continue to move between the Diablo and Santa Cruz Mountain ranges as farms, homes, and roads expand?

Join us for an exclusive tour of Soap Lake Ranch, where you'll have the rare chance to

explore this special place and hear directly from those who steward the land. Learn how the ranch owners and the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust work together to ensure agriculture, wildlife, and conservation thrive side by side.

Date: May 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Soap Lake Ranch (Details provided upon registration)

Register: www.sanbenitolandtrust.org/special-events

Soap Lake Ranch is a privately-owned working cattle ranch that is not open to the public. This event offers a behind-the-scenes look at a landscape that few get to experience. Don't miss this opportunity to walk the largest wetland in the region, hear its history, and see conservation in action!

(Portions of this description are adapted from an article written by SBALT.) ■



id-i-om

French Idiom: "C'est maman qui porte la culotte."

Literal translation: "It's mom who wears the pants."

Meaning: Mom is the boss of the household. While the English version "wear the pants" exists, the French one, when applied to a mother, is used in a slightly more cheeky or affectionate way, often to express admiration for a strong maternal figure who runs the show. ■



VOICING SOME THOUGHTS Very P.O.S.H.

By Halina Kleinsmith

In our present day invention of new words, it's fun to hear some of the old ones resurface in documentaries, movies, and period correct series.

An actor exclaims, "Oh, how posh!", aptly expressing the time and social strata from which the acronym evolved. It relays an upper crust compliment, indicating that a person or thing is elegant, sophisticated, and usually wealthy, and is most commonly associated with the art deco era phenomenon of luxury cruising.

Increased demand to see exotic locales prompted the Cunard Lines to create the first ever World Cruise in 1922. Their famous ship the Laconia plied international waters for an incredible 6 months, making it a dream voyage come true.

Understandably, this level of ocean travel took great preparation. Stylish patrons packed wardrobe trunks and other copious luggage with numerous outfits and accessories, in anticipation of morning through evening shipboard and on-shore activities.

Stevedores lined up to transfer huge varieties of heavy items from dockside to staterooms, barely visible behind the stacks of heavy leather suitcases, travel hat boxes, pet conveyances and sports equipment.

They were guided to a specific delivery



point through tags on the luggage, showing which level your cabin or suite was located. The swankiest staterooms on the ship were designated "P.O.S.H.", for 'Port Outward Starboard Home'.

With the bow of the ship up front, Port would be on the left and Starboard on the right, making these lodgings the most expensive, as their picture windows afforded consistent views of the shoreline and its landmarks. It also spared patrons from overexposure to harsh sunlight, helping to avoid uncomfortable sunburns because of the ocean's glare.

Leisure sailors then came home with decent suntans and indigenous mementos, proof of their rather posh vacations. ■



ARTS

Lively showtunes at Oriana's Spring Concert

"It's Showtime" will be the theme of the San Benito Oriana Chorale preforming their Spring Concert with the Pacific Pop 'n Jazz Band. We will be featuring songs from both stage and theater such as "Seasons of Love" from the musical Rent; "Summertime" from Porgy and Bess; "Circle of Life" from The Lion King; and "Popular" from Wicked. The 20 members of Pacific Pop n' Jazz will be playing classics such as a Cole Porter piece from Night and Day, "Satin

Doll," "Send in the Clown," "Hey There," and a few Count Basie numbers.

The 60+ members of San Benito's only community chorale group are joyfully led by Rachel Romina with piano accompaniment by Gavilan music instructor Maria Amirkhanian. Concerts will be held at Christ Fellowship Church in Hollister on Friday, May 23 at 7:30; Friday, May 30 at 7:30; and Sunday, June 1 at 3:00.

Tickets can be purchased at Postal Graphics in Hollister or at the door on the day of a performance. Adults are \$25 and student \$15. Please come join us for a lively toe-tapping performance of some of your favorite show pieces. ■

2025 COMMUNITY CLEANUPS



01
MARCH

HOLLISTER SUPER #1
1280 4th St., Hollister CA

14
JUNE

VETERANS PARK
1023 Memorial Dr., Hollister CA

20
SEPT

HOLLISTER HIGH SCHOOL
Multi-Purpose Field Parking Lot Off of
Riverview Parkway behind the football field

06
DEC

HOLLISTER SUPER #1
1280 4th St., Hollister CA

9 AM - 12 PM



Recreation
Department

22
FEB

LUCK PARK
801 Second St., San Juan
Bautista CA

17
MAY

LUCK PARK
801 Second St., San Juan
Bautista CA

27
SEPT

LUCK PARK
801 Second St., San Juan
Bautista CA

13
DEC

LUCK PARK
801 Second St., San Juan
Bautista CA

9 AM - 12 PM



19 & 11
APRIL OCT

DOWNTOWN HOLLISTER
649 San Benito St., Hollister CA

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Environmental Day

Three Free Services for San Benito County Residents!



2025 EVENTS FROM 9AM – 1PM

WHEN: **MAY 31**

WHERE: Brigantino Park
2100 San Juan Hollister Rd, Hollister

WHEN: **JUNE 7**

WHERE: San Juan School
100 Nyland Dr., San Juan Bautista

WHAT:



Electronic Waste Recycling (E-waste)

Drop off unwanted e-waste including televisions, computers and accessories, cell phones, laptops, game consoles, radios, stereos, and small electronics with cords. *No large household appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) will be accepted.*



Secure Document Shredding

Bring up to five full banker boxes (legal size; 24 x 12 x 10) of documents to be confidentially and securely shredded on-site. Paperclips and staples do not need to be removed.



Compost Giveaway

Residents may take up to 32 gallons of compost to use as a soil amendment for gardens and landscaping projects. This compost is from local participation in Recology's Organics program. Please bring your own shovel and container. Limited supply available.

No assistance will be provided. Bring your own shovel and gloves for loading compost.

RecologySanBenito.com | 831.636.7500

#THE GOLDEN AGE

Happy Older Americans Month!

By Leanne Oliviera

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - CS Lewis

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month, a time to reaffirm the nation's commitment to serving older adults. However, the ACL was recently eliminated by DOGE. Further, the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (which ensures vital services are in place) would have celebrated its 60th anniversary this year and has now been delayed.

First, I want to make clear that this is not a political article because all goldens will be impacted regardless of their politics. The ACL was the only federal agency exclusively focused on supporting older people and/or people with disabilities and its elimination will have a severe impact.

Through ACL co-ordination, goldens received transportation, meals, wellness programs, adult daycare, caregiver support, fraud/elder abuse prevention, research and training, grants for Native

elders, legal and elder rights services, and plenty more. Expect severe delays and/or closures moving forward. Regarding changes to Social Security, Medicare, and rising consumer costs, buckle up.

Please take hope from the fact that my fellow aging services colleagues are doubling down, getting creative (San Benito Connect: www.sbcvolunteers.org), and doing our very best to compensate. We will always fight for you!

GOLDEN TIP: Elderday (831-458-3481) is now transporting seniors daily from SJB to its day center in Watsonville and Senior Network Services' HICAP (unbiased Medicare counseling and fraud prevention, 831-637-0630) and Ombudsman (care facility concerns, 831-462-1433) programs have new outreach and staffing in SBC.

FREE GOLDEN EVENTS:

Curious about local food options, caregivers, or recreation activities? Email LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org.

+ 5/3: Twin Oaks Open House (831-800-2334) 2090 Red Oak Dr., Hollister: 12PM-3PM

The End of Life is Never Certain.

Your Wishes Should Be.

Talk About It.

90% agree it's important to talk about end-of-life care

Write it Down.

Only 33% have put their wishes in writing

Share it.

56% have not discussed their wishes with others

Do you have a Directive in place and are your loved ones aware of its contents and their potential responsibilities? For a full list of upcoming free workshops and free Directive documentation, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MontageACP>. (Infographic courtesy Vitas)

+ 5/14: SBC Behavioral Health Open House (888-636-4020) 1131 Community Parkway, Hollister: 12:30PM-4:30PM

+ 5/22: MVSSC Education Workshop w/ Alzheimer's Association and Del Mar Caregiver (831-262-3484) 600 First St., SJB: 5PM-7:30PM. ■

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) co-co-

ordinates the Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program at the Community Foundation Epicenter. Contact: LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org. Leanne is also an alumni of San Benito Leadership, which is always recruiting! Visit <https://linktr.ee/sbleadership>.

CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

Communicating Effectively

TOPICS

Challenges with Personal Care



REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY!
(831) 262-3484

DATE AND TIME

22ND MAY 2025

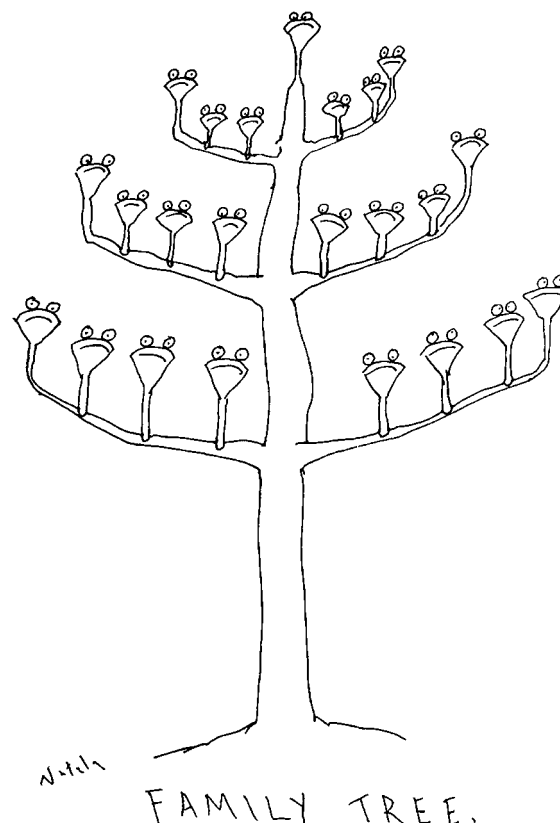
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM
WORKSHOPS FROM 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION

CASA MARIA
600 FIRST STREET
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA



NUTZLE





WE ARE HONORED to pay tribute to our healthcare team.

We are proud of their commitment to provide quality, compassionate health care to the residents of our community.

★ ★ **PROUD**
of the work **WE** do
& **THE** ★
Difference
WE MAKE ★

Nurses Week

May 6 - 12

Hospital Week

May 11- 17

Skilled Nursing Care Week

May 11- 17

911 Sunset Drive • Hollister
(831) 637-5711



www.hazelhawkins.com

**I volunteer to
help in this
community
I love.**

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



**Or, call us at 831-688-0400 x131
Get involved. Make a difference.**

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



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

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