



Mission Village **VOICE**

Spanish Society

Joe Postigo: leading by holding
true to the fundamentals

See page 12

A culinary career

Chef Lucas Morris-Lopez brings
his pop-up eatery to town

See page 10

BIGLIN

DECEMBER 2022 | VOL. 8, NO. 12 | MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE.COM

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Fixer Upper Opportunity!

210 Bridgevale Dr., Hollister

This home features 2 bedrooms and one bath, situated right in front of the park. Backyard is nice really nice fruit trees. This is a Must See! Featured at \$479,000



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A quote for our readers

“You don't have the same mentality as you did five years ago - even one year.

People are always changing, and I believe that everyone deserves the space to change and for people to recognize their change.”

—Bad Bunny

Photo © Glenn Francis, www.PacificProDigital.com
(Email: glennfrancis@pacificprodigital.com)

On the cover

Black Beauties by artist Danielle Biglin. To learn more about the artist, see page 8.

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#BOOKWORM

What the Dickens?

By Leanne Oliveira

"All the books I ordered last week just arrived! Can't wait to pour myself a glass of wine, stack them in a little pile next to my couch, be too tired to read and play around on my phone all night in their presence!"

- Johnathan Edward Durham

Happy Holidays! Did you know that Charles Dickens believed that sleeping facing North would improve his writing? He also carried a compass when travelling to make sure he was facing the right direction, and he always touched things three times for luck. Being quirky certainly worked for him! Check out the annual Dickens Fair through 12/18 at the Cow Palace; info at dickensfair.com.

Met a longtime Los Altos/Carmel #Bookworm last month who spoiled me with goodies including his company, breakfast, and literary nerd goodness such as a bookworm pin, librarian magnet, heart-shaped stone paperweight, and a lavender sachet picked up from recently travels in France. Thanks so much, Joe. It was an honor and a pleasure to meet you as well. I am so happy this column has brought you joy over the years!

Wishing a very Happy Winter Solstice Birthday (12/21) to local author and friend Laynee "Bluebird" Reyna. Her newest book *A Brief Interlude: Somewhere In Salinas* is on its way to becoming a movie (kickstarter) and is based on her own 1974 diary detailing an empathetic portrayal of the struggles of alcohol addiction amid the beauty and bounty of Central Coast/Bay Area iconic landmarks.

Lastly, sadly, I wanted to mention the passing of local author and all-around great chap Jim Ostdick. Jim's newest book *Walks Far Man: In Step with History on the Pacific Crest Trail* is available on Amazon and was inspired by aforementioned birthday girl Laynee Reyna. I hope heaven exists so that you can explore all those new trails, Jim! Thank you for being such an inspiration; your cross-country bicycle adventures motivated thousands of folks (including myself) to explore trails and the wonders of science.

AUTHORS FOR LIBRARIES

Neil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow and 900+ authors are speaking out on behalf of library rights to own and preserve eBooks, demanding that publishers and trade associations put



Leanne Oliveira

the digital rights (to free, un surveilled access to knowledge and information) of librarians, readers, and authors ahead of shareholder profits. More at fightforthefuture.org/Authors-For-Libraries.

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

Hope you've been able to grab a copy of Michelle Obama's newest book *The Light We Carry*, which was just released! Info at michelleobamabooks.com. Also, to catch a video of Dolores Huerta's recent talk in Gilroy (hosted by the Gilroy Library), visit SCCLD.org/dolores.

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

Their Patti Smith event was sold out! Hosting Douglas Brinkley (and more TBA) in December. Buy your tickets now to see Jane Smiley and Deb Perelman. Winter Reading Program Mixer at Hotel Paradox 1/11. Visit bookshopsantacruz.com for details.

CLUB #BOOKWORM (est. 2016)

Our holiday meetup is this month and hosted by the marvelous Maria Begiebing (who found me through this column!) who chose *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, which will be discussed alongside a gift exchange, international potluck, and 2023 month pick selections.

GILROY LIBRARY

The Library invites you to visit the Smithsonian traveling exhibit *Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en los Campos* which is on display through 1/23. Book discussion of *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune. December Workshops include: DIY Decorative Wreaths (12/3), Flower Arranging (12/6), DIY Fabric Gift Bags (12/6), Medi-Cal Workshop and Enrollment Help (12/7 & 12/14), and DIY Yarn Gnomes (12/10). MUCH more at SCCLD.org.

JOLABOKAFLOD

I've said this before, but Iceland publishes more books per capita than any other country in the world! During its traditional Jolabokaflof (aka "Christmas Book Flood"), people open gifts of books on Christmas Eve and retire to bed early to read them. Want to join the fun? Get inspiration from Ruth Ware's newest *The It Girl*, Katherine May's *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*, or browse Oprah Daily's List at tinyurl.com/BooksByFire.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Happy Read a New Book Month, Sherlock Holmes Day (though now disputed, *A Study in Scarlet* was purported to be first published 12/1/1887), Short Fiction Day (12/21 is the shortest day of the year) and Jolabokaflof (12/24). Our Birthday Babies are Melville Dewey (12/10) of the endangered Dewey Decimal System, Jane Austen (12/16), and



#Bookworms John Robrock and Jennifer Coile featured an assortment of books, bookmarks, and candies to their Trick-or-Treaters at the annual Severson Street Halloween Event.

SJB's very own Elayne "Bluebird" Reyna (12/21).

LITERARY TIME CAPSULE

Scottish conceptual artist Katie Paterson has created The Future Library, a collection of unread literature to be published a century from now. Her previous work includes creating a light bulb to simulate the experience of moonlight, compiling a slide archive of darkness in the universe, and sending a recast meteorite back into space. More at tinyurl.com/TheFutureLibrary. (Source: NPR)

LUCK LIBRARY

Visit san-juan-bautista.ca.us/community/library.php, call (831) 623-4687, or follow @SJBCityLibrary on FB/Instagram for goodies like notary assistance (Dilia has stamp/will travel!) and free online courses and downloadable + streaming entertainment.

NEW RELEASES

Visit the Publisher's Weekly calendar at tinyurl.com/BookwormDec22 for #AllTheBooks and a reminder to preorder Prince Harry's upcoming book *Spare* releasing 1/10.

SBC LIBRARY

Now taking canned food donations in exchange for new books! Keep an eye on holiday programming to be posted soon onto SBCFL.org. If you have modern (5-10 years) books in great shape to donate, please call 831-205-1373. Next used book sale is behind the Library 12/10@9AM-12PM with dog treats and other holiday goodies! (Pets heartily welcomed and fawned over.) Email sbcfriends.org@gmail.com for a bilingual Friends Fall newsletter created by yours truly, out now.

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a dual EU/US citizen, Social Worker, and Reference Librarian (History). Contact OldFashionedOlive@gmail.com or "Comicfairy" on Goodreads/IG.

GOING POSTAL Snowy Beauty

Perfect for brightening up the coming winter days, the U.S. Postal Service has issued 10 Snowy Beauty Forever stamps in booklets of 20.

Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps with original art by Gregory Manchess. The artist started with digital studies, then created the finished images with oils on panel. The result is a set of beautifully illustrated blooming winter wonders: camellia, crocus, hellebore, winterberry, pansy, plum blossom, grape hyacinth, daffodil, ranunculus and winter aconite, which is also on the booklet cover.



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



Green Business Tips

Join the 2023 Green Business Sustainable Business Challenge!

By Timaree Nelson

With 2023 around the corner, December is the right time to start thinking about New Year's Resolutions. To ensure sustainability is part of your business's 2023 commitments, the San Benito County Green Business Program invites businesses to sign up for our upcoming Green Your Business for Earth Day 2023 Challenge! If your business is not currently certified, the time is now! Ensure that your business saves money and conserves resources this coming year.

What makes a Challenge special? On top of all the benefits of getting Green Certified, challengers also receive:

- Guaranteed rebates and/or cash of at least \$500
- Extra one-on-one technical assistance
- Free marketing including paid ads



One of our Certified Green Business from our Fall Challenge! Calabasas Elementary School.

• Raffle prize winners receive professional photo or video shoots

How does it work? Follow these simple five steps:

- 1) Sign up at greenbusinessca.org before January 31st
- 2) Attend our 30 minute Q&A in January 2023
- 3) Work with your dedicated coordinator to certify in time for Earth Day (April 2023)!
- 4) Receive free resources, rebates, and paid ads upon completion
- 5) Be recognized by your local government and community at our next event!

Sign up by January 31st, 2022!

Interested in signing up and staying in the loop? Don't wait! Challenge participation is limited. Enroll now or contact Saburi Sai at ssai@environmentalin.com to learn more. ■

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Season's Greetings from San Benito Health Foundation
Felices Fiestas desde la Fundación de Salud San Benito

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sanbenitohealth.org


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Advent Retreat
December 9 - 11, 2022

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St. Francis Retreat
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CITY BEAT

Putting a bow on '22

By Don Reynolds, City Manager

Wrapping up 2022, there is a lot to be grateful for and a lot to look forward to in San Juan Bautista.

In this past year, the City adopted more than 60 Resolutions and steered its way carefully through severe drought and a pandemic. It has developed a strong strategy for moving forward towards preserving the best of the community and managing City growth. It has completed the design of the new sewer line and funded it. It has approved a five-year increase to its water rates to pay for the capital improvements that will import surface water and blend it 65% with the City's ground water.

The November elections are bringing exciting changes as well. We welcome back current Mayor Leslie Q. Jordon to the City Council. We are promoting Planning Commissioner Jackie Morris-Lopez to the City Council, but the third candidate has yet to be determined.

Since 2019, I have had the pleasure of working with three different mayors starting with Councilmember Cesar Flores who is retiring. Cesar welcomed me and helped



me to feel at home. He taught me a lot about the City's history and also warned me about mean people. Councilmember Mary Vasquez Edge became mayor in December 2019, just in time for the pandemic. The next 365 days seemed like 730. In 2020, the City Council held 38 special meetings, focused on solving the water issues and responding to the pandemic. Mary fought hard for San Juan Bautista during her term as mayor. Mary is also retiring. We owe a ton of gratitude to our retiring Councilmembers and extend a warm welcome to our new City Council as we head towards 2023. Thank you, Mary, and Cesar!

Happy Holidays! ■



VUE A LA LOO

A threatening aura

The Toilets With Threatening Auras Facebook group collects pictures of the weirdest "threatening" toilets that just might make you want to hold it until you get home.

Credit: themindcircle.com

SAN JUAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Association has busy month leading into the holidays

By Jill Glass Paganan

Are you ready to celebrate the traditions of San Juan Bautista during the upcoming Holiday Season?

Take one look at the wonderful lights throughout the Historic Downtown and you will see the generosity of Spirit within San Juan Bautista Business Association. Not only through their dedication to community by lighting of Historic Third Street, but also to the time-honored traditions of San Juan Bautista.

As for the San Juan Bautista Business Association we have been busy this past month.

■ Hosting a Meet & Greet Candidates forum for future city council members. Thank you everyone that participated and Brewery-twenty-five for use of your parklet!

■ Request made to San Juan Bautista City Council proclaiming November 26th, 2022, as Small Business Saturday. Thank you city council. Look for complimentary shopping bags to be given out that day. Thanks to a collaboration with PG&E.

■ Arranged for Yamamoto Hula Ohana dancers to perform at the Holiday Shopping event on the 11/19. And The Garlic City Carolers will be performing on 11/19, 12/3 & 12/17.

■ SJBBA were honored to help the newly formed Senior Group get started with their meetings while they lay the groundwork for a permanent solution!

■ You can look forward to continued updates on events, more tourism efforts on the local, county, and regional levels in the upcoming months.

■ Updates to www.sanjuanbautistaca.com are already in the process.

Would you consider joining us in 2023 as we set new goals and continue forward? Applications available at the Welcome Center, online and by email request to jillpaganan@gmail.com

Happy Holidays to all. See you at the Celebration of Lights Dec. 3! ■

Pictured at right: A recent Meet & Greet Photo with Heidi Balz, Fran Fitzharris and Bev Meamber at the Brewery-Twenty-Five parklet.



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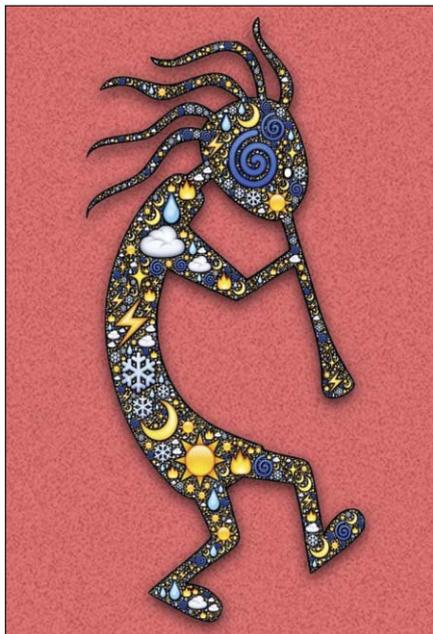
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SBHF NEWS

Sharing a message of hope Wisdom from the Rainbow Kokopelli

It's the time of year when short days unfold into long nights -- a time for some of us when darkness can linger. Many are lonely and isolated, and it seems the pandemic has only exacerbated this. New studies show anxiety and stress are increasing, especially among young people. Where can we turn for our mental well-being as we face so much chaos and uncertainty?

At the beginning of the pandemic, San Benito Health Foundation called on a trusted partner for guidance in navigating the uncharted course of Covid-19. Their consultant, Dr. Roberto Dansie, is a nationally-renowned psychologist, speaker, author, and Toltec/Mayan Curandero. His message of hope for SBHF's leadership and staff helped them stay positive and build effective ways to connect and provide for their patients and community. In these challenging times, may you also find hope in the following wisdom Dr. Dansie shares about the



Rainbow Kokopelli.

In the caves of New Mexico, indigenous ancestors painted two beings (Kokopelli) standing with a rainbow between them. The rainbow represents the good energy connecting them, something they cannot touch but can

feel. It offers 7 tools to help us remember our common bridge:

1. Have an open mind—create room in awareness for another
2. Have an open heart—create space for compassion & connection
3. Share feeling of connectivity—the greatest medicine of our time
4. Raise consciousness—open-minded, open-hearted, open-armed individuals lift the collective
5. Cultivate conduct—small steps toward habits of goodness
6. Cultivate culture—nurture what is alive in you
7. Serve community—find the “common unity”

Dr. Dansie says, “The shortest distance between two human beings is a smile.” May the magic of a smile—an upside-down rain-

bow—be given and received by you this holiday season.

If you are experiencing depression or mental stress, please call SBHF at (831) 637-5306. ■

Thanks duly given!

By Valerie Eglund
www.reachsanbenito.org

It is the holiday season, and R.E.A.C.H. has a lot to be grateful for! If receiving “Nonprofit of the Year” award from the SBC Chamber of Commerce Foundation was not enough excitement, we also were recipients of a SBC Community Foundation Project Grant that will move us forward with the Mission our Board was tasked with in 2012, “to support outdoor adventure and health, raise funds and advocate for more and improved, sustainable parks and recreation facilities, bike ways and trails, ensuring healthy living for all in our San Benito County community.” We are grateful for the SBC Community Foundation. Without their efforts to bring in funding that can be distributed to nonprofit causes in the county, our county would not be as vibrant and alive. Thank you!

Additionally, staff at the Community Foundation introduced us to a Sunlight Grant opportunity to apply for projects offering greater parks access to caregivers and young children. With the funding limits of the grant, our Board member Anita Kane identified a need, got the cost

estimates, and applied. R.E.A.C.H. was awarded \$50,000 to get it done by the end of 2023! Again, we are encouraged that the Board has the capacity to go after grants to support our county parks. Gratitude given!

Last, but not least, gratitude is given to the late Jim Ostdick for his service on the R.E.A.C.H. Board of Directors, early on. Jim proposed a Walk Across America and that HE do it with our coordinated effort. What an adventure it was for the whole Board, especially Don Pidd, who worked closely with Jim in the effort. Jim had us

send him hiking shoes at specific intervals to be waiting for him along the way, and we would pack the boxes with snacks and socks, too. With his tablet, he'd keep us informed with stories and pictures. We felt his pains when he had them, weariness and frustration, joy and glimmers of hope. Jim's calculations on distance, needed food and shelter were amazing. We all wanted to go meet him when he hit the California coast, but Don went alone to share an emotion-filled conclusion to that very long trek about which he later said, “It was the hardest thing I've ever done.” Rest in peace, Jim Ostdick. You carry many stories to tell of your “visit on earth.”

With gratitude to you, our San Benito County community supporting our public parks, paths and trails! ■



COVER ARTIST

Danielle Biglin

South Florida based artist, Danielle Biglin, has been painting for the last three years. She was a creative kid who loved art and wanted to be an artist, but life got busy, and her focus was on school, work, marriage, and kids.

People would ask, what do you do? and she wanted to answer, I'm an artist, but she didn't make art... she had no portfolio, nothing to show. Then she turned 40. Danielle thought, I'm half-way through my life (if I'm lucky) and if I want to be an artist, I better start making some art. She painted every day in 2019 and in December of that year she had her first solo show.

The show sold out and Danielle was on her way. She continued to paint every day, started teaching evening art lessons in her home studio, and grew her social media following. Danielle left her full-time government job this August to be a full-time artist, and she couldn't be happier.

Danielle works in oils and acrylics, and her paintings leave one feeling nostalgic. Card games, cocktails, family vacations, picnics, and birthday parties are some of her favorite subjects to paint. The cars, card games, and clothing are a nod to her childhood, growing up in the 80's in a large, close-knit family.

When she's not painting, Danielle spends time with her family and works with her husband to restore their 1924 Craftsman cottage. ■

Instagram: @daniellebiglin



Summer Vacation by artist Danielle Biglin.

ARTS

Virgin exhibition marks return of San Juan tradition

This December a tradition will return to San Juan Bautista, the annual exhibition and conference exploring images of the Virgin, which ran from 1992 to 2012 at Galeria Tonantzin. Luna Gallery will feature an exhibition juried by artist and scholar Amalia Mesa-Baines (pictured, right) who will also keynote the December 3rd conference. Dr. Amalia Mesa-Baines lives in the San Juan Canyon, a local treasure who has influenced Chicano arts and education.

In a recent conversation she expressed gratitude that her work is being recognized with several museum exhibitions. Her installation Venus Envy, Chapter I: The First Holy Communion Moments Before the End (1993/2022) was recently featured at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She is best known for her large-scale installations that reference home altars and ofrendas, site specific explorations that evokes memories. As a scholar she has explored the impact of the Guadalupe image on Chicana and Mexican American women.

Dr. Mesa-Baines was born in Santa Clara



and encountered Luis Valdez and others in the Chicano movement, becoming an activist artist in the Bay area and an educator in San Francisco. In 1994 she was a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. In 1995 Mesa-Baines relocated to Monterey to run the Visual and Public Art Department at the newly formed California State University, Monterey Bay. She taught there for more than 20 years before retiring as Professor Emerita. Her husband Richard Baines led the Music and Performing Art Department at CSUMB, also retiring to San Juan Bautista, near his brother Dante Baines.

Come meet our local MacArthur fellow, Dr. Mesa-Baines and other scholars of the Virgin of Guadalupe on December 3rd, 2 - 4 pm, \$20 donation. 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. ■

ASK RECOLOGY

Shopping takes energy

By Shana McCracken

Dear Recology,

I know the saying goes, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." I think I understand the last two, but I'm not sure I know what "Reduce" means exactly.

Signed,

**Really Trying
in Roberts Ranch**

Dear Trying,

Everything we buy requires energy to manufacture, package, ship, sell and dispose of. That's one of the main reasons

"Reduce" is number one in what is known as the Waste Hierarchy. It's so easy to walk into a big box store with only two items on your shopping list but leave with 10 or 20! (I know. I've done it myself, both online and IRL.) Here are some tips to help you reduce or prevent waste resulting from this kind of behavior:

1. When considering purchasing an item, ask yourself, "Do I really need this?" Sometimes we're overcome with the impulse to buy just to improve our mood or for some

other unconscious reason. Simply asking yourself this simple question can uncover the real reason you're tempted by an item. Then perhaps you'll choose to leave it behind.

2. Think about whether you already own something that serves the same function or is similar in some other way. Personally, I've noticed that I'm often drawn to clothing items that are very close to pieces I already have in my closet. I mean, how many salmon-colored tops does a person need?!

3. Consider how many times something you're considering purchasing is likely to be used. If the answer is three times or fewer, see if you can rent or borrow the item instead.

After all recycling is great and reuse even better, but reducing waste before it starts is always the goal!

Zero Wastingly,

Shana McCracken ■

Shana McCracken is Waste Zero Manager for Recology San Benito County. If you have a question for Recology, please email it to sbcwz@recology.com.

Shopping photo by Andrea Piacquadro



PENDING



1151 Stony Brook Dr, Hollister | \$1,528,000
Tuscan style single story home with 4 bed/2.5 baths and 3 car garage with a workshop on 4.68 acres. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite counters, large island with sink. Two large pastures.

UNDER CONTRACT



710 Ridgemark Dr, Hollister | \$949,999
Located in the gated community - Ridgemark Golf Club and Resort. One level home has 4 bed/2.5 baths, 2,634 sq ft, 11,000 sq ft lot with an oversized 2 car garage and large side yard. Remodeled open kitchen, all baths remodeled.

UNDER CONTRACT



30 Olive St, Hollister \$495,000
3 bed/2 baths located near Downtown Hollister, Hollister High School, and the newest shopping center. All bedrooms are located on the ground floor with a full bathroom. Home has been updated with a spacious kitchen.



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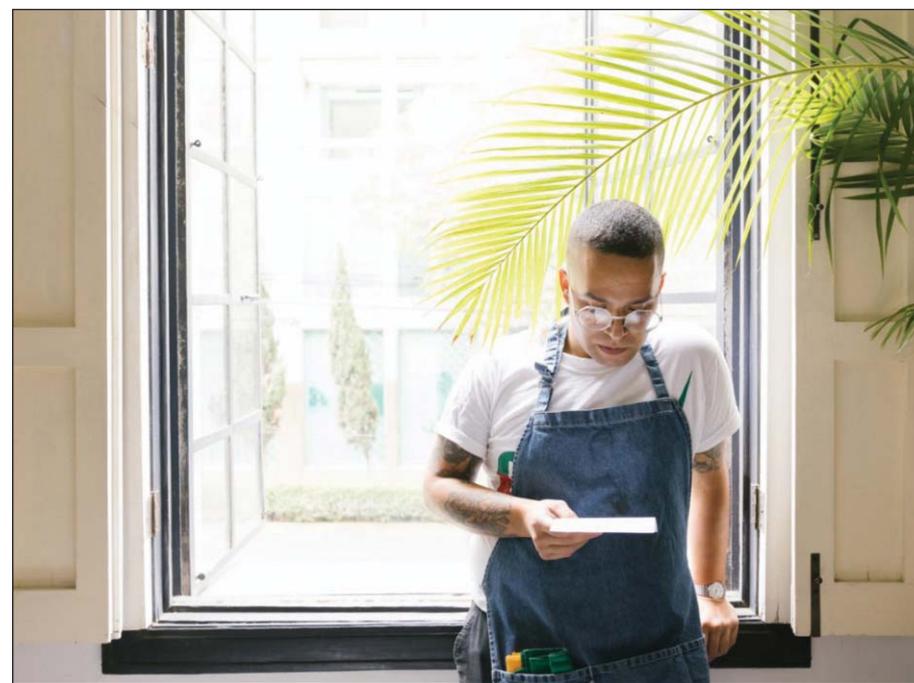
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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Chef Lucas Morris-Lopez

By Anne Caetano

Mission Village Voice recently chatted with chef Lucas Morris-Lopez, a San Juan Bautista native whose culinary career began locally and evolved when he joined the Mexico City culinary scene over four years ago. Look for his pop up “La Afición” on December 4th at Apéro Club in Santa Cruz and at Vertigo and Lolla in San Juan, also in December. Follow his schedule on Instagram @laaficionCDMX.

MVV: Your culinary career began here in San Juan?

LM-L: From 15 years of age, I started working at the Cutting Horse washing dishes, and I worked at Mission Burger at the frying station, and I bussed tables at Jardines.

How is life in Mexico City?

It's great. I love it. I've been there for over four years now.

Is it your home now?

I think so, yeah. The plan now is to open a small wine bar and restaurant there in 2023.

And I'm sure you have a ton of connections.

Ironically, I have more connections in Mexico City than here. I do have connec-

tions here, but as far as my industry goes, I have more there.

You are here for the holidays?

Yes, I've been working independently for the last year. I'm taking this opportunity to come back here with the family for the holidays and do some pop up and events here.

What are you doing while you're here?

I am doing my own freelance project called La Afición. I started it in Mexico City last year. It began as an “industry night” pop up. I was working full time helping run a kitchen, and I asked the restaurant to let me use their kitchen on the nights we were closed, to get all our industry friends in together.

What is the meaning of the name La Afición?

It has a couple of meanings. One is “a pastime.” You want to go have some nice wine,
See MORRIS-LOPEZ, page 13



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FINANCIAL FOCUS**Advice can help when making charitable gifts**

Now that it's the holiday season, gifts are probably on your mind – and you might intend for some of those gifts to go to charities. Although your intentions are good, you could be shortchanging both your recipients and yourself with your method of giving. But with some guidance, you can make choices that work well for you and those charitable groups you support.

Of course, you could simply give money to these groups. However, by donating other types of assets, can you increase the value of your gift and gain greater tax benefits, too?

It's certainly possible, but your ability to gain any tax advantages depends somewhat on whether or not you can itemize deductions on your tax return. Due to legislation passed a few years ago that significantly increased the standard deduction, many people may no longer be itemizing. But if you still itemize, you can generally deduct up to 60% of your adjusted gross income for cash donations to IRS-qualified charities.

Another contribution strategy involves donating other assets, such as stocks. You could donate stocks directly to a charitable group, but you might gain more benefits by making

an irrevocable contribution to a donor-advised fund (DAF). Again, assuming you can itemize, you can deduct the full fair-market value of the asset, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, and your contributions can be invested in mutual funds or similar vehicles. The contributions have the opportunity for growth, and distributions to the charity are tax-free. You can then decide, on your own timetable, which IRS-qualified charitable groups you would like to receive the money. Furthermore, if you donate stocks that have risen in value, you won't incur potential capital gains taxes that you would have when you eventually sold the stocks. These taxes can be considerable, especially if you've held the stocks for a long time. (You'll want to consult with your tax advisor on how charitable gifts can affect your taxes, especially if you're thinking of using a donor-advised fund.)

These charitable donation methods are not secrets, and they are available to many people – you don't have to be wealthy to employ them. Yet, here's an interesting statistic:

Those who work with a financial advisor on charitable strategies are more than three times as likely to donate non-cash assets such

as stocks than those who contribute to charities but don't work with an advisor, according to an August 2022 survey from financial services firm Edward Jones and Morning Consult, a global data intelligence company. These findings suggest that many more people could be taking advantage of tax-smart charitable giving moves – if only they had some help or guidance.

Also, by getting some professional financial assistance, you may find it easier to im-

plement your charitable giving decisions within your overall financial strategy, which is designed to help you meet all your important long-term goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement.

Your instinct to help support charitable groups is a worthy one – and by getting some help, you can turn this impulse into actions that may work to everyone's benefit.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

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Happy Holidays

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MKT-9811C-A



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Joe Postigo

President, Sociedad Espanola de San Benito

By Anne Caetano

MVV met with Joe Postigo, President of the renowned Sociedad Espanola de San Benito. (San Benito County Spanish Society Lodge) The Spanish Lodge was established in 1928 under the former name Union Benefica Espanola de Hollister, Inc. and is now in its 94th year.

The Lodge still holds true to its fundamental principles brought forth by their founding members. These principles are to provide support to its members and the community and to promote the heritage of our Spanish American culture within the community.

The community is invited to a Spanish Luncheon and Flamenco Dance show on Sunday, December 4th at Paine's Restaurant in Hollister at 12pm. RSVP by Friday, December 2nd to Joe Postigo @ 831.636.6887 \$65/person.

MVV: What is the proper name of your organization?

JP: Sociedad Espanola de San Benito, which translates to the San Benito Spanish Society.

How long has it been around?

The organization has been around since 1928 in San Benito County. It was associated with other Spanish groups throughout California, and we are independent.

Independent?

It's not a government or national organization; we're a local one. It was conceived

for the benefit of the members to fund funeral costs. The Spaniards in the community all gathered and started this group because funeral expenses were pretty high, so they became members and then they had a benefit at the end that was like a life insurance policy to help with burial costs, which right now is \$1,800. It doesn't seem like much, but our group doesn't charge much for membership.

How many members?

We have 85 members.

All from San Benito County?



Most of our members are from San Benito County. And we have some members from Santa Clara, Monterey, San Francisco, Yolo, Placer, Tuolumne Counties and Las Vegas.

Besides providing funeral assistance what else is Spanish Lodge's purpose?

We promote our heritage. And we also donate back to the community with scholarships. We give to the local Red Cross and Community Food Bank, Relay for Life and others through the years.

Do you have fundraisers?

Yes, then the pandemic happened, and we just couldn't risk the liability anymore. And now we're looking for different avenues, such as opening up our annual luncheon and adding the Flamenco Show to the public.

And your Flamenco Show on December 4th?

We always have an annual membership meeting. This year it's on Sunday, December 4th, and we've added a flamenco show, a troupe of professionals from the Bay Area that I know very well. We're trying to get not only our members to show up to be involved but also the public, who are welcome. Please RSVP by Friday, December 2nd.

Tell me about the Flamenco Dancers.

A fantastic troupe! They're based out of the San Francisco Bay area. Their name is "Koko de la Isla su grupo Flamenco." They truly enjoy coming down and performing for us and giving us their all.

How long have you been the President of Sociedad Espanola de San Benito?

Out of the past 22 years, probably 13 years. My term will be up next year. We are starting to get some interest from younger



people or other Spaniards that move into the community.

Anyone can join?

Yes, and you really don't have to be Spanish to join. There are spouses, stepchildren and people just wanting to join the community and enjoy the traditions, as well. We also have newcomers to the community and those that had no idea there was a Spanish Lodge here. What we're trying to do is get younger blood in the group and onto the Board.

And nonmembers are welcome to the Flamenco Dancer event?

Absolutely! Doors open for the public at 11:45am. And then Paines Restaurant will serve lunch, and we will get into the Flamenco show. A great luncheon and show on an easy Sunday afternoon.

We hope to see you there. Olé! ■



Morris-Lopez

Continued from page 10

some cocktails and eat. Or it could also be used to describe a group of supporters or fans, which played well with “industry night” theme.

How many events have you done?

I’ve done close to 40 events between here and Mexico City.

Where here?

I did a stint in Long Beach and LA, and here on the Central Coast: Watsonville, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and at Vertigo and Lolla in San Juan Bautista.

It’s always a distinct à la carte menu. When I am here at Vertigo, the idea is they will sell a bunch of wine, beer, coffee, etc., and I handle the food. I try to always collaborate with people and work closely together to make the experience super cohesive.

What is your specialty?

It’s decidedly European cooking, which is something I’ve practiced and studied throughout my career. Now my focus is mostly on French and Spanish flavors. The food is kind of made to represent the wine growing regions of Europe. I want it to be very comforting and approachable



though. I really like the very rustic kind of “grandma cooking,” as I call it.

It’s classic?

Yes, there’s a reason why things are done a certain way, and sometimes we get away from that as cooks; we want to experiment, or we want to make fusions or innovate. I’ve done a lot of that, but now I just want to make dishes that are very intentional and purposeful, done properly and classically.

Will you have any pop ups here in the area?

December 4th in Santa Cruz at Apéro Club. And then I’m going to try to also do another

event here at Vertigo in December, and I like to also collaborate with my sister, who owns Lolla, a soup, salad, and sandwich luncheonette located in downtown San Juan Bautista. I announce all my events on Instagram. Follow us @laaficionCDMX.

Tell me about your life in Mexico City.

Up until a year ago, I was running kitchens and just totally immersed in that, 5 or 6 days a week and long days. But the lovely thing about that city is you can get on a bus or a plane and get anywhere within a couple hours because of where it’s positioned. So I travel as much as possible. Cook a lot. Go to the markets all the time, eating and immersing myself in the culture and the culinary scene there.

Did your grandmother teach you a lot



about cooking?

My whole family cooks; it’s our culture. Everyone would always cook at family gatherings. We experienced a lot of different flavors, textures, techniques. I think you absorb that without even thinking about it.

What do you love the most about Mexico City?

The culture and the people. I like studying the who, what, when, where and why of all those kinds of things. I really liked studying philosophy, anthropology and sociology before I decided to focus on cooking for my career.

What does cooking do for you?

I’m not like the most, verbally expressive or well-spoken person, but I can always share. It’s a way for me to express myself or to share myself and my experience. I’m glad you asked me about what it does for me because I do think about that a lot.

How?

I’m like, “Why do I enjoy this so much?” I don’t think I’m a super artistic person. And a lot of artists are like, “This is how I express myself.” And I realized this is a way for me to communicate or express myself with people. And I am always challenging myself learning new things, trying new things. I get bored easily, so it’s nice to be able to like always, there’s endless possibilities for what I could do. ■

Holiday Collection Schedule

THURS	FRI	SAT
11/24 🍁 No Service Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed	11/25 Service for Thursday Customers	11/26 Service for Friday Customers
FRI	SAT	SUN
12/23 Regular Service	12/24 Regular Service	12/25 🎄 No Service Christmas Day
12/30 Regular Service	12/31 Regular Service	1/1 🎆 2022 No Service New Year’s Day

TREE RECYCLING

Residents can set out holiday trees on their regular collection day. Cut unflocked, undecorated trees into three foot or smaller sections and place in the green cart.

Residents may also set out a whole tree, less than six foot, next to their cart. **REMOVE STAND COMPLETELY** and place the stand in the grey Garbage cart.

3' maximum



Check your collection schedule at [Recology.com/SanBenitoCounty](https://www.Recology.com/SanBenitoCounty). Para más información visite [Recology.com/SanBenitoCounty](https://www.Recology.com/SanBenitoCounty) o llame al 831.636.7500.



Pictured above: A triptych of views, including (from left) the original San Juan Creamery, the Breen home built in 1928, and the current view of 11 Franklin Street.

Then... and Now: 11 Franklin Street: San Juan Creamery, Breen Home and Fault Line

By Wanda Guibert

San Juan Bautista Historical Society

Perched atop the escarpment of the San Andreas Fault overlooking the fertile San Juan Valley below was the old San Juan Creamery. A notice appeared in the *Sacramento Daily Union* on 18 December 1896, which included the Articles of Incorporation for the San Juan Creamery and Improvement Company. Trustees named were locals Thomas Flint, A. Taix, C.G. Cargill, P.E.G. Anzar, L.R. Sanfield (Canfield?), and P. Dougherty. The California Digital Newspaper Collection includes many interesting articles from the late 1800s about this “first-class creamery” and the process for conducting such a business. A want ad appearing in the 13 March 1901 *San Francisco Call* solicits “A single man, sober and of good habits, who understands running milk separator and is a good cheese maker...” It seems the creamery thrived for over 30 years.

The 24 February 1928 *San Juan Mission News* announces that the old creamery which had stood at the end of Franklin Street for the previous 30 years had been torn down, to be replaced by a new house...ru-

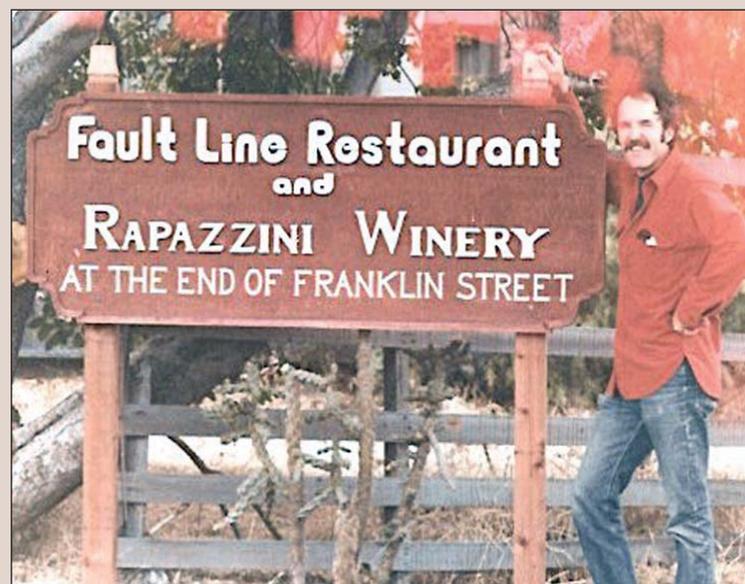
ANOTHER FINE, NEW HOME TO BE BUILT HERE

The old creamery that has stood at the extreme end of Franklin street for the last thirty years, has been torn down, to be replaced by a new house.

While we have not received any facts, it is rumored that Mrs. Breen is to reside in the new home.

This is one of the prettiest spots in San Juan, as you get a full view of the wonderful San Juan valley.

Old creamery razed: San Juan Mission News 24 Feb. 1928.



Faultline/Rapazzini signage with Peter Lottermoser 1980.

mored to be that of Mrs. Breen, which proved true. According to records prepared by her descendants, Mary Jane Breen had a stroke in 1927, was convalescing in Carmel, and desperately wanted to return to San Juan Bautista. Sons Harry and Edwin Breen bought the former Creamery property, which backed up to the old Zanetta property on the Plaza, and Harry and his father-in-law built what the family referred to as the “San Juan Cottage” for Mary Jane and her nurse. There was a large bedroom in the front that gathered the sun and a sun porch on the valley and Mission side. There were 2 front doors, 1 on the front porch facing south, and the other on the north end of the porch facing the Mission. There was no dining room but instead a dining alcove

WANTED—A single man, sober and of good habits, who understands running milk separator and is a good cheese maker; board and room; easy place; state wages. Address San Juan Creamery, San Benito Co., Cal.

Creamery want ad, San Francisco Call, 13 March 1901.

in the kitchen.

Mary Jane died in the front bedroom in 1930, and during the years following her death, the house was rented. After marrying in 1932, John J. Baumgartner, Jr. (rancher and “scion of major landowner”) and his wife Elinor moved into the Breen house. At Elinor’s request, Harry Breen extended the original alcove and added square footage, creating a charming dining room, which looked across at the Mission through French windows. Later, the house was rented by Paul Diaz, then principal of San Juan Grammar School.

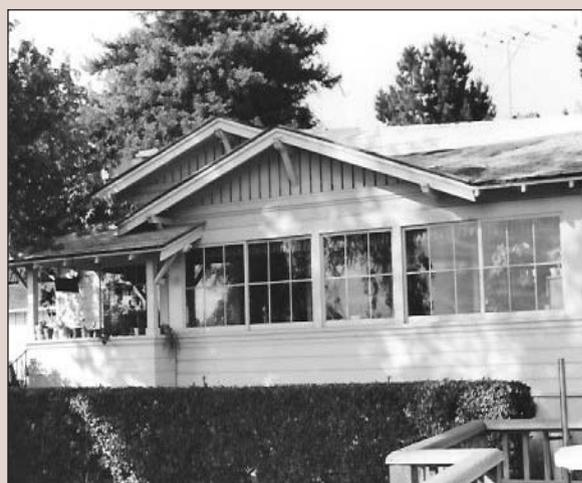
In 1947 when Edwin Breen retired from his cattle business, he and wife Charlotte lived in the house until his death in the front bedroom in 1960. Charlotte remained in the home until her death in 1970. In 1959, daughter Barbara Breen converted the dining room to a gift shop called “La Casita,” which flourished until the property was leased to Almaden Vineyards in 1963 for a tasting room.

Louis Benoist, then owner of Almaden Vineyards, had wanted a tasting room in San Juan Bautista as



the faultLine

Fault Line Invitation by Edie Franz.



Views of the Breen home



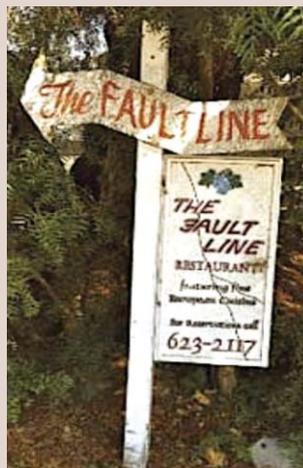
Above: Thomas Church-designed gazebo 1980; below: Thomas Church-designed gazebo and wine barrel 2022



an entry to the vineyards at Paicines. The "San Juan Cottage" most closely met his needs, so Barbara leased the property from her uncle Harry and in turn leased to Almaden. Barbara continued to live in the main house. Mr. Benoist spent a great deal of money on the property, converting the dining room/La Casita gift shop into a tasting room and completely landscaping the area, hiring Thomas Church, a 20th century landscape architect, whose design studio was based in San Francisco.

Church is nationally recognized as a pioneer landscape designer and developer of the California lifestyle of indoor/outdoor living. A design element for which Church is renowned is the "outdoor room," creating areas for outdoor living as distinct places within the whole landscape. Indeed, the gazebo he designed for the Almaden tasting room property exemplifies that feature. His designs were widely publicized by a number of popular home and garden journals, primarily *Sunset* magazine.

The property changed title a few times before becoming the Fault Line Restaurant in the late 1970s, named by an owner that Joan Lottermoser recalls as Leo Cardoza. A 24 October 1979 *Santa Cruz Sentinel* article promotes a local Earthquake Run: "All finishers will receive an Earthquake kit which includes a no-fault chit good for a dinner at San Andreas Fault Line Restaurant in San Juan Bautista. The catch is you must call within 10 days after a 3.5 earthquake." From 1980-1983, Peter & Joan Lottermoser were chef and hostess of the Fault Line



Faultline signage post, 1990.

Wine Tasting Room Added By Almaden Winery

Almaden Vineyards has added a cheerful wine tasting room to the attractions of historic San Juan Bautista.

The tasting room is located just behind the venerable Zanetta House on the southeast side of the village's famed plaza, reports the National Automobile club. A variety of wines from Chenin Blanc to sparkling burgundy are available for sampling.

The wine company refurbished part of an old dwelling for the tasting room, attempting to maintain the San Juan Bautista mood of old Spain.

Wine Tasting Room Added by Almaden Winery, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, 8 Nov. 1964.

Restaurant and Gazebo, offering traditional German cuisine. German-born Peter had worked in hotels in Germany as well as the ground kitchens for Lufthansa, the German airlines, later joining Hyatt Corporation in San Jose. During this time, Rapazzini Winery operated a tasting room in the space previously used by Almaden. The restaurant and tasting room shared the gazebo.

In the late 1980s, Edith Franz (another European) acquired the entire property, for use as her residence as well as the Fault Line Restaurant. She operated the restaurant, serving a limited menu with fresh, organic, free-range food until about 2012. Title changed again in 2015, and the current owner initiated plans for renovation in 2018. The current status is unknown.

SJB Historical Society videographer Ken Halla recently produced an interview between Stephanie Caetano Correia and Barbara's son John Cornell about the "San

Juan Cottage" and the Topo Ranch, another Breen property. To hear John's story and their shared remembrances of the "good days" and see some wonderful vintage photos, visit https://youtu.be/OD9eeYpY_VM. Stephanie, who worked in the Almaden Tasting Room in the early 1970s, aptly describes the property as a "nice little piece of paradise down there...a great view and the gazebo...in the shadow of the Mission." Many thanks to the Breen/Cornell family for sharing their family history. ■



Thomas Church-designed gazebo, 2022.

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Cynthia Espinoza

Creator, Cynergy Living Cancer Free

By Anne Caetano

MVV met with Cynthia Espinoza, a native of Hollister and creator of Cynergy Living Cancer Free, a transportation service for cancer patients to and from treatment appointments. Cynthia, a cancer patient herself, recognized the need while she was undergoing treatment and was inspired to help others "on the road to recovery."

MVV: You are starting a transportation service for cancer patients?

CE: Yes, I was diagnosed with cancer. I went into remission, and it came back. In that time, I saw the need for transportation to cancer ap-

pointments.

My kids would take turns driving me. It was difficult because they were all working. And I accepted rides from my friends because I had to make sure I made my chemo and radiation appointments. It was a hard struggle.

How did this come to be?

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At one time, I came home after being in the hospital for almost a month. And that's when I started thinking, "What's going on? Why is God keeping me here?" I asked him, "Please let me stay because of my children." I found out one of my friends wasn't making it to her chemo treatment, and she passed. And that made me even think more. It was time to do something to help other people out.

What will your services be?

I am hoping to reach out to people and catch them before they start their treatments so I can coordinate patients' schedules in advance. We will cover Hollister, Tres Pinos, Aromas, San Juan Bautista, Morgan Hill, San Martin & Gilroy.

And your rates?

Prices will depend on destination and distance. The goal is to keep it very affordable. We are a non-profit and accept donations.

Contact Cynthia at 831.207.5248 or 831.277.0112 or cynergy4you@icloud.com. Donations are gratefully appreciated to help defray driving expenses: Cynergy on the Road to Recovery, PO Box 353, Hollister, CA 95023. ■



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Backdrop - Find Pretty Places

Backdrop isn't a wallpaper app, as its name may suggest. Instead, it's a location discovery platform. It aims to help you become more familiar with your surroundings. You can check out local places and see reviews made by other people who use the app. Most apps like this focus on businesses and stuff like that. This one aims more for pretty stuff like interesting houses, colorful spaces, and more. It's definitely a niche thing for people who like to get out of the house a lot, but it did work well in our testing.



Center Stage: Sports Cards

Center Stage is a trading card app. It lets you point your camera at a trading card to see its value. The app developers say this app is for collectors who are negotiating a trade or just want to see the value of their collections. Center Stage works with baseball, football, basketball, and hockey cards out of the gate. The developers say they're working on support for Magic: The Gathering and Pokemon as well. It's simple, it does what it says, and although it's a niche product, it works.



An "app" is a program designed for mobile devices.



Stuff You Missed in History Class

For any history nerd, I'm sure you're already well-acquainted with this gem of a podcast. Holly Frey and Tracy Wilson bring to you exactly what the name entails: a deep dive into all of the forgotten topics in your history class. Using their extensive research, the podcasters take you through an array of new topics, with everything from the story of the last queen of the Hawaiian Kingdom, to the history of hypertension, zippers, monarch butterflies and more.



Don't Let This Flop

Wag your finger at Gen Z, their fried attention spans, and their war on skinny jeans all you want, but, whether you like it or not, their favorite app, TikTok, is important. If you want to keep up your finger on the pulse of pop culture, then keeping up on TikTok trends is pretty much a non-negotiable. Hosted by Rolling Stone writers Brittany Spanos and EJ Dickson, Don't Let This Flop is a series where, in their own words, "two smart people talk about the dumbest shit that happened online this week." From the origins of the "gorgeous gorgeous girls" trend, to how the Will Smith slap "made the entire Internet stupid," the hosts break down the biggest Internet news of late—and their implications on culture at large.



VOICING SOME THOUGHTS Taking the mood elevator: going up

By Halina Kleinsmith

We all know it's important to find time to give our thoughts a well needed break.

More than just random daydreaming, I'm addressing an exercise to aid in mental coordination, stability, balance and relaxation.

Instead of promoting power napping, I'm suggesting power thinking; a steady progression of each day, tailoring your memory and your new thoughts to a final creation. So what the heck am I talking about? An exercise who's only equipment is your brain and its imagination.

You begin by envisioning with your eyes closed, a pair of elevator doors. There you are, your current self, in whatever outfit.

Now, the fun part. The elevator doors open, you step in, deciding to go up or down. The doors open again, and you step out into your heart's desired location. Imagine the view, the type of area, the elevation and the compass point.

Every day, in your private time, take the elevator to that special spot where the doors

open, as there you will begin to build, room by room, the most fantastic place you want in the exact setting that would make you happy.

This process can last for days, months, even years, as you imagine the style and shape of the structure, every room in the floor plans, and all the windows, stairs, doors and floors.

Once the initial structure is built, you then start at your first room and begin to furnish and paint and decorate it however you wish. In each space, you will place all the things that you adore, on the walls, in the drawers, on the windows. There's no wrong answer; it's whatever you imagine.

The exercise is flexible, as you can start from the beginning every single time, or you can go and visit a particular room that you want to work on, striving to be as elaborate or streamlined as you wish.

When you are really and truly down to the last element, indoors and out, finishing that dream place of your mind, you might want to also render a drawing, by hand or electronically, where you can review and refine your choices.

It's a fun mind vacation that helps privately pass the time when waiting for an appointment, commuting on the bus, or preparing to fall asleep.

And don't forget the Welcome mat... ■

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From the staff of Mission Village Voice

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MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE

Community Bulletin Board

Auditions for Mariachi Banda with Youth Orchestra Salinas; Any age (through High School) is invited to audition

Youth Orchestra Salinas (YOSAL) is currently hosting auditions for Mariachi Banda. This fusion educational program in conjunction with our Youth Symphony will start on January 17, 2023, and interested students can audition now until December 19, 2022, via our website or by appointment.

There is a high demand for traditional Mexican music. We are eager to give students the opportunity to connect to their cultural musical roots with high-level instruction so they can play at a high level themselves.

The Director of the Mariachi Banda will be **Eliodoro Vallecillo** (pictured above), leader of 4toPrestigio.

For more information, please visit www.yosal.org/audition

What: Youth Orchestra Salinas (YOSAL) Mariachi Banda Audition

When: Now until December 19, 2022,

Where: Online or by appointment. Write to us at: audition@yosal.org

Air District Grants \$1,200,000 for Air Quality Improvement Projects

On October 19th, 2022, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) Board approved the FY 2022-23 AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant Awards. Grant awards are funded by DMV fees which are used by MBARD for public projects that result in air quality benefits. This year's AB2766 Grant award budget totaled \$1,200,000.

Emission reduction project grants were awarded to the following public agencies:

1. Monterey-Salinas Transit: Zero Emission Bus
2. County of Monterey: Roundabout Design and Construction
3. City of Salinas: Electric Vehicle Replacement



4. Meals on Wheels: Electric Vehicle Replacement
Santa Cruz County
 1. City of Santa Cruz: Zero Emission Street Sweeper
 2. County of Santa Cruz: Adaptive Traffic Signals
 3. City of Capitola: Zero Emission Street Sweeper
San Benito County
 1. Resource Management of San Benito County: Electric Vehicle Replacement
 2. County of San Benito Administration: Electric Vehicle Replacement
- This message is brought to you by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, serving Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. Visit our website at www.montereybay-cleanair.org and check your local air quality forecast at www.air.mbard.org.

MBARD Announces Spare the Air Program

Starting on November 4, 2022, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) will begin announcing wintertime Spare the Air alerts for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. During a Spare the Air alert, MBARD will ask residents to choose an alternative home heating source such as electricity, propane, natural gas, or pellets. MBARD will send out notifications by 3:00 pm on days when conditions warrant a Spare the Air alert. Conditions include colder temperatures and the presence of a temperature inversion, which keeps wood smoke pollution trapped close to the ground. While the alerts will routinely apply to the San Lorenzo Valley in Santa Cruz County, there may be times when MBARD will provide an alert for areas in Monterey and San Benito counties.

MBARD is implementing this voluntary program to address unhealthful air quality conditions that may occur in the San Lorenzo Valley. Public awareness and response are critical to help reduce pollution levels during stagnant winter conditions.

MBARD requests that news services include the Spare the Air alerts as part of weather and news broadcasts using the orange logo. The program will run from November through February.

Please call our office at (831) 647-9411 with any questions and/or concerns. To sign up for alerts via email, please visit our website at www.mbard.org and click "Subscribe to Email Lists" under the "I Want To" menu. ■

CELESTIAL EVENTS



December 8 - Full Moon Gemini. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 04:09 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Cold Moon because this is the time of year when the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark. This moon has also been known as the Long Nights Moon and the Moon Before Yule.

December 8 - Mars at Opposition. The red planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Mars. A medium-sized telescope will allow you to see some of the dark details on the planet's orange surface.

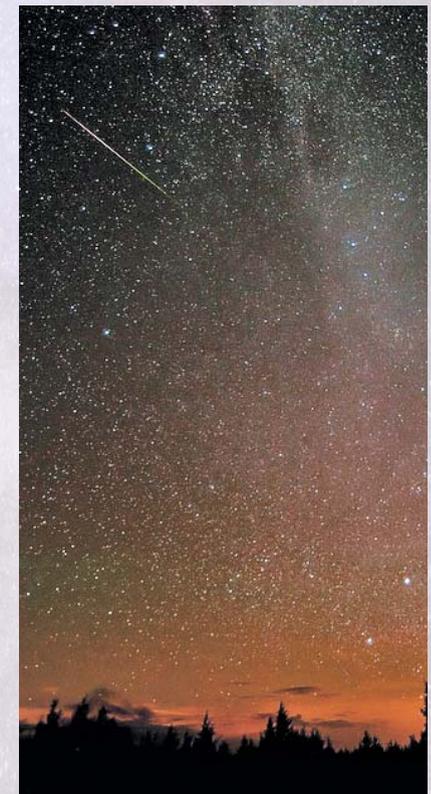
December 13, 14 - Geminids Meteor Shower. The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers. It is considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. The shower runs annually from December 7-17. It peaks this year on the night of the 13th and morning of the 14th. The waning gibbous moon will block many of the fainter meteors this year. But the Geminids are so numerous and bright that this should still be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Gemini, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

December 21 - December Solstice. The December solstice occurs at 21:40 UTC. The South Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.44 degrees south latitude. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Southern Hemisphere.

December 21 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 20.1 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

December 21, 22 - Ursids Meteor Shower. The Ursids is a minor meteor shower producing about 5-10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tuttle, which was first discovered in 1790. The shower runs annually from December 17-25. It peaks this year on the night of the 21st and morning of the 22nd. This year, the nearly new moon will leave dark skies for what should be a really good show. Best viewing will be just after midnight from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

December 23 - New Moon in Capricorn. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 10:17 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.



The Ursids Meteor Shower.



ACCF Board and community dignitaries. (L to R) Mariah Roybal, Paul Goodman, Phil Messina, Rose DuMond, Kollin Kosmicki, John M. Phillip, Nirmal Kumar Ravichandran, Keith Severson, Stephen Johnson, Monica Jo Nicholson, and Mark Boos.

COMMUNITY

Aromas Community Park development noted

On Saturday November 19, 2022, the Aromas Community Center Foundation Board held a recognition event to honor the donors, local businesses, and volunteers who have contributed to the growth and progress of the Aromas Community Park. The ACCF wanted to acknowledge how far the park has come since its purchase in 1997. Local Aromas Hills Artisan, SanDee Adams, is installing the mosaic monument with materials from Fireclay Tile. SanDee has donated over 6 months of her time, hard work, and soul installing the monument, this town is truly blessed to have her create a piece of art that encapsulates the spirit of the Aromas Community Park, while recognizing the original visionary contributors of the parks development.

ACCF Board Member, Stephen Johnson, lead the recognition ceremony and vocalizing all the appreciation the board's outpouring support from the community. Special thanks to the speakers, Keith Severson from Graniterock which business has literally donated to the foundation of the park from pathways to structures. Nirmal Kumar Ravichandran representing Fireclay Tile whose company's generous contribution adds to the beautifica-

tion of the park for years to come.

Supervisors, Kollin Kosmicki and John M. Phillip attended, with Phillip pledging to push for more effort in resources for the park to continue to thrive before he leaves office. Stating that, "It's really amazing to see a community come together like this with a lot of tenacious activism, we really respect it and what you've done for the community."

This commemorative event not only highlighted the Aromas Community Park's past, but was an inspiring look towards the park's future. Aromas Community Park is hoping to become a jewel in Aromas, with currently developing a pavilion and beginning to seek fundraising for the next big project a playground for children in the surrounding communities to enjoy. ■



Artist SanDee Adams working on the monument at the park.

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

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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | DECEMBER 2022

Calendar

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1 - FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ARTS & CRAFT FAIR 11am-4pm. Baked goods and hand crafted items. Community Health Trust Building. Email Sonia Westphal at keson1@comcast.net

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

ANNUAL SMALL WORKS EXHIBITION & ART GIVEAWAY 5:30-8pm. Art Depot, downtown Hollister. Info heidi@sanbenitoharts.org or www.sanbenitoarts.org

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 - SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

MONTEREY PENINSULA BALLET THEATER-THE NUT-CRACKER Carmel Sunset Center. Visit sunsetcenter.org

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 - SUNDAY JANUARY 22

22ND ANNUAL IMAGES OF THE VIRGIN EXHIBITION Luna Gallery & Eco Studio. San Juan Bautista. 831.623.ARTE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA'S 1ST ANNUAL BETTER LIVING EXPO 10am-2pm. Home improvement, services, appraisals & sales & investments. Pictures with Santa Claus! Luck Park, San Juan Bautista. Aida Pisano 408.427.5767 aida.pisano@compass.com

GARLIC CITY CAROLERS - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 1-3pm. At the Community Holiday Tree.

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS OF GUADALUPE Luna Gallery & Eco Studio. San Juan Bautista. 831.623.ARTE

RABBIT PRODUCERS OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY RABBIT SHOW Bolado Park, Tres Pinos.

GOLDENS STATE CAVY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION CAVY SHOW Bolado Park, Tres Pinos.

COLD MOON HOLIDAY MARKET - VERTIGO SJB 10am-4pm (Before the Holiday of Lights Parade). Local Vendors, Handmade Gifts, Wine Tasting, Live Music. Vertigo Coffee Roasters, SJB.

UNITED WAY GALA 5pm. Swank Barn. Contact Vicki Fortino 831.245.0051 or www.unitedwaysbc.org



Weds., Fri. and Sunday December 14, 16 and 18

ORIANA CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS- "A LIGHT OF HOPE, A SONG OF PEACE" 7:30pm. Christ Fellowship Church, 2066 San Benito St., Hollister. \$20/door, \$15/advance @ Postal Graphics, teens/\$10

ROTARY OF SJB HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS PARADE Visit rotarysanjuanbautista.com 831.320.1764

SJB STATE HISTORIC PARK/LIVING HISTORY HOLIDAY DECORATING Visit www.parks.ca/gov or 831.623.4881

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS PET ADOPTION EVENT 12-4pm. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

LIVING HISTORY DAYS 11am-4pm. SJB State Historic Park. Step back into the early days. 1st Saturday of the month.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 - SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

HOLIDAYS ON THE FARM - VINTAGE MARKET 10am-4pm. B & R Farms, 5280 Fairview Rd., Hollister.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

SOCIEDAD ESPANOLA DE SAN BENITO CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & FLAMENCO DANCER SHOW 12pm Luncheon, 12:30 - 2:30 Flamenco Dance Troupe "Koko de la Isla y su grupo Flamenco" performs. Paine's Restaurant, Hollister. Must RSVP by December 2nd. Contact Joe Postigo 831.636.6887

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

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

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7

FULL MOON IN GEMINI

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

THE SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS CHRISTMAS CARAVAN TOUR Visit goldenstatetheatre.com/events

SMUIN'S THE CHRISTMAS BALLET Carmel Sunset Center. Visit sunsetcenter.org

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9 - SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

ST. FRANCIS RETREAT - ADVENT RETREAT Topic: Sisters Saints of Advent, Led by Jan Stegner register www.stfrancisretreat.com/events or call 831.623.4234. St. Francis Retreat, San Juan Bautista.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

BREAKFAST @ THE GALLERY & INDIAN CANYON STORY TELLING Luna Gallery & Eco Studio. San Juan Bautista. 831.623.ARTE

YOUTH ORCHESTRA SALINAS INVITES COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THEIR WINTER CONCERT FREE! More than 200 students will perform a diverse program of classical, cultural and holiday music. Visit www.yosal.org/concert

HOLIDAYS ON THE FARM - VINTAGE MARKET 10am - 4pm. B & R Farms, 5280 Fairview Rd., Hollister.

FRIENDS OF THE SBC FREE LIBRARY BOOK SALE 9am-12pm. Behind Library. 2nd Sat @ month. SBCFL.ORG

AL FRANKEN: THE ONLY FORMER U.S. SENATOR CURRENTLY ON TOUR Visit goldenstatetheatre.com/events

MONDAY DECEMBER 12

SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE & SERVICE OFFICE EVENT 10am-1pm. Enroll in VA Healthcare? Fill RX? check-up? Housing Assistance? Justice Outreach? Mental Health Assistance? Veterans Memorial Building, Hollister. 2nd Monday @ month.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14

ORIANA CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS- "A LIGHT OF HOPE, A SONG OF PEACE" 7:30pm. Christ Fellowship Church, 2066 San Benito St., Hollister. \$20/door, \$15/advance @ Postal Graphics, teens/\$10



Wednesday, December 7

SMUIN'S THE CHRISTMAS BALLET at Carmel Sunset Center. Visit sunsetcenter.org.

Continued on next page

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

SJB SENIORS BOUTIQUE & POTLUCK At the Community Center. Mary Edge 831.623.2582

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

SWITCHFOOT - THIS IS OUR CHRISTMAS TOUR Visit goldenstatetheatre.com/events

ORIANA CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS- "A LIGHT OF HOPE, A SONG OF PEACE" 7:30pm. Christ Fellowship Church, 2066 San Benito St., Hollister. \$20/door, \$15/advance @ Postal Graphics, teens/\$10

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

AN EVENING WITH: THE ENGLISH BEAT Visit goldenstatetheatre.com/events

GARLIC CITY CAROLERS - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 4-6pm. At the Community Holiday Tree.

PEACE OF MIND DOG RESCUE ADOPTION EVENT - HELPING SENIOR DOGS & SENIOR PEOPLE 3-6pm. Bear's Hideaway, 402 Third Street, Unit B, San Juan Bautista. Learn about POMDR, volunteering & meet some of our adoptable dogs!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS 9am - 12pm. 3rd Sat @ month. John Smith Rd. Hollister

HO, HO, HOMICIDE MURDER MYSTERY PARTY 5-8pm. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18

ORIANA CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS- "A LIGHT OF HOPE, A SONG OF PEACE" 3pm. Christ Fellowship Church, 2066 San Benito St., Hollister. \$20/door, \$15/advance @ Postal Graphics, teens/\$10

CARMEL MUSIC SOCIETY - GEORGE LI, PIANO Carmel Sunset Center. Visit sunsetcenter.org

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18 - MONDAY DECEMBER 19

SAN BENITO DANCE PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER Sherwood Hall, Salinas. Visit SanBenitoDanceAcademy.com

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21

WINTER SOLSTICE OBSERVATION OLD MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 6am. Visit oldmission.org or 831.2623.2127

BREAKFAST & SPECIAL VIEWING OF THE 2019 MANDALA Luna Gallery & Eco Studio. San Juan Bautista. 831.623.ARTE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23

NEW MOON IN CAPRICORN

Every week**TUESDAYS**

EVENING BICYCLE RIDE 6pm @ Off The Chain Bikes, 22 mi. bike ride. Santa Ana Rd thru backroads, moderate - fast. www.offthechainbikes.com

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

TRIVIA NIGHT WITH MIGUEL SILVA 6:30-8:30pm. Prizes! Every Wednesday. Vertigo Coffee Roasters, SJB. Vertigo-coffee.com

EVENING BICYCLE RIDE 6pm @ Off The Chain Bikes, 22 mi. bike ride. Santa Ana Rd thru backroads, moderate - fast. www.offthechainbikes.com

FRIDAYS

LIVE MUSIC AT DAISY'S SALOON 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, SJB. 831.623.4484

SATURDAYS

SATURDAY MORNING BICYCLE RIDE 8am @ Off the Chain Bikes. A 22 mi. bike ride. Santa Ana Rd thru backroads, moderate - fast. www.offthechainbikes.com

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. SJB School. Beg.-Advanced. \$2 sugg. donation.

**Saturday, December 17**

GARLIC CITY CAROLERS - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 4-6pm. At the Community Holiday Tree.

LIVE MUSIC AT DAISY'S SALOON 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, SJB. 831.623.4484

SUNDAYS

LIVE MUSIC AT DAISY'S SALOON 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon. SJB 831.623.4484

WATCH FOOTBALL @ SAN JUAN VFW CANTEEN 12pm. 58 Monterey St., SJB.

Save the Date**FRIDAY JANUARY 13 - SUNDAY JANUARY 15**

ST. FRANCIS RETREAT - MEN'S RETREAT Visit stfrancis-retreat.com/events or 831.623.4234

SATURDAY JANUARY 14 - SUNDAY JANUARY 15

POULTRY SHOW AKA CHICKEN SHOW Bolado Park, Tres Pinos

FRIDAY JANUARY 20

SLOCAN RAMBLERS WITH OTTER OPRY 4pm. Monterey United Methodist Church, 831.375.8285 or www.otteropry.org

SATURDAY JANUARY 28

MISSION 10 RACE IN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Mission10.com

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11

HOLLISTER EXCHANGE CLUB'S ANNUAL CRAB FEED Bolado Park, Tres Pinos

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25

ART SHOW ALL FOR ARTISTS! Call for artists and selection for poster artists thru December 30. Please send samples contact michealelaforge@gmail.com

**Saturday, December 17**

PEACE OF MIND DOG RESCUE ADOPTION EVENT - HELPING SENIOR DOGS & SENIOR PEOPLE 3-6pm. Bear's Hideaway, 402 Third Street, Unit B, San Juan Bautista. Learn about POMDR, volunteering & meet some of our adoptable dogs!

**Sunday & Monday December 18 & 19**

SAN BENITO DANCE PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER Sherwood Hall, Salinas. Visit SanBenitoDanceAcademy.com

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



San Juan Bautista Dia de Los Muertos celebration. Thank you to the SJB Library Auxiliary, El Teatro Campesino and the community for participating in this event at the cemetery.



Oscar D. Inocencio U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam 69' - 70' selected to attend "Honor Flight" in Washington D.C.



Big winners at Willis Construction Golf Classic, Molly Orsetti, Susan Botelho, Larry Willis & Teresa Lavagnino.



CASA Fall Advocate Swear in L-R. Amelia Garcia, Graciela Brewer, Judge Palacios & Melissa Dempsey.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



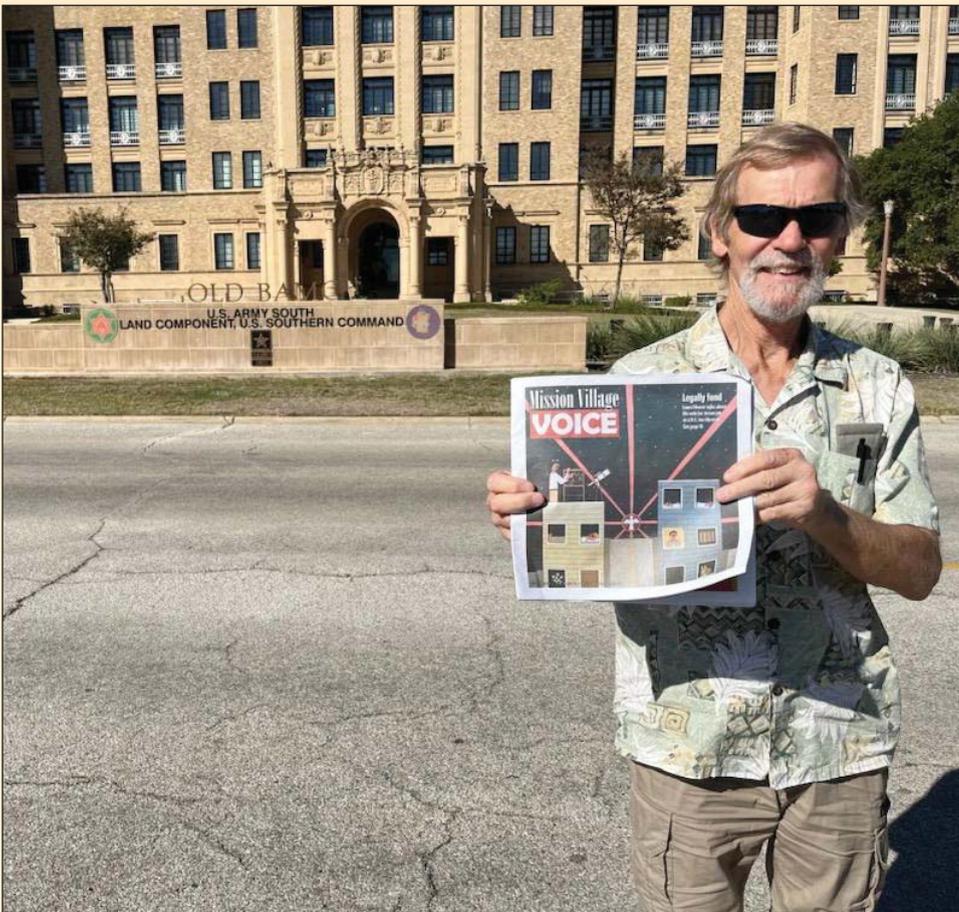
SJB Player Rick May winner of two bronze medals at Nations held at Indian Wells Tennis Garden.



San Benito County Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year George Nava. L-R George and Regina Nava and children Gina, Anthony & Jodi. (Not pictured: Tim).



SBALT'S volunteer trail crew L-R: Sara Steiner, Miguel Alvarado, Oliver Doupnik, Ren Io, Felix Io, Zooey Diggory, Alan Sharp, Alan Robertson, Ray Trabucco, Beth Roybal, Mariah Roybal



David Lobeck visiting Fort Sam Houston medical base in San Antonio TX, where he served in 73' & 74'.



Three Blind Mice and Miss Valerie Frizzle at Epicenter's monthly social hosted by CASA.



San Benito County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Marilyn Ferreira and her husband Richard.

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HEADSTONE OF THE MONTH

St. Nicholas Church and Tomb

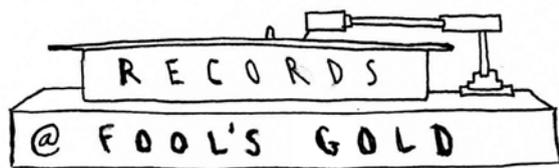
The grave of the real-life figure who inspired the story of Santa Clause has been unearthed beneath a church in Turkey. Archaeologists found the grave of St. Nicholas underneath a church in the Antalya region that shares his name. It's believed he served as a bishop there until the building flooded in the Middle Ages. ■



Share with us.

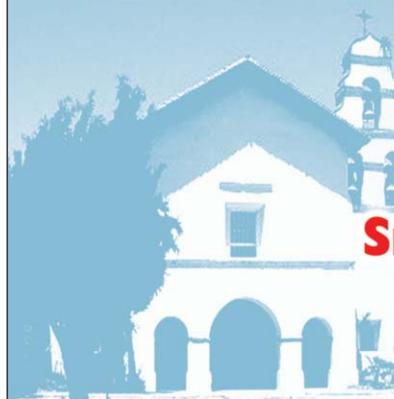
We welcome articles from the community, so send us your submissions. Go to missionvillagevoice.com or email acaetano@missionvillagevoice.com.

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Prescribed burn training in south San Benito County. Photo by Devii Rao

SBALT NEWS

Prescribed burn planned for the Trust for Public Land's Nyland property

By Lynn Overtree

SBALT Executive Director

This fall or winter, the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association (CCPBA)'s goal is to reintroduce beneficial fire to a small area on the Trust for Public Land's Nyland Property in San Juan Bautista, weather and other conditions permitting. The Nyland Property is managed by the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT). This burn is designed to promote community safety by reducing wildfire fuel, support training local organizations on how to use prescribed fire as a tool for land stewardship, collaborate with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) Native Stewardship Corps, and promote fire ecology that benefits native plant, pollinator, and wildlife diversity in the Central Coast region.

Preparing for a prescribed burn involves many steps. First, the site had to be identified by consensus of all the parties involved; environmental impacts were assessed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); a specialist wrote a burn plan that includes the "prescription" for the conditions required to conduct the burn, and public agencies must approve the burn. Once fully approved, there will be site preparations that include cleaning out dead wood where it could carry unwanted fire and creating small fuel breaks to contain the edges of the burn area. CCPBA received a CAL FIRE grant that covers most of these costs.

Prior work has already been conducted at this site by CCPBA, San Benito Fire Safe Council, SBALT, and the AMLT to prepare the property for a possible prescribed burn. In June 2022, 24 volunteers collected seed

San Benito Agricultural



from native plants on the site that could be used for a future post-burn restoration seeding. In August 2022, volunteers worked to remove invasive weed species, such as poison hemlock from the site.

The Trust for Public Land, SBALT, and the CCPBA understand that local residents may have concerns about smoke or the risk of escaped fire from prescribed burns. If you have questions about the prescribed burn planned for the Nyland Property please contact: Alex Michel, Prescribed Burn Organizer, Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association, alex.ccpba@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays from your local land trust! Learn more at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



Jared Childress, Program Manager for CCPBA, demonstrating how to collect native seed at the June Ranch Day at Nyland Property.



Foundation Board in 2002: Back Left to Right: Steve Perricone, Paul Levy, Fernando Gonzalez, Bob Tiffany, Arnold Fontes, Raymond Mariottini, Ron Domingues, Mary McCullough, Sandy Rose. Front Left to Right: Ed Stephenson, Bernie Furman, Susan Paura

CFFSBC NEWS

30 years of philanthropy

This year marks the 30th year for the Community Foundation for San Benito County! The Foundation was originally founded by a group of people extremely passionate about helping their community. Since 1992, the Foundation's board and staff has been dedicated to the mis-



sion of building a stronger community and enhancing the quality of life in San Benito County through the support of philanthropic activities. But, what does it mean to be philanthropic? Phil-an-throp-ic: adjective, (of a person or organization) seeking to promote the welfare of others, especially by donating money to good causes; generous and benevolent. The Community Foundation is for San Benito County. The welfare of its community has always been the utmost importance.

The Community Foundation serves as a bridge between donors and local nonprofits to make sure the needs of its community are being met. The Community Foundation for San Benito County is one of many Community Foundations throughout the US that are doing important work across a wide field of interests, such as health and human services, youth and education, environment, agriculture, arts and culture, and economic development. Grants and donor-advised funds are set up with the intent for nonprofits to receive

donations. The Sonny Paullus Grant Fund, named in honor of Founding Board Member Loren Franklin "Sonny" Paullus, has alone awarded more than 500 grants to local nonprofits, totaling over \$4.3 million dollars.

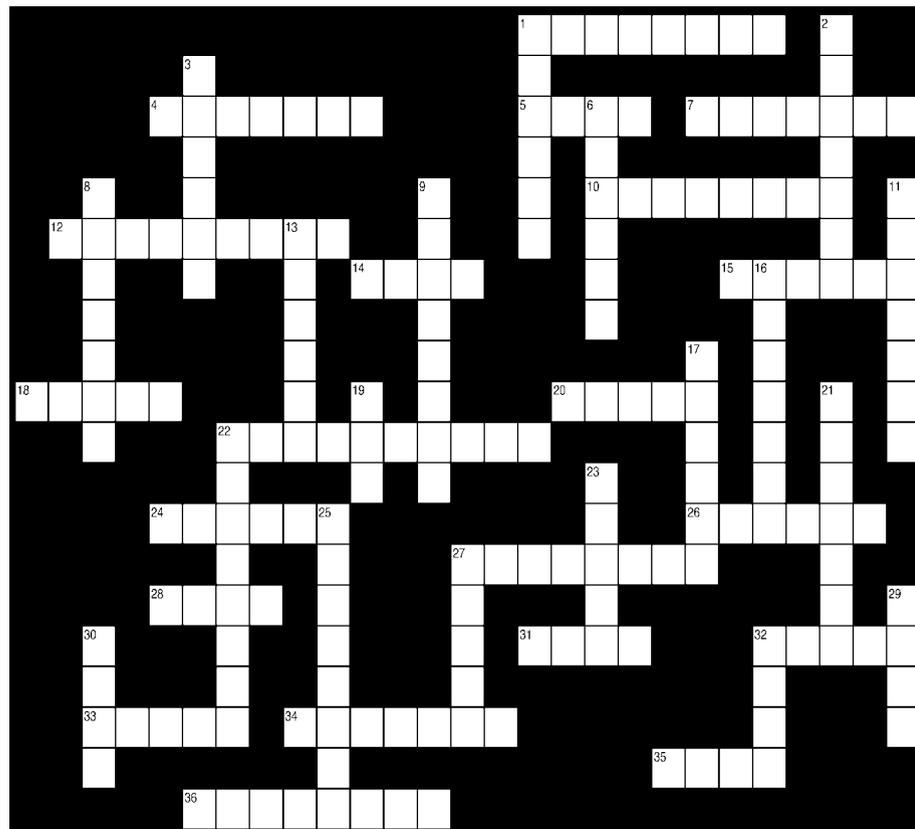
One of the most important ways the Foundation sustains its philanthropic mission is through the generosity of donors who share the same commitment to our community. Offering simple solutions, the Foundation provides an easy and flexible way to meet a donor's giving goals by establishing a charitable fund. Donors can also give to an already established fund that resonates with their interests to make sure the great work accomplished by nonprofits in our community continues into the future –for good, for ever. The Foundation's long-term goal for donors and nonprofits has been to build a permanent home for itself, where it houses individual, family, scholarship, business, community, or nonprofit funds. And this year, the Foundation did just that, moving into its permanent home, "the Epicenter," which offers a place for community organizations to co-locate and collaborate.

With the array of interests the Foundation encompasses, it is easy to find your passion and get inspired to help. Giving back locally strengthens and enhances your community in ways that are not feasible otherwise. Whether you work here, have your business here, or raise your family here, you should be proud to call San Benito County your home, and leaving a lasting impact through your generosity is the best way to show your gratitude.

Do you have any memories or photos you would love to share? Contact Genesis at genesis@givesanbenito.org. ■

Mission Village VOICE PASTIMES

CROSSWORD TAKE A PASS by Carlinka



ACROSS

- 1 ++A secret sign in or phrase
- 4 ++Not active
- 5 "Now!" in a hospital
- 7 ++A voyage by sea or air
- 10 Following orders
- 12 ++A traveler who rides along
- 14 X on a greeting card
- 15 Curry, pepper, cajun et al.
- 18 Signal to pull over
- 20 Andean wool source
- 22 ++Partial sterilization by heat
- 24 ++Decline or reject
- 26 Port city in Russia
- 27 ++A Jewish holiday

- 28 Surrounded by
- 31 Way to serve tea or coffee
- 32 Lose one's cool
- 33 It doesn't pay
- 34 ++Opens two or more locks
- 35 Smallest in the bunch
- 36 ++A composition of selections from different works

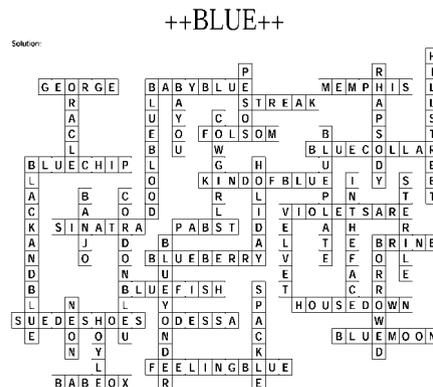
DOWN

- 1 ++A large quantity or number
- 2 Credit card, informally
- 3 ++A light color or artist's tool
- 6 Indifferent to right or wrong
- 8 ++Land used for grazing
- 9 ++Official document for traveling abroad

- 11 ++Lose consciousness
- 13 Wipes out
- 16 ++Something that diverts your attention
- 17 ++A minister or priest
- 19 Freshly painted
- 21 ++Have strong feelings for

- 22 ++Sucker or lozenge
- 23 Penniless
- 25 ++A highly seasoned smoked meat
- 27 ++Not up to date or past it's prime
- 29 Got 100 on
- 30 Fairy tale starter
- 32 ++Something done in former time

Last month's puzzle solution



HOROSCOPE

DECEMBER 2022 by Hilda De Anza



ARIES
March 21-April 20
 December begins with a rare Mars-Venus opposition, highlighting relationships. This will be a dynamic month, with an opportunity to expand your intellectual horizons through travel, study and cultural activities. By the time Christmas comes along, Jupiter moves back into your sign Aries, and after Christmas you'll be ready to branch out.



TAURUS
April 21-May 21
 Early December is a good time for career advancement, and you can expect support from the boss or the organization you work for. Christmas is a time when you are closely aligned with someone, taking on challenges together. By New Year's Eve you will want to redefine your goals, drop the things that no longer interest you, and focus on career expansion.



GEMINI
May 22-June 21
 Things change near Dec 6th, which is a time of transition when you extricate yourself from dependency and take a tougher approach, especially as regards matters affecting emotional or financial security. December is also a key time for friendships, and you may find yourself deeply involved in their relationships, perhaps acting as a matchmaker, messenger or advisor. It's a very active period for you socially.



CANCER
June 22-July 22
 December is one of those rare months which is both extremely dynamic and rather stressful. Right up to Christmas there are professional opportunities, and initiatives which may have been put on hold a couple of months back can be relaunched. The days up to New Year are very family-oriented, and you are motivated to be there for others and shoulder your share of the workload.



LEO
July 23-August 22
 December 7th is a special day because at this time the Sun opposes Mars, which happens only once every one and a half years, and on this occasion it presents you with a

multiplicity of choices and meetings with a great variety of people. By mid-December, things get much more complicated, especially if there is romantic involvement, and you are likely to be confused about what to do.

VIRGO

August 23-September 22

Double-check all communication early December. The 2nd week there is an important transition, you enter a period that will stretch for 2 to 3 months where the focus is on children, and your ability to express yourself. Christmas, your ruler Mercury moves retrograde, and this probably reflects someone you have a loving relationship with or someone you have been waiting for, perhaps turning up to celebrate the holiday period with you.

LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

The beginning of the month is a romantic period. Christmas this year is a family affair, and you can expect to reconnect with siblings who may be returning from somewhere far away. It's an intense period, both rewarding and exhausting, so that by the new year you'll be glad to embark on something a little less demanding. Over Christmas, a larger-than-life person reappears on the scene, promising excitement and adventure in the new year.

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21

December begins with significant events affecting relationships and finance. Mid-December brings a lot of dynamic developments financially, and you may be able to recover some earlier losses. The period up to the new year is likely to bring both reminiscences and some intense discussions. For you, digging up memories from the past is an important self-discovery process, and you probably find that many secrets come to the surface at this time.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 21

A lot is going on as December begins, particular as regards love and romance, perhaps in your own life, or perhaps in the lives of children or

friends you are close to. On December 21st, your ruler Jupiter returns to Aries, which means that you recover your dynamism and are able to focus on personal creativity and independence, extricating yourself from family circumstances which have to be accepted rather than resolved. You are feeling in an extravagant mood over Christmas, but some financial restraint is advised.

CAPRICORN

December 22-January 20

As December begins you exude a quiet confidence, many people at work and in your group look to you for advice and stability. Things change decisively after the first week of the month, this is a time when people enter your sphere of influence, which can be very helpful. The more people you enroll in your agenda, the more that can be achieved. Life gets even more busy as Christmas approaches, and a new moon in your sign on the 23rd evokes a strong urge to do something radical which will affect your family life.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19

December gets off to an exciting start, and it is particularly good for your relations with friends and children. Up to mid-December, this is a very sociable period for you, and its excellent for parties, events with kids, romantic outings and all kinds of celebrations. After mid-December, a quieter period begins, and you appreciate time alone to nurture the activities and relationships which really matter. This tendency to withdraw from a very active social life continues throughout Christmas.

PISCES

February 20-March 20

Important relationships are on the line in early December, and there is considerable confusion about what people want, and what direction they want to go. With the approach of Christmas, there is a marked change of emphasis, and there is a sense that you can move on to work on ventures that were put on hold a couple of months ago. Christmas brings a lot of social activity with the arrival of a new set of friends, gathered perhaps by a partner. People have plans for you, and responsibilities pile up.

THOMMELIER

In wine, you get what you pay for!

By Thomas Brenner

Sommelier & Beverage Manager
Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club

Sure, it's not nice to label people, but when it comes to wine, that's a whole different story. It's always a great rule of thumb to know what you consume. And with the US government's approval of permitting over 60 additives to your favorite wines, it'd behoove you to get acquainted with what insidious augmentations man's hands had inserted into your next bottle of wine. Let's dig right in and shed a little light on the murky cheap (and sometimes not-so-cheap) American wine industry.

It must be said that the sad truth behind adulterating wine with additives is done, largely, to cater to the democratization of American's preferences for a consistent flavor profile. After all, wine labels do not need to show ANY nutrition facts or list their ingredients. Years ago, when my love for the wine plant and my knowledge base centering around it was still budding (no pun intended), I felt that there existed a wine conspiracy. All wines from California, sold at a certain price point, seemed to taste exactly the same! It appeared most wines boasted the same purple-hued color and sweetish disposition, regardless of origin, vintage, grape or producer. The answer lay in additives!

Not all additives are of malevolent intent nor do they always center around flavorings. A consistent style that caters to most of the American wine-guzzling masses lay



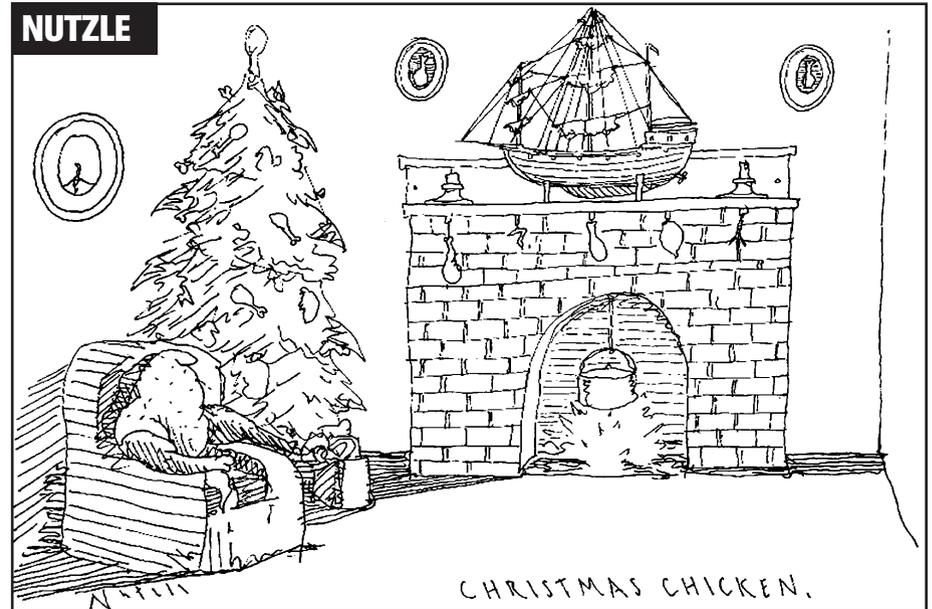
at the root of vintners playing God with your wine. It's lamentable that giving us wine drinkers what the industry thinks we want often results in just the opposite. Vermin, arthropods, fish bladders, egg whites, sulfur, mega purple, acidifiers, artificial sweeteners, coloring agents and flavoring can hit your palate alongside the liquid grape extract that you thought you were consuming. You see, we get what we pay for. Cheap wine is like eating fast food. Leave a McDonalds burger out on your sill for a month, and you'd be surprised to see that this popular treat is largely resistant to mold and discoloration. Wine is manipulated for the same reasons.

Though naturally occurring sugars from grapes, their acidity, and tannins stemming (pun intended) from the skins, pips and stems and a wine's alcohol all act as natural preservatives, our capitalistic society has employed some tricks to make a wine last longer on shelves, be consumable without aging, taste like hummingbird juice, look "great" and make a whole bunch more profit for wine brands. There's even an annual wine-additives convention in Sacramento, where brands line up to buy up literal tons of foreign ingredients to add to their wine brands. Brands' additives divisions (yes, apparently that's a thing) create additives like "Mega Purple." This solution is added to many wines we see on shelves and lends to a richer color and fruitier taste (as well as headaches and hangovers). If a wine is too sweet, a winemaker may elect to add acidifiers, and if a wine is too acidic, sweeteners may be thrown in. And worse. Anything goes.

Harvesting by mechanized means is vastly cheaper than picking grapes by hand, but it also gobbles up birds' nests, rocks, twigs, gophers, spiders, plastics and various other foreign objects you hadn't anticipated swallowing. Now, that bit of truth is hard to swallow! The "natural wine" movement aims to capitalize on the trend of healthier foods and drinks. There's no such thing as natural wine, whatsoever (except for maybe when a grape falls on the ground, its skin is ruptured, ambient yeast converts its sugars into alcohol, and you stick a straw in it). All wine is adulterated by man in some way, but less so when not mass-produced and when exuding a sense of time and place. Stay vigilant, MVV readership! ■



NUTZLE



CHRISTMAS CHICKEN.



Visitors and their dogs enjoyed holiday treats at November's used book sale behind the Hollister Library. Lots of large print and audiobooks for seniors will be available at the next sale 12/10 9AM-12PM!

#TheGoldenAge

Free iPads to seniors for Christmas

By Leanne Oliveira

Happy holidays! Enjoy this gift: My office is distributing free iPads and one year of free internet to seniors and anyone with a disability (any age). Technical workshops will also begin in December for anyone seeking to learn more about their devices. Devices come pre-installed with a variety of useful health and social media apps including TeleDoc and Libby (free audiobooks and eBooks).

The Connections, Health, Aging & Technology (CHAT) Program helps bridge the digital divide gap and mitigates social isolation among seniors. The project is funded and facilitated by the California Department of Aging, and devices are distributed by statewide Area Agencies on Aging; locally,

this is my employer, Seniors Council. For more information, email me at LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org or call 888-637-6757.

GOLDEN EVENTS

+ Dec 1, 8, 15, 22: **Virtual Tech Assistance for Seniors** presented by Cyber-Seniors occurs online every Thursday at 11AM. More information at www.cyberseniors.org. Free.

+ Dec 7 & 14: **Medicare workshops at the Gilroy Library**. Call (408) 842-8207 or visit www.SCCLD.org to RSVP. Free.

+ Dec 12: **Resource Fair at Vets Hall in Hollister**. Visit me at the Aging & Long-Term Care Commission (ALTCC) table for local senior resource directories and other goodies from 9AM-1PM. Free.

Questions? Email LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org, call (888) 637-6757, browse www.SanBenitoADRC.org, or visit my office in the Senior Center/Parks & Recreation Building at 300 West Street in Hollister. ■

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a Social Worker for the Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), and Reference Librarian (History). Contact LeanneO@seniorscouncil.org.

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For information for all older adult services, call
California Aging & Adult Information Line 1-800-510-2020

- ✓ **GROCERIES OR MEALS**, call 2-1-1 or visit www.211ca.org to connect to local food assistance and more.
- ✓ **MEDICINE OR MEDICAL ATTENTION**, call your health plan or doctor's office for help. In an emergency call 911.
- ✓ **INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICARE**, call 1-800-434-0222 for the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.
- ✓ **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**—You are not alone. Call Friendship Line CA at 1-888-670-1360 for someone to listen 24/7.
- ✓ **PROTECTION FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT:**
 - Call 1-800-231-4024, if you are living in a long-term care facility, to reach the Long Term Care Ombudsman CRISIS Line.
 - Call 1-833-401-0832, if you are living at home, to talk to Adult Protective Services.
- ✓ **PROTECTION FROM FRAUD**, call 1-877-908-3360, for AARP's Fraud Watch Network Helpline.
- ✓ **SUPPORT WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR OTHER DEMENTIAS**, call 1-800-272-3900 for the Alzheimer's Association® 24/7 Helpline.
- ✓ **GENERAL COVID-19 INFORMATION**, call the COVID Information Line at 1-833-422-4255 or visit www.covid19.ca.gov.

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