

Mission Village **VOICE**



The decent docent

**Will Chapman's living history shows
to fully engage with the present, we
should learn lessons from the past**

See page 12



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**Wishing everyone a
happy, healthy and
peaceful New Year!**



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Joseph Caetano
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Advertising Sales

Anne Caetano
acaetano@missionvillagevoice.com
annecaetano@aol.com
(917) 513-7137

Art Director

Jeff Baham

Web Developer

Luke Kerbs

Copy Editor

Wanda Guibert

Cover Art Curator

Carla Hollander

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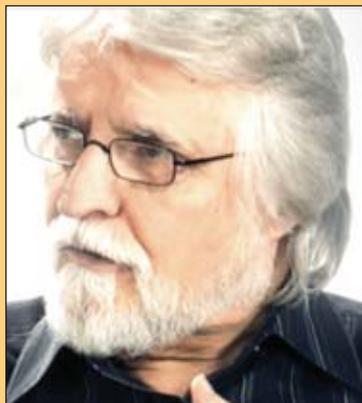
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A quote for our readers

Holiday Blessings to You and Yours

On this day of your life, I believe
God wants you to know ...

*... that happiness never derives
from power over others.*

Thomas Jefferson made that
observation and he was right.
Seek, therefore, power with,
not power over. This includes
people in the world, people in
your home, and whoever
else may be in your bed ...

The best way to experience
power (or anything) is to give it
away. Make someone else
powerful and you become twice
as powerful as you were before.

Make someone else loved and
you become twice as loved. Make
someone else feel good and you
feel twice as good. It doesn't get
any better than this.
And it's all so...simple.

—Neal Donald Walsch
www.nealedonaldwalsch.com

On the cover

"Eat Me" by artist Valentina Toma' (aka Zoe Chigi). To learn more about the artist, see page 8.

Welcome 2023



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#BOOKWORM

Poe and Popcorn

By Leanne Oliveira

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice." - T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*

Happy New Year and Happy Heavenly Birthday to Edgar Allan Poe!

My buddy and fellow Library volunteer Heatherly Takeuchi will be at Farmhouse Café from 2-4PM on 1/14 to discuss her new book "Popcorn, Cancer, and the Atomic Bomb," now available on Amazon. Join us and get some free popcorn!

Every year (sans pandemic) the Library of Congress has a "Parade of States" as part of the National Book Festival where attendees explore books from every state. This got me thinking: which genres are the most popular in every state? Of course, the Google gods quickly produced a map with a flourish and informed me that someone had already crafted a map of genres by state at . Spoiler alert: Fantasy!

If you're interested in this sort of bookwormy data, check out "The Map of Literary Genres Every Book Nerd Needs" at . Prepare to be astonished. (I'm sticking that poster version on my next Christmas wishlist!)

Finally, worth mentioning that Stan Lee would have turned 100 on December 28th. Time flies! RIP. Speaking of Spider-Man, did you know that NYC is the most common literary setting in the United States?

AUTHOR CLOCK

For those with an extra \$2,117,035 to spend on literary goods (I wish), browse kickstarter project AuthorClock.com. Thanks to #Bookworm Jennifer Coile for the tip!

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

The Gilroy Library's Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields" closes 1/23, so catch it ASAP (info at SCCLD.org). Highly recommend! Audio narration available; earbuds provided.

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

This month, catch Jane Smiley, Michael Amster, Deb Perelman, Elaine Castillo, Wallace J Nichols, and more. Visit for details.

CLUB #BOOKWORM (est. 2016)

January's book is *A Dreadful Splendor* by B Myers. As it was on a few clubber's TBR



Leanne Oliveira

shelves, it comes highly anticipated.

COZY COOKBOOK

Fellow fans of Cozy Mystery and Cooking genres will love *The Cozy Cookbook* featuring 100 recipes from mystery writers. Not a new book, but sooo much fun.

GILROY LIBRARY

Catch Daphne Miller discussing *Farmacology* on 1/8. Other goodies include free access to CreativeBug, the New York Times, board games, toolkits, and MUCH more at SCCLD.org.

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Happy National Braille Literacy Month, International Creativity Month, National Science Fiction Day (1/2), "Common Sense" Day (Paine's classic was published 1/10/1776), "I'm Afraid I Can't Do That" Day (HAL first goes online on 1/12/97 in *2001, A Space Odyssey*), Appreciate a Dragon Day (1/16), Winnie the Pooh Day (1/18), and Burns Supper/Burns Night (1/25). Birthday Babies are Louis Braille (1/4/1809), Isaac Asimov (1/2/1920), AA Milne (1/18/1882), Edgar Allen Poe (1/19/1809), and Robert Burns (1/25/1759).

LUCK LIBRARY

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Eco-friendly Book Christmas Tree by #Bookworm Annie Birdsall of Moss Landing.



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ary! Visit , call (831) 623-4687, or follow @SJBCityLibrary on FB/Instagram for goodies and downloadable + streaming content.

NEW RELEASES

Visit the Publisher's Weekly calendar for for #AllTheBooks including Prince Harry's *Spare* releasing 1/10.

PAPER & BOOK FAIRS

Tickets on sale for this year's Paper & Printing Industry Trade Fair (free) 4/1-4/2 (), California Book Fair 2/10-2/12 (), and the SF Antiquarian Book & Paper Fair Dates TBA ().

PIKE & STEIN ADAPTATIONS

Fellow Millenials, rejoice! Netflix has

adaptations of Christopher Pike's *The Midnight Club* and RL Stein's *Fear Street*.

SBC LIBRARY

Have modern (5-10 years) adult fiction or non-fiction in great shape to donate? Please call 831-205-1373, email , or bring those donations to our next used book sale behind the Library 1/14@9AM-12PM. We'll have dog treats and tea/cocoa! For current Library programming, please check the website SBCFL.org.

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

GOING POSTAL

Year of the Rabbit

The Postal Service will issue the latest Lunar New Year stamp celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. This stamp design calls to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in the dragon or lion dances often performed in Lunar New Year parades. This three-dimensional mask depicting a rabbit is a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk art crafts created



during this auspicious time of year. The rabbit mask design incorporates colors and patterns with symbolic meaning.

Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp and the pane with original art by

Camille Chew.

The Year of the Rabbit stamp is being issued in panes of 20. It will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays of the year for many Asian communities around the world and is primarily celebrated by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan, Mongolian, Malaysian and Filipino heritage. Across these varied cultures, many traditions exist for ringing in a new year of good luck and prosperity.

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



Green Business Tips

New Year – Be Green!

By Timaree Nelson

As another year kicks off, it's time to start thinking about your business's vision for 2023. Prioritizing sustainability is an amazing way to show your patrons that you care about the cause while also running your business more efficiently. We want to share some green (and often money-saving!) tips for your business to try out this year!

- Make upgrades! Switch out incandescent and CFL bulbs for LED bulbs. These save money by working more efficiently and lasting longer. Additionally, consider upgrading things like your thermostat and irrigation systems to smart versions. These technologies allow for more control in order to use the least amount of resources possible.

- Keep things running smoothly! Make sure to upkeep things like your HVAC units. Make sure to service them at least twice a year and change out the filters to keep them running most efficiently.

- Invest in reusables. Whether it's in your break room or at company events, consider investing in reusable dishes. This avoids the recurring cost and waste of using

disposable foodware.

- Electrify your business. Looking to do even more? Consider switching to an electric heat pump or investing in an electric vehicle in place of gas vehicles. Local, state and federal rebates can help with some of these changes!

- Try new things! Don't be afraid to try out new tactics. Maybe have some vegan options for company meals, start purchasing supplies in bulk from refill shops, or start up a green team in the office.

- Become a Certified Green Business! If you haven't already joined our FREE program, now is the perfect time. Enroll before January 31, 2023, to be part of our next statewide challenge, and get certified by Earth Day 2023. We provide you with one-on-one technical assistance to get your business running more efficiently and earth-friendly. If you complete certification, you will have guaranteed access to at least \$500 in rebates.

- Sign up for a free info session! Go to bit.ly/earthday23

Have any questions about our program? Feel free to reach out to learn more! Contact Saburi Sai at ssai@environmentalin.com. ■

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CITY BEAT

Communication plan in place

By Don Reynolds, City Manager

As the City starts a new year, the City Council starts on its new venture, with Councilmembers Morris-Lopez and Sabathia assuming the seats from retiring Councilmembers Edge and Flores. The City Manager is working for new bosses. I will be on my best behavior!

After serving the City for three years, I received a very constructive evaluation in November. One recommendation is expanding the City's communication efforts to include "office hours" for the City Manager. Although the City currently locks its doors after 1 PM each day, staff is working until 5 PM and gladly accepts a call to make appointments. I am offering my office hours each Monday and Tuesday before lunch as "office hours" to the community and to meet by appointment at other times when it works best for everyone.

My goal is not just more communication or different types of communication. My goal is equitable and inclusive communication. To that end, I am very happy to announce the acceptance of the long-vacant Deputy City Clerk position by Elizabeth "Liz"



Soto starting January 9, 2023. Liz will head the public information processes for the City, including a new "communication plan" that is being drafted. The Deputy City Clerk receives public requests for information, press releases, public bidding, personnel recruitments, publishes the City Council agenda and meeting notices, and takes minutes at these meetings. Liz will be supported by Office Technician Veronica Munoz-Noriega, who takes care of the website and social media. Three bi-lingual staff will greet the public on the phone and at the front counter. The City's work will be more transparent to all.

An absence of information can be as bad as disseminating wrong information. The New Year's Resolution for City Hall is better communication. Happy New Year's! ■



VUE A LA LOO

Maybe I'll hold it

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. ■

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ASK RECOLOGY

Aren't all plastics recyclable?

By Gabriella Ulloa-Rodrigues

Dear Recology,

I've always thought those little triangles on the bottoms of plastic things meant they were recyclable. Recently a friend told me this isn't true. Who's right?

— Settling the Score on San Benito

Dear Settling the Score,

Before I worked in the Zero Waste industry, I also thought that little triangle (called the "chasing arrows symbol") meant an item was recyclable. Since becoming a Waste Zero Specialist at Recology, I found out it's not that simple and that "plastic" is not a single type of material. Plastics are made from many different combinations of refined materials. Those symbols are part of the Resin Identification Code (RIC) system, created by the plastics industry in 1988. They show what kind of plastic a product is made of. This does not mean the item is recyclable. Prior to learning about this, I also thought all plastic products could be recycled.

PLASTIC RESIN IDENTIFICATION CODES

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| | | | | | | |
| PETE | HDPE | PVC | LDPE | PP | PS | OTHER |
| | | | | | | |
| Polyethylene Terephthalate | High Density Polyethylene | Polyvinyl Chloride | Low Density Polyethylene | Polypropylene | Polystyrene | Other |

Image Source: <https://oceana.org/blog/recycling-myth-month-those-numbered-symbols-single-use-plastics-do-not-mean-you-can-recycle-me/>

The reality is global market demand and recycling infrastructure determine which numbers are recyclable. Currently, the demand for plastics No. 1, 2, and 5 is high enough that they have a good chance of getting recycled. Common items in these categories include water bottles (#1), milk jugs (#2), and yogurt containers (#5). It's difficult to recycle other types of plastic, which is why plastics pose a significant problem in our society today. Although plastics 1-7 are all accepted in your curbside program, it's better to opt for recycling numbers 1, 2, and 5.

Your best bet is to shift away from single-use plastics to reusable, refillable options.

Reuse plastic items — like those black take-out containers with clear lids for leftovers — when possible. And when shopping, look for products packaged in 1s, 2s and 5s. For a complete guide to all the RIC numbers, visit <https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/plastics-by-the-numbers/>

Zero Wastingly,

Gabbie ■

Gabriella Ulloa is a Waste Zero Specialist with Recology San Benito. Do you have a question for Gabbie? Send it to gulloa@recology.com.

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SBHF NEWS**It's time to strengthen your immune system**

We are thick in the season of infections. It seems there is a brewing storm of colds, flu, Covid, RSV and other viruses, swirling around us. We know the basic actions to keep ourselves healthy like washing hands, wearing masks, getting vaccinated and staying home when we're sick. Yet there are many things we can do to strengthen our immune system and keep us healthy for the long run.

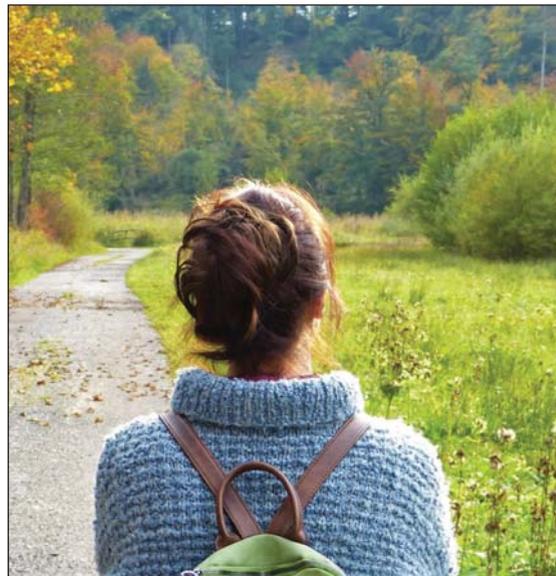
How you nourish and stimulate your body and mind play a huge role in the health and quality of your life. Here are several ways you can keep your immune system healthy and strong. The more of them you do, the better off you will be.

Eat healthy. Choose a plant-based diet, rich in vegetables & fruits, wholesome grains, healthy fats, and lean proteins.

Stay hydrated. Water is necessary for every single function of every single cell in your body. A good guideline is to drink at least 64 ounces of water throughout the day.

Be active. A sedentary lifestyle is one of the biggest risk factors for disease. Move your body with 30 minutes of aerobic activity a day and strength/balance training 3-4 times a week.

Get restful sleep. Sleep is the necessary downtime required for the restoration and repair of your mind and body. The amount of sleep one needs varies, but on average 6 to 8 hours, with 4-6 cycles of REM sleep (deepest sleep) is ideal.



Be active. A sedentary lifestyle is one of the biggest risk factors for disease.



Keep positive. Emotional well-being is a key factor in one's overall health and quality of life. Stay in touch with what gives your life meaning and keep a positive frame of mind regardless of your external circumstances.

Don't smoke. If you do, choose to break this habit in 2023.

It's not too late to get your flu shot and Covid booster vaccinations. Schedule your appointment by calling (831) 637-5306. ■

**COVER ARTIST****Valentina Toma' aka Zoe Chigi**

"I'm a freelance artist born Italian and living in Spain," said Zoe. "My first level of art education was at art high school in Carrara, Italy and the Academy

of fine art in Florentia, Italy."

"My work is quite figurative at first glance, but there are a lot of shades of surrealism and modern concepts inside - like many keys hidden in the canvas. My paintings are always very ironic."

Zoe calls herself an artist in the pop surrealism scene. Her next solo show is February 29 at Haven Gallery NY. ■

R.E.A.C.H. NEWS**Happy New Year, one and all!**

By Valerie Eglund

R.E.A.C.H. San Benito Parks Foundation

2023 will be bringing some awesome parks activities and developments to the community, so watch the VOICE for more information. San Benito County was created in 1874 when split from Monterey County, thus making the coming year the milestone of 150 years, the County of San Benito Sesquicentennial!



Grab your 2023-24 calendar! Mark March 5 as the 4th Moonlight Walk on Anza Trail! R.E.A.C.H. will again partner with BenitoLink to sponsor this beloved event. As the moon rises and the sun sets, the time is called the Golden Hour. We have some surprises this year again for the largest family group, youngest, oldest, and who knows!



Take a moonlight walk on March 5 on the Anza Trail.

Then add another resolution on New Year's Eve: find volunteer opportunities to add community involvement to your busy lives. There's little else that binds a family like doing something rather than asking for something in your community. Belonging is the gift you get back from the place you live.

R.E.A.C.H. for Parks, Paths and Trails, from the Pajaro to the Pinnacles! ■



"Fairytales Cabinet of Curiosities" by Valentina Toma' - Acrylic on canvas, 25x32 inches.

WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION NEWS

Conservation of water is a way of life

While December's rain and snow show promise, water managers remember the same thing happened last year — epic early storms followed by the driest January through March in California's recorded history.

After three dry years, all of us are hoping for some reprieve this winter. But the tough reality is, we must be prepared for this historic drought to continue.

Substantial and immediate conservation now and in the coming months will help lessen the potential severity of another year of little or no allocation from the Central Valley Project (CVP). The CVP is a system of dams and canals that moves surface water from the Sacramento Valley to other parts of state.

San Benito County accesses CVP water that is stored at San Luis Reservoir in Merced County. The San Benito County Water District pumps this water through Pacheco Pass in a pressurized pipe. This system is called the San Felipe Project. The San Felipe Project delivers imported CVP water to irrigation, municipal and industrial customers throughout northern San Benito County. Because of the drought, we received no water from this system last year.

Everyone in the Hollister-San Juan groundwater basin benefits from the imported water because the purchased water helps balance the overall water needs in the basin, is superior in quality to groundwater pumped from local aquifers, is more conducive to crop growth and vastly improves our drinking water quality.

Early drought planning and conservation



is working to help stretch our local water supply. Although earlier this year, Californians were slow to respond to drought warnings. In fact, their usage went up last spring. Californians emerged from the driest January, February and March on record with the biggest jump in water use since the drought began: a nearly 19% increase in March compared to two years earlier.

But many Californians have stepped up since then. In October, statewide urban water use dropped 12.6% compared to October of 2020.

Year to date locally, total water usage in October was 5% lower than in 2020 and 2021 and 12% lower than in 2013 despite the growth since then.

Still, the cumulative savings (only 5% compared to 2020) fall far short of Gov. Gavin Newsom's request for a 15% cut.

Water conservation is a way of life. For many Californians, it already is. The state's residents have streamlined their water use and reduced waste for decades.

Here in the Hollister - San Juan Bautista urban areas, water usage in gallons per capita per day (gpcd) remains low at 89 gpcd which is equal to what was achieved during the 2014-2017 drought. Gpcd usage has reduced 13.9% from 2020 and 7.4% from 2021. It is down 29% from 2013 and 36% from 2007 which was the highest gpcd usage year.

That is a good indication that adjustments can be made as things get drier and the population increases.

To make sure you are using water efficiently, call the Water Resources Association San Benito County (WRASBC). They can do a FREE leak check and irrigation system assessment. They also have rebates available to assist water customers be more water efficient. They recently received new funds to continue their Turf Removal Program.

Installing a water efficient garden can really assist our community in reducing our water demand. Over 50% of residential water use is dedicated to landscapes.

Stage II Water Conservation Regulations have been in effect since last May and will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. You can go to the website referenced below to view the regulations.

The WRASBC can be reached at (831) 637-4378 or visit their website at: www.wrasbc.org. ■

ANZAR NOTEBOOK

Winter activities abound at Anzar High School

By Tyler Wilken

In the month of December, Anzar students were getting ready for winter break. Not to say the time at school was not enjoyable. December 3 had the Associated Student Body on a float during the Parade of Lights that went through town. Spirit Week brought in the festive feeling with Santa hats, winter wear, flannel pajamas, and the ugliest sweaters!



Don't miss our upcoming games for our girls and boys basketball teams along with our boys and girls soccer. [1] A schedule can be found on our website and Instagram account.

Finals came up quick, happening the week before break starts.

Finally, Don't forget Hawks! Coming back there is a canned food drive happening throughout the month of January, bring in canned food to your advisor. On January 14th is the Winter Ball put together by the Seniors. Don't forget the theme and to dress for "Walkin' in a winter wonderland!" ■



Ugly sweaters and finals marked the end of December for Anzar students.



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The BenitoLink Election Forum brought community members together.

COMMUNITY

New year, more local journalism

In the blink of an eye, 2022 is over. And that means we're busy at work planning for the year ahead.

Whether you're new to BenitoLink or have been with us from the very beginning, you know that our nonpartisan and in-depth reporting fills a critical need in San Benito County. From our regular coverage of government meetings to our reporting about the people and places that matter most to you, we are committed to bringing you the news and information you need.

This year, BenitoLink was active in our community. We held two successful election forums that brought our community members together. Our primary and general election forums, held in April and in October, gave the community a chance to send in candidate questions giving voters the chance to hear answers in real time and help them vote for the candidate that spoke to their values and interests.

In May, we held our Let's Talk Local Journalism dinner with foreign correspondents Ralph Jennings and Cindy Sui. Jennings and Sui spoke about their experiences reporting from China for major news organizations. This gave an in-depth look into why reporting on a local level is important and how it plays an essential role in the community.

Playing an active role in San Benito County is important to us. That's why we're so excited to share some of the things we have planned for 2023. The funding we have raised during our Local Journalism

BenitoLink

San Benito County's News

Powered by You campaign will set us up for success in the year ahead—sustaining the kind of reporting you've come to expect from us and allowing us to set our sights even higher.

Our plans for the new year include:

More in person events, expansion of our internship program, and hiring a full time investigative staff reporter. Without you, we can't make these plans become a reality. We thank all of you who donated to BenitoLink during our fall campaign. We appreciate your support and hope you continue supporting BenitoLink, Linking San Benito County to trusted online news. Invest in BenitoLink today by making a donation at BenitoLink.com. ■



Ralph Jennings (at right) spoke about his experiences as a foreign correspondent living in China. Photo by Jenny Mendolla Arbizu



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VOICE

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS**Time for New Year's financial resolutions**

It's that time of year when many of us promise ourselves we'll go to the gym more, or learn a new language, or take up a musical instrument, or any number of other worthy goals. But this year, when making New Year's resolutions, why not also consider some financial ones?

Here are a few to consider:

- Don't let inflation derail your investment strategy. As you know, inflation was the big financial story of 2022, hitting a 40-year high. And while it may moderate somewhat this year, it will likely still be higher than what we experienced the past decade or so. Even so, it's a good idea to try not to let today's inflation harm your investment strategy for the future. That happened last year: More than half of American workers either reduced their contributions to their 401(k)s and other retirement plans or stopped contributing completely during the third quarter of 2022, according to a survey by Allianz Life Insurance of North America. Of course, focusing on your cash flow needs today is certainly understandable, but are there other

ways you can free up some money, such as possibly lowering your spending, so you can continue contributing to your retirement accounts? It's worth the effort because you could spend two or three decades as a retiree.

- Control your debts. Inflation can also be a factor in debt management. For example, your credit card debt could rise due to rising prices and variable credit card interest rate increases. By paying your bill each month, you can avoid the effects of rising interest rates. If you do carry a balance, you might be able to transfer it to a lower-rate card, depending on your credit score. And if you're carrying multiple credit cards, you might benefit by getting a fixed-rate debt consolidation loan. In any case, the lower your debt payments, the more you can invest for your long-term goals.

- Review your investment portfolio. At least once a year, you should review your investment portfolio to determine if it's still appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. But be careful not to make changes just because you feel your re-

cent performance is not what it should have been. When the financial markets are down, as was the case for most of 2022, even quality investments, such as stocks of companies with solid business fundamentals and strong prospects, can see declines in value. But if these investments are still suitable for your portfolio, you may want to keep them.

- Prepare for the unexpected. If you encountered a large unexpected expense, such

as the need for a major home repair, how would you pay for it? If you didn't have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or retirement accounts. To prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses — or a year's worth, if you're retired — with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account.

These resolutions can be useful — so try to put them to work in 2023.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Alexis Winder, AAMS®
Financial Advisor



615 San Benito Street
Suite C
Hollister, CA 95023
831-634-0694

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Cheers to a New Year!

Good luck in the year to come. We hope you get everything you wish for.



Alexis Winder, CFP®, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

615 San Benito Street
Suite C
Hollister, CA 95023
831-634-0694



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Will Chapman

By Anne Caetano

You may have seen Will Chapman while enjoying a meal at Running Rooster, his family's restaurant in Hollister. MVV had a chance to chat with Will and learn his story and his passion for history. As a docent at the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, he especially enjoys Living History Days, wearing period attire and re-living history, believing that we can better understand the present by listening to the past. What an enthusiastic recruiter!

MVV: Did you grow up here in Hollister?

WC: Yes, my dad and my stepmom moved to Hollister in 2002; before that they were living up in the Bay Area. They came down here to be closer to his folks. And when they were thinking about different business ideas, they eventually wound up with the Running Rooster.

You came down here too?

Yes, my mom moved to Fresno, so we had a Friday night "hostage exchange" at the McDonald's in Los Banos.

Where did you go to college?

I got an academic scholarship to Fresno State, which I mean, hey, a full ride is nothing to sneeze at. I got into a couple private schools, but it was 2009, and a full ride was a better option than piling up the debt. I'm glad I went there.

Then Columbia Grad School?

That's right. I jumped right in. I got a Masters in Oral History.

Meaning?

Well, it's really like what we're doing right here.

Telling your story?

Yes, it's interviewing people about things that they've experienced or done or seen. I like to tell people that it's like minting new history. If you're not writing it down yourself, somebody's got to ask you about it, so that's what we were doing.

Any period?

I was just a general history major at Fresno State. But they had a program run by one of the journalism professors, a very nice man named Gary Rice who did veterans interviews. It is something that he had been doing for years.

It was right around that time when many of the WWII vets were either

gone or close to it; they were getting really old. The idea was to preserve that experience and that knowledge. So they took us undergrad students and gave us a recorder, and we just started cold calling these guys and finding ones who wanted to talk.

These interviews led you to Oral History?

I was 22, and I wanted to stay in school. I was thinking about getting a PhD because my mother and my stepfather are professors. And I thought, "I don't want to commit to a 7-year PhD program right now because



that sounds insane. So, I'll go for the MA and see if I can get work with it," and the opportunity to move to New York was very tempting.

After Columbia?

I got the degree, and then I was hitting that job question again. You know, now I'm 24/25, and it's time to get a job. So, I started teaching at a small college in Fresno called Fresno Pacific University. I was a lecturer.

And what did you lecture?

History. I did a lot of what they call modern history -- basically world history after 1500, some ancient history, and American history.

Back to school?

After I did that for a few years, I thought I should get serious. I should go get the PhD, bite that bullet, and go back to school because it's the only way that you can ever make any decent money teaching at the university level.

I decided I'm going to try it, so I called up all my old grad school professors, and I got some letters. I had it all set up. I went and took the GRE again, and I nailed it. I was thoroughly mediocre on the math, but I got a 169/170 score on the verbal portion.

Impressive.

I was feeling good. I started doing the applications, and then I got dumb again because I was telling myself, "Your mom and stepdad basically got you that teaching job; you didn't earn that. They worked at the university where you went to school, knew people in town, etc."

I know I got the scholarship on my own, but still I felt like I hadn't been independent at all, like I hadn't earned anything on my own. That's

why I'm saying I got stupid because I decided to do all these grad school applications on my own without asking my parents for their help or advice except for some very limited things. I was like, "You're almost 30. Be a man; figure this out on your own. And so, I was filling them out and I sent in all my applications. There is a privacy law that mandates that if you want, you can read the letters that have been given to you, and it's a little checkbox on the applications.

The letters of recommendation?

Yes, you have a right to read them, and all these applications are digital, and they all have that box at the end of the application to check if you want to invoke your right to read the letters. And I thought, "Why not?" I clicked Yes for all of them. I applied to Stanford, Irvine, USC and Berkeley. I was feeling good, good scores, work history, Columbia, but I checked that *@#% box on all those applications.

I'm on the edge of my seat.

One after the other, they came back flat rejections, no interview, no email. Just, "You are not being considered."

WHAT???

I was talking to my mom, and she didn't get it. Somehow, I mentioned that I had checked the box and she just put her head in her hands and was like, "Why didn't you ask me? Never ever do that."

Why?

It's all done by committee, and she told me you never do that because it tells the committee that you don't trust the people that are writing your letters. That's the way it is interpreted.

PEOPLE, DO NOT CHECK THE BOX.

Yes, do not check the damn box.

How did you feel after that?

I was busted up. It was a bad year. The last

Continued, next page



Will Chapman, continued

two months of 2019 really sucked.

And then you go into COVID.

November 2019, my long-time relationship flew into a million pieces, in a very dramatic way.

OH, NO!

It was no fun at all, and my family got all tied up in it too. No fun at all.

OH, NO AGAIN!

The next month all the PHD rejection letters come back, and I am sitting on my hands back in my apartment. And then a couple of months later COVID hit, and it was like the apocalypse for restaurants, and Dad said, "We don't know how this is going to go and we need some help, and you need something to do. Why don't you move home and come work for the Rooster?"

And Congratulations! Running Rooster is SBC Chamber's Small Business of the Year!

Yes, my dad was really touched. It is very much a group effort; a lot of people work really hard. Our Chef Lance Ramhurst is the glue, and he has completely redone our menu. Dad put it better than I can, but we really have our staff to thank. They made it happen; they deserve the credit.

You are a part of Living History Days at the State Park in SJB?

Yes! I am a docent and on the 1st Saturday of every month, we put on our period attire,

"[Oral History] is the act of interviewing people about things that they've experienced or done or seen. I like to tell people that it's like minting new history."

and we talk to the tourists. I like explaining to all the little kids. They think that stuff is cool, especially the blacksmith shop. And right now, we're looking for more volunteers, so if folks would like to sign up, they should come on by on a first Saturday and see what it's all about! Attire can be provided, and it's a lot of fun if you have a love for history and want to share that love with all the people who come to check out San Juan Bautista. San Juan is really unique in California for how much history is accessible here, and it's important that we try to make the most of that.

What does history do for you?

It's perspective for your life and others. It's a way of understanding the present by listening to the past. There's always more to learn, more to immerse yourself in. And it's fun! ■

Share with us.

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

Mission Village VOICE

EDUCATION**San Benito County of Education continues removing barriers to education**

In recognition and support of National Homelessness Awareness month, the San Benito County of Education (SBCOE) gave away 200 Safeway gift cards and duffel bags to students who are identified under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The items were distributed to students attending Aromas San Juan School Unified District, Hollister School Elementary School District, San Benito High School District and Southside Elementary School District. Students who are part of the Migrant Education Program at San Andreas Continuation School were also provided with gift cards. The Safeway gift cards were donated by the Community Food Bank who has been making a difference in the lives of our at-promise youth through SBCOE outreach events.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that children who are considered homeless or in-transition have the same educational rights and protection as all other school children. The term homeless children and youth means "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." In San Benito County, there are



an estimated 350 homeless children and youth who are identified by school districts. The San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE) provides support and resources to the 11 school districts in the county and the SBCOE Alternative Education Programs to implement McKinney-Vento. Technical assistance and training are available to the district homeless liaisons and other staff who are involved in working with homeless children and youth.

"For young people experiencing homelessness, access to basic needs and food during this time of the year has been challenging", said Gwen Baquiran, SBCOE

Director of Student Services and Foster/Homeless County Lead. "Our goal is to continue this outreach to support all our at-promise youth including migrant students, foster youth and students experiencing homelessness with the help of community partners and donors".

San Benito students in foster care received school backpacks during SBCOE's Back To School Resource Fair in August and My Stuff® Duffel bags this holiday. The My Stuff® Bags Foundation has donated 180 duffel bags to San Benito students who are in foster care, experiencing homelessness or are migrant. My Stuff® Bags are individual, mid-sized duffels filled with age and gender appropriate, brand-new necessities such as clothing, school supplies and toiletries and comforts including toys, books, a stuffed animal, and a blanket, often handmade. The bags offer necessities and comfort items to students in crisis or in transition.

County Superintendent of Schools Krystal Lomanto is very grateful to the Community Food Bank and My Stuff® Bag Organization for their generosity and partnership. "Partnerships like these bring the entire commu-

nity together to support the education and wellbeing of the students and families in San Benito County, fulfilling some of the unmet needs of these students' families. It takes the entire community to raise our students", commented Superintendent Lomanto.

Additionally, SBCOE rolled out Project Access this school year. This project is intended to give students in foster care or those experiencing homelessness access to additional services and supports to help remove educational barriers. Services include access to academic support such as after school tutorial and summer enrichment activities, access to temporary hotel accommodations, access to health/safe care and training for school staff and parents to heighten the understanding of students' challenges and identify and remove barriers to education.

To learn more about Project Access, please contact SBCOE Education Services Department or visit www.sbcoe.org. ■





Then (above left): The Japanese School/JACL Hall at 708 First Street circa 1930s; Now (above right): JACL as it appears today.

Then... and Now: The Japanese School/JACL Hall at 708 First Street

By Wanda Guibert, San Juan Bautista Historical Society

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Hall, home of the San Benito County Chapter, has long been on our list of potential Then and Now topics. Unfortunately, our archives did not include a vintage photo. However, in late November, we purchased the Then photo from an eBay seller in Australia, just about as far away as can be. We guesstimate this photo to be from the late 1930s.

The Then photo is the work of American photographer Burton Frasher (1888-1955). Frasher's photos, mostly published as postcards, provided historical context for life in the West from the 1920s-1950s. The inset photos of the JACL Hall interior were taken by American photographer

and photojournalist Russell Lee (1903-1986), best known for his work for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) during the Great Depression. His images, archived in the Library of Congress, document the ethnography of various American classes and cultures.

In an article entitled "Highlighting the 80th anniversary of the founding of the JACL Chapter" which appeared in the May 11, 2015 issue of *Pacific Citizen*, the national newsletter of the JACL, David Unruhe writes that the Issei (Japanese immigrants) began arriving in the County in the early part of the 20th century as agricultural workers. Eventually, they married, began families, and then bought farms in the names of their Nisei children (born in the US to Japanese im-

144TH ANNIVERSARY PAGEANT

San Benito County Citizens League to Enter Colorful Float at Mission City

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, June 18—The San Benito County Citizens League will enter a float in the 144th anniversary pageant of the Mission San Juan Bautista mission this Sunday. To be colorfully bedecked with a theme of the old mission days, the JACL entry is expected to be one of the feature attractions of

the annual pageant.

Preparing for the project are several committees headed by Dick Nishimoto and consisting of the following members: finance, Matsuko Taoka, Takeichi Kadani; construction, Tatsumi Teshima, Masao Nishita, Kay Kamimoto and Hank Omoto.

New World, Sunday 19 June 1941.



Above, and next page: Japanese American women preparing for a picnic. Photo credits: Kurasaki Collection

migrants). The peak years for the San Benito Japanese American community were from 1900-1940, when farm ownership was at its highest, and there was a Nisei baby boom.

The first Japanese schoolhouse was located in a small board and batten building extant behind a residence at 45 Washington Street. Originally constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, it was likely a residence or outbuilding. In approximately 1915, the Japanese population adopted it for their school and community hall. Read more about it in the May 2022 issue of *Mission Village Voice*.

Before long, a larger building was needed to accommodate the growing community. In 1935 the JACL hall was built for about \$26,000 at 708 First Street, the same year that some of the older Nisei founded the local JACL chapter. Originally known as the "Friendship Society," the local Japanese community assessed \$1 annual dues and decided to join the national JACL. The Hall is located just around the corner from the San Juan Bautista Community Hall, also constructed in the Mission Revival Style about a decade earlier. The proximity of these two buildings suggests the acceptance of the Japanese by the greater population of San Juan Bautista at that time.

The 1981 Historic Resources Inventory describes the building as follows: a single story, rectangular, wood frame and stucco building on a concrete foundation with a deeply recessed entrance porch, approached by a 6-step low stair-



case. The façade has an undulating cornice line and is framed by 2 large horizontal extended simple surface pilasters. A large horizontal rectangular embossed panel is located over the entrance, and 2 narrow vertical embossed panels are framed just inside the corner pilasters. These panels have circular cut corners that reflect the Mission Revival style. The sides have small buttresses, simple sash-type windows, plain vertical doors, and unadorned surfaces that extend the Mission-style flavor.

The Hall provided a site for many purposes: San Benito Gakuen (school), JACL office and meeting place, San Juan Howakai/Watsonville Buddhist Church, theater for samurai movies, gathering place for social events such as picnics and dances, and eventually public service projects such as raising funds for the Hazel Hopkins Hospital in Hollister. An article in The Japanese Diaspora Initiative at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives states that in 1937, about 300 people attended the first annual "shibai," a dramatic or musical performance at the Hall. The JACL was active in the community and sponsored a Boy Scout Troop, a 4CAA Baseball league team called Mikasa, entered floats in Fiesta Rodeo parades, hosted Christmas parties, and more.

The school continued to serve the Japanese American children of San Juan Bautista and the San Juan Valley until the forced relocation of local Japanese American families to Camp Poston near Parker, Arizona. A March

1942 issue of the *San Juan Mission News* states that the Hall was then used as a clearinghouse for the disposition of evacuee's farms and equipment during their internment. The San Benito JACL Chapter continued to function while at Poston. Prior to their incarceration, there were about 80 families

in the San Juan Bautista region. Only about 20 families returned, and the JACL Hall then served temporarily as a hostel until families could return to their homes.

At this point, the Hall continued as a site for JACL-related cultural and social activities but not as an educational facility. Before the war, Japanese schools had been an important part of Japanese American communities because many felt it critical for their children to maintain their cultural identities and language. During the years after the war, however, there was more of an emphasis on assimilation; therefore, there was a decline in Japanese schools. This was certainly the case in San Juan Bautista. Nonetheless, the Hall remained an important center for the Japanese community and continues to be utilized for JACL-related activities and fundraisers such as the annual pre-Covid Bingo games; funds raised helped cover insurance, taxes, and general maintenance. Read more about the Bingo fundraiser in the April 2017 issue of *Mission Village Voice*.

The JACL Hall is one of the few physical reminders of the contribution of Japanese Americans to the development of the San Juan Valley and

San Benito JACL Plans for Xmas

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, Nov. 18—As its major activity for the remainder of the year, the San Benito County JACL will hold a Christmas party for the children of this region on the tentative date of Dec. 23 at the local gakuen hall.

Further details concerning the affair will be discussed at the regular meeting of the Board of Governors. At this time the committees appointed by the president will report the number of children residing in the county.

Those on this committee are: Masao and George Nishita, San Juan district; E. Matsuura, Hank Omoto, Sugi Shimonishi, Hollister.

The annual election of officers will be held at the next regular meeting of the chapter. Members who will serve on the nomination board are: Jame Sugioka, Jack Shimonishi, Edwin Matsuura, George Nishita, and Takeichi Kadani.

New World, Sunday 19 November 1939.



JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

of their continued presence in San Juan Bautista from the late 19th century to the present. Evelyn "Cookie" Nishita Hibino initiated a fund with the San Juan Bautista Historical Society to launch the Japanese Americans of the San Juan Valley project so we can document and share their story. We are interested in family trees, family photos, family stories, memorabilia. Please contact us at sjbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or phone 524-1605 or 623-2001. ■

Before the war, Japanese schools had been an important part of Japanese American communities because many felt it critical for their children to maintain their cultural identities and language. During the years after the war, however, there was more of an emphasis on assimilation; therefore, there was a decline in Japanese schools. This was certainly the case in San Juan Bautista.

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

CR Gonzales

By Anne Caetano

If your New Year's resolution includes spending more time outside with family or friends – on fun, inexpensive local activities -- consider disc golf! MVV met with CR Gonzales, whose love of disc golf inspired the new 9-hole disc golf course on Vista Park Hill in Hollister and formed San Benito Disc Golf Club. The course benefits not only disc golf players but also the entire community since this project has resulted in new bathrooms, oak trees, and a safer, more family-friendly, recreational environment. Visit San Benito Disc Golf Club on Facebook or email CR at Motoman260W@pacbell.net.

MVV: How did you pull this off?

CR: I had been looking for a place to put a disc golf course for a few years when Robin Pollard approached me and said, "Why don't you put a course on Vista Hill Park?" I said, "Yes, that would be great." She purchased all the baskets out of her own personal funds, and I purchased all the other equipment. We then formed a plan to put in a course up on the hill.

When did this happen?

The planning began around April 2021. And we celebrated our 1-year anniversary December 4, 2022.

How did you set up the course?

I met with a professional course designer named Leonard Muise. He has designed many courses in the bay area including the

course in Stockton, where the pros play each year. We put the whole plan together, and we presented it at a City Council meeting. The City assigned it to Tina Garza, the head of Parks and Recreation; she loved the idea and was on board immediately. The City was also on board and happy with it, and they offered to purchase all our T signs.

And stunning views!

Yes, it's amazing. The sunsets up there are beautiful. We have made many improvements in the park, and we organize cleanup days with the help of The Hollister Litter Project. We have noticed a lot more foot traffic since the cleanup, and it's a much more family-friendly place. The City also installed new bathrooms. Graniterock donated some oak trees and promised to give



us more trees every six months, as long as we take care of them. We want to thank them for their generosity.

How is it played?

It is like ball golf, only with discs. It can be played solo or in a group.

Like a Frisbee?

Yes, there are different molds and weights of discs that fly differently when thrown, like ball golfers would use different clubs for different shots. Most players have 12 to 30 discs in their bag.

Are there discs up on Vista Park Hill for newbies?

Not yet. The City is working on a loaner disc program. You can purchase discs at Big Five in Hollister.

How many players on Vista Park Hill?

Our Facebook page has 199 followers, and we have at least 15 people who play at least two to three times a week. A couple of them play almost every day. It's free, and anybody can play

What is the average age?

Probably 30's. I know a lot of senior citizens that play, too. One of our members, a teacher at Cerra Vista, received a grant for a bunch of disc golf baskets and supplies for his school, so now they are teaching disc golf at the school as P.E. curriculum. And we now have a Disc Golf Club at Hollister High School. It really is a sport for all ages. We have mostly males; we want to get more females involved.

Any other plans for disc golf in San Benito County?

Yes, there will also be a disc golf course at the new regional park.

Are there new players coming in?

We published our course on an app called UDisc, which lists all the disc golf courses throughout the world. We've had quite a few new people up there that have found our course on the app.

Other courses nearby?

Yes, there are courses in Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Monterey, San Jose and the valley. The reason I started this was because I didn't like having to drive 40 minutes each way to play. This is definitely a way for me to give back to my community and promote what I love.

How long has disc golf been around?

It started in the 1930's with people hitting targets with pie tins, but the modern game really took hold in the 1970's. One of the biggest in-



novators was Ed Headrick, the father of modern disc golf from Watsonville.

Watsonville? Wow!

Yes, Ed Headrick, better known as Steady Eddie, helped develop this sport. He started a company in Watsonville (DGA) that makes baskets and all the gear you need. They are now a large corporation. DGA golf has been a lot of help to us.

Why do you love disc golf?

I love competition and compete in 8 or 9 tournaments a year. I've gotten to know many wonderful people playing this sport, and we have become great friends. I also love playing with my family.

If you wish to donate, you can donate through PayPal. All donations, monetary or material, would be greatly appreciated. ■





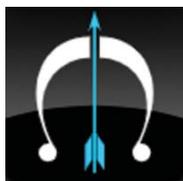
MoonX

MoonX is another astrology app for the moon obsessed. This Moon Phase Calendar provides you with a way to keep track of the moon, along with affirmations, insights into how the moon is impacting you, and your birth chart.



Time Nomad

Time Nomad is, simply put, doing the most. This app allows you to store different people's birth-chart information, track current transits, and make synastry charts. It also allows you to create widgets on your home screen with birth chart and planetary information for easy access and consultation. It's for people at all levels of astrological practice, although the detailed information may be better suited to less casual users.



What's App?

Apps are small software programs available for your mobile device, smartphone, and tablet. You can usually find them in a dedicated "store" on your device.



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Were you raised by wolves?

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REMEMBERING

IN MEMORY

Angela "Angie" Lopez

August 4, 1927 - November 22, 2022

Born in San Pedro, California; Resided in San Juan Bautista

Angela "Angie" Lopez departed this earth peacefully at the home of her daughter with her children and grandchildren at her side on November 22, 2022 at the age of 95. She was born on August 4, 1927 to Rosa and Martin Perez. Angie was married to the love of her life, the late Nicholas "Nick" Lopez for over 55 years. Together they raised six children: Marie Rodriguez (deceased) Santa Maria, Ca., Rose Torres (John) Upland, Ca., Christine Magano (Angelo) Dos Palos, Ca., Bob Lopez (Laura), Patsy Patino (Joey), Stephanie Sanchez (Frank), Hollister and Frank Perez (Carmen) of San Juan Bautista. She is also survived by brother in law Joe Haro and sister in law Fidencia Candelaria of Hollister. She is also survived by 20 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, 12 great, great, grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Angie worked for the Fairview/Tri Valley Growers for many years, was a private caregiver, and volunteered much of her free time to the Old Mission San Juan Bautista, which she deeply cherished and through which she made many lifetime friends along the way. She had a passion for reading, and enjoyed reading the San Jose Mercury News, The Chronicle, and especially The Voice. She took pleasure in riding the County bus weekly into Hollister, to go shopping at her favorite K-Mart store, Safeway, and Target. Whenever possible, Angie attended her family and friends' functions and was forever showered with much love and affection. Angie was a very social person and was known for walking downtown San Juan Bautista everyday, stopping by to greet the merchants and picking up or dropping off their mail over the years. She adored all the people of her little town. Her positive attitude and cheerful smile will be greatly missed by many. Several of us were blessed

enough to have taken away cherished sentiments and advice from Angie over the years. Among some of them were, "Go ahead and have a glass or two of wine or a Blue Hawaiian" (one of her favorite drinks); "Don't forget to laugh at yourself"; "When you can't hear very well, just fill in the blanks," and most of all, "Dance and be happy."

Friends may visit Black Cooper Sander on Tuesday, December 6 from 2:00-8:00 PM. The Rosary will be recited at 6:00PM

Funeral Services will be Wednesday, December 7 at Mission San Juan Bautista at 10:30 AM. Graveside services will follow at San Juan District Cemetery. A reception will follow at the V.F.W. Hall. ■

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May Your Holidays be Merry and Bright
From the staff of Mission Village Voice

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE

Community Bulletin Board

San Benito County Arts Council announces requests for qualifications for Highway 25 Utility Box Mural Project in Hollister

The San Benito County Arts Council seeks local artists or artist teams to submit their qualifications to create and install a site-specific mural on one of five utility boxes along Highway 25 in Hollister, California. This project is part of a State Highway Beautification Project, sponsored by the California Department of Transportation and the Clean California Program.

Launched by Governor Newsom as part of his California Comeback Plan, Clean California is investing \$1.1 billion for state and local governments to clean up trash and debris statewide, beautify community gateways and public areas along highways, streets and roads, and to provide good jobs to thousands of Cali-

fornians.

This Clean California Beautification Project is located along Highway 25 near the east entrance to Pinnacles National Park, in the community of Hollister, in San Benito County. This bypass route serves as the "main street" through multiple residential neighborhoods, and retail and industrial developments. This project is an opportunity to soften the stark appearance of the many sound walls along this corridor by adding landscaping to increase shade and reduce urban heat island effects, to suppress weeds and discourage graffiti, and to add seasonal color, resulting in a more aesthetically pleasing, vibrant and comfortable pedestrian and bicycling environment. It is also an opportunity to add aesthetic and artistic elements which enhance pedestrian scale and create a more distinctive community identity which highlights the cultural heritage of the area.

The San Benito County Arts Council and Caltrans have commissioned artist James Peterson of Art Con-



Phillip Ray Orabuena paints a utility box in Hollister.

traptions to create and install a site-specific outdoor sculpture at the corner of Meridian St. and Highway 25. The sculptural piece will be installed in Spring 2023 and will include aesthetic elements that reflect and enhance community identity, as well as integrate with the overall goal of this Caltrans project to beautify the route and encourage pedestrian and bicycle usage for local residents and visitors. As part of this beautification project, the project team is currently seeking local artists/artist teams to create and install 5 Utility Box Murals along this stretch of highway between Santa Ana Rd. and Sunnyslope Rd.

The budget for this project is \$1,500 per Utility Box and is funded through Clean California.

Interested artist applicants are encouraged to attend a virtual Artist Workshop on Thursday January 5th at 5 pm hosted by the Arts Council to review the submission process and help artists prepare a successful application. Attendees may register for the free online event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/artist-applicant-workshop-utility-box-mural-project-tickets-490511863187>

All applications to the RFQ must be submitted online via the San Benito County Arts Council's website at <https://www.sanbenitoarts.org/call-for-artists-utility-box-mural-project/>. The deadline for the online submittal is 11:59 pm on Sunday, January 15th and final selected artists will be notified by January 20th.

For more information, please contact the Jennifer Laine, Executive Director, at 831.636.2787 or at info@sanbenitoarts.org

The Gilroy Assistance League is accepting grant requests beginning January 5 through February 24

Each year, Gilroy Assistance League accepts grant requests that will benefit youth organizations, programs, and schools. Any South Santa Clara County youth-related organization or school is eligible to apply for a grant. Funds will be distributed in late April 2023.

The Gilroy Assistance League is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the welfare and development of youth in South Santa Clara County through their annual grant cycle. Proceeds from their Annual Home + Garden Tour & Boutique fund these grants. Since 1993, GALs has distributed over

\$360,000 in grants to local programs.

According to Gilroy Assistance League President, Lori Kent, "In 2022, the Gilroy Assistance League was thrilled to award over \$21,000 in grants to eight very-deserving organizations. But the news gets better... in 2023 we are increasing our giving by 50%. We're projecting to grant over \$31,000! That's quite an increase and all due to the incredible generosity of our Annual Home & Garden Tour supporters, sponsors, and participants."

"We're calling on youth organizations throughout South Santa Clara County," explains GALS Grants Committee Chair Paula Goldsmith. "Think of the wish list you have for your organization. Is limited funding keeping your goals from becoming reality? Gilroy Assistance League grants can provide youth-oriented organizations with an opportunity to fund an existing need or expand outreach or services. If your mission meets our criteria, please consider applying."

A formal grant request proposal must be completed and returned no later than Friday, February 24, 2023. An application form may be downloaded from the website at www.gilroyassistanceleague.org. For more information, contact Gilroy Assistance League Grants Chair, Paula Goldsmith at paulagold@charter.net.

Email: atroty941@gmail.com

Subject: Gilroy Assistance League Accepting Grant Requests for 2023

Arts Council announces Winter Session Art Classes for Youth at the Art Depot in Downtown Hollister

The San Benito County Arts Council is now enrolling students in Winter Session Art Classes. All classes take place at the Art Depot, 35 5th St., Ste D, in downtown Hollister. Winter Session begins the first week of January and includes art classes and workshops for youth in a variety of different media. Classes offered are:

Theatre 101 (ages 9-13), with Olivia Loupe, weekly Mondays, 4:30-6:00 PM

Youth Art Studio 1 (ages 5-7), with Danae Parra, weekly Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm

Youth Art Studio 2 (ages 8-10), with Danae Parra, weekly Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm

Youth Art Studio 2 (ages 8-10), with Clay Peer, weekly Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm

Youth Art Studio (ages 11-teens) with Clay Peer, weekly Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 pm

Creating with Clay (ages 7-12), with Stephanie Skow, weekly Thursdays, 3:00-4:30 pm

To register online or to view the full class schedule and descriptions, please visit <https://sanbenitoarts.eventbrite.com>

Art Class scholarships are available for qualifying students. The Arts Council is an Ocean Grove approved vendor.

All classes are taught by professional teaching artists and continue in month long sessions, unless otherwise noted, beginning the first week of the month. Other workshops will be announced soon. For more information about the Winter Art Classes or to inquire about scholarships, please email heidi@sanbenitoarts.org or contact the Arts Council at 831.636.2787.

Community Art Classes are presented by the San Benito County Arts Council as part of their Community Art Education Program and are made possible with the support of the California Arts Council, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, United Way and Monterey Peninsula Foundation. ■



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TRAINING DATES

- January 7, 2023
- January 14, 2023
- January 21, 2023
- January 28, 2023

VOLUNTEER OVERVIEW

- Our volunteers can help taxpayers capture special tax credits for which they may qualify for
- Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.
- Many volunteers return year after year; they find the experience very rewarding and see immediate benefit



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CELESTIAL EVENTS



January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower. The Quadrantids is an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust



Meteor Shower

grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1, which was discovered in 2003. The shower runs annually from January 1-5. It peaks this year on the night of the 3rd and morning of the 4th. This year the

nearly full moon will block out most of the fainter meteors. But if you are patient you may still be able to catch a few good ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

January 6 - Full Moon in Cancer. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the

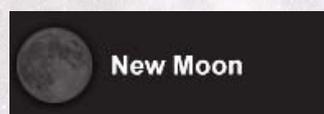


Full Moon

Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 23:09 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry

wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been known as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule.

January 21 - New Moon in Aquarius. The Moon will be located on the same side of the



New Moon

Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 20:55 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.

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

VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Pay heed to the 'supers'

By Halina Kleinsmith

Who are these super beings?

Friends recently relayed how their own beautiful glide into 'the golden years' has met with impolite observations about aging. Instead of getting annoyed, they've decided to counteract with a simple, verbal attitude adjuster.

Apparently, decades-younger neighbors appear at their door without solicitation, wanting to assist them. Though probably well intended, their effort was carried out lacking a background of grace and sensitivity.

As business owners, these friends still work full time, travel, run a household, and have an active social life. One day, the young neighbors came by, insisting they haul empty garbage cans back up the driveway because, as they boldly stated out loud, they thought of the couple as old, and in need of a hand.

Being blessed with great senses of humor and loads of life experience, their reply was 'we're not old, we're 'super!'

This has become their new go to adjective, applied to any conversation regarding those in the 70 + category.

I saw their point, as it illustrated how sim-

ply calling a person of advanced years 'super' instead of old, can serve to change another's mindset and assumptions about those in their senior years.

When you say 'old', even the word seems to drag out its tremulous vowel, and end on a low note. Conversely, saying 'super' hits a high note in the middle, and purrs at the end.

Our world is full of supers, including current leaders of nations and industries.

These supers apply lifetimes of experience and shared learned perspectives with their communities, and continue service in high level positions. In accomplishing great things, they are non ageist when it comes to dealing with those much younger than themselves.

In growing up, it wasn't unusual for a super to call you kid or kiddo in a sweet way, knowing that you're a child. But if you were called a young lady or a young man by a super, you felt it to be a huge compliment, recognizing your ability to be more mature than just a kid or a baby.

There are child prodigies and there are youthful centenarians. There are youngsters who seem to have old souls, and supers who seem perennially young at heart.

In the spirit of non-compartmentalization, here's a wish that we continue to pay heed to the supers in our lives, and recognize so many others out there to whom we can say, "Hey, you're super!" ■

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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | JANUARY 2023

Calendar

SUNDAY JANUARY 1

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE CELEBRATES 8 YEARS! Thank you to our advertisers, contributors and readers for all your support throughout the years!

SUNDAY JANUARY 1

2023 NEW YEAR'S DAY RENEWAL HIKE 10am. Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area. Family friendly 1.5 miles. Parking \$5. Dogs on leash welcome. Visit Hills@parks.ca.gov

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

FRIDAY JANUARY 6

FULL MOON IN CANCER

SATURDAY JANUARY 7

BOY SCOUTS SJB - CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP Donations accepted by Venmo @BSA-Troop-428 or mail check to BSA Troop 428, 14 Lang St., San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

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

SUNDAY JANUARY 8

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF ARETHA FRANKLIN Carmel Sunset Center. Visit sunsetcenter.org

MONDAY JANUARY 9

SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH-CARE & 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 JANUARY 11

RICHARD MARX IN CONCERT Goldenstate Theatre, Monterey. Visit goldenstatetheatre.com

FRIDAY JANUARY 13 -
SUNDAY JANUARY 15

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

SATURDAY JANUARY 14

ACOUSTIC GUITARIST CHRIS OLSEN & VOCALIST JANIS CERSI SOFT ROCK 1-4pm. Solis Winery, 3920 Hercker Pass, Gilroy. Info Becky 669.274.6568

HEATHERLY T BOOK SIGNING "POPCORN, CANCER AND THE ATOMIC BOMB" 2-4pm. Farmhouse Café. 615 San Benito St., Hollister. heatherly@takeuchi.org

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

CHAMBER MUSIC MONTEREY BAY - BRENTANO QUARTET WITH DAWN UPSHAW SOPRANO Carmel Sunset Center. Visit sunsetcenter.org

QUITTER'S DAY CELEBRATION 11am-10pm. We're celebrating quitting our New Year's resolutions. Providing a day you can indulge with all-you-can-eat sweets. Visit thegardenshoppeandbar.com

RECOLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL DAY - 3 FREE SERVICES FOR SBC RESIDENTS! Brigantino Park, 2100 San Juan Hollister Rd, Hollister. Visit RecologySanBenito.com or 831.636.7500



Wednesday, January 11

RICHARD MARX IN CONCERT Goldenstate Theatre, Monterey. Visit goldenstatetheatre.com



Sunday, January 1

2023 NEW YEAR'S DAY RENEWAL HIKE 10am. Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area. Family friendly 1.5 miles. Parking \$5. Dogs on leash welcome. Visit Hills@parks.ca.gov

SATURDAY JANUARY 14 -
SUNDAY JANUARY 15

POULTRY SHOW AKA CHICKEN SHOW Bolado Park, Tres Pinos

MONDAY JANUARY 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE- ELDERBERRY PLANTING ON NYLAND PROPERTY 12pm. Register www.sanbenitolandtrust.org/ranch-days.

TUESDAY JANUARY 17

ECO FARM 2023 -REAL ORGANIC - STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES 10am-5pm. Keynot Speaker Paul Hawken. 12 dynamic organic farmers & leaders speak. Visit realorganicsymposium.org

FRIDAY JANUARY 20

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

SATURDAY JANUARY 21

RECOLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL DAY - 3 FREE SERVICES FOR SBC RESIDENTS! 100 Nyland Drive, San Juan Bautista. Visit RecologySanBenito.com or 831.636.7500

NEW MOON IN AQUARIUS

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

SUNDAY JANUARY 22
LUNAR NEW YEAR

SATURDAY JANUARY 28

MISSION 10 RACE IN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Mission10.com

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER: SONGS WE LOVE Carmel Sunset Center. Visit Sunsetcenter.org

SUNDAY JANUARY 29

CARMEL MUSIC SOCIETY - GRYPHON PIANO TRIO Carmel Sunset Center. Visit Sunsetcenter.org

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 RID 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

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

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

COMMUNITY

Veteran murals appear in Hollister

Situated south-east of San Jose, the city of Hollister is more often associated with agriculture and motorcycle rallies than a bustling art scene. However, if you look hard enough while driving throughout the city you might notice a splash of color breaking up the otherwise earth-toned streets. Adorning the walls of local businesses, and several pieces of city infrastructure, are bold murals depicting visages of everything from local farming and agriculture to memorials honoring our military veterans.

Phillip Orabuena is the Hollister station's newest Rural Carrier Assistant, and with only 3 months on the job, already making big waves using his painting prowess to engage with his coworkers. "Coming from the Marines, safety and teamwork are huge for me so I asked my postmaster if I could paint a sign to make sure our carriers come home safe," says Orabuena with a smile on his face. "I don't think he expected this."

Orabuena's love of painting started way before he ever threw a satchel over his shoulder. "I've been drawing since before I can remember," he says thoughtfully. "When I was a kid, I would send letters to Thrasher magazine and draw all over the envelope hoping they would publish my artwork in the next issue."

In March of 2003, Orabuena started bootcamp with the



US Marine Corps, and quickly became known at the "artist recruit" creating small art pieces for his drill instructors. Throughout his military career, he would stencil t-shirts for his company, paint gyms and Officer's Clubs, and even design tattoos. After spending an extra year in Iraq, beyond the end of his tour, Corporal Orabuena returned home and started planning his next move.

Reacclimating into civilian life after military service is something every veteran goes through. Orabuena has not only found a home with the US Postal Service but used his talent as an artist to honor his time in the military. "It was 2009, and I had asked the mayor of Hollister if I could paint a veteran's mural on a city owned retaining wall," says Orabuena. "Hollister is a small town so there was no public policy yet that dealt with this type of art. The mayor approved my sketches and I got to work. I think that was the beginning of a public art policy in Hollister."

There is an unspoken rule amongst street artists and taggers that you don't paint graffiti over a mural. For most

there is a certain respect for murals and their artists since they most often depict cross-sections of their own community. "I've painted 10 public murals and a few private ones for businesses," says Orabuena. "I would see a wall that was covered in graffiti and ask the business owner if they wanted me to paint a mural over it. So far, they have all been happy with the result."

In 2017, Orabuena took on his largest project to date. With the help of the San Benito County Arts Council, Orabuena got permission to paint a second veteran's mural across the side of the VFW Post 9242 in Hollister. The massive mural, measuring over forty feet long and more than 20 feet high, depicts soldiers, vehicles, and symbols from every branch of the military.

Most recently, Orabuena has been extending his volunteer efforts to other cities. "I am submitting sketches to the city of Los Banos as part of a larger beautification of downtown project," says Orabuena. "So far everything is moving forward as planned." ■

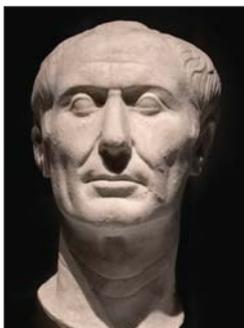


Or-i-gin

New Year's Day

How did January 1 Become New Year's Day?

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the



Julius Caesar

founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today. ■

COMMUNITY

Monterey Bay Air Resources District Board announces two appointments to the Hearing Board

On October 19th 2022, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) Board of Directors approved two appointments to the Hearing Board.

The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial panel authorized to provide relief from MBARD regulations under certain circumstances. Below are the current Hearing Board members.

Emmett Linder will serve as a Public Member of the MBARD Hearing Board. Linder is the Director of Mission Engagement at Driscoll's where he has been employed for over 35 years holding various senior positions. Linder was born and raised in Salinas, California, and gradu-



| Member Name | Designation | Term Expiration |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Guth, Chair | Attorney | April 30, 2023 |
| Daniel Dodge, Jr. | Public Member | September 16, 2023 |
| Vacant | Registered Engineer | Vacant |
| Vacant | Medical | Vacant |
| Emmett Linder | Public Member | October 19, 2025 |
| John A. Villegas | Alternate Public Member | October 19, 2025 |

ated from Palma High School and Hartnell College. He earned a degree in Agricultural Business Management at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. His current board experience includes Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Natividad Medical Center Foundation, Hartnell College Foundation, and the Bruce Woolpert Algebra Academy. His past board experience includes Ag Against Hunger, Monterey County Farm Bureau, Grower Shipper Association, and the Grower Shipper Foundation.

John A. Villegas will serve as an Alternate Public Member of the MBARD Hearing Board. Villegas is an elementary schoolteacher. He is a military veteran that served his country in the Communications and Intelligence fields in Georgia, California, and South Korea. He continued his education after leaving the military. He earned his Associates of Arts Degree



in Criminal Justice from Hartnell College; graduating with honors, a Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies from San Jose State, and earned his teaching credential at California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Villegas served on the city of Salinas Planning Commission in 2016 and on the Salinas City Council 2016-2020; during which, several major capital projects were completed to better the community of Salinas.

The Hearing Board meets on an as-needed basis and a quorum of three members is required to hear petitions. Members serve a three-year term with the opportunity to renew their membership.

Hearing Board applications are being accepted for two open seats: Medical Professional, and Professional Engineer. Please visit our website at <https://www.mbard.org/mbard-invitesapplications-for-appointment-to-the-hearing-board> to apply or contact Sirie Thongchua, Executive Assistant/ Clerk to the Boards, at (831) 718-8028 or sirie@mbard.org for more information. ■

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Solstice 2022 at Mission San Juan Bautista



Donating bikes Chris and Jamison of John Smith Landfill with Olivia Tavinkl and Esther Curtice of CASA SBC.



Ruth Erickson decking the halls!



CB Leaver (far left) celebrating his birthday at the Pizza Factory.



In memory of Jim Ostidck 1951 - 2022



Cousins celebrate Reyna Casarez's 6th birthday: Jazalyn Sandoval, Shaylee Meza, and Alexia Sanchez.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Elf at the bar



Ann Carillo in NYC on 5th Ave. for the Thanksgiving Parade.



Dutch Mundell, Kate Edwards and Wade Mundell playing Chess @ Vertigo



YAY! San Juan School basketball courts open to the public after school & weekends. SJB City Council members, Mary Edge, Superintendent Barbara Dill-Vargo, Mayor Leslie Jordan and Scott Freels, Cesar Flores, & John Freeman



Katie Smith with Santa



Santa and the staff at Running Rooster



Graniterock Solar Farm Ribbon Cutting L-R Keith Severson, Jon Erskine (GRC), Peter Lemon (GRC and new incoming CEO BTW), Seth Capron (Aromas resident), Benjamin Eckert (Go Green CA!), Spencer Wright (GRC) and Tom Squeri (GRC and outgoing CEO).

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HEADSTONE OF THE MONTH

Sula, the Old Mission SJB Parish Cat

Sula ministered to the parish of Old Mission San Juan Bautista for 15 years, arriving there apparently Heaven-sent when she was 2 years old from no one knows where. The "author" of 7 books and the subject of local and (inter)national articles, she was always a stop on the Mission tour, where she never failed to give visitors her love. Since she passed over the rainbow bridge in August, her grave site in the Mission gardens beside her beloved St. Francis statue has become a stopping place for parishioners and visitors honoring her years of support to this community. ■

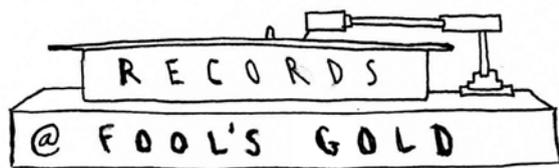
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Volunteers at SBALT's first Ranch Day in February 2022.

SBALT NEWS

SBALT's 30th anniversary celebrations

By Lynn Overtree
SBALT Executive Director

Happy New Year from all of us at SBALT! 2023 is a big milestone for us because the Land Trust will turn 30 years old on November 29! To celebrate our 30th birthday, we are planning fun events throughout the year. Read on to learn how you can get involved.

We will continue our Ranch Days on the first Sunday of each month, starting with a New Year's Day Hike, Sunday, January 1 from 9:00 am to noon on the Nyland property in San Juan Bautista. Start the year off on the right foot as we wander through grasslands and forests and along creeks and ponds.

This year, we will also sprinkle in a few events on other days of the week, such as a Day of Service event on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16. We invite you to bring the whole family to help us plant native elderberries, followed by birdwatching with a local bird expert at the ponds and grasslands on the Nyland property.

On Tuesday, March 21 we will celebrate National Agriculture Day with another event on the land. Stay tuned for details.

Those of you who donate to and volunteer for SBALT have contributed to the success of the organization. As you know, last year we achieved national accreditation, established our successful monthly Ranch Days, and produced a stunning 2023 Wall Calendar, thanks to a grant from Waltz Creative.

It was our first full year managing the Nyland property, and many of you were on the land

San Benito Agricultural



helping us to care for it. This year, we will receive ownership of the property, and we'll need your support more than ever to fund its stewardship. We will also complete the conservation easement for the second portion of the Foster Ranch where many of you shop every week at the Pinnacle Organically Grown Saturday Farmstand.

We hope you will join us for our 30th Anniversary celebrations! Attend one of our events on the land you help protect, volunteer on a committee, or make a donation. Visit our website to learn more: www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



SBALT booth at the County Fair, back in 2005.



Rebecca and Randy cutting the ribbon. Photo by Raul Ceja.

CFFSBC NEWS

Foundation holds ribbon-cutting to celebrate its new home

The Community Foundation for San Benito County held a ribbon-cutting event to commemorate the end of a successful year in its brand-new building. The Epicenter was made possible through the vision and generosity of Randy and Rebecca Wolf. The ribbon-cutting was the Foundation's means of honoring the Wolfs for having donated the beautiful building and investing in the Foundation's future.

The ceremony was held on December 8 at the Community Foundation Epicenter in conjunction with the Community Foundation's annual Christmas Party. The event itself was intimate. Because of the peak in recent illnesses, the occasion was kept private with only board members, staff, and a few special guests present.



The ribbon-cutting also served as a chance to thank a few past board members that the Foundation was previously unable to formally recognize publicly due to the pandemic. The Foundation gratefully acknowledged the work of its past members Kay Filice and Bob Tiffany who were able to attend.

Construction of the Epicenter took about two years, beginning in September 2020 and concluding in late February 2022, and the opening was in March 2022. The building was created in order to establish a permanent home for the Community Foundation. Before the Epicenter, the Foundation had moved three different times. Now, the Foundation has an official, everlasting space and can continue to grow, as well as provide a home for other nonprofits. ■



**MVV ēvz
dräp**

East Coast vs. West Coast

East Coast

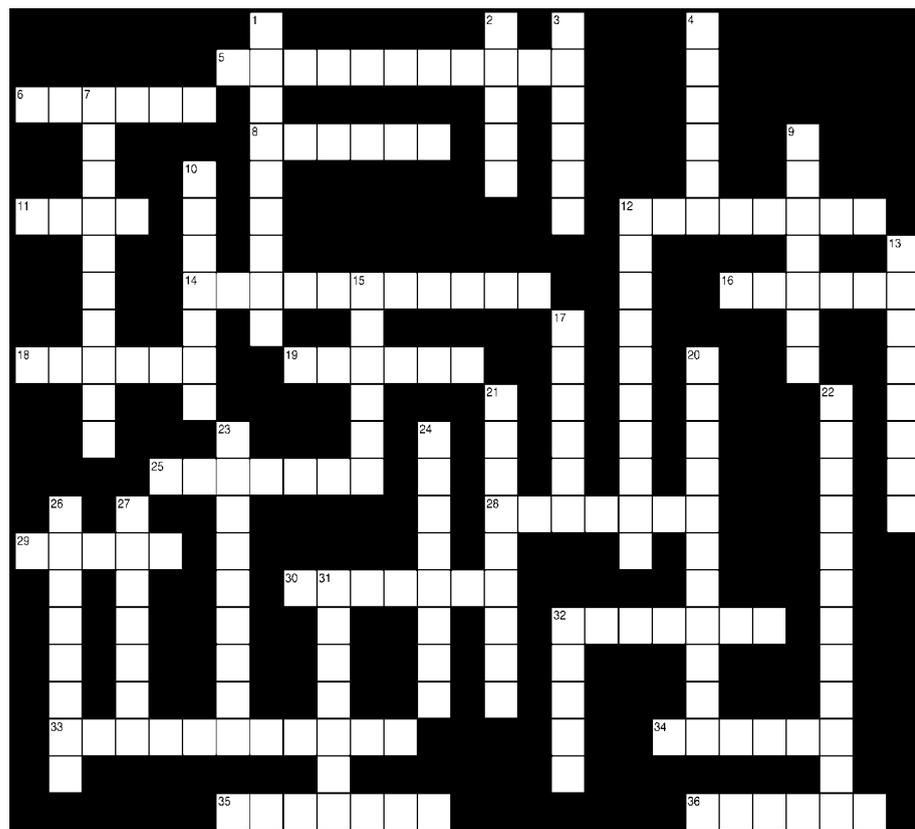
Beans, beans, the magical fruit. The more you eat, the more you toot.
The more you toot, the better you feel, so eat your beans at every meal.

West Coast

Beans, beans, the musical fruit. The more you eat, the more you toot.
The more you toot, the better you feel. Beans, beans, the musical meal.

Mission Village VOICE PASTIMES

CROSSWORD CONTINENTAL CUISINE? by Carlinka



ACROSS

- 5 ++ Yummy yellow sauce on a brunch fave
- 6 ++ Breakfast bun
- 8 ++ Known for its rich chocolate cake and coconut topping
- 11 ++ Chicken with lots of melted butter
- 12 ++ The round bacon
- 14 ++ Hot dogs aka...
- 16 ++ Baked cake with ice cream and meringue
- 18 ++ Really large nut type
- 19 Port city in Russia
- 25 ++ Omelet with potatoes
- 28 ++ Pie from sunny Florida
- 29 ++ Thick and healthy yoghurt
- 30 ++ Eggs Benedict's base
- 32 ++ Meatballs filled with rice

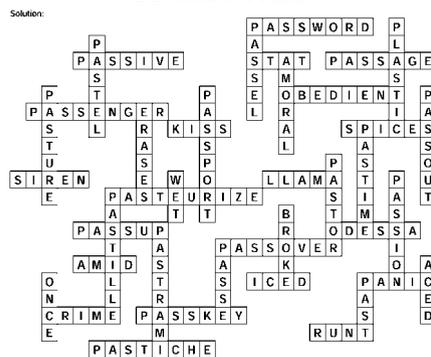
- 33 ++ Steak thinly sliced
 - 34 ++ A type of sausage
 - 35 ++ This delight is jelly with powdered sugar
 - 36 ++ Hard candy-coated almond
- ### DOWN
- 1 ++ Beef served in Chinese-American restaurants
 - 2 ++ Hot spicy mustard
 - 3 ++ This duck hangs upside down in the window
 - 4 ++ Baked beans
 - 7 ++ White clam chowder
 - 9 ++ Deep dish
 - 10 ++ Hot wings were birthed there
 - 12 ++ Common sushi roll
 - 13 ++ Cream or cream pie

- 15 ++ Pan fried toast with toppings.
- 17 ++ Famous steak and cheese sandwich
- 20 ++ Fried ham, turkey and swiss in egg batter
- 21 ++ A classic English pudding
- 22 ++ Spread it on a bagel

- 23 ++ The red clam chowder
- 24 ++ Unnaturally orange cheese
- 26 ++ Tiny round green sprout
- 27 ++ The golden squares hold syrup
- 31 ++ Famous for their cheesecake
- 32 ++ A holy cheese

Last month's puzzle solution

++I'll take a PASS++



HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 2023 by Hilda De Anza



ARIES
March 21-April 20
 Opportunity arises to connect with a partner or close friend, who you have been separated from. By mid-January you are ready to take an initiative to expand your horizons. and you can pick up where you left off a couple of months back, pushing for your agenda and mobilizing your enthusiasm. Significant developments now take place in connection with groups and Organizations, and 2023 will be a year when major changes will arise in this area.



TAURUS
April 21-May 21
 2023 will prove to be a year when you familiarize yourself with the powerful groups and organizations which you are to a certain extent dependent on. If career change is on your mind, then this might be the time to prepare the ground. The end of the month brings a change of scene, with less focus on professional aspirations and a greater awareness of the importance of having a strong social conscience.



GEMINI
May 22-June 21
 January is in fact a great period for psychological discoveries and going back into your past to uncover events which affect your attitude. The more you immerse yourself in an analysis of your inner life, the more surprises that arise - the month of January is amazing in this respect. The full moon on the 7th highlights this intense psychological process, which can bring flashes of inspiration and open the doors of perception.



CANCER
June 22-July 22
 The period from January to May 2023 is an excellent time for career expansion, and initiatives that were begun last year but put on hold can be restarted. The focus is on dynamic individuals, international ventures and bold advances. By the last week of January you will be in a position to make a formal commitment to an organization that promises expansion. This period is also a good time for dealing with finance and debt. Positive thinking goes a long way.



LEO
July 23-August 22
 It's an excellent time for getting things organized at work. The new moon on

the 21st brings a change of scene, and at this time there will be a much stronger emphasis on friendships and relationships. For the single Leo who plays the right cards, a strong bond can be forged in a month or so. Important long-term changes are on their way here in 2023 and especially in 2024, which can bring a welcome transformation.

VIRGO

August 23-September 22



The full moon on the 7th puts a bright spotlight on you and your ideas, and this is a fantastic opportunity for you to come with something inventive. New initiatives are launched after the 21st and this is an excellent time to widen your reach, for example internationally or with new organizations. 2023 will see a significant transformation in your working life, when you get involved more intensely with collective forces that modernize working practices.

LIBRA

September 23-October 22



It is an excellent time for love and romance, especially if the last part of 2022 was characterized by chaos and indecisiveness. January is, then, a very positive time for spreading your wings, promoting yourself and your creative ideas, and reconnecting with influential people. This is the perfect time to formalize relationships and commit, and by this time, potential partners who have been dealing with issues from the past are ready to move forward.

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21



Good news arrives now, especially regarding relationships and family. The latter part of January is excellent for getting things moving at work. The new moon around the 21st brings a sense of optimism and expansion. Work that was put on hold at the end of 2022 can be begun again. By the end of the month, fortune is smiling on you. This is an excellent time for securing finance, especially if there are domestic issues you need to spend money on.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 21

Early January is an excellent time for connecting with someone, or a group of people, who have great



ideas which they want you to get involved with and promote. It's also a great time for dating, entertainment and romance, and you will probably get involved in fun events. The new moon on the 21st highlights everything that is good about this period for you. This is the perfect time to get out and about and mingle with groups.

CAPRICORN

December 22-January 20



As January 2023 begins it may feel as if you are on the home stretch in connection with a long period when you have weathered many big changes. You can be forgiven for thinking that life has been intense, with more than your fair share of crises. The last 10 days of January bring new and positive developments. This is an especially good time for consolidating finances, especially regarding the affairs of children, and it is also a time when new financial opportunities arise, either in connection with the team you work with, or with a family project.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19



2023 gets off to a really great start and for the single Aquarius this is a great time for dating and romance. The new moon that falls in your sign on January 21st highlights the feeling that the gods are on your side, and that a new period is starting for you, when you get a lot of support from people who are fun to be with. The last part of January is characterized by new social, intellectual and family commitments.

PISCES

February 20-March 20



A new confidence inspires you to turn things around at home and work with individuals who have been problematic in the past, but who now have resolved things. At any rate, January is a month when there should be happy news for the whole family. During the last part of January there is a strong focus on your inner life, and the groups you are a part of who help you develop. This is a good time to connect with people and groups, perhaps online, who really share some of your social, humanitarian or scientific dreams.

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

THOMMELIER**Fun wine facts to kick off the year**

By Thomas Brenner,
Sommelier & Beverage Manager
Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club

Happy New Year, beloved readership! A fun wine fact for you is that I adore fun wine facts (especially during the holidays)! So, please join me in a fascinating read encompassing the trivia(I) of the wine world for this January edition of the MVV!

If everyone's doing it, can they all be wrong?

I think not, as the most-gifted wine during the holidays is still sparkling wine, with Champagne beating out the aforementioned subcategory of saleable wine. In 2021, 31% of all holiday alcoholic beverage sales were comprised of Champagne while red wine trailed at 14% of the market share (leaving white wines in fifth place with a measly 4% of the lion's share). I, personally, feel that sparkling wine is great to behold year-round and need not be relegated to being offered up only for celebratory efforts.

Monopolies and wine critics rule the wine trade without abandon.

Five out of the top ten best-selling holiday alcoholic beverages are all owned by one single conglomerate, and they're all Champagne! Most high-ranking wines are rated among the top as they cater to the taste and style preferences of a single wine critic or two. In Burgundy, "monopoles" command control of some of the most coveted and pricey vineyards in the world of wine.

Mind the myriad wine law hoops.

I find it equally captivating to ponder how alcoholic beverage laws vary so vastly, from state to state. If you visit a bar in Iowa, you have to settle your bill with each order as you are not permitted to run up a tab. In Utah you may only order an alcoholic beverage with a meal while in Connecticut there are no alcohol sales on Sundays whatsoever, so take in the necessary considerations when traversing the US. In some states you cannot even take home with you the remnants of your unfinished wine bottle ordered during your meal at a restaurant!

Transcending trends shape styles and market shares of the wine world too.

Tuscany's coveted Chianti has recently permitted an increase in the sugar content of their famous wines to better suit the preferences of international wine buyers. Sweet! A less-endearing fact about the wine



world is one that has thankfully subsided from shelves the world over: lead in crystal glasses and the foil wrapping your bottles' necks. I am grateful that cuts these days are usually only inconveniences and no longer possess the risk of outright lead poisoning your blood stream!

Sometimes trade embargos, heightened tariffs and political clashes can result in a certain wine seeing fewer imports and exports too. Just look at Australia, who has been cut out of the Chinese wine-buying market, thus lending a much-welcomed hand to Chile and Argentina, whose wines have largely replaced their Aussie counterparts as a result as of late.

Not all wine is created equal either.

Not all wine is meant to be aged. Quite to the contrary, most wine produced to suit the American palate is predestined to be unclosed within the first three years of the vintage (harvest) date! However, there are some wines that are meant to be kept in cellar for years in order to poise these fine bottlings for the beauty of graceful aging. Many wines that benefit from the exudences of aged wines' tertiary notes suffer from the dumb phase often muting the bouquet and palate of a wine between 3-8 years old. Red wines age the best, and most all of them will exude very similar notes toward the pinnacle of their drinkability after many years of aging: earth, some cherry, wood, nuts, tobacco, and all notes that abounded in a wine's youth transformed into less-fresh versions of them. So, it goes. It is up to us to capture and release the wines we catch at their apex, after all, fact is.

Do you know any mind-bottling wine facts? Feel free to share them with your MVV readership! ■

NUTZLE**#TheGoldenAge****Empathy for Homeless Seniors**

By Leanne Oliveira

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." – C.S. Lewis

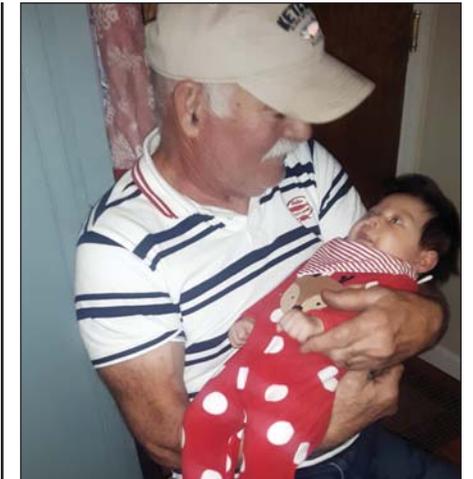
As we head into a New Year, I would like to ask folks to show more empathy toward seniors. Consider that seniors grew up before cell phones or computers or the internet or social media. If you strip those away from the youth of today, they'd be clueless. Seniors have earned our respect.

Fun Fact: A large portion of homeless in San Benito County are seniors who are long-time residents. Consider that our actual amount of homeless is closer to 500 whereas our single Homeless Shelter only has 50 beds. Reread that.

I handle an astonishing amount of ageism and prejudice daily from people who have never worked with seniors and/or homeless. You cannot judge an entire group based on your limited encounters with a troubled (though often more visible) few.

As winter grows and you're lighting your fireplace or praying in church, please consider your fellow humans who are freezing outside with your plants. These are veterans that fought in wars, folks who lost their families and their jobs to injury, bad luck, and/or addiction. Whatever the reason, no one should be living in a car or under an overhang while in their eighties.

To help, please call my office (888-637-6757) or our local H.O.M.E. Resource Center (831-256-1852). Thank you in advance; your empathy is appreciated more than you know.



Leanne's father Carlos Oliveira meeting his great-niece Delilah Hernandez for the first time.

GOLDEN EVENTS

+ Virtual Tech Assistance for Seniors presented by Cyber-Seniors occurs online every Thursday at 11AM. More information at www.cyberseniors.org. FREE.

+ Project SCOUT is ready for tax season! Call 831-724-2606 to volunteer or receive tax preparation or CalFresh enrollment assistance. Seniors only. FREE.

+ You can now request more free COVID-19 testing kits from Medicare (8 per month) and the Government (4 via USPS). Visit www.covid.gov/tests.

Questions? Email LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org, call 888-637-6757 to make an appointment, or browse www.SanBenitoADRC.org.

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

Environmental Day

Three Free Services for San Benito County Residents!



2023 EVENTS FROM 9 AM - 1 PM

WHEN: **JANUARY 14**

WHERE: Brigantino Park

2100 San Juan Hollister Road, Hollister

WHEN: **JANUARY 21**

WHERE: San Juan School

100 Nyland Park Drive, San Juan Bautista

WHAT:



Electronic Waste Recycling (E-waste)

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



Secure Document Shredding

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



Compost Giveaway

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

Due to COVID-19, participants will be required to wear a mask and maintain a 6-foot social distance. No assistance will be provided. Bring your own shovel and gloves for loading compost.

RecologySanBenito.com | 831.636.7500