

THE SAINT JOSEPH'S
Chronicle

"We write frankly and fearlessly but then we 'modify' before we print". - Mark Twain

Let's Chisel
This Out
with
Steve

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MEET THE PRESS



SAVANNAH ANDERSON

"I do sports. I play Golf and Bocce Ball. I like to hang with my friends. I like to take care of my Mom. I grew up in Santa Maria. I have cousins that live in Orcutt. I like working at Oak Creek Farm with my friends. I like to open the door for people when they need help."



ROBERT BOBB

"I play golf. I can hit up to 55 yards on the driving range. I am pretty good at golf. I made four birdies in a row! I am a wrestling fan, I have all the movies at home. I have met Stone Cold Steve Austin. He gave me a t-shirt with his autograph, but I won't wear it at Oak Creek Farm because I don't want it to get dirty. I am a good guy and I like to help people. I do a lot of things with my church. I enjoy volunteering. When I was in ROTC in school, I shook President Reagan's hand and we played golf together. He had his own golf course. I like coming out to Oak Creek Farm, and I keep an eye out for everyone there. I want everyone to read my article and get a kick out of it."



CORY CULMER

"My name is Cory Culmer. I was born here in Santa Maria. I am a red/black stripe belt in Taekwondo. I like to help my classmates at Taekwondo. I like going different places. My wife and I go together to the movies. I enjoy getting out and meeting new people in our community."



JACOB DOLAN

“I grew up in Santa Maria. I am very hardworking and I get the job done! I enjoy working with my hands. I am going to work on my old truck, it is a working project that I want to go to school to learn more about. I definitely love to cook. I am also a nice and kind person.”



KEVIN DONAGHY

“I am 56 years old. I have general education requirements completed. I am pursuing a major in language and arithmetic. My hobbies are horticulture and animal care. I am single. I like to keep busy with my schedule, work is a big benefit in my opinion. I am a Lompoc native. I choose to commute for environmental benefits. I appreciate renewing the arts. I keep entertained.”



ANTOINETTE ELLIS

“I was born in California. I like to cook and I like to make things. I like to learn new things. I like goats and chickens and cats. My favorite goat is named Hans. I have nice friends. I like to do things with my friends and family. My best friend is funny. My favorite food is pizza.”



JEANNIE MATTER

“My name is Jeannie. I grew up in Santa Maria. I am hardworking. I recently retired and now have more time to be an Explorer. I am a good friend and I like animals. I have always been The Chronicle's #1 Fan.”



STEVE SALUTAN

“My name is Steve. One of the things that I like to do is run the sound system at my church. I am a friendly guy with a good attitude. I have family in Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. I enjoy BBQ'ing with my family, occasionally we cook a pig. I love to ride my bike. I ride it anywhere! I really like working on cars. I am a Chevy guy. I have a Camaro that is a Father/Son project with my Dad. I am handy and like to fix things. I like using power tools. My favorite power tool is...all of them!”



Photography brought to you by Robert Bobb, Kelly Clayton, Matt Pettersson, and Larry Martel

The Great OUTDOORS

with JAKE

So, Matt had the idea of going camping on the Farm. So ten of us Explorers went camping, and we had a bunch of fun. Thursday night for dinner we had a kielbasa stew. For dessert we had s'mores. We did go for a night hike. We were hoping to see Santa Maria from the top of the mountain. We were hunting for Big Foot, but we didn't find him. It was not fun getting woken up by a rooster at 6 am, especially when your tent is right by the coop. Some of the Explorers were chit-chatting at 3 am in the morning! Friday morning we had breakfast burritos, then did our morning chores. At lunch we had hot dogs with chips. I took camping like a champ, and yes I would love to go camping again.



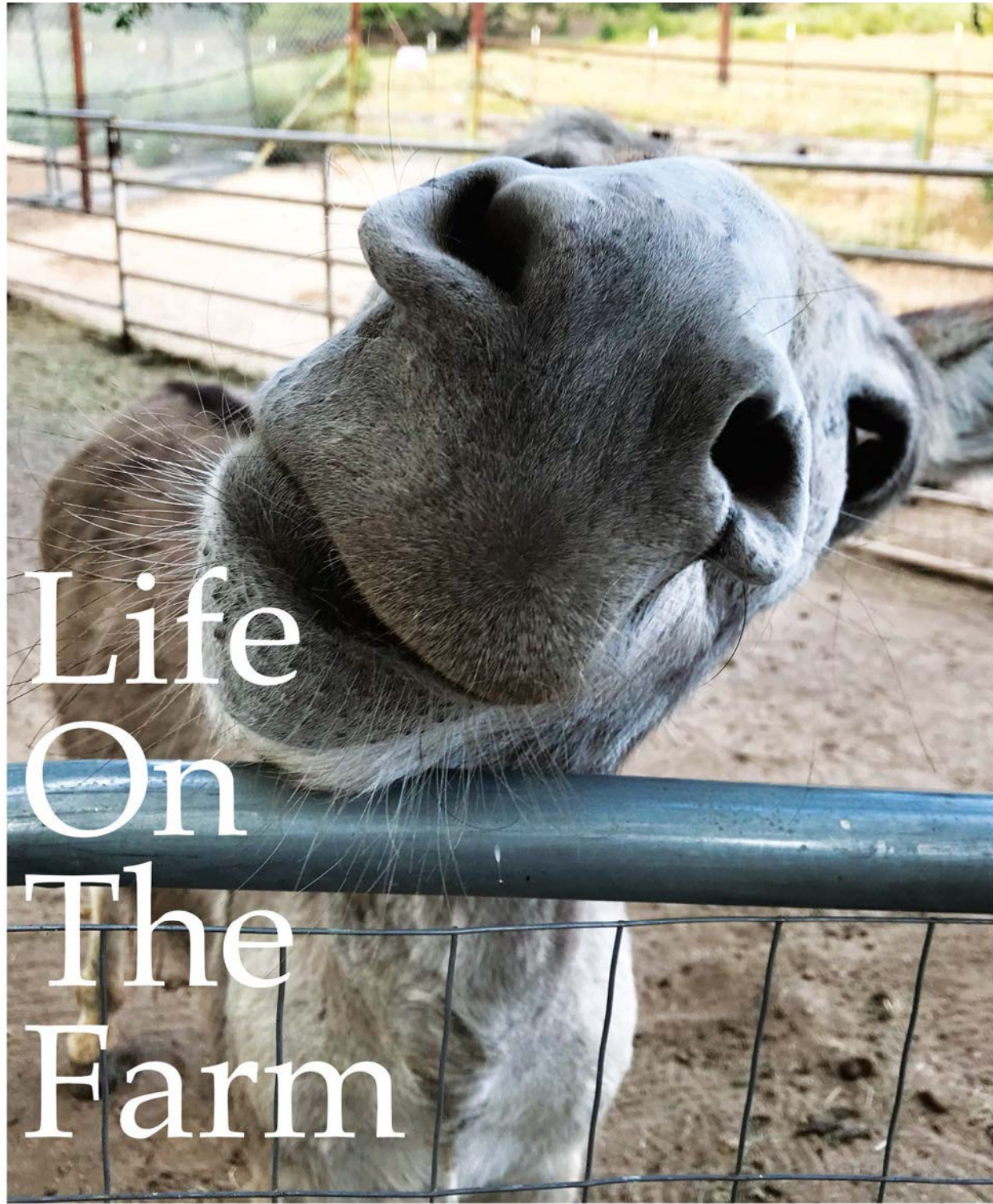
JACOB DOLAN











Life On The Farm



ROBERT BOBB

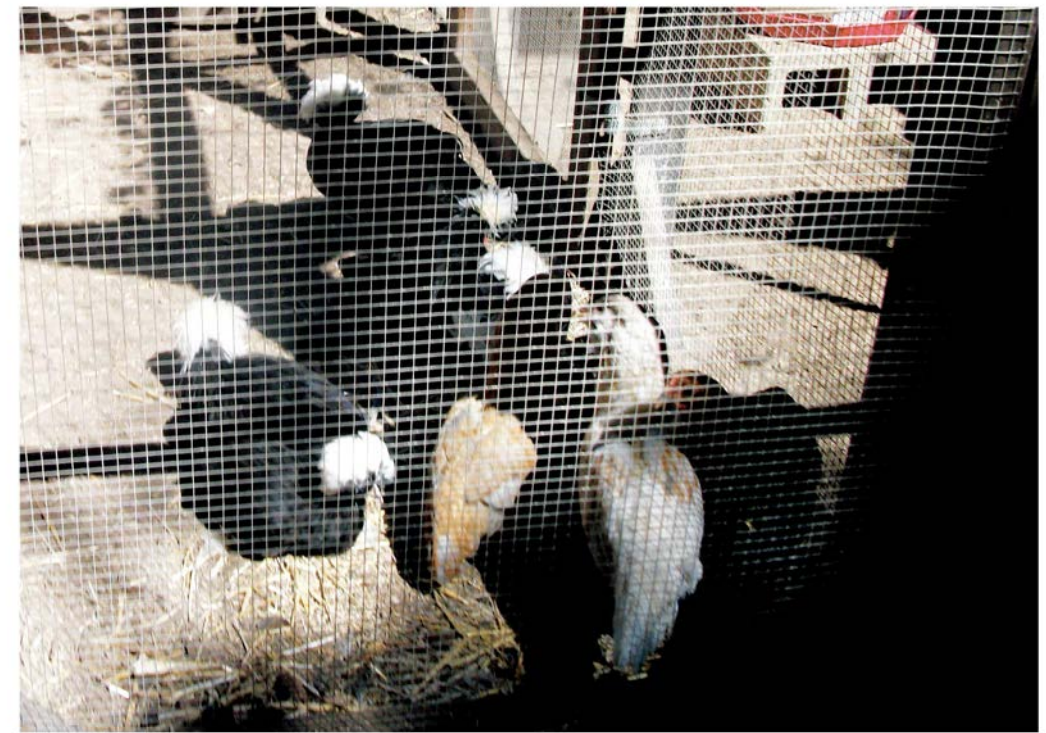


"The sheep are eating their food."





"These are new chickens, and we keep them on the other side of the coop. We want to make sure they all get along."



"These chickens have crazy hair-dos!"





"Tilly is laying on her ball."



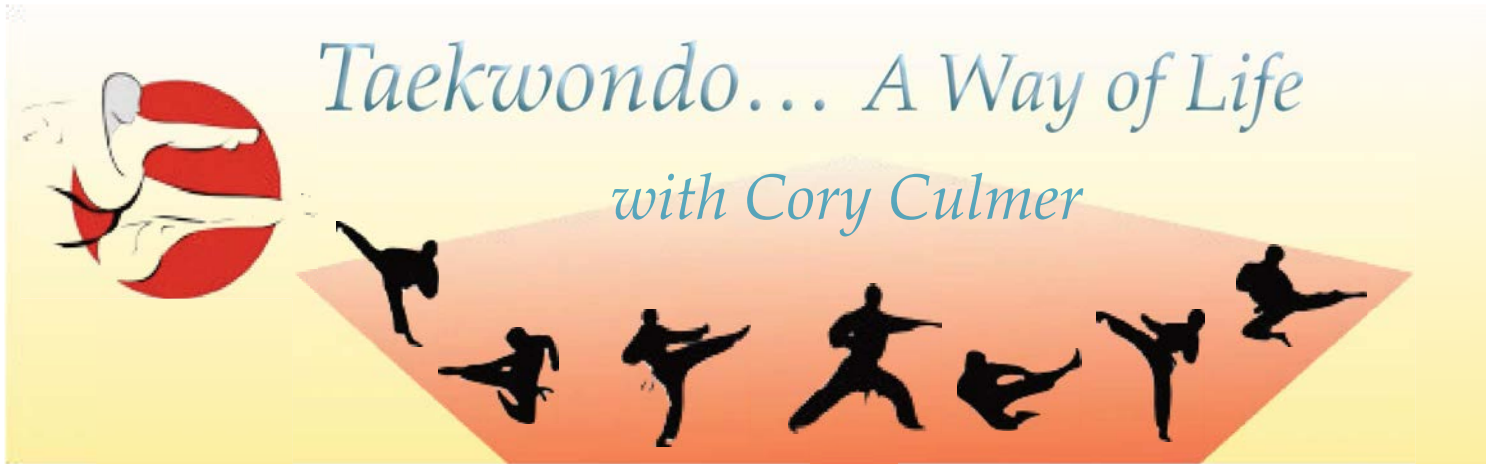
"Eric and Steve are tying their boxes up. They did it so nothing would get inside."





“Jake’s a movie star! He caught a lizard while watering.”





I train hard in Taekwondo. I am trying to become a black belt. I am helping to train a new student now. I can help her with kicks and blocks. I can help with any questions about being a white belt. I hope that she will do great. I enjoy doing blocks and kicks with the other students. We help each other with our belts.



CORY CULMER





Let's Talk Painting!

By Antoinette Ellis



I used the colors blue and green for this picture. I painted water, trees, and mountains around my waterfall. I like this painting, it was relaxing. I sat with my friend Steve. I am going to hang my painting in the art room.



ANTOINETTE ELLIS







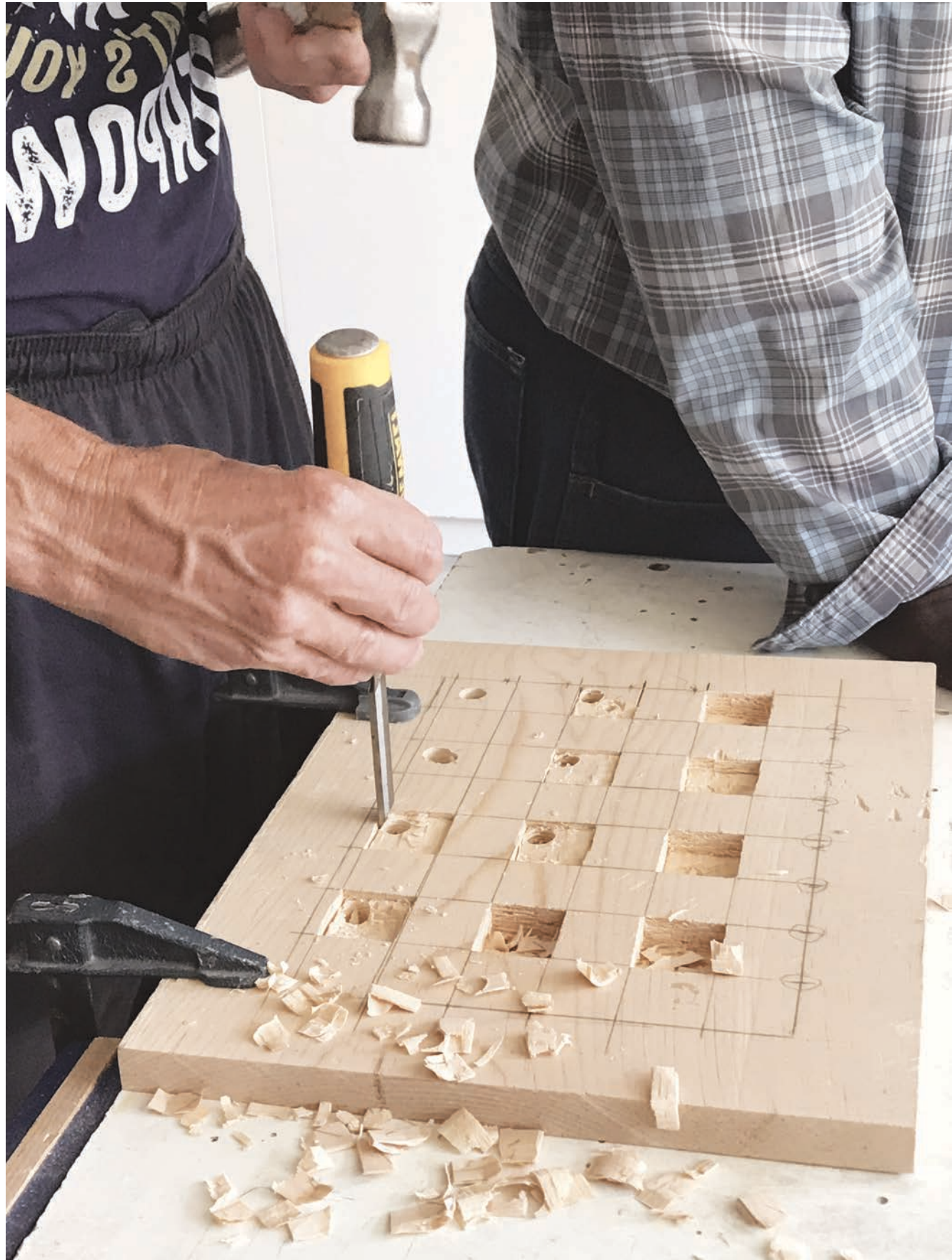
Let's Chisel This Out with Steve

The Strong Box project started with a lot of measuring to place the holes in the right spot. The holes are on every other square. The purpose of drilling the holes is to make the holes bigger with the chisel and hammer. The drilled holes give us a starting point to make the bigger holes. The technique to chisel is by chiseling out little by little and to take your time. You want to chisel along with the grain of the wood. It takes a lot of patience to make a good hole. The project is a work in progress, and I will keep you updated with this project.



STEVE SALUTAN





FARM COOKING

With Jeannie



We used squash, potatoes, carrots, jalapeño peppers and sweet peppers from our garden for the stew. After we had picked the vegetables, we had to wash them. We then chopped. We put sausage in our stew. Matt cooked the stew on the BBQ because we were camping. I liked the recipe.

Campfire Stew

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon oil
2 pounds kielbasa sausage, cut into chunks
3 10oz. cans condensed beef broth
Water, as needed
1 onion, cut into chunks
6 small potatoes, cut into chunks
3 carrots, cut into chunks
3 zucchini's, cut into chunks
3 colored peppers, cut into chunks
1 jalapeño, cut into slices
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Heat the oil in a dutch oven. Add the sausage and cook until brown on all sides, 10 to 15 minutes. Add the onions and cook until the onions begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Season well with salt and pepper. Slowly stir in the beef broth. Add enough water so the liquid level comes about 1 inch above the meat. Cover and cook for about 1 hour. Stir in the potatoes, carrots, squash, peppers and jalapeños. Continue to cook until tender, about 30 minutes. Season to taste with additional salt and pepper before serving. Serve with bread on the side.



JEANNIE MATTER





The Inside Scoop

With Kevin Donaghy

Interview with **Jim Eckford**
 Owner/Operator of
Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary



Hello, I am Kevin Donaghy, a reporter with the Saint Joseph's Chronicle. May I ask your name and official position at this Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary of Arroyo Grande in the Edna Valley please?

Sure Kevin, I am Jim Eckford. I am the head donkey wrangler here, and my wife is the other head donkey wrangler here and her name is Carlen Eckford. It is just the two of us, plus a couple of employees, that are part-time and a bunch of volunteers, that are fabulous. One of those volunteers is your Matthew, who we love.



Matthew Petterson who works for the Explorers?

Yes, Matthew Petterson!



What made you decide to start rescuing donkeys? Had you owned donkeys before you started the sanctuary?

Well, we had a donkey friend that was in a field near here that we fell in love with and that is what made us think that we wanted to pursue having donkeys. So then we went and got two donkeys from a couple up north and the rest is history. Now we have eight!





What is the number of donkeys currently enrolled at the Arroyo Grande site, Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary?

We have eight.

Gracie and Henry are always together, they are joined at the hip, so to speak. We don't know for sure how they are related to each other, but they are always together. Their hooves were in awful condition when we rescued them. They had 15 years worth of hoof growth, and their hooves had never been trimmed. So they had to be operated on two or three times and we continue to have their hooves trimmed. We had to be very careful and X-ray the hooves in order to not cut off any bone, when we first cut into the hoof. We wanted to make sure not to cut into the coffin bone. Their legs have been permanently deformed from the years of having to walk on the big bowed hooves for so long. They are getting along fine now, and they even go for walks! So we have made a lot of progress.

Rosie just came out of the hospital, down in Los Olivos, for ten days. Now she is back in business! She had an obstruction and an infection in her gut that was making her very sick. She is all taken care of now. Her friend, Bo, is very happy that she is back. Bo and Rosie both came from a lady, that lived in Carmel, that abandoned nine donkeys. Rosie is a standard donkey. Bo is our mammoth donkey. He is very sturdy and friendly. He was ridden in the Rose Parade. That is how sweet he is.

Tutti was brought to us from Oklahoma in a kill pen. She was pregnant when she arrived, which was a big surprise! Baby Bella was her baby and seems to have nine lives. She is always getting into trouble! Baby Bella always wants to play and be the center of everything. Tutti and Baby Bella are always together.

Ruby is our only mule (half horse and half donkey). We found Ruby on the internet and she came from Texas. They were going to put her down at age 15 because she was older and wasn't able to carry a large amount of weight like she could when she was younger. Ruby and JoJo are buddies and like to go on walks together. JoJo was the victim of a bunch of cowboys that used him as a calf stand and roped him for practice. They would chase him with their horses and throw ropes over his back feet and around his neck. They would knock him down and around. So JoJo is pretty beat up. He is the sweetest little guy. He has fat pockets all over his back because the cowboys were feeding him garbage with too much sugar and that is part of what we inherit at the rescue. When JoJo arrived he was 150 lbs. overweight. We have worked hard to get his weight down. He is now thriving at a healthy weight.





Do any specific variety of fruits add a required sugar that provides nutrition aimed toward mothering donkeys?

Nope. We don't give them any kind of fruits. There is just too much sugar in it. Donkeys are a dry land animal, more so than a horse. So, donkeys should have very little sugar and carbohydrates. They are better off with just their natural dry grass. That is all that they really have out in the wild.



What is a donkey's infant feed? Do they drink mother's milk?

When they are a baby, yes.



Can donkeys eat almond nuts? What is the best diet food for a donkey?

No almonds. Donkeys should just have hay, water, and some vitamin supplements. Donkeys should eat about 1% to 1 1/2% of their weight in food. We use hay cubes that are made of compressed hay. They also make pellets that are compressed hay. We mix the hay cubes with water and that helps make sure the donkeys are able to digest the hay better and it helps with colic.



How many meters tall is a donkey?

Well, they start by being only one meter as a mini donkey up to as high as two and a half meters as a mammoth donkey.





Can donkey's answer to their own names?

Oh yes, particularly ones that are older and have been around their name for a long time. They do come to their names!



Should donkeys be played with as tamed animal pets by a donkey owner?

Sure. Oh yes, we play with the donkeys all the time. In fact, baby Bella wants to be played with 24/7. She always wants to play!!!



What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you while working with donkeys?

Oh boy! They are funny every day. I think the funniest thing is Baby Bella. Bella is the donkey that was born here to her mom, Tutti. We had no idea when we got Tutti that she was pregnant. The funniest thing for us was to see Tutti all of a sudden get fat. We couldn't figure out why she was putting on so much weight. We finally figured out that she was pregnant and then out popped Baby Bella!





Do you believe that donkeys are now more tame than in past history and has that impacted the numbers of wild donkeys in America?

Well, donkeys are under some serious stress now because most cattle ranchers around the western United States don't like donkeys, so they have the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rounding them up. They don't like them because they eat the grass and compete with their cattle. The BLM is trying to save the donkeys, unfortunately, there is a part of the BLM that has to go out to round up the wild donkeys and they are not always careful.



Can popularized furry donkey groups be recorded to live on many continents of our world naturally?

Oh yes, donkeys are all over the world. There are donkey sanctuaries everywhere. The world's biggest donkey sanctuary is in England!



How varied are boy and girl donkeys in size?

Boy and girl donkeys can be the same size. There is really no big difference.





Is the identifying back marking in the shape of a cross for donkeys rare? Is that marking found in both genders of a donkey?

Yes, it is found in both genders. It is not found on all donkeys, as you know. Bo, for example, is a black and white donkey and he has no stripe. Some have the stripe and some don't, it is just part of the DNA of the particular donkey.



Do you offer guided tours here at the Sanctuary?

We do! Just like what we gave for you. Anytime! People can just give us a call.



Is the Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary considered an animal preserve or a special interest site with the United States Forestry Service?

It is. It is called a 501C3, which is the government's category for a charity that deserves some tax breaks. Any money that we take in from any source can be used for the donkeys without paying income tax when bringing it in, because it is covered by the 501C3. So that helps. That helps cover maybe 40% to 50% of the current expenses.



How can people help the Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary? Are you accepting new volunteers or what kind of donations are accepted?

Yes, we like both! We can use more volunteers, we are doing very well now with volunteers. As you know, your employee, Matthew, is a great volunteer that works every Sunday and we have other volunteers like Greg, that you met, that are retired and able to work about any day. We have wonderful volunteers and we can always use more! As far as donations go, we really try to solicit donations anytime that we can, because you have seen the facility here and the feed and the bedding and the work that it takes. It costs a lot of money. We have had operations down at Alamo Pintado Equine Hospital, in Los Olivos, that cost us \$15,000 alone. We have had three of those surgeries to pay for since we opened. So, volunteers are one thing, but donations are the really big thing. Any donations that we get, we put to work right away toward those large expenses.



Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary maintains a website and a Facebook page. For more information check out:
RanchoBurroDonkeysSanctuary.org





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