THE TOWNE LOCAL Bonita



YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

lssue 1

September · 2024

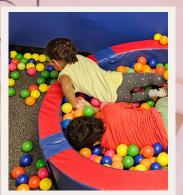
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by Adrian Arancibia

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

A small town is a community of people who share memories and a history of caring for each other.



JEFF BETTGER PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO THE TOWNE LOCAL BONITA!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Jeff Bettger.

I have worked as a real estate agent in Bonita and the South Bay for the past twenty-four years. I was not born in Bonita, but I know Bonita, as one can know most of the small towns in America.

I raised my children here. We fed the ducks, hit golf balls at the driving range, and enjoyed eating fish tacos and drinking refreshing aguas frescas.

From my experience, many small towns are similar:

 One high school and one junior high. The same prized teachers and preachers, coaches and cultural leaders passing on knowledge and skills to several generations.



Front Cover Designed by Monserrat Montes Esquivel, IG@Momo_Estudio

- A summer event attended and fondly remembered.
- Dairies and farms driving the economy of the town.

Customer satisfaction is not a motto, it is a necessity.

- The many small businesses in town owned by neighbors and family friends. Customer satisfaction is not a motto, it is a necessity.
- Main street is the center of the town's activity.
- An old cemetery full of last names all can recognize.
- Young families living in small houses with large yards.
- Horses previously rode for work and now for play.

Let me compare my present and past small towns:

- Bonita, CA instead of Sterling, CO.
- Bonita Fest instead of the Logan County Fair.
- Rohr Park instead of Pioneer Park.
- The Bonita Museum instead of the Overland Trail Museum.
- Jalisco Cafe instead of the J&L Café.

Yes, I know Bonita. I know it well. Names and faces change over time, but I know the importance of small towns. I know the feeling of belonging in a small town.

A small town may be miles from another town or may be surrounded by large, planned suburbs. That does not matter. A small town is not a location. A small town is a community of people who share memories and a history of caring for each other.

This magazine is a monthly record of the people of Bonita, CA. People from the past, present and future.

It is a welcoming place for seniors, adults, and children.

A place to gather to hear the latest news, to celebrate achievements, and to support the local businesses that keep Bonita thriving.

So, let's pull up a chair and gather together. Let's hear your stories, dreams and ideas. Let's watch the future of a small town unfold.

This magazine is a monthly record of the people of Bonita, CA. People from the past, present and future. It is a welcoming place for seniors, adults, and children.

WELCOME TO THE TOWNE LOCAL BONITA.

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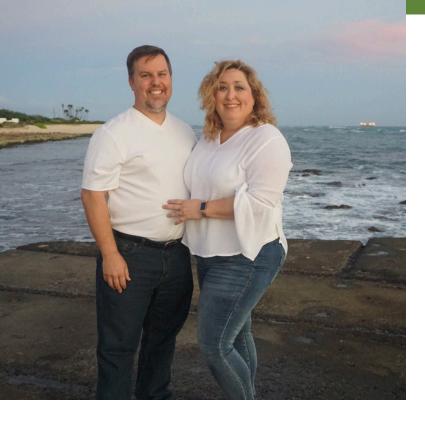
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Walking Down MEMORY LANE: MYSSIE MCCANN

MYSSIE MCCANN is a fourthgeneration resident of Bonita... and she just happens to be married to Chula Vista Mayor John McCann. Recently, she was gracious enough to spend time recounting some of the unique historical aspects of growing up in Bonita. Here a few snapshots.



Her grandfather was a dairy farmer, and then became a Realtor. He opened Bonita Real Estate with his brother next to the old Bonita Store.

He opened a second office in Chula Vista on 3rd Ave. and was the first person to have two real estate offices in San Diego. Her Uncle Ward was a famous horse trainer who was in demand throughout San Diego County.

The famous architect William Krisel was brought to Bonita to design homes similar to the homes he had designed for Palm Springs and Rancho Santa Fe. The plan was to make Bonita the Rancho Santa Fe of the South with an emphasis on horses and ranch-style homes.

She remembers the many local people having booths at Bonita Fest selling their own home art. At that time, Bonita Fest was a two-day event. The booths and the parade happened on Saturday, then the booths remained open on Sunday. As a young girl, she dreamed of being one of the cheerleaders riding on the firetruck during the parade. Years later when she was in high school, that dream became a reality.

She remembers the small Wesleyan

Church of the Valley being moved in 1980 across the area that is now the Christmas tree farm, to its current location. Later, she would be married in the expanded version of that church.

She remembers spending much time at Rohr Park. Having pool parties at the Rohr Park swimming pool. Riding the train through the park. Having AYSO soccer practices. And having the end of year 6th grade picnic there.

Her first job was at Mary's Subs. Later, her parents would rent that space and opened Tomatoes Plus, a sub and sandwich shop. In 1990, they moved over to what was a Roundtable Pizza and Arcade. Their goal was to create a place where people could get a quick healthy meal without making a reservation.

Do you have a memory to share? Email: Jeff@TheTowneLocal.com

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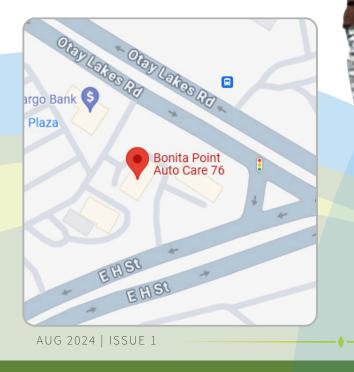
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auto

DRIVEN TO *Perfection:* BONITA POINT AUTO CARE

The intersection of Otay Lakes Road and E. H Street is significant to all who live in the area. Bonita Vista High School, Otay Lakes Plaza, Southwestern College, and the Bonita Point shopping center occupy the corners. On the NW corner, you will find Bonita Point Auto Care 76. This family-run business has kept Bonita's

cars and trucks moving for the past three decades.

Owned by sister and brother Lori Hupp and Ron Ballard, they grew up working in the service stations owned by their father.

When he retired, Ron and Lori took over the business. Lori fondly remembers that even after their father retired, he loved to come down on Saturdays to talk with customers and to stay in touch with the business.

Bonita Point Auto Care 76 offers a full range of auto services. They proudly maintain several certifications:

- STAR Certified smog check location.
- AAA certified repair facility.
- State of California ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) testing facility.

a client's oil change, new tires, tire alignments, transmission work, brakes, cooling systems, and batteries. When you see the Check Engine Light come on or hear an unusual noise, Lori also mentioned the importance of consistency. Bonita Point Auto Care 76 currently employees a staff of fifteen, including Lori's son, Austin. On average, staff members have each worked there for ten years. This allows clients to know

the staff and the staff to know the vehicle and its history.

How has your industry changed over the years?

"It has changed so much. We constantly devote time staying current with the newest technology, scanners, and equipment."

Tell me something funny that has

happened at the shop.

"We went to look under a car, and a raccoon was hanging on. When he saw us, he let go and ran away fast! That was quite a surprise!"

What is the one piece of advice you can give to our readers regarding caring for their vehicles?

"I would say that a simple, but very important step, is to change the oil consistently."

How can readers make an appointment? "We are open Monday-Saturday. Call us at 619-421-7600 or visit our website at www.bonitapoint76.com."



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When asked what she is most proud of,

Lori proudly mentioned that clients

appreciate their customer service and

honesty. "Even past employees bring

their cars back to the shop because

they know they will be treated well.

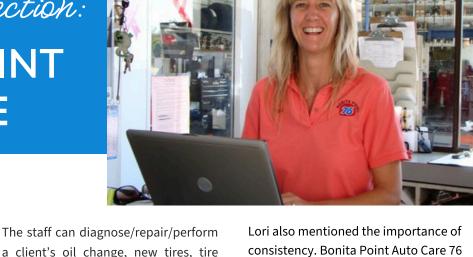
We explain to clients what needs to be

repaired now and what will need

attention in the future. This way they

can plan ahead."

and commercial vehicles.







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New Options to Age in Place & Earn Passive Income from Your Property

NOW-HAUS By Bill Adams

Aging in place is something most of us would prefer. Your home is where you made family memories and transformed it into your sanctuary. At the same time, you may be looking at your retirement account and realizing your nest egg is not what you had hoped it would be due to inflation and rising costs. Fortunately, there is a way to lengthen your stay and make money from your property.

With two new residential development opportunities, NOW-HAUS ADU, LLC. is working with seniors to maximize the possibilities of their land from the recent passing of California Senate Bill 9 (SB9). The California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act streamlines the process for a homeowner to build an ADU or subdivide an existing lot.

The first opportunity is adding an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) to your property. ADU's are commonly known as a guest house, granny flat or an in-law suite. It can be any number of configurations, including a detached or attached building or even a garage conversion. <u>Seniors can rent them to earn income</u>. Some seniors opt to move into the ADU to enjoy a lower-maintenance home with one floor and then rent out the main house. However you use your ADU, it will increase your land's value and adds passive income from your unused space on your property. Because we live in one of the most desirable and expensive housing markets in the country, your annual income potential could range from \$20,000 - \$30,000. Plus, the ADU's are

Bill Adams is the Founder & CEO of NOW-HAUS ADU, LLC., a residential real estate development company that specializes in ADU's and Lot Splits. He offers a free onsite consultations with homeowners looking to maximize their property's potential.

designed to ensure privacy with separate entrances and outdoor areas as well as coordinate with your home's exterior design. The second existing opportunity is called a Lot Split with you earning cash as the primary benefit. A Lot Spilt divides an existing homesite into two legal lots and a new home is built on the new lot and sold with you remaining in your home. By subdividing into multiple lots, a homeowner can make money without having to move. There are two ways to execute the Lot Split. The first is when the homeowner puts up the money and NOW-HAUS does all the work such as managing all the financing, contracts, plans, construction, and selling the new house. The more popular option is when NOW-HAUS and the homeowner develop the property like a partnership. NOW-HAUS manages everything from financing, plans, permits, and construction to selling the new house. The homeowner then earns approximately 50% of all net profits from the sale of the new home, which can range from \$125,000 to \$250,000.

Both the ADU and Lot Split options require the NOW-HAUS team to analyze your property to see what is feasible. An ADU requires access and sometimes parking. The ideal properties for a Lot Split are corner and wide lots, property with alley access, or lots 7,000 square feet or larger. If your property checks any of those boxes, it is worth a free consultation with NOW-HAUS. The new SB9 law has been transformative for California homeowners and it may be the golden ticket for seniors who are willing to explore new options to age in place and increase their retirement nest egg.



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS THE ARANCIBIA FAMILY

During COVID, we were limited in our ability to interact with neighbors and friends. Even today, we probably do not socialize as much as we once did. To remedy this situation, each month, we will spotlight an individual or family currently residing in Bonita. You may find that you share hobbies, business opportunities, or common backgrounds. Bonita is blessed to be the home of many remarkable people!

Adrian and Delia Arancibia have two children, V and Esperanza, as well as 2 dogs and 2 cats. They are an amazing family with roots in Bonita, who are actively involved within the community, and who are working to provide the best possible education for children now and in the future. It is obvious that giving back to the community is important to the Arancibia's.



ADRIAN

Adrian has been a professor at Miramar College for the past twenty-one years. He is currently the Chair of the English Composition Dept., and a professor in the Chicano Studies program. He also serves as a Sweetwater Union High School District Board Trustee.

When asked why he chose education as his career, Adrian recounts that his mother was a teacher who was excellent at explaining new concepts to him and his siblings. Adrian attended Valley Vista elementary, Bonita Vista Junior High, and Bonita Vista High School. He then studied at UC Berkeley and then UCSD for his Ph.D. Adrian has taught at all levels of education, from elementary schools to community colleges to universities.



Adrian recounts that his mother was a teacher who was excellent at explaining new concepts to him and his siblings.

DELIA

Delia is originally from the Pacific Northwest. In her free time, she enjoys reading and going for walks. She met Adrian at UCSD while they were both graduate students. She explains that as an undergraduate, she had the opportunity to work with elementary and high school students. "I realized that I really enjoyed working with kids and teaching. I came to UCSD for that reason. Also, teaching was a way for me to give back to my community, and to students that had challenges similar to mine growing up. "After completing her graduate studies, Delia was a classroom teacher for thirteen years, a Reading Specialist for two years, an Assistant Principal for two and a half years, then became the Principal at Sunnyside Elementary School. *(continued on next page)*







Deana Hoffman BONITA RESIDENT FOR 35 YEARS LOCAL REALTOR FOR 33 YEARS

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Delia remembers, "COVID had a significant impact for all of us in education, especially our students. It was nothing like what we had experienced before. We really had to reinvent

how to continue teaching and supporting our students. It was a learning curve for sure. I came to Sunnyside at a unique time. We had been in the pandemic for a year and the Chula Vista

"I think one of the greatest challenges education faces in the future is enrollment. We need to ensure that we work together so that our students have access to all the programs."

Elementary School District schools were preparing to reopen in a hybrid format. I didn't get to meet all of my students or even some of the teachers in person until the following school year. I am proud to say that Sunnyside did an incredible job ensuring the safety of our students and welcoming back all of our school community the following school year."

Now that life is back to a more normal state, I asked Delia what she thinks the next major challenge will be for education. "I think one of the greatest challenges education faces in the future is enrollment. We need to ensure that we work together so that our students have access to all the programs." Adrian seconded this notion, adding that birth rates are decreasing, and we could see major changes in the next five years.

V & ESPERANZA

V and Esperanza are Adrian and Delia's two children. V will be a senior at Bonita Vista High School this coming school year and Esperanza will be a freshman. V is a member of Sound Unlimited through the Vocal Music Department at BVH. and also a leader in the QuizBowl program. Both enjoy playing tennis. Esperanza was part of Knowledge Bowl at Bonita Junior High and looks forward to joining the QuizBowl team. She also looks forward to joining the BVH tennis team.

V enjoys reading, puzzling, taking walks, singing and hanging out with friends. Esperanza enjoys listening to music, playing video games, and puzzles as well. Both are part of the International Baccalaureate program.

> Adrian proudly recalls that he was part of the initial class of International Baccalaureate program in high school. This program had special meaning for him. When asked what fond memories they had growing up in Bonita, the

girls mentioned the following. They enjoyed Trick-or-Treating in their neighborhood, attending Bonita Fest, going to the Farmer's Market, and of course, seeing horses.

Delia added that she is, "proud of my children and the people they are. They are caring, honest and have a strong work ethic. They also are very concerned about social justice."

GROWING UP IN BONITA

Adrian's family is originally from Chile. His father came here as a ship builder with Campbell Industries. When asked about growing up in Bonita, he says, "I remember fishing



for crawdads with our neighbors, the Abbotts. And I remember Mr. Martinez's large farm on Sweetwater Rd. We lived above it on Bonita Mesa Rd. He grew corn and watermelons. I'm grateful I grew up in Bonita. My family became a part of the fabric of the community. I remember the Bonita community having a sense of values. Putting value on cultural arts. Coming together as a community to support one another and to make sure neighbors were OK. Sharing lemons and avocados. I also remember Bonita Fest. It was the major event for the South Bay. One year, I performed the song "La Bamba" with the Music Machine."

Adrain continued, "Music Machine and its director Ron Bolles had a huge influence on my life. Mr. Bolles was like a surrogate father to me. When money was tight for my family, he helped me get the funds needed to participate. When it came time to write my college entrance essays, I wrote about my experiences with Music Machine and was thankful to win a scholarship. To this day, I still use the calendar skills I learned from Mr. Bolles to stay organized and keep a team on the same page.

TACO SHOP POETS

Taco Shop Poets Many people may not know that Adrian is also a famous poet (we are lucky to have one his poems included in the Poetry Corner of this issue.) I asked Adrian to tell me about this artistic part of his life. "My parents always had poetry books and recordings of poets around the house. I started writing poetry while at UC Berkeley and then was lucky to be in the Literature and Writing Program at UCSD with outstanding professors like Quincy Troupe and Shirley Ann Williams."

"Several of the other students and myself formed a group called the Taco Shop Poets. We would play music and read poetry at local taco shops. That is how we got our name. We represented a wide range of Chicano sub-groups and included a wide range of musical influences. It was really a grass roots group. We produced high quality work and helped create independent art spaces.

Over time we became quite well known and eventually published books, were featured in documentaries, and even went on tour opening for famous bands. I did this for eight years on the weekends while substitute teaching during the week. You can still find some of our videos on Youtube. I am proud of the work that we created and that it continues to have an impact. Recently the NY Times featured an article on the de la Torre brothers blown-glass artwork and a mixed-media sculpture entitled "De Pilar of M Pyre" I collaborated with them on in 2004."

"Since those days, it is sad to see a lack of brick-and-mortar spaces for young artists to display their work. The cost of real estate in San Diego is so high and funding for the arts is limited. Grass root movements like ours is still necessary."





FAMILY TIME

When not working or going to school, what does the Arancibia family enjoy doing together? They enjoy visiting favorite local restaurants such as Romesco's, Lolitas, and El Viejon. They enjoy cooking and watching movies together, listening to music, going to art shows, doing word puzzles, and going to poetry readings. Their favorite vacations were to Guanajuato, Mexico and to Adrian's home in Chile.

They have four pets. Two dogs named Lucha and Jelly, and two cats named Abby and Coco. Adrian jokes that including the pets, he is the only male in the household.

THE FUTURE

Talking with Adrian and Delia even for a short time, you understand the deep commitment they have to the future of Bonita and their appreciation for what others have done in the past. Delia described it, "I love the sense of community in Bonita. We have a small town feel but are still so connected to San Diego/Chula Vista. I love that I live in the community where I work. I think in Bonita, we really care about our community and always look out for each other."

"In addition to being proud of my daughters' and wife's achievements, I am very proud of my parents and of them knowing that their many struggles were not wasted."

Adrian warmly told me, "In addition to being proud of my children's and wife's achievements, I am very proud of my parents and of them knowing that their many struggles were not wasted. They were the ones who brought us here and worked to help us succeed here. As a Board of Education member, my name is on the plaque at the new Bonita Vista High stadium. But it is their name as well."

"Bonita is in a process of change. It's always been in a process of change. It's not the same Bonita that I grew up in. Different folks from different areas of the country and different parts of the world are coming to live here. We have to navigate those differences and continue to establish that we are a community and that we do have values. Our differences only strengthen Bonita in the future. There are many people who grew up here, who want to stay here, and want to continue to make it better. We are writing the next chapter now. We must continue to communicate value, such as community ties, making sure everybody succeeds, and making an earnest effort to include everybody."

The love I have for you

by Adrian Arancibia

In the creases Of the onshore flow I found us beautiful I found us in the sighs of our parents

The songs cascade from the mountains They come with the sadness Of leaving a homeland Of coming here.

> The bruises still hurt. But you, woman. You make this pause And memory possible.

They are more potent Than words. They are action and healing. They remind me of my best self.

Do you smell the pepper tree? Can you touch The eucalyptus leaves. The leaves of the guayabos?

And I don't have words. I just have open hands and chest. And we live to hear The birds in the morning. Bird songs.

> Among the silence. Bringing us back.

As afraid as I am Of the future. These faces make me Remember. Be strong, Have faith.



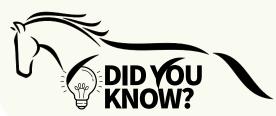
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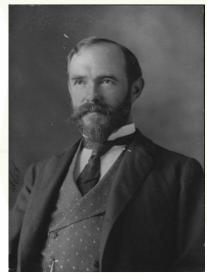
At The Towne Local Bonita, we believe that true community is a rare and valuable thing.

If you want to nominate a family or super student, or submit original art or an idea for an article, contact Jeff Bettger at:

Jeff@TheTowneLocal.com or 619-548-1288







Henry Ernest Cooper, Sr. (1857 - 1929)

The name Bonita originally came from the name of a citrus ranch in 1884. An American lawyer by the name of **Henry Ernest Cooper, Sr.** owned the ranch at that time, which was primarily used for growing lemons. The postal office next to the Bonita Ranch eventually took on the same name, also calling itself Bonita. The word Bonita means 'pretty' in Spanish.

Tips and Advice From Local Experts

Yous Health

Each month, we will explore some of the many ways we can improve our physical, mental, and emotional health through exercise, massage, hobbies, etc. This month, Antonio Ramos explains the many benefits of playing tennis. Being blessed with so many beautiful days in Bonita, why should we hit the courts?





MEET COACH ANTONIO

I have been playing tennis for 50 years and I have been teaching tennis for 25 years. I grew up in Bonita. There were always outdoor activities to do. When I was about 13 years old, I remember riding my friends moped to Southwestern College to play tennis on those courts. I attended Bonita Junior High and High School and played for the Bonita High School tennis team.

Physical Benefits from Tennis

Tennis has no limitation in terms of age. By age 5, a child is typically ready to receive instruction from a coach. It is an exercise that improves both aerobic and anaerobic fitness. It improves motor coordination.

Mental Benefits from Tennis

In my opinion, that is the big difference between tennis and other sports. We develop concentration, courage, and resiliency. You can lose the first set, but still come back to win the match. Tennis builds character and discipline because you must rely on yourself. There are no other teammates. Your will to continue can be applied to other areas of your life.

Stages of Growth

In tennis, we have four pillars--mental, physical, strategy, and technique. The first stage is working on technique. The second stage is repetition. The third stage is to consolidate and refine movements. The fourth stage is to get experience competing in matches.





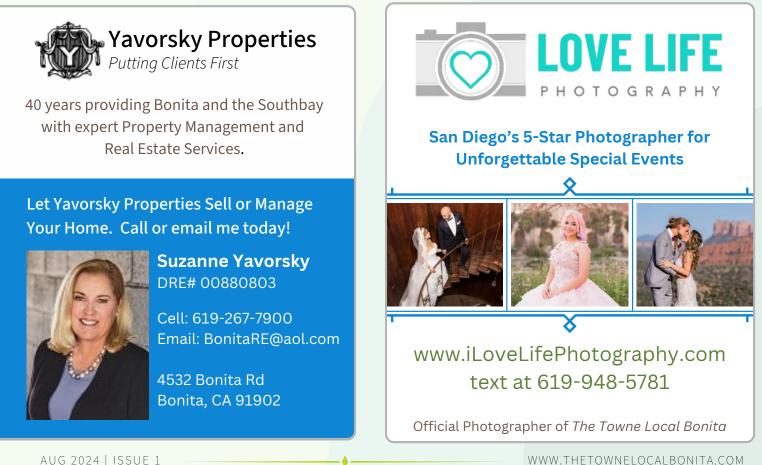
Breaking Habits

If a student has some experience playing tennis, it can cause some frustration to break bad habits. But my word of advice is to have the drive to persevere. Even something as simple as changing a grip can take time.

First Steps to Playing

I want the student to be able to hit the ball back and forth over the net with control. That is when it becomes fun. Then we begin practicing the serve. When you can serve and rally, then you will fall in love with tennis. Given our modern lifestyle of being in front of the computer, it is important to be outside and get some physical exercise.

If one of our readers wants to take lessons or has more questions, how is the best way for them to contact you? Contact Coach Antonio bv emailing him at CoachAntonio@hotmail.com. Or visit his website at www.RamosTennis.com.



Fun Time: Word Search

Search for the words hidden in the puzzle.

V	S	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S
F	L	A	U	H	т	1	0	E	U	R	н
1	R	Ι	С	N	ο	С	ο	С	М	G	A
R	A	0	1	R	W	E	S	Т	A	E	т
S	M	N	H	Y	Ν	H	W	H	N	L	L
Т	A	V	E	R	E	N	I	l	R	T	н
- 1	В	0	N	1	т	A	z	N	D	H	т
М	н	Î	R	L	L	A	S	E	Е	E	E
G	0	L	F	V	G	U	U	E	S	H	N
Η	A	V	A	A	A	Т	I	0	N	R	N
N	0	N	М	т	ο	L	Т	F	0	T	I
A	к	Т	E	W	E	L	С	0	М	E	S

THE	BONITA	WELCOME	НАТ		
TOWNE	MAGAZINE	SUNGLASSES	GOLF		
LOCAL	FIRST	TENNIS	ROHR		

Poetry Corner



I'LL SLEEP ON THIS THOUGHT TONIGHT BY ADRIAN ARANCIBIA

the trees have their way of singing spring. i hear it in the poplars in the way the stone fruit trees ask me about my father. i'm reaching the corners of the coolness giving way to warmth. the way the floor turns and takes a breath home, how it makes me ask about water and food. for the trees it is about love. about conversations. about the longing for hands to prune their extended branches. i wonder sometimes, how much life they'll give. questions, surrounding the wind blowing around the house.

i smile and breathe. take in the air coming full bore, reaching from knees to shoulders. like this shoulda been another year. and with more time, with more time, we woulda... the silence that is not silence, begs me to reconsider. it reminds me the length of the string the fates have cut. it asks me to be content if only for an afternoon. an afternoon where my girls laugh. and things seem perfect. perfect before things change.



DEDICATED TO MY FATHER ADRIÁN ARANCIBIA ROJO

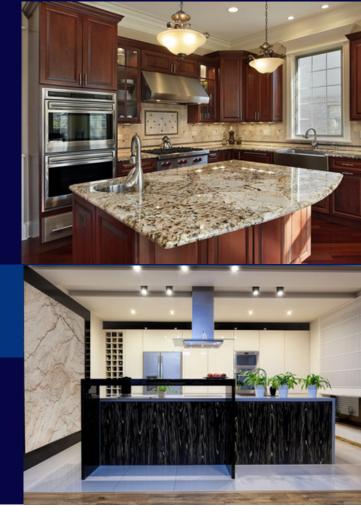


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