SHARK BITES

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY
EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT COMING THIS FALL!

Featured Article:
Tim Elam - The California Gold Rush

Upcoming Events:
10/01
Roadside Geology of the Kern County Mountains with Tim Elam
10/15
Paleo Workshop with Mark Hodson
11/10
Meet the Expert: Archaeology, with Dr. Robert Yohe

Museum Hours: Thursday-Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm.
Dear Friends of the Museum,

Welcome to Fall! This is one of my favorite times of the year. It is nice to feel the cooler air sneaking into the valley, watching the Fall colors start to appear, all part of the ever-changing cycle. As the year changes so does the museum.

The Summer months were filled with fun exciting activities like “Science Saturdays”! We were pleased to have so many community partners like the Bakersfield Fire Dept, BPD Bomb Squad robots, Creeper Keeper’s critters, Mineral mites. Reptiles, Flint Knapping with Gary Pickett, KCSOS STEM program, and wild and wacky scientist Dave Hanley. These events were well attended, bringing together a collaborative of many science educational resources together. We are already planning 2023!

I am also delighted that BVM was able to accept an impressive botanical collection gifted from Bakersfield College. The collection includes over 4000 specimens. Many are rare, and have been collected and preserved from the 1920's to the 1990's. BVM has many plans for the continued preservation of this significant collection. We are continuously looking for the funding to carry on with this important work.

I am so excited about the upcoming exhibit, "Preparing for Eternity: Life and Death in Ancient Egypt." Created by CSUB professor of Anthropology and Archeology Dr. Robert Yohe and assisted by BVM curator of collections Clint Osman, The exhibit is a collaborative effort involving several collectors of Egyptian artifacts. Opening mid November! As always, looking forward to seeing you at the museum.

Sincerely,
Koral Hancharick
BUENA VISTA MUSEUM HERBARIUM

In April 2022, BVM received a generous donation of over 4,000 preserved plant specimens from Bakersfield College. The plant specimens that are now housed at the Buena Vista Museum Herbarium were originally collected as early as the 1920s. Some of the earliest specimens have labels titled "Kern Union High School." Bakersfield College was originally located on the campus of Kern Union High which is now known as Bakersfield High School. In 1947, Bakersfield College moved to its present location where Bakersfield College faculty continued to add specimens to the collection through 1994. In April 2022, The herbarium made the move to its new home at Buena Vista Museum. BVM recognizes the herbarium's scientific value as well as historical importance to Kern County and will work to preserve the collection into the future.

BVM is currently working to secure funding to "digitize" the herbarium specimens. This means taking high resolution pictures of the plant specimens and cataloging them in a database. These images will then be made available to the public online. Herbarium specimens are very fragile! Digitizing will make the collection accessible to everyone while still protecting the specimens from damage.

Please consider making a donation to help us preserve and digitize this incredible collection!

Herbarium specimens can help to support important research areas like agriculture, forensics, biomedicines, land management, allergy studies, conservation biology and more!

Volunteer Pedro Garcia works to catalog herbarium specimens

Led by trained docents, school groups will:

- Inspect a world class collection of 15 million year old Miocene fossil specimens from local Sharktooth hill.
- Enjoy a glimpse of how some of the earliest Californians lived through our life size Native American Lifeways exhibit
- Explore a significant geology section including a stunning collection of gems and minerals
- Experience the diversity of life through our North American and African Animals exhibits.
- Explore tactile and hands-on science learning in the "Oh Zone."

BOOK YOUR SCHOOL OR GROUP TOUR TODAY!
https://www.buenavistamuseum.org/school-tours

Call (661) 324-6350 now or scan code with your camera app.
THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

By Tim Elam

The California Gold Rush occurred from 1849 to 1855. It was an event that rapidly influenced the importance and development of newly acquired “California” and the western United States.

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered during construction of a sawmill on the American River, about 37 miles from present day Sacramento, in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Gold discoverer James Marshall informed land and sawmill owner John Sutter, and the two tried to keep the gold discovery quiet. However, they were unsuccessful, and word of the discovery traveled fast...at least by 19th Century standards. Sutter’s agrarian investments in land, cattle, the sawmill and even a new town were eventually overrun by the subsequent Gold Rush.

The discovery was made eight days prior to the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. That treaty officially made California (and other western areas) a part of the United States, ending the hostility of the Mexican American War. The United States had un成功fully attempted to purchase California prior to the war. With the signing of the Treaty, the United States actually paid cash-strapped Mexico $15 million dollars to give up the fight. We can only guess the fate of California had Sierra gold been discovered months or a few years earlier.

The gold was discovered as nuggets and flakes in old river channels and streams. Word of the discovery reached San Francisco, a tiny port town of 600 people, no later than March, 1848. California was not yet a state, and had no official government. Word of the discovery reached the East Coast in the summer of 1848, and first appeared in a New York newspaper in August of that year. When officials in Washington D.C. learned of the discovery, they sought proof. That came when soldiers from the Presidio of Monterey, California, acquired $3000 of gold from the Sierra foothills and sent that gold to Washington. One of the two soldiers responsible for obtaining the gold was William Tecumseh Sherman, who later became famous as a Civil War general.

In December of 1848, U. S. President James K. Polk appeared before Congress and confirmed the gold discovery...setting off the California Gold Rush.

There were about 5000 “early bird” gold seekers who came to California in 1848. But the California Gold Rush started in 1849, when 80,000-90,000 people arrived. They called themselves “Argonauts.” About 60-65% of the new arrivals were Americans. During the period from 1849-1855, about 300,000 Americans migrated to California. But miners from at least 19 countries were represented in the gold country, including many prospectors from Mexico, China, England, France, Australia, Peru and Chile. Many new arrivals didn’t seek gold, but wanted to make money via selling provisions, land, legal services, etc. Many Europeans came to the U.S. as a result of political revolutions in their home countries that started in the late 1840’s, along with the European Potato Failure, which caused famine.

New arrivals to the West Coast came by one of three ways:

Sailing the Atlantic Ocean south around South America and up the Pacific side to San Francisco Bay. The trip usually took at least five months, and always dangerous waters claimed many ships rounding Tierra del Fuego...the southern tip of South America.
Sailing the Atlantic Ocean to Panama, then crossing the Isthmus of Panama and boarding another ship to go north to San Francisco Bay. The Isthmus crossing was initially done by wagon, horseback, foot, and canoe. Later, a railroad was installed in 1855. However, water and mosquito-borne illnesses such as typhoid fever and malaria claimed many Isthmus crossers. Wagon travel on land was via the Oregon Trail/California Trail cutoff, or other more southerly overland trails such as the Old Spanish Trail. Cholera and lack of water claimed many travelers traversing this route. Each of these methods took a minimum of three months of travel.

The new California arrivals were overwhelmingly male. The 1850 population of California was 92% male—but that total didn’t count Native Americans.

After leaving San Francisco, or the overland trails, gold seekers fanned out up and down the seventeen major streams that drain westward from the Sierra Nevada. Most of the claims were in the uplands, thus outside the lower elevation land ownership parcels (rancho) created during Spanish or Mexican rule. Placer mining of flakes, dust, and nuggets centered on a narrow (4-5 mile wide) but long (120-mile) strip of gold-bearing land known as the Mother Lode. The approximate position of the Mother Lode is shown in red on the attached map. But the Mother Lode came into greater prominence once underground, hard-rock mining of metamorphic rock began in about 1852. Miners also found gold far to the northwest in the Shasta/Trinity/Klamath mountains as well.

About 12 million ounces of gold were reportedly discovered during the seven years of the California Gold Rush. Virtually all the gold was recovered using manpower and water-powered devices to separate gold placers...dust, flakes, and nuggets...from worthless sand, clay, gravels, and cobbles. These devices included pans, rockers, long toms, and sluices. As of 2021, about 118 million ounces of gold have been discovered and recovered in California. So, Gold Rush era gold represents only 10% of the state’s gold output. As the Gold Rush era waned, more mechanical mining methods that processed much more rock (water cannons, dredges, and underground methods) replaced simpler operations.

Miners faced many challenges that occurred during the Gold Rush: 1) The Gold Rush happened as California was changing hands from Mexican rule to American land. Thus, disputes over gold mining claim ownership were common, and there was minimal legal presence or recourse to deal with such disputes. 2) California submitted an application for statehood. Via the Compromise of 1850, a cluster of five bills passed by the U.S. Congress, California became a state in that year.

The Gold Rush stimulated the West Coast economy. In the early gold camps, miners simply paid for provisions or entertainment with gold dust, flakes, or nuggets. Later, local banks issued banknotes or drafts as paper currency in exchange for gold. In 1853, a mint was established in San Francisco that turned gold bullion into gold coins. San Francisco became the main port and shipping and finance center of the West Coast.

However, by 1855, the Gold Rush boom was turning into a bust. Gold was harder to find, and banks that financed the system were failing. The Lucas, Turner, and Company Bank in San Francisco, run by William Tecumseh Sherman, failed in 1857. But the discovery of silver in Nevada in 1859...the Comstock Lode near Carson City...reinvigorated California. Gold put California on the map. But Nevada silver was a much greater 19th Century wealth generator than Gold Rush gold! It has been estimated than Nevada silver brought five times as much wealth to San Francisco as the Gold Rush riches did. By the time the telegraph arrived in 1862, the transcontinental railroad in 1869, and large-scale farming took place in California’s fertile valleys, the state was on a path to long-term prosperity.
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

• **Free** admission to BVM as long as you are a member!
• **Free** admission to Bakersfield Museum of Art, Kern County Museum and CALM! as well as over 600 other ASTC museums!
• **Free** entry to our regular-admission priced educational programs like our “Just for Kids” events and monthly science talks.
• **Free** admission to over 600 ASTC participating museums worldwide! (www.astc.org)
• **$10 discount** per Science Camp session your child enrolls in
• **Discounts** on other museum events and a 10% discount in our museum store.

Did you know? Your membership now includes access to Bakersfield Museum of Art, Kern County Museum & CALM, plus over 600 museums and science centers world wide!

**Bay Area Discovery Museum**
Sausalito, CA
**California Science Center**
Los Angeles, CA
**Chabot Space & Science Center**
Oakland, CA,
**Children's Museum at La Habra**
La Habra, CA
**Columbia Memorial Space Center**
Downey, CA
**CuriOdyssey**
San Mateo, CA
**Discovery Cube**
Santa Ana, CA
**Exploratorium**
San Francisco, CA
**SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NAMAL HISTORY**
Santa Barbara, CA
**Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**
Santa Cruz, CA
**SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC)**
Sacramento, CA
**The Tech Interactive**
San Jose, CA, 95113
**Turtle Bay Exploration Park**
Redding, CA
**Western Science Center**
Hemet, CA
**World of Wonders Science Museum**
Lodi, CA

**Lindsay Wildlife Experience**
Walnut Creek, CA
**Maturango Museum of the Indian Wells Valley**
Ridgecrest, CA
**MOXI The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation**
Santa Barbara, CA
**Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County**
Los Angeles, CA
**Placer Nature Center**
Auburn, CA
**San Diego Natural History Museum**
San Diego, CA

**PREPARING FOR ETERNITY**
Life and Death in Ancient Egypt

**FALL 2022**
For more info on upcoming events, please visit: buenavistamuseum.org

**FAMILY DAY**

**FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**
The first Saturday of each month is Family Day! Admission for 2 adults and up to 6 children is only $20.

Join Mark Hodson for hands-on advanced training in identification, field and lab preparation as well as preservation and restoration techniques for paleontological specimens. Space is limited, reserve your spot now.

**JUST FOR KIDS**

**FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**
STEM Activities and Crafts

Our monthly "Just for Kids" program provides entertaining and fun activities that promote science education and learning.

Meet The Expert:

**Archaeology**

**Dr. Robert Yohe**
Ancient Egypt
**NOV. 10 5:30PM-6:30PM**
-Virtual Online Event-

Join Dr. Yohe for an evening all about ancient Egypt. Learn about the importance of preparing for the afterlife in ancient Egypt.

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**Special Admission Days!**

**Family Day** - First Saturday of each month
2 adults and up to 6 children are only $20!

**Senior Day** - Second Saturday of each month
Admission for Seniors (60+) is only $2!

**$2 Day** - Every third Thursday. All day, all ages admission is only $2!

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**October**

- **10/01** - FAMILY DAY
  - JUST FOR KIDS
    10:30am-12pm, Science enrichment for kids and parents. Topic TBD
  - TIM ELAM - PRESENTATION
    1:30pm, Geology of the Kern County Mountains

- **10/08** - SENIOR DAY
- **10/20** - $2 DAY
- **10/22** - PUMPKINS AND DINOSAURS
  10:30am-11:30am, Join Carol Bowman and turn pumpkins into dinosaurs! (reservations required)

**November**

- **11/05** - FAMILY DAY
  - JUST FOR KIDS
    10:30am-12pm, Join Ishmael Sanchez to learn about fossil imprints. For kids and parents.

- **11/10** - MEET THE EXPERT: DR. YOHE
  5:30pm-6:30pm (Virtual Event)

- **11/12** - SENIOR DAY
- **11/17** - $2 DAY
- **11/19** - FALL GALA
- **11/24** - MUSEUM CLOSED

**December**

- **12/03** - FAMILY DAY
  - JUST FOR KIDS
    10:30am-12pm, Science enrichment for kids and parents. Topic TBD

- **12/10** - SENIOR DAY
- **12/15** - $2 DAY
- **12/24** - MUSEUM CLOSING AT 2PM
- **12/25** - MUSEUM CLOSED
- **12/31** - MUSEUM CLOSING AT 2PM

**January**

- **01/01** - MUSEUM CLOSED
Dave Hanley has been a part of Buena Vista Museum from the very beginning. “My dad was a herpetology naturalist and was CALM’s Volunteer Reptile Curator for 15 years. When I became a biology teacher, I would help CALM during special displays. In 1995 when BVM split from CALM, I was asked to conduct programs at the county, state, and federal levels, and they were adaptable to programs for community enrichment, at the BVM.”

“As time passed, I came to realize that Kern County has more science potential than any other county in the Continental United States. I was voted onto the board of BVM in 1999. From that time to present, I have endeavored to bring all the sciences into our presentation.” When asked why BVM is important to him, he states:

“Real stuff, and real experiences were/are my way of learning. Natural history museums run on having real stuff. It has been my constant goal to bring all sciences and real stuff to BVM so that the Kern County community can have full science enrichment. Sociologists say that the higher per capita of science learning, the higher per capita of quality of life. I was born and raised in Kern County. I want my home county to have the highest possible quality of life. Of course, I want to enhance the Kern County quality of life, but I also enjoy ALL sciences.

Some people are adventurers. Science is the never-ending frontier. We will never know everything, and the discovery of science is a sweet tickle along the way. There is nothing sweeter than the glow of wonder in another human’s eyes.

The Buena Vista Museum is the place I go to, to fulfill all of these life goals.”

Dave Hanley

Volunteers are key to the museum’s success. If you are interested in supporting the museum’s mission with your time and skills, please consider applying at buenavistamuseum.org/volunteer.
VISIT BVM'S ONLINE MUSEUM STORE

Shop our exclusive fossil guides, books, apparel, rocks and minerals, STEM kits and more!

Shop now at: buenavistamuseum.org/museumstore

BVM provides discounted admission for those currently receiving SNAP food assistance benefits. Simply present your valid EBT card and photo ID at the front desk for $2 admission each for up to 4 individuals per EBT card.

BVM is a Blue Star Museum which means we offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families.

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the charitable organization of your choice.

Support Buena Vista Museum by selecting us at smile.amazon.com

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH

Your gift of any amount helps to support BVM’s mission.

Thank you for your generosity!

Donate Now

buenavistamuseum.org/donate
CONSIDER A DONATION

BVM is looking ahead to exciting goals and growth we have planned, and we want you to be a part of our future! Current goals include returning to a rich menu of in-house programming to offer visitors during regular museum hours. We are also currently seeking sponsorships for new, kid-friendly, high-tech exhibits! In addition, a donation directly to BVM’s new endowment fund will insure the sustainability of the museum long into the future.

BVM’s **average year operating expenses are about $270,000 per year, or about $22,500 a month, or approximately $740 per day.** No donation is too small; in the end it all adds up! Your continued support is what enables the museum to serve our community by offering such a rich variety of educational programs for children and people of all ages.

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cut and detach*****************************************************************

Name________________________________________ E-mail________________________________________
Address____________________________________ City____________________ State___ Zip ________
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In memory of: ________________________________

___Enclosed is my donation for the **General Operations** in the amount of $ ______
___Enclosed is my donation to Sponsor **the BVM Herbarium** in the amount of $ ______
___Enclosed is my donation to Sponsor **A Day at the Museum** for $750
___Enclosed is my donation to Sponsor **Science Saturday** for $2500
___Enclosed is my donation directly into **BVM’s Endowment Fund** $__________
___Enclosed is my donation in support of many **Educational programs** $__________
___Enclosed is my donation in support of **Exhibit Acquisitions and improvements** $___

___I would like to **pledge** on a monthly basis $__________

___I would like to receive pre-addressed monthly pledge envelopes.

___Please charge the above amount to my credit card # __________________________

Name on Card ___________________________________________ Expiration date ________

Signature__________________________________________________

Please contact me at Ph #____________________ Best time to call_______

Please mail to BVM, 2018 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 USA

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WE'RE OPEN!

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www.buenavistamuseum.org