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AT THE MOVIES

*Uncle Frank:
Openhearted [18]*

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Sidewalk scrutiny

*Santa Maria City Council's
majority wants stricter
regulations for street vendors [6]*

BY MALEA MARTIN

NEWS A vaccination update [4]

ARTS Neil Andersson talks cloud painting [17]

EATS Orcutt's home winemaking winner [19]

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JANUARY 21 - JANUARY 28, 2021 VOL. 21 NO. 47

Santa Maria could require street vendors to get a background check and a permit if the City Council passes an ordinance increasing regulations for sidewalk sellers. Although the city said it's trying to increase worker safety and alleviate Americans with Disabilities Act concerns, some activists say that new rules could negatively impact the undocumented community. Staff Writer Malea Martin has the story [6].

This week, another vaccine update [4]; cloud-painting expert Neil Andersson's oil paintings are in New Perspectives [17]; and Orcutt native Brad Bunkelman has the best homemade rosé in the mid-state [19].

Camillia Lanham
editor



ORDINANCE OPPOSITION: Community members are speaking out against a city ordinance that could increase regulations on street vendors.

Cover photo courtesy of Hazel Davalos > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced Jan. 14 the launch of additional measures for his Safe Schools for All Plan, which was first released on Dec. 30 as “California’s framework to support schools to continue operating safely in-person and to expand the number of schools safely resuming in-person instruction,” his office said at the time. The additional measures focus on transparency, accountability, and assistance, according to a statement, as well as an online hub. The website, schools.covid19.ca.gov, was launched as “a one-stop shop” for information returns to in-person instruction. “Learning is non-negotiable, and getting our kids and staff back into the classroom safely will help us continue turning the corner on this pandemic,” Newsom said in the statement. “With proposed new funding and ongoing conversations with districts, school employees, stakeholders, and the Legislature, we remain committed to our Safe Schools for All Plan and helping all students—with a focus on those in disproportionately impacted communities—get the help they need to return to in-person instruction.” The Safe Schools for All Plan is built on four pillars: funding, safety and mitigation, oversight and assistance, and transparency and accountability. “Schools should reopen safely according to a phased-in approach that prioritizes our youngest students and students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including students with disabilities,” the statement said. The new measures include “a historic level of funding for schools” in the governor’s 2021-22 proposed state budget, updated guidance for schools from the California Department of Public Health, a State Safe Schools Team that will provide oversight and assistance, and “an interactive GIS [geographic information system] map that will be launched on the Safe Schools for All Hub in the coming weeks.”

• On Jan. 12, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), along with **Reps. Jimmy Panetta, Jim Costa, Dan Newhouse, Doug LaMalfa, and Fred Upton** led a bipartisan letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) “urging them to allocate specific funding to protect our nation’s essential agricultural workers as the department works to implement agricultural provisions from H.R. 133—the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021,” a statement said. “The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 directed the secretary of agriculture to use at least \$1.5 billion to purchase and distribute agricultural products and to provide grants and loans to protect agricultural workers from COVID-19.” According to the statement, on Jan. 4 the USDA announced plans to spend \$1.5 billion on the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, but it did not commit to funding agricultural worker safety. The representatives are now asking the USDA to prioritize funding specifically for agricultural worker safety. “Growers, ranchers, and vintners in my district want to protect their essential workers from the virus, but they need our help. Agriculture workers are at an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19, which is why I worked hard to ensure they are protected in the latest COVID-19 relief package. I urge the agriculture secretary to move quickly to protect our workers, food supply chain, and public health from COVID-19,” Carbajal said in the statement.

• **State Sen. Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) wrote in a Jan. 11 Facebook post that her Assembly Bill 1864, which passed in 2020, can be implemented now that it’s 2021. “This bill provides California the ability to investigate and prosecute previously unregulated financial products and services, including debt collectors, credit repair companies, consumer credit reporting agencies, debt relief companies, rent-to-own contractors, and private school financing companies,” Limón said. “This work comes at the right time as the COVID-19 pandemic continues affecting many Californians that may have to use financial services to remain afloat.”

Santa Barbara County has one of state’s highest COVID-19 spread rates

While the state recently announced that residents 65 and older would be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, public health officials say Santa Barbara County isn’t ready for that demographic yet. Meanwhile, the virus is spreading faster in the county than most other California jurisdictions.

“The state does allow for local flexibility in the implementation, based upon infrastructure and vaccine availability,” Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso said at a Jan. 15 press conference.

She said the county is ready to begin vaccinating people 75 and older beginning Jan. 20, but those aged 65 to 74 will have to wait a bit longer.

“We will begin vaccinating this group once enough vaccine supplies are available, and the community members will then hear from their health care providers as well as from our Public Health Department,” Do-Reynoso said.

Do-Reynoso said the county’s vaccine prioritization starts with health care workers who care directly for patients, many of whom have already been vaccinated. Then comes people aged 75 and older. Once more vaccines are available, 65 and older will also be prioritized, followed by workers in education, child care, emergency services, food, grocery, and agriculture. Do-Reynoso encouraged community members to visit the public health department’s website “for detailed information about these sectors and where you might fall.”

“We are hopeful that the vaccine will soon provide the path to normalcy,” Do-Reynoso said. “However, COVID-19 is still raging throughout our community.”

She illustrated the severity of the disease’s spread through a metric called the effective reproduction number, also known as R-effective. The metric tracks the number of people who can be infected by one individual case at a given time in a population.

“The higher the value of R-effective, the faster more people become infected,” Do-Reynoso explained.

As of Jan. 15, she said, “Santa Barbara County’s effective reproduction number is highest in the state. ... In other words, the rate of COVID-19 spreading is higher in Santa Barbara County than any other jurisdiction in California.”

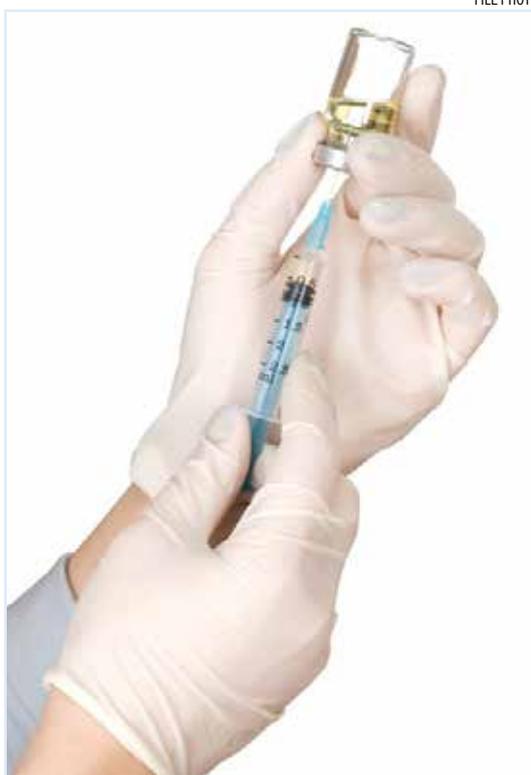
On Jan. 19, Santa Barbara County was nearly tied with Mono County and Lake County for the three highest R-effective numbers in the state, according to California Department of Public Health data.

The county’s other metrics also continue to drastically worsen. Do-Reynoso said that COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICUs have increased fourfold since the holidays; the case rate and test positivity rates have doubled; weekly deaths have increased fourfold.

“So this is really a dire strait in our county,” Do-Reynoso said.

Sue Andersen, president and CEO of Marian Regional Medical Center, said at the press conference that the recent uptick led the hospital to enact its surge plan and utilize additional bed space that was previously prepared for this type of situation. The hospital converted space in its old hospital building into patient rooms, creating 48 more beds.

“We vaccinated our entire health care staff, everyone who wanted to get vaccinated, which was the majority of them, and most of them have had both [vaccine doses] now,” Andersen



MORE DOSES: As of Jan. 20, Santa Barbara County is allowing those aged 75 and older to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

said. “It brought hope to our employees and physicians at a time when they needed it most.”

She added that Marian is working with the county and other area hospitals to vaccinate certain inpatients upon discharge, as well as beginning the effort to vaccinate those 75 and older.

However, Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansgor added at the Jan. 15 press conference that the number of vaccine doses Santa Barbara County received so far from the state “is unfortunately much less than initially anticipated.”

“We are hopeful, however, that the vaccine production and the delivery will increase drastically over the next few weeks,” Ansgor continued. “So far, about 15,000 doses have been administered in Santa Barbara County.”

Ansgor said, “the vaccine seems to be tolerated quite well.” He added that the county is “preparing tirelessly” to vaccinate community members on a mass scale once sufficient vaccine doses become available.

—Malea Martin

Carbajal’s office can help residents with stimulus check questions

On Jan. 14 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced guidance for individuals who qualified for a stimulus check and didn’t receive one, and U.S. Rep Salud Carbajal’s (D-Santa Barbara) office can lend a hand to those trying to navigate through the process with the federal agency.

According to a statement, the IRS said more than 100 million economic impact payments were direct-deposited into eligible recipients’ accounts, however some recipients may have had their payment directed to the temporary bank account established when their 2019 tax return was filed.

“The IRS and tax industry partners are taking immediate steps to redirect stimulus payments to the correct account for those affected. The IRS anticipates many additional taxpayers will receive payments following this effort,” the statement read.

Due to the CARES Act and the COVID-19 related Tax Relief Act, the IRS paid out recovery

rebate credits or economic impact payments to residents who qualified under the legislation (less than \$75,000 in adjusted gross income for single taxpayers, less than \$112,500 for heads of household, and less than \$150,000 for couples). Congress authorized direct relief payments in the amount of up to \$1,200 in 2020 and \$600 in 2021.

Eligible individuals who didn’t receive the full amounts or didn’t receive one or both stimulus payments by Jan. 15 can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their taxes via the 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR. To claim the funds, an individual must file one of those forms even if they aren’t normally required to file a tax return.

A spokesperson for Carbajal’s office said residents who need help finding information about the Recovery Rebate Credit or who have questions can reach out to the congressman’s office for assistance. Although office staff are currently working remotely due to COVID-19, people can call and leave their name, contact number, and where they’re calling from so an appropriate district team member can help. Spanish-speaking team members can translate if necessary.

Individuals can start filing their 2020 tax returns Feb. 12, 2021.

—Karen Garcia

Hundreds in rural SLO County and Santa Maria lose power in PG&E shutoff

Gusty winds and dry conditions caused PG&E to preemptively cut power to hundreds of households in rural southern San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria on Jan. 19—part of the utility’s first wave of Public Safety Power Shutoffs in 2021.

The shutoff, which spans seven Central California counties, impacted 462 customers around Huasna, Suey, Twitchell Reservoir, and Tepusquet—sparsely populated areas east of Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, and Santa Maria.

Of those without electricity, 91 were in SLO County and 371 were in Santa Barbara County. About a dozen residents who depend on power for medical devices are affected. Another 1,000-plus customers in SLO County also lost power due to unplanned outages.

PG&E announced the potential for a shutoff on Jan. 17 as it monitored a “powerful, offshore weather event” two days after SLO County broke a winter temperature record. About 5,200 customers are affected statewide.

“We will not begin restoration efforts until the extreme conditions have subsided and we’ve been given the all-clear by the PG&E Emergency Operations Center,” PG&E spokesperson Mark Mesesan told *New Times* via email. “Then, we will use ground crews, helicopters, and other resources to inspect our equipment and safely expedite any necessary repairs before we begin to re-energize customers.”

Customers impacted by the shutoff were able to visit community resources centers at the Grover Beach Community Center and the First Christian Church in Santa Maria to access portable charging devices, Wi-Fi, blankets, and food.

According to the National Weather Service, hazardous wind gusts were forecasted to continue through the evening of Jan. 19. As of press time, PG&E hadn’t provided an expected date and time for ending the shutoff, other than giving a date range of Jan. 18 through 20.

“Winds will continue to howl all up and down the Bay Area/Central Coast before gradually leveling off this evening,” a Jan. 19 tweet from the National Weather Service’s San Francisco Bay Area account read. “For now, be sure to report any downed power lines to local authorities.”

—Peter Johnson

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New regulations

Santa Maria council majority supports increasing street vending regulations, but community members voice opposition

BY MALEA MARTIN

Street vendors in Santa Maria may soon be required to obtain a permit and undergo a background check under a new ordinance that has support from the majority of City Council but garnered significant community opposition.

The ordinance would require street vendors to obtain a permit to vend from public sidewalks. Permit applicants must have a Santa Maria business license; a California Department of Tax and Fee Administration seller's permit; proof of general liability insurance; and, for food vendors, a current health permit and food handlers' certificate from the county. Applicants would also be required to submit a LiveScan background check, which would be conducted by the Santa Maria Police Department. The ordinance additionally places restrictions on where vendors can sell, such as not being within 500 feet of schools or freeway entrances and exits.

The council was split 4-1 on the issue after its first hearing, with Councilmember Gloria Soto being the only dissenting vote. Assuming the council members stick to their initial convictions, the ordinance will likely pass after its second reading.

At the Jan. 5 meeting, City Attorney Thomas Watson provided some background information on the state's 2018 Safe Sidewalk Vending Act, "which made changes to the government code to allow for entrepreneurial sidewalk vending, primarily with an expectation to bring additional economic resources to smaller communities."

In other words, it decriminalized street vending across the state.

Since then, Watson continued, Santa Maria has seen an increase in sidewalk vending, which prompted the city attorney and code enforcement offices to review other cities' street vending ordinances and come up with

something "to regulate what has been an unregulated business model" in Santa Maria.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Joy Castaing added during the meeting that the city is seeking to address potential Americans with Disabilities Act concerns with sidewalk blockage, the dangers of vending near freeways, and the sometimes poor working conditions that street vendors face, such as long work hours and no access to bathrooms.

Soto was quick to express her opposition to the ordinance, inquiring why the city hadn't held a community workshop to hear from street vendors before drafting the proposal. Watson said that such meetings wouldn't be necessary unless the ordinance passes.

"I know that other cities have done that, before even passing an ordinance," Soto responded. "They do have community workshops, and they do ask for community input. And particularly input from the folks who are going to be most impacted by the ordinances that the city's going to pass."

Councilmembers Etta Waterfield, Mike Cordero, Carlos Escobedo, and Mayor Alice Patino all voiced strong support for the proposal, citing unregulated working conditions as a main point of concern, as well as the impact that street vendors may have on brick-and-mortar businesses. But Soto opined that, if those are the council's concerns, the current ordinance does not address them.

"I'm hearing, 'We need to protect workers,'" Soto said. "I'm hearing all

'[Street vending is] something that I believe brings culture to Santa Maria, and brings something different that not a lot of other cities have in our area.'

—Juliana Neel, president of Santa Maria Valley Young Democrats



ONLINE MOVEMENT: The Santa Maria Valley Young Democrats started a campaign on Instagram encouraging community members to voice their opinions on a proposed city ordinance that would impose new regulations on street vendors.

the right things that I'm definitely in favor for. However, this ordinance doesn't do that. On the contrary, what it's doing is it's pushing these vendors further into the closet."

Escobedo asked whether a Social Security number would be required for the LiveScan background check, given the impact this would have on undocumented vendors. Watson said it wouldn't be required.

"We have no intention of it in any way impacting undocumented [people] or folks who just don't otherwise have tax ID numbers," Watson said.

The Code Enforcement Division of the City Attorney's office did not respond to the *Sun's* request for further comment.

Some local organizations say the effect the ordinance could have on the undocumented community is complex. "The city's arguing that LiveScans

don't require Social Security numbers and patting themselves on the back that they're not requesting Social Security numbers, but anyone with common sense knows an undocumented immigrant is going to be very hesitant to go to the police station and get fingerprinted," Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) Community Organizer Director Hazel Davalos told the *Sun*.

Public commenters at the Jan. 5 meeting largely agreed: Nearly every written and oral public comment was in opposition to the ordinance, with many arguing that it would be harmful to the street vendors' livelihoods and would target low-income people in the middle of a pandemic.

Davalos said she spoke with one local vendor who had no qualms about applying for a permit, especially if he was "provided support and education."

"He said, 'Yeah, totally, I would love to because then I wouldn't have to stress all the time,'" Davalos said. "But when we asked him, would you do it if you had to get a LiveScan, he said, 'No I would not.'"

"So I think that really speaks to the alternative approach we would recommend," Davalos continued.

"Let's hire a staff member that actually works with these vendors instead of citing them."

Juliana Neel, president of Santa Maria Valley Young Democrats and a delegate candidate for Assembly District 35, sees street vendors as an integral part of Santa Maria.

"I'm personally concerned for the street vendors that are walking through downtown Santa Maria, in communities," Neel said. "It's something that I believe brings culture to Santa Maria, and brings something different that not a lot of other cities have in our area."

Neel and her organization spearheaded a #SaveThePaletero (#SaveStreetVendors) campaign, which encouraged community members to voice their opinions on the ordinance and has gained traction on Instagram.

"We were really lucky this time to get a lot of people engaged, but oftentimes big issues pass without a lot of community engagement," Neel said. "So I would just highly encourage the public to be engaged in the community so they know what's happening." ○

Reach Staff Writer Malea Martin at mmartin@santamariasun.com.

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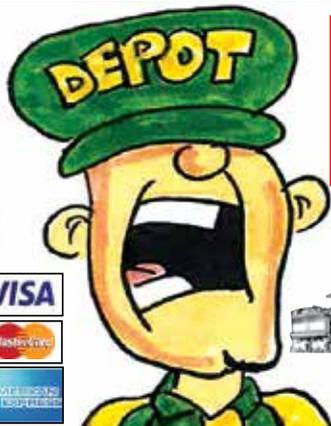
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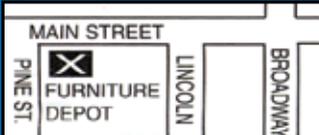
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Flip the switch

Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and Solvang among communities joining Central Coast Community Energy this month

BY PETER JOHNSON

More than 100,000 residents and property owners on the Central Coast will start service with a new power provider this month. Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is launching in Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Arroyo Grande, as well as Santa Maria and unincorporated Santa Barbara County.

The "flipping of the switch" for these communities, which took place ceremonially on Jan. 14, is a continuation of 3CE's southward expansion from the Santa Cruz/Monterey/San Benito tri-county area, where the agency originated, to SLO and Santa Barbara counties.

Now, 3CE will have nearly a half-million customers that span five counties and 26 cities (Atascadero and unincorporated SLO County are the lone local holdouts). 3CE leaders and proponents promise that the switch will reduce members' electricity bills and localize energy governance.

"It is bringing decision-making about energy closer to the people," said Das Williams, 1st District supervisor for Santa Barbara County, in comments made at the Jan. 14 ceremony. "It's been my dream for some time that some of the prosperity that has taken place in clean energy jobs in the six counties of the Bay Area would start filtering southward. ... That dream might become a reality."

Initially called Monterey Bay Community Power, 3CE first launched in 2018 as a community choice energy agency under state law. The Central Coast energy agency is one of 24 operating in California, and these entities purchase power on behalf of their customers while PG&E or the incumbent utility continues delivering the electrons. The net benefit of community choice energy, according to proponents, is to get local control over power sourcing and the ability to reinvest profits in the community.

As a pitch to customers, 3CE is offering a 2 percent rate reduction from PG&E and a carbon-free energy portfolio. It also touts a goal of 100 percent renewable energy generation by 2030.

"That's a whole 15 years ahead of California's energy goals," said Bruce McPherson, a Santa Cruz County supervisor who's considered the founder of the agency. "This expansion today really accelerates the environmental and economic benefits."

Officials emphasized that the accelerated all-renewable target is really put in reach thanks to 3CE's expansion. With a larger customer base and more buying power, 3CE can now chase more substantial solar or wind projects than it could before, which can then account for a larger share of its power load.

To Williams, that's a critical benefit to the Central Coast.



NEW ENERGY ERA: This month, Santa Maria area residents are enrolling in Central Coast Community Energy—a new local power provider that works in tandem with PG&E.

"The economies of scale allow us to move away from what I'd characterize as more symbolic elements of energy procurement and toward more investment in substantive, long-term contracts for renewable energy, and even building such facilities ourselves," Williams said.

Customers have the option to opt out and stay with PG&E for their power generation services. Instructions on how to do so will arrive in the mail, or customers can visit 3ceenergy.org for details.

The ability for residents to choose their power provider is an important element of 3CE to Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino.

Patino initially opposed her city joining 3CE—thinking it was "too good to be true"—but now she represents Santa Maria on the agency's policy board and "feels good about it."

"If it brings security as far as energy to our community and if it lowers our rates, that's important to people," she said. "I don't see any hidden agendas out there. I think people are pretty honest there on the board. And people have the ability to opt out."

Carpinteria and Goleta will join 3CE in October—these communities are the first to join within the SoCal Edison service territory. After that, 3CE officials say they have no intention of expanding farther north, south, or east.

Highlight

• The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is offering a Valentine's Day workout for couples 18 years and older. Dubbed Love is in the Air, the outdoor, socially distanced workout will be offered in two sessions, from 10 to 11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center on Feb. 14. Registration costs \$10 and includes a goody bag. "It is said that couples that train together, stay together," a city statement said. "Treat your heart and sweetheart on Valentine's Day with a fun and energetic couples' workout that will include fitness exercises and agility drills." Registration for the class ends Feb. 4, and space is limited. Those interested should head to cityofsantamaria.org/register. ○

Peter Johnson is the assistant editor at the Sun's sister paper, the San Luis Obispo New Times. He wrote this week's Spotlight. Send hot tips about businesses, nonprofits, and good samaritans to spotlight@santamariasun.com.



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DEATH NOTICES

DONNA J. AVILA, 89, of San Luis Obispo passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

LANICE GILLARD, 54, of Pismo Beach passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

NORRIS BALLOU TACY, 90, of Paso Robles passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

LARRY ALLEN CHASTAIN, 77, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MARIA GUADALUPE CASAREZ, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JUDY ANN SUSCHKE, 74, of Paso Robles passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

RICHARD WARREN HIRSCHLER, 84, of Atascadero passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

JOANNE GINGRAS, 82, of Pismo Beach passed away 1/6/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

JAMES JESUS HERNANDEZ, 69, of Paso Robles passed away 1/7/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

THERESA SOLLAZZO, 100, of Paso Robles passed away 1/7/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CAROL MAY ERIKSON, 91, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/7/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

JUDITH KAY DENSCH, 72, of Santa Maria passed away 1/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARILYN J. BOWERS, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 1/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CHARLES W. MILLER, 93, of Cambria passed away 1/8/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

MONIQUE LOUISE JAMES, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 1/8/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MICHAEL S. BAINBRIDGE, 68, of Santa Maria passed away 1/8/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

URSULA BENHAM, 84, of Santa Maria passed away 1/9/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

BERKLEY JONSTON, 84, of San Luis Obispo passed away 1/9/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

RICHARD TAYLOR JR., 85, of Santa Maria passed away 1/10/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PATRICIA ONO, 93, of Santa Maria passed away 1/10/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

DONALD ERBSTOESSER, 94, of San Luis Obispo passed away 1/10/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

RAUL EVERETT CUELLAR, 66, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/10/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MICHAEL SILVA, 68, of Atascadero passed away 1/10/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

DR LOUIS TEDONE, 97, of San Luis Obispo passed away 1/10/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

DONALD WAYNE WALDO, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 1/11/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

BRUCE LOVE, 73, of Atascadero passed away 1/11/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

ALMA FAY MANRIQUEZ, 76, of Santa Maria passed away 1/11/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BONNIE LEE MINER, 87, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/11/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

JUANA FAUSTO, 64, of Santa Maria passed away 1/11/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

LOUIE GUERRERO, JR., 60, of Gaudalupe passed away 1/12/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

LIBRADO PEREZ CHAVEZ, 87, of Bakersfield passed away 1/12/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

ELEANOR M KLOSTERMANN, 96, of Santa Maria passed away 1/12/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

INGEBORG MELINE, 96, of Atascadero passed away 1/12/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

ANN MARIE DOYLE, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 1/12/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

EDSON GOULD, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 1/13/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MANUEL V. PEREIRA, 96, of Santa Maria passed away 1/13/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

VIVIAN H. VANDERVEEN, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 1/13/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MARGIE CUELLER, 48, of Arroyo Grande passed away 1/13/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel



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Are you changing your behavior given the ever-worsening COVID-19 surge in Santa Barbara County?

- 40% I have a close bubble, and I'm sticking to it.
- 36% Yes, I'm locking down even more strictly than the beginning of the pandemic.
- 14% I'll be more cautious until cases peak, but we have to keep living our lives.
- 10% No, I don't believe my individual actions can make a huge difference.

30 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.



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Caldwell sinks to new low

Local media host spreads lies about Jan. 6 attack on Capitol Hill

BY JOE PAYNE

Local right-wing media host, lobbyist, and failed candidate for Congress, Andy Caldwell, sunk to even lower lows on his radio show on Jan. 6, after far-right domestic terrorists goaded by President Donald Trump stormed the United States Capitol in an attempt to overthrow American democracy.

After our criminal president whipped up his MAGA mob to march on the Capitol to supposedly engage in a “peaceful protest,” hundreds of his supporters—with well-known far-right extremists, including neo-Nazis, neo-Confederates, white supremacists, and QAnon conspiracy theorists—pushed through and attacked Capitol Hill Police, disrupting the official count of the Electoral College votes that formally granted the presidency to its rightful winner, Joseph Biden, putting lawmakers into lockdown and evacuation mode.

What was plain to see to many of us who warned about the danger of Trump, his rhetoric, and his most extreme followers since 2016 was now clear as day to all Americans: that they posed a serious authoritarian and fascist threat to our way of life, both in our constitutional republic’s democratic process and the rule of law.

But if you live in the silo of the right-wing MAGAsphere like Caldwell, and believe Trump’s big lie of election fraud, the best answer is yet another lie—antifa did it.

“I believe, and we’ve seen some pictures, antifa claimed they were going to infiltrate these protest rallies to raise a ruckus,” Caldwell said. “And the Proud Boys said they were going to do the same, and they both said they were going to dress incognito.”

This conspiracy theory, yet another paranoid and baseless claim to deflect from the extremism in America’s far-right fostered by the Republican Party, was also floated by Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz (Florida) once the House resumed the process to formalize the election results. Anti-fascist organizers often called antifa, who are not formally

bound only by the desire to resist fascist groups like the Proud Boys, was very much nowhere to be found in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6. The Proud Boys, however, were there for the attack on the Capitol, along with neo-Nazi and white supremacist extremists who were brazen enough to livestream their ransacking of the halls of Congress.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Proud Boys, a far-right group dedicated to street violence in the name of Donald Trump, were asked by Trump to “stand back, and stand by” during the presidential debate. Now we know what he was referring to.

And believe it or not, Caldwell was sharing this baseless claim with the most unfortunate (for him) guest possible to book that day—Joe Arpaio. Arpaio, the former Arizona sheriff and proto-Trumpist figure known for his cruelty to inmates, especially immigrants from Mexico and South America, was found guilty of contempt of court for ignoring federal orders to stop arresting immigrants based solely on the suspicion of undocumented status. Trump, as we have seen him do with several of his criminal friends and supporters, pardoned Arpaio in 2017, all while mainstreaming the former sheriff’s campaign of cruelty against immigrants and refugees.

“To what degree do you think [antifa] infiltrated this to just give Trump a bad name?” Caldwell asked.

Arpaio replied, “Well, that doesn’t surprise me,” and immediately spun the conversation to looting that happened during the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement last summer.

Caldwell and Arpaio continued to collectively blame the media, Democratic Party lawmakers, antifa, California, and “the left” in general for the ills in America, grasping at literally anything rather than face the incredibly unprecedented escalation of right-wing domestic terrorism that struck at the very heart of our nation on Jan. 6. Equivocating an attack on the U.S. Capitol with protest, and even going as

WRITE NOW! We want to know what you think about everything. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2450 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (1-805-347-9889) or e-mail it (letters@santamariasun.com). All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes; may be edited for space or clarity; and will be posted to santamariasun.com.

far as blaming it on confabulated left-wing agitators, illustrates a deeply disturbing strain of American conservatism that is all too comfortable reaching for the fascists’ playbook.

I know many Republicans are mortified by what happened in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6 and have accepted the obvious truth of the integrity of the election and agree with the calls for Trump to be removed from office. As someone on the progressive left, I won’t treat them as anything but fellow citizens and friends. But for those like Caldwell, who act as apologists for the anti-democracy and extremist strain on the right, I am comforted to see them so resoundingly defeated by the American people in the 2020 elections, after just one term of the man who is unequivocally the worst president in United States history. ○

Joe Payne is a lifelong journalist and Santa Marian who shares news, analysis, and commentary online at politicalpayne.com. Send responses for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS

Time for new leadership

Has anyone noticed the state is operating at a deficit? Has anyone noticed Gov. Newsom tapping into state slush funds? Has anyone noticed the sales taxes most cities rely upon are not flowing in because there are fewer sales from fewer operating businesses? The money is drying up due to the government and bureaucratic response over the fear of COVID-19.

There will come a time, very soon, when politicians and bureaucrats will have to decide between reduced services or higher taxes. Generic politicians will choose both, with the financial burden being placed firmly upon the residents of California and the counties.

If your welfare depends upon a government program, that program will barely exist or will be eliminated. Look for public pensions to be IOUs rather than checks. Expect a furlough unless you are a politician or executive level bureaucrat.

The politicians are driving away all the high-paying corporations and wealthy individuals who could have softened the financial blow. It will be up to the citizens left behind to pick up the tab for political folly. Time to choose new leadership at all levels.

Michael Southern
Santa Maria

Vehicles, pedestrians are incompatible

The California Coastal Act of 1976 protects our shoreline and guarantees beach access for all. Off-roaders are using the Coastal Act’s intent to justify their destructive activity on Oceano Beach and dunes. They broadcast misleading messages of “access for all” and “keep the dunes open” as if “access for all” means access to vehicles, and as if we and the Coastal Commission want to close the park to all public access.

We do not want to close the park to public access. That is a lie. The Coastal Act guarantees access for all people, not their vehicles. There is no access for all on a beach where vehicles drive as on a

LETTERS continued page 12



AVISO PÚBLICO



Aviso de Propósito de adoptar una declaración negativa atenuada y de Oportunidad para una audiencia pública

Bandas sonoras en Solomon Canyon/Ampliación de cunetas en la Ruta Estatal 1 en el condado de Santa Bárbara

PERÍODO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS

Los comentarios se aceptarán hasta el 5 de marzo de 2021.

Si no hay comentarios considerables o solicitudes de audiencia pública, Caltrans procederá con el diseño del proyecto.

¿Qué se está planificando?

El Departamento de Transporte de California (California Department of Transportation, Caltrans) propone reducir la cantidad y la gravedad de las colisiones que ocurren en las salidas de las carreteras en el condado de Santa Bárbara, en la State Route 1, desde Solomon Road (cerca de la localidad de Orcutt) hasta la intersección con la State Route 166 en la ciudad de Guadalupe. El proyecto propuesto ensancharía cunetas, instalaría bandas sonoras a lo largo de la línea del borde, elevaría el perfil de la carretera en dos puntos críticos, extendería las alcantarillas existentes y reubicaría los postes telefónicos y otros objetos fijos fuera de la zona de recuperación despejada. Para el proyecto, necesitaríamos adquirir servidumbre de paso, de servicios públicos y de construcción.

¿Cuál es el objetivo de este Aviso público?

Caltrans estudió los efectos que este proyecto puede tener en el ambiente. Según nuestros estudios, no se afectará de manera significativa la calidad del medio ambiente. El informe explica por qué se llama "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta". Este Aviso tiene el propósito de hacerle saber que el "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta" está a su disposición para que pueda leerlo y hacer comentarios. Este Aviso también le brinda la oportunidad de solicitar una audiencia pública.

¿Qué está a su disposición?

El "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta" y otra información sobre el proyecto están disponibles para revisión en la oficina del Distrito 5 de Caltrans, en 50 South Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401, de lunes a viernes de 8:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m. También puede consultar el documento en el sitio web <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d5/> y en estos locales:

- Guadalupe Branch Library, en 4719 W. Main Street, Suite D, Guadalupe, CA 93434.
- Orcutt Branch Library, en 175 S. Broadway, Orcutt, CA 93455.
- Santa Maria Public Library, en 421 McClelland Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454.

¿Cuál es su rol en el proyecto?

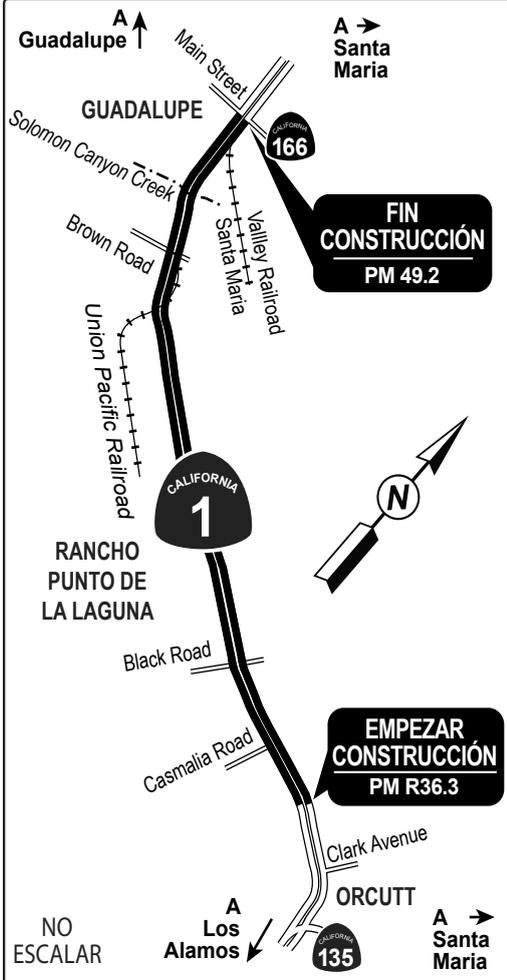
¿Tiene algún comentario sobre el proceso del proyecto con un "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta"? ¿Está en desacuerdo con los resultados de nuestro estudio como se describen en la "Declaración negativa atenuada propuesta"? ¿Podría hacer otros comentarios sobre el proyecto? ¿Quiere solicitar una audiencia pública? Envíe sus comentarios o su solicitud de audiencia pública por escrito antes del 5 de marzo de 2021 a Caltrans, Attn: Jason Wilkinson, District 5 Office, en 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Si no hay comentarios considerables o solicitudes de audiencia pública, Caltrans procederá con el plan del proyecto.

Contacto

Para obtener más información sobre este estudio o para solicitar una copia del "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta", comuníquese con Jason Wilkinson, responsable principal de planificación ambiental, llamando al (805) 542-4663 o por correo electrónico a jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov. Por otros asuntos de transporte, comuníquese con la Oficina de Asuntos Públicos del Distrito 5 llamando al (805) 549-3318.

Arreglos especiales

Se solicita a las personas que requieran arreglos especiales (uso de lenguaje de señas americano [American Sign Language], un intérprete, documentación en otros formatos, etc.) que se comuniquen con la Oficina de Asuntos Públicos del Distrito 5, llamando al (805) 549-3318. Los usuarios de dispositivos de telecomunicación para sordos (TDD) pueden comunicarse con la línea TDD del Servicio de Retransmisión de California llamando al 1-800-735-2929



PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity for a Public Hearing

Solomon Canyon Rumble Strip/Shoulder Widening on State Route 1 in Santa Barbara County

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted until March 5, 2021.

If there are no major comments or requests for a public hearing, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to reduce the number and severity of roadway departure collisions in Santa Barbara County on State Route 1 from Solomon Road near the town of Orcutt to its intersection with State Route 166 in the city of Guadalupe. The proposed project would widen shoulders, install edge-line rumble strips, raise the profile of the road at two critical points, extend the existing culverts, and relocate utility poles and other fixed objects to outside the clear recovery zone. The project will require right-of-way acquisition, utility easements, and construction easements.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains why is called an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. This notice is to tell you that the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is now available for you to read and comment on. This notice also offers you the opportunity to request a public hearing.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and other project information are available for review at the Caltrans District 5 Office at 50 South Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401 on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The document can be viewed on the web at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d5/> and is also available at the following locations:

- Guadalupe Branch Library at 4719 W. Main Street, Suite D, Guadalupe, CA 93434
- Orcutt Branch Library at 175 S. Broadway, Orcutt, CA 93455
- Santa Maria Public Library at 421 McClelland Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454

WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

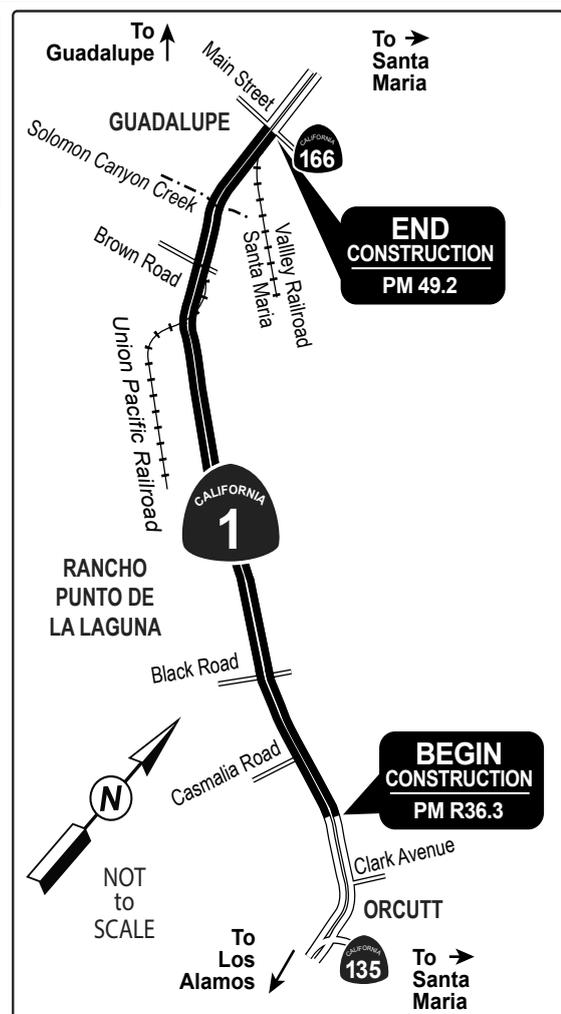
Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Would you like to request a public hearing? Please submit your comments or request for a public hearing in writing no later than March 5, 2021 to Caltrans, Attn: Jason Wilkinson, District 5 Office at 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. If there are no major comments or requests for a public hearing, Caltrans will proceed with the project design.

CONTACT

For more information about this study or to request a copy of the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, please contact Jason Wilkinson, Senior Environmental Planner, at (805) 542-4663 or jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov. For other transportation matters, call the District 5 Public Affairs Office at (805) 549-3318.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language, interpreter, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact the District 5 Public Affairs Office at (805) 549-3318. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929.



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Monday – Friday

Conflicted

I know I'm the most opinionated yellow-feathered fiend you know, but it's so hard to know how to feel sometimes. The nuance of life is lost in political debate and the emotional toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. Details glossed over. Rush to judgment solidified.

The virus is spreading faster in **Santa Barbara County** than it is in most other areas of California. In other words, people become infected faster here for some strange reason. We are in the top three counties statewide. Kudos!

According to the **Santa Barbara Independent**, here's how county **Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg** explained the spread: "Santa Barbara County is simply a beautiful place. It attracts lots of visitors. It attracts a lot of activities. It's very social, and people like to get together and party."

What is **San Luis Obispo County**? Chopped liver?

Northern Santa Barbara County also has densely populated housing situations. But you can't really place blame virus spread on low-income residents with essential jobs who can't afford less congregated living spaces, right? So partiers and tourists it is!!

All you party animals better knock that crap off! Meanwhile, county **Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso** said the county is in dire straights, with COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU stays, and deaths increasing fourfold—and the state isn't holding up its end of delivering promised vaccine doses.

Counties are blaming the state, which is in turn blaming the federal government. So, rest-assured, the vaccination rollout will be just as tinged with political angst and bad policymaking as the rest of the pandemic. And we likely won't fix a damn

thing in the process.

Could it be that public health departments are severely underfunded and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the poor state of the U.S. health care system, which isn't built to tackle anything above a payday? No. Definitely not. It's Democrats! It's Republicans! Recall **Gov. Gavin Newsom!** Impeach **President Donald Trump!**

Speaking of the president who is no longer our president: **OASIS Senior Center CEO Doug Dougherty** resigned from his position due to ... you guessed it, social media! According to **Noozhawk**, Dougherty was in Washington, D.C., during the U.S. Capitol riot on Jan. 6 and made comments on social media that some residents didn't exactly like.

There's no evidence that Dougherty actually entered the Capitol during the riot. And so

I wonder whether a person who's served a local organization well for a decade should be forced to resign due to his political views—and, by the way, without **Facebook** or **Instagram**, we would have been blissfully unaware of what he thinks.

What gives people the right to try to cancel somebody for the perceived wrongs of their worldview? Isn't the whole point of free speech to enable society to engage in a public exchange of ideas about how society should operate?

I mean, he probably shouldn't have responded to his critics on social media because we all know that never ends well: "How many more people want to threaten my life and job today? I'm not going to back down," he wrote in response, according to **Noozhawk**.

Truth be told, none of the events of Jan. 6 and what followed would have been possible without social media or the internet, so maybe we should give that some serious thought. ○

The Canary wants to cancel Facebook. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



LETTERS from page 10

highway because vehicles and pedestrians are not compatible. We learn as a 5-year-old not to "play in the street." Yet, the OHV and day use beach drivers allow and encourage their children to do so, and our legislators are telling the rest of us we have to do it too.

Those who don't want to recreate in traffic are excluded, especially residents of Oceano, a disadvantaged community of which State Parks is taking advantage of by denying it the economic and recreational benefits of a safe beachfront. A beachfront is a beach community's most precious resource, and yet Oceano is denied one. We don't have a Pismo Preserve, nor a Nipomo Regional Park, nor a Bob Jones Trail. Oceano has the beach and yet cannot enjoy it safely.

Lucia Casalnuovo, president
Oceano Beach Community Association

Beware of specious allegations of Trump conspiracy

I'll begin this by saying that the attack on the House of Representatives on Jan. 6 was not something that I ever expected to see in the United States; but, the last riot in Washington, D.C., was only a couple of months prior to this when anti-Trump rioters attacked public and private buildings and federal officers.

I also fully support the arrest and bringing to justice of hundreds of the Jan. 6 rioters; they deserve to be held accountable for their actions.

Of course, very few of the thousands of rioters in cities across the U.S. during the months leading up to the general election were ever charged or held accountable for the hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to public and private property or the injuries to law enforcement officers and to

innocent citizens like you and me.

According to accommodating local politicians, they were peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights and if simply left alone to continue the destruction and seizing of property, they would wear themselves out. Some prominent Democrat politicians even organized bail money to free those who were arrested from jail.

A recent letter writer to the *Sun* started his comments concerning the attack on the Capitol by writing, "I have a few thoughts regarding the Jan. 6 attack on the United States Congress coordinated by Donald Trump and his team and carried out by his supporters," ("Trump followers need to grow up," Jan. 14).

So far there have only been commentaries from media shills and Democrat politicians that would lead you to believe that the destruction and mayhem was coordinated by "Donald Trump and his team." To be sure, it was irresponsible to spend several weeks hyping your supporters with claims of "election fraud" when none has been established in several court cases, but that's a long way from coordinating an attack on Congress.

It was also shortsighted to think that a large crowd like those that gathered and who were angry at the outcome of the election couldn't be easily sparked into a riot like the one that occurred, but it wasn't even alleged by House Democrats in their Articles of Impeachment that the Trump team coordinated anything, only that he exercised his free speech rights, much like many others have in the past, and that led to the riot.

Was Trump wrong to take the course of action that he did following the election? Yes.

Is it wrong to allege a conspiracy that has not been established by anyone except Trump haters? Yes.

Ron Fink
Lompoc

HOT STUFF

JAN. 21 – JAN. 28
2021

NOTE: Most venues are canceling or postponing events due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Please check with venues to make sure that scheduled events are still, in fact, happening, and most of all, stay safe!



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SLO LITERACY COUNCIL

READERS NEEDED

Literacy for Life in San Luis Obispo hosts its next two-part training session through Zoom on Saturday, Jan. 23, and Saturday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. both days. Participants of this virtual workshop will be trained to become volunteer tutors to work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. Admission to join is free. Call (805) 541-4219 or visit literacyforlifeso.org.

—Caleb Wiseblood

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

THE ART OF FACE MASKS: VIRTUAL EXHIBIT This group show reunites several artists from the museum's 2019 exhibit, *The Art of Dress*, including Georganne Alex, Carole Coduti, Gwen Samuels, and others. ongoing Free. artoffacemasks.com. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

A MIGHTY OAK: PERMANENT EXHIBIT ONLINE Depicts the habitat around a Valley oak—one of the largest and old trees found in our area. View the artwork online. ongoing Free. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

SB COUNTY AND BEYOND Photographic landscapes by George Rose. View online. ongoing Free. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

SOLVANG SCHOOL: INSPIRED BY NATURE View the exhibit online. Features photography by 29 Solvang School Yearbook and Media students. The students, grades 7–8, were inspired by philosopher Henry David Thoreau's quote: "All good things are wild and free." ongoing Free. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

WINTER SALON: ANNUAL GROUP SHOW Over 50 artists display all fine art mediums hung floor to ceiling, "salon style". Features all sizes, all subjects, framed, unframed, etc. Through Jan. 31 GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO Call or go online for the Academy's current offerings. The Academy offers private lessons by the hour or half hour for all age groups and ability. ongoing 805-925-0464. coelhomusic.com. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK Streams live on PCPA's Instagram every Thursday and spotlights a different thespian guest each week. Hosted by Erik Stein. Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. Free. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

PCPA READS AT HOME A literacy project that uses our students' learning to serve children and parents who are learning at home. Co-hosted by Allan Hancock College and the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to bring a love of stories and language to people right in

their homes. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

PRESCHOOL CRAFT PACKS Register to pick up a Preschool Craft pack, geared towards ages 3 to 5. These packs focus on strengthening fine motor skills, identification of shapes, colors, and textures, all while encouraging creative fun at home. **Jan. 21, Jan. 22 and Jan. 23** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TECH TALKS: LIVE ON INSTAGRAM Every Tuesday sit down with one of our technical staff and learn about the ins and outs of their craft. Get the exclusive with our host Erik Stein. Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

WINE AND DESIGN VIRTUAL CLASSES Check Wine and Design's Orcutt website for the complete list of virtual classes online, for various ages. Also offering kids camps for summer. ongoing Varies. wineanddesign.com/orcutt. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM Sara Curran Ice, PCPA's Technical Theatre Program Coordinator/Designer, is conducting Workshops via Zoom for local high school drama students. Check site or call for more info. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

WRITING CLUB TO GO: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY The writing club is designed for students up through grade 12. The writing packs include a journal, and a variety of activities to both ease the pressure of writing and to inspire young authors. Registration is required. **Jan. 23, Jan. 25, Jan. 26, Jan. 27, Jan. 28, Jan. 29 and Jan. 30** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CALL FOR ARTISTS: ART CENTRAL'S VIRTUAL GALLERY Most Fridays, Art Central publishes a "Virtual Gallery" and is looking for more artwork to include. Please

New Times and the Sun now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from SLO County through northern Santa Barbara County. Submit events online by logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account at newtimeslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimeslo.com. Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com.

email us your artwork so we can continue to encourage, support, and inspire the local art community. Attach your image, name, title, medium, size and any inspiring words you would like to share. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through May 28 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.wordpress.com/blog/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS: VIRTUAL EXHIBIT WITH PLEIN AIR PAINTERS A call for artists. Contact the Gallery Director for questions (gallery@cambricenterforthearts.org). Through Feb. 28 Free; entry fees vary. 805-434-7060. gallery@cambricenterforthearts.org. Online, See website.

THE INTERMISSION SHOW This brisk 8- to 10-minute show is set up like a socially distanced talk show with SLO Rep's Managing Artistic Director Kevin Harris at the helm, clad in a tacky suit and tie with a faux alcoholic drink nearby. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 3 p.m. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440, slorepo.org/.

LABORATORY VII: CARLOS MARTIEL New York-based, Cuban born performance artist Carlos Martiel will talk about his work, as part of an ongoing series of artist talks with Black identified artists. **Jan. 28**, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. 805-546-3201. cuesta.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

LIVE VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB EVENT WITH AUTHOR ALYSSA SHEINMEL For teens and adults. Register by going to slolibrary.org and clicking on the Event Calendar. **Jan. 26**, 4-5 p.m. Free. slolibrary.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

PAINTING WITH PAPER ART WORKSHOP Ever wondered what to do with left over birthday cards, old textbooks, event tickets and outdated wrapping paper? Before you throw them into the recycle, why not take an art workshop from the safety of your own home? **Jan. 29-30**, 10-11:30 a.m. \$45 to \$50. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. See website, San Luis Obispo.

PANEL DISCUSSION: GREASE, WATER, AND STONE Join SLOMA for a lively panel discussion with

printmakers Steve Andrews, Conrad Schwable, and Jeff Sipple to discuss his *Gray Wing* exhibition, "Grease, Water, and Stone: An Ocean Works Retrospective." The exhibition features lithographs created by Ocean Works Press between 1979 and 1983. Through Feb. 28, noon Free. 805-543-8562. slooma.org/panel-discussion-ocean-works/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

PANEL DISCUSSION: PACIFICARIBBEAN Join SLOMA for a lively panel discussion presented in conjunction with SLOMA's inaugural mural project, "Pacificaribbean." Join mural artist Juan Alberto Negroni, guest curator Emma Saperstein, and other arts professionals to discuss mural projects and public art, both in SLO and internationally. **Jan. 21**, 6-7 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. slooma.org/panel-discussion-pacificaribbean/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2021 Stream entertaining musicals, comedies, dramas, and documentaries that explore Jewish life around the world. Also features filmmaker conversations and other free live-stream events each week. **Jan. 28** \$10-\$50. 805-426-5465. slojff.com/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLOMA: WEEKLY ART PROJECTS Kids can enjoy new activities from home (posted online every Monday). Mondays slooma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562.

VIRTUAL ART GALLERY Every Friday, we publish our Virtual Art Gallery to our blog and newsletter. Featuring artworks from customers and the community. Fridays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.wordpress.com/category/gallery-exhibits/virtual-gallery/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

VIRTUAL OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR Visit ARTS Obispo's Facebook page to view works from several local artists and artisans. ongoing Free. facebook.com/artobispo. Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

WINTER SNOWFLAKE CERAMIC CLASS A socially distanced hand-building ceramic, snowflake class. Ceramic artist Heather Cerne guides this workshop. Through Jan. 31 slo makerspace.com/. SLOMakerSpace, 81 Higuera, suite 160, San Luis Obispo, 805-225-4783.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

DAVID SETTINO SCOTT: FEATURED ARTIST Offering personal appointments and tours of Scott's studio in San Miguel. Through March 1 805-286-4430. Park Street Gallery, 1320 Park Street, Paso Robles, parkstreetgallery.com.

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SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS



MUSIC MONTHLY

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents *Fridays at Four*, a monthly virtual concert series on YouTube, which premieres its next video on Friday, Feb. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m. Each prerecorded concert in the free program features performances from different members of the orchestra. A new concert is uploaded on the first Friday of each month. Call (805) 925-0412 or visit santamariaphilharmonic.org to find out more.

—C.W.

ARTS from page 13

MOSAICS HEARTS FOR BEGINNERS Each kit comes with an instruction sheet and link to a how-to video to guide you through the entire process from start to finish. Great for beginners. Preregistration required. **Jan. 25**, 6-7 p.m. \$40. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Paso Robles Recreation Center, 600 Nickerson Dr., Paso Robles.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK: ONLINE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS Check site for a variety of virtual classes and workshops online. ongoing.studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CALL FOR ARTISTS: FLOWER POWER This exhibition will embrace the diversity of florals through two-dimensional and three-dimensional interpretations. Artists are invited to submit up to three 2-D (wall-hung) artworks in all media and 3-D: vases (up to three) and one Ikebana arrangement. Open to MBAA members and non-members. Through Feb. 9 Entry fees vary; see entry forms. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/upcoming-exhibits/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FEATHERED FRIENDS This group fine art show will showcase paintings of birds, in all media, and photography of birds—small birds and large birds of all descriptions, in all habitats, that call the Central Coast their home. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

MOSAIC HEART ART Create in the comfort and safety of your home guided by a how-to video. Date and time listed is for curbside kit pickup. Choose from several projects to make your heart sing while learning mosaic basics. Preregistration required. **Jan. 23**, 10-11 a.m. Various. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SEA GLASS WIRE WRAP JEWELRY Create in the comfort and safety of your home with a kit and how-to

video. Date and time listed is for curbside kit pickup. Learn basic wire wrapping to create a lovely necklace and two pierced earrings. Preregistration required. **Jan. 24**, 1-2 p.m. \$40. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

ELEVATE LOMPOC AND BIRRIA BOYZ SALE Features a variety of discounts and special offers. Call or visit site for more details. **Jan. 30**, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. 805-819-0077. elevatelompo.com. Elevate Lompoc, 118 South H St., Lompoc.

GOOD MORNING LOMPOC The show is hosted by Lompoc locals Michelle and Jeremy Ball, who aim to keep the community connected while staying home at the same time. Episodes are also available to watch on YouTube after they're streamed live. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Facebook, Online, Inquire for Facebook address.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. ongoing partnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

DIY PLAYDOH PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Register to pick up a DIY Playdoh Pack which will contain everything you need to make your own dough. Making playdoh from scratch provides an introduction to science and math concepts. Registration is required. **Jan. 23, Jan. 25, Jan. 26, Jan. 27, Jan. 28, Jan. 29** and **Jan. 30** Free. 805-925-0994.

engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

HUMAN BEING SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION ONLINE GROUP An online group to listen and get support from others from the comfort of your own home. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. \$40 monthly subscription. 805-598-1509. divining.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St., Santa Maria.

STORY TIME LIVE FOR FAMILIES: VIRTUAL EVENT FROM SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Join us for a live story time for families; bilingual on alternating weeks. Includes songs, finger plays, and a few stories. Tune in for a fun story time the whole family will enjoy. Registration is required for a Zoom link. Wednesdays, 4-4:30 p.m. through Feb. 24 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN ANIME CLUB PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Register to pick up a Teen Anime Club Pack from the Santa Maria Public Library, which will include something bookish, crafty, and, of course, something yummy. When you register you will also be invited to a Zoom meeting on Jan. 25. **Jan. 21, Jan. 22** and **Jan. 23** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. ongoing Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwindsantamaria.com.

YOGA FOR MANKIND: ZOOM CLASSES Offering a variety of virtual yoga and pilates classes over the summer. Check site for class schedule. ongoing Starts at \$10. yoga4mankind.org. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, suite B, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DANA ADOBE ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER A great gift idea and a way to support the DANA Adobe and Cultural Center. Each ornament is custom made by staff members. Visit site for more info. ongoing danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. \$10. pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

WEEKLY DROWNING RESCUE COURSES Facility advertised as open and safe. Give the office a call to register over the phone. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Members \$130; Non-members \$160. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, 5citysswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BIPOC COMMUNITY YOGA CLASS Sunday evenings over Zoom. A complimentary class for our BIPOC community. This class is for people who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color. Please join Azure Stewart to rest and breathe in community. Sundays, 6-7 p.m. through Jan. 24 Free. 805-598-7100. sloyogacenter.com/schedule. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CENTRAL COAST CONJURERS (SLO COUNTY MAGIC CLUB) Monthly meeting of magicians of all levels. Please call or email for more info. Meet like-minded folks with an interest in magic, from close-up to stage performances. Last Wednesday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-440-0116. IHOP, 212 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

FOURTH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT WALK WITH GUEST SPEAKER MAYOR HEIDI HARMON Walk with us to advocate for comprehensive and humane treatment for those with severe mental illness. In-person and virtual event. One-mile walk concludes with guest speaker SLO Mayor Heidi Harmon and brief socially distanced reception. Supports the Andrew Holland

Foundation. **Jan. 22**, 6-7 p.m. Free; in-person with registration. andrewhollandfoundation.org/. Santa Rosa Park, Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo.

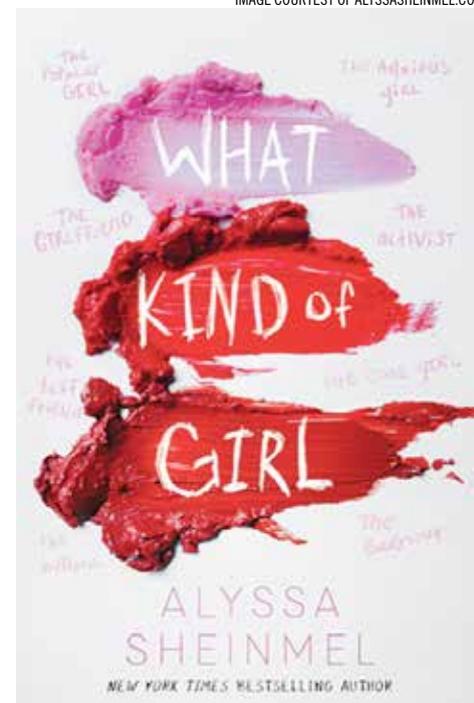
KIDS YOGA AT THE JACK HOUSE Bring the kids outside for sunshine, yoga, and fun. Offered every Tues. and Thurs. afternoon by SLO Yoga Center at the Jack House and Gardens. Ages 3 to 10 are welcome. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. through March 30 \$5. 805-598-7100. sloyogacenter.com/schedule. The Jack House, 536 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

LITERACY FOR LIFE TUTOR TRAINING Literacy For Life has a SLO countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. Tutors must attend both sessions. If you are interested but need help using Zoom, please email assistant@literacyforlifeflo.org. **Jan. 23**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and **Jan. 30**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-4219. literacyforlifeflo.org/become-a-tutor.php. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

METABOLIC CONDITIONING We use primarily our own body weight in this interval training class to run through exercises and drills to raise the heart rate, condition our muscles, and stay flexible. This advanced class also incorporates hand weights and sand bags, if you have them. Mondays-Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. \$72. 415-516-5214. ae.slucsd.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 16

IMAGE COURTESY OF ALYSSASHEINMEL.COM



BOOK YOUR SPOT

The San Luis Obispo Library presents an online author talk with novelist Alyssa Sheinmel on Friday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 5 p.m. This virtual event is part of the library's ongoing virtual book club series. Sheinmel will be discussing her novel, *What Kind of Girl* (cover pictured). Admission to join is free, but pre-registration is required at slolibrary.org. To find out more about the author, visit alysasheinmel.com.

—C.W.

What's Your Take?

This week's online poll
1/21-1/28

We know you've got an opinion.
Everybody's got one!

How were you impacted by PG&E's power outage?

- I didn't even notice there was a shutoff.
- My power was out for a few hours and it wasn't terrible.
- My work-from-home flow was disrupted.
- I couldn't use my electric medical devices, but I'm OK.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

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SLO THE VIRUS

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NEWS & INFORMATION

www.newtimeslo.com/blogs/SLOthevirus/

Get your latest local news and information regarding the COVID-19 health crisis from our award-winning journalists.

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NewTimes

Sun

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Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.



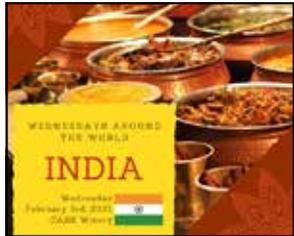
Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour
WEDNESDAYS THRU JUNE 30
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Estate Beef Dinner Series: Short Ribs
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



January Wine Seminar: Taste Like A Pro
SUNDAY JANUARY 24
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Wednesdays Around The World: India
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



A Special Valentine Dinner Experience
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Pecho Coast Trail Plant Life
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Point San Luis Lighthouse

MY805TIX BOX OFFICE IS OPEN Get your tickets online or at **Boo Boo Records**, the official **Box Office** for My805Tix events! Boo Boo's is located at 978 Monterey Street in SLO. Call 805-541-0657.

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! info@My805Tix.com



MUSHROOM DISCOVERY: A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP The popular Mushroom Discovery class is back and this time it's on Zoom. This interactive, online weekend workshop will keep you engaged while you learn about the mushrooms around you. Join for one or all of the sessions. **Jan. 22**, 5:30-7 p.m., **Jan. 22-26**, **Jan. 23**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **Jan. 24**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and **Jan. 25**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$65 members; \$75 non-members. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO NOONTIME TOASTMASTERS CLUB MEETINGS Want to improve speaking and leadership skills in a supportive and positive environment? During COVID, we are meeting virtually. Contact us to get a meeting link for info. Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. Free. slonoonline.toastmastersclubs.org. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

UNVEILING OUR BODY'S WISDOM: MOVEMENT CLASS SERIES An 8-week series to explore with motion, color, words, and breath. Participants dive deep into themselves, connect to their inner power, and create the language and the space for their bodies to express their wisdom, their stories. Thursdays, 5-6:30 p.m. through March 4 \$108 for series. 707-266-8945. athasomatics.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

UNVEILING OUR BODY'S WISDOM: MOVEMENT WORKSHOP Join us for this 8-week series where we explore art, writing, breath, and movement to dive deep into ourselves, connecting to our creativity and creating the language and the space for our bodies to express their wisdom and stories. Thursdays, 5-6:30 p.m. through March 4 \$108 for series. 707-266-8945. athasomatics.org/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE JACK HOUSE Public virtual tours via Zoom of the famous Jack House of San Luis Obispo. Access to the house is extremely limited and this is your best opportunity to get the inside view. Thursdays, 2 p.m. \$5 suggested. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/jack-tour.html. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

WINTER SHRUB DISCOVERY: IDENTIFICATION AND PROPAGATION WORKSHOP Join SLOBG for this special Zoom workshop about winter shrubs. Learn to identify winter shrubs and grow your own with master arborist Rodney Thurman in a two part workshop consisting of an online class about native shrubs followed by an interactive propagation session. **Jan. 30-31**, 1-3 p.m. \$30 members; \$35 nonmembers. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (ONLINE) Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHA) is a comprehensive, online training that teaches educators, family members, and caregivers (ages 18 and older) to approach, assess, and assist a young person with a mental health challenge or substance use concern. **Jan. 23**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., **Jan. 26**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and **Jan. 30**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 978-697-0629. bethedifference.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY
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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF CASS WINERY

HOT STUFF
JAN. 21 - JAN. 28
2021

THE WHY IN WINE
Cass Winery in Paso Robles hosts its next in-person wine seminar, Taste Like a Pro, on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. Host and wine specialist Katie Gebauer will guide participants through a sensory experience that includes analysis, discussion, and tasting of wine. Seating will be socially distanced, and each seminar is limited to 16 guests. Admission ranges from \$28 to \$35, and tickets are available in advance at my805tix.com.
—C.W.

\$28-\$35. 805-239-1730 Ext. 111. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

PAINT AND SIP VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE Choose between three different packages for a customized experience. **Jan. 28**, 6-7:30 p.m. Please see website for pricing. 805-239-1730. casswines.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

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Arts Briefs

Allan Hancock College produces original podcast, *Hancock Conversations*

IMAGE COURTESY OF ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE



At the start of 2021, Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria premiered its first original podcast, *Hancock Conversations*, which airs on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The next episode is set to be released on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and will be available through multiple platforms (Hancock's website, Spotify, and Apple Podcast apps).

Hosted by Hancock President and Superintendent Kevin G. Walthers, the podcast is described as "a casual conversation with people who are changing the odds for students and their local community," according to the college. Guests of the program include current and former students, staff, faculty, administrators, local community members, and others.

"This podcast celebrates the stories of the very inspiring people who have helped make Hancock the unique and vibrant hub for learning that it is today," Walthers said in a press release. "They come from a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences, but they all share a passion for making their community a better place. It's been a privilege to speak with them, and I'm happy that we can share their stories through this podcast."

For more info on *Hancock Conversations* and other updates from the college, call (805) 922-6966 or visit hancockcollege.edu. The college is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

New York performance artist Carlos Martiel joins Central Coast-based Zoom program

PHOTO BY CARLOS MARTIEL/ COURTESY OF THE SLO ARTS COUNCIL



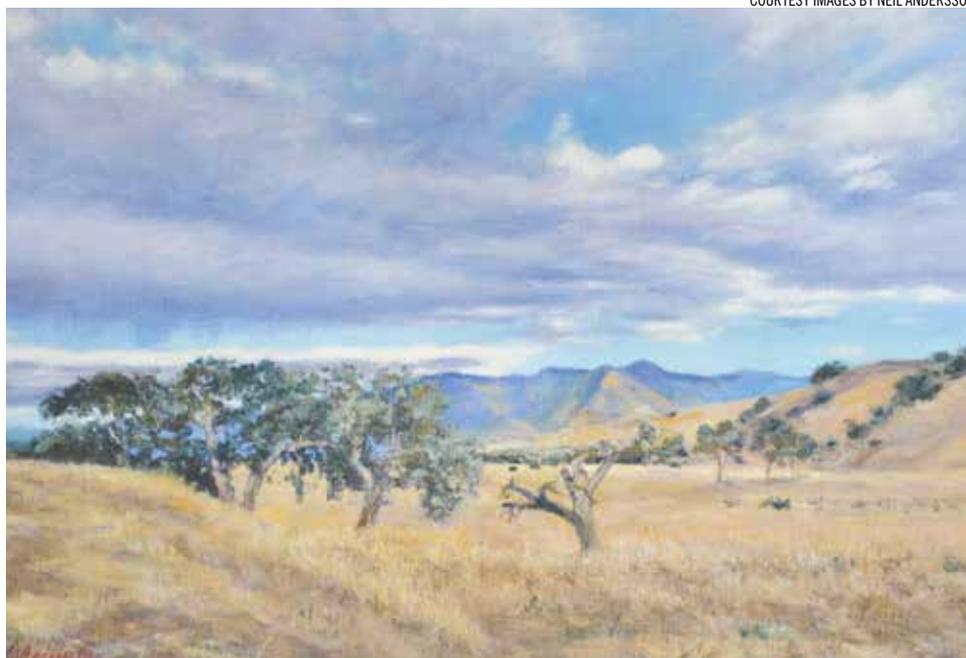
The Laboratory Series, an ongoing Black-identified artist showcase co-hosted by R.A.C.E. Matters SLO and the Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery, holds its next virtual program with special guest speaker Carlos Martiel, on Thursday, Jan. 28, starting at 5 p.m. This artist talk series is offered via Zoom, and admission to join the meeting is free.

Martiel's performance art has been showcased in multiple countries, including the Stedelijk Museum in the Netherlands, La Tertulia Museum in Colombia, MACZUL in Venezuela, the Nitsch Museum in Italy, and several other venues. His works are also included in various private and public collections in the U.S., including in the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Perez Art Museum of Miami in Florida.

Laboratory Series viewers are cautioned that many of Martiel's artworks deal with racial violence and are not suitable for children. To find out more about the artist, visit carlosmartiel.net. For more info on the Laboratory Series and its Zoom programming, visit racematterslo.org.

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood. Send information to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

COURTESY IMAGES BY NEIL ANDERSSON



CLOUDS ARE ROLLING BY: "I was struck by the way the clouds formed a great diagonal movement that contrasted to the horizontal landscape," said Lompoc artist Neil Andersson, discussing the cloudy weather he sought to capture in his oil landscape, titled *Near Los Olivos*.

Cloudy and unclouded

Lompoc-based oil painter Neil Andersson showcases local landscapes in Gallery Los Olivos' next group show

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Editor's note: This story is the second installment in a series profiling the three featured artists of *New Perspectives*, a biennial group exhibition at Gallery Los Olivos.

One of the joys of painting landscapes for Lompoc local Neil Andersson is occasionally finding new places to capture on a whim—sometimes spontaneously, while out and about on an unrelated errand, for example. Andersson was driving on Highway 101 when he spotted one of his landscape subjects featured in an upcoming group show, *New Perspectives*, at Gallery Los Olivos.

"I was struck by the way the clouds formed a great diagonal movement that contrasted to the horizontal landscape," Andersson said, recalling why he chose to pull over and photograph the area with the intention of painting a studio piece.

The painting is simply titled *Near Los Olivos*, as it captures a patch of land you can find near the Highway 154 exit into town. But as Andersson

explained, it wasn't so much the location itself that grabbed his attention. It was actually the weather that caught Andersson's eye.

"I really enjoy painting clouds," said Andersson, who focused more on capturing the details of the sky in his oil landscape rather than the land and trees below.

Andersson postulates that his penchant for cloud painting came from his upbringing, far from the sunny skies that often define the Central Coast.

"I was born and lived in the Northwest most of my life, so I've had a lot of experience painting clouds—it's always fun," Andersson said. "Clouds are always good, as they add compositional interest to the sky."

Evident from its title, a cloudy sky also takes center stage in Andersson's *Park Pathway on a Cloudy Day*, another oil landscape featured in *New Perspectives*. Like *Near Los Olivos*, this studio piece was also painted from a reference photograph.

Park Pathway on a Cloudy Day is just one of many landscapes Andersson has based on photos he's taken at Beattie Park in Lompoc. Other Beattie

Three's company

Gallery Los Olivos presents its biennial showcase, *New Perspectives*, which is scheduled to open on Feb. 4 and run through March 1. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com for more details on this trio exhibit. For more info on one of the show's three featured artists, Neil Andersson, visit neilandersson.com.

Park pieces include *Eucalyptus Tree and Pathway*, which was previously showcased in Gallery Los Olivos' Winter Salon exhibition.

"Usually when I work from photos, I'll change things to make a more interesting composition or edit out things that I think aren't important," said Andersson, while explaining nuanced differences between the original photo that inspired *Park Pathway on a Cloudy Day* and the final piece itself.

"I usually change the foliage—and in this case, like others, I simplified the forms to make them more geometric," Andersson said.

One of his favorite aspects of the painting is ambiguity, as the trail disappears within the frame, leaving viewers to imagine for themselves where it might lead to.

"I like the way the pathway leads the eye through the painting to an unseen place in the distance," he said.

During the course of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Andersson has found ample time at home to paint from reference photos. But some of his most recent pieces were completed outdoors and on location as well, including *Santa Ynez River at Solvang*. Unlike the previous pieces Andersson discussed, there isn't a single cloud to be found in this plein air painting.

"It was painted over a couple of sessions when the sky was beautifully clear and the leaves just starting to turn golden," Andersson said. "One of the great things about painting from nature is not only are you outside in the open air—a good thing during the pandemic—but the painting becomes almost like a souvenir."

"I have paintings I've done one on location 30 years ago and when looking at them, I can still remember the place, where I set up, the paint I used, and details that otherwise would have been long-forgotten," he said.

Most of Andersson's oil pieces set for display at Gallery Los Olivos, once *New Perspectives* opens in February, were painted on linen and will be showcased alongside the artworks of his fellow featured artists, Karen McGaw and Jim Tyler.

"Both are very accomplished artists, and I'm excited about our show," Andersson said. "I think our styles are very complimentary and that our work will look great together." ☪

Stay tuned for the final chapter of Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood's three-part series on *New Perspectives*. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT: "One of the great things about painting from nature is not only are you outside in the open air—a good thing during the pandemic—but the painting becomes almost like a souvenir," Neil Andersson said, while discussing his plein air piece, *Santa Ynez River at Solvang*.



SKY HIGH: "Clouds are always good, as they add compositional interest to the sky," Neil Andersson told the Sun. Pictured here is his oil painting, *Park Pathway on a Cloudy Day*.

Coming out

Writer-director Alan Ball (screenwriter of *American Beauty*) helms this comedy-drama about the Bledsoe family of Creekville, South Carolina. Set mostly in the early 1970s, it's the story of Frank (Paul Bettany), who's secretly gay, and his niece, Beth (Sophia Lillis), who feels most akin to Frank—a quiet, thoughtful man amid Southern rednecks. Frank escaped small-town Southern life and teaches literature at an NYC college, where Beth now attends as a freshman. Beth's father, Mike (Steve Zahn), is a classic Southerner, but the patriarch of the family—Frank and Mike's father, Daddy Mac (Stephen Root)—is a cruel, closed-minded bigot. When Daddy Mac dies of a sudden heart attack, Frank agrees to drive home with Beth to attend the funeral. Unbeknownst to them, Frank's boyfriend of 10 years, Walid "Wally" Nadeem (Peter Macdissi), rents a car and follows them, hoping to lend emotional support to Frank. Mixing flashbacks to Frank's younger years (young Frank played by Cole Dorman), we see what the trauma of repression and closeted sexuality has wrought on Frank's life. (95 min.)

Glen: This warm, openhearted film works as both a coming-of-age story for Beth and a cathartic story of reconciliation for Frank. It opens with a family gathering at the Bledsoe's Southern home. Frank is clearly different from his brother and father, and that difference draws Beth to him. She—like he—is smart enough to escape

the repressive and closed-minded South, and he encourages her to apply for colleges. She ends up at the very same one he teaches at in New York, and it's not too long before Beth discovers Frank's secret. He's gay and has been in a long-term relationship with Wally, a Muslim man with his own secrets he's keeping from his family. That's the setup, but the real story starts and unfolds with the road trip to attend Daddy Mac's funeral, when Frank and Beth continue to bond, Frank and Wally work through relationship difficulties, and Frank confronts his past and a tragic event he blames himself for, which has driven him to return to his alcoholic ways. It's both laugh-out-loud funny and grab-your-tissues tender—a wonderful story about the limitations of tolerance and the family ties that bind.

Anna: It definitely pulls at the heartstrings. Frank is somewhat of a tragic figure. He's essentially cut ties with his family and lives every day trying to pretend his past doesn't exist. Whether that means distracting himself with booze or teaching or his relationship with Wally, he has no intention of revisiting his early life in a backwards-thinking small town with a brute of a father. There's a clear spark between himself and Beth though; her bright ambition and openness coupled with her small-town naivete are incredibly charming. Lillis is wonderful here—there is a tangible earnestness to her character and in her performance. I expect to see more great things from her in the future. I also loved Macdissi as Wally, a tender and funny caretaker to Frank even as he descends into his

cycle of alcoholism and abuse. Frank isn't always a nice guy, and Wally gives back with compassion and grace even in the dark times. This film touched me big time. I've been recommending it to everyone.

Glen: The performances are terrific, and it's got the always dependable Margo Martindale as Frank's mom, Mammaw. She exudes such kindness in the role, the perfect foil to Daddy Mac, who can't mask his contempt for Frank. I'm sure the only reason Frank ever comes home is for his mother and Beth. As for Bettany, he's incredible here—a career-defining portrayal of a man haunted by a past tragedy. *Uncle Frank* is definitely a melodrama, but Frank and Wally's relationship is so moving and beautiful, and you're right, Macdissi is also amazing here. Even Root's Daddy Mac is a performance to behold. Great acting, a wonderful and deeply emotive story, and an honest ending combine to make this a fantastic family drama. Highly recommended!

Anna: Frank alienates himself as a form of protection, but when Wally and Beth and Mammaw all force him to see that he actually is wanted, loved, and appreciated, those walls have to come down at least a little bit. There's no



ROAD TRIP: (Left to right) Frank Bledsoe (Paul Bettany); his niece, Beth (Sophia Lillis); and Frank's boyfriend, Wally (Peter Macdissi), travel from NYC to Paul and Beth's family home in South Carolina for Frank's father's funeral, in the comedy-drama *Uncle Frank*, screening on Amazon Prime.

“the world is great now and homophobia doesn't exist!” ending here, but there is resolve. This film was simply really well cast—as you said, this is a career-defining role for Bettany; he's so nuanced and incredible here. It's one I'll definitely be watching again. The way the story and Frank's past is parsed out to us keeps the melodrama from feeling too slow, and there are moments that had me gasping, crying, laughing—it's a whirlwind of emotion for sure! Catch this on Amazon—it's worth renting even if you don't have a Prime subscription. ○

New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey and freelancer Anna Starkey write Sun Screen. Glen compiles streaming listings. Comment at gstarkey@newtimeslo.com.

UNCLE FRANK

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

TV & Film Reviews

BEST LEFTOVERS EVER!

What's it rated? **TV-G**
 When? **2020**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Home chefs and Uber Eats lovers get ready to raid the fridge and up your day-old food game with inspiration from Netflix's new cooking competition. Hosted by Jackie Tohn and judged by restaurateur David So and chef Rosemary Shrager, this fast-paced two-round competition challenges three contestants to take leftovers from the fridge and reimagine them into something entirely different. Taste comes first, but presentation and creativity also play a role when it comes to winning the \$10,000 “casherole” at the end of the game.

From culinary school grads to seasoned home chefs, these bubbly competitors do everything they can to walk away with the cash. From game day leftovers to sweet and savory late night snacks, leftover Italian to elevated entrees, they work with a mishmash of flavors and textures to build something tasty and beautiful from that tinfoil swan sitting in the back of the fridge.

Who doesn't need a bit of distraction, bright colors, and



KITCHEN THROWDOWN: Three contestants face off in a competition to turn unfinished food into finished culinary masterpieces, in the Netflix reality TV-series *Best Leftovers Ever!*

oversized game show props to brighten the endless slog of pandemic days? Host Tohn is a hilarious gem and the two judges are super skilled but don't take themselves too seriously. If “humor meets sweet, down-to-earth players” and “on-your-feet cooking fiascos” is your jam, this is definitely one to check out. (eight 35-min. episodes)

—Anna

THE WOLF OF SNOW HOLLOW

What's it rated? **R**
 When? **2020**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

Jim Cummings (*Thunder Road*) writes, directs, and stars in this deadpan funny new horror-comedy—a real runner-up to *American Werewolf in London* (1981). Cummings stars as Deputy Sheriff John Marshall, who has to contend with an inept department headed by his terminally ill father Sheriff Hadley (Robert Forster, in his last role), who doesn't want to relinquish control. The only person in the department who's worth a damn is Julia Robson (Riki Lindhome). Marshall, a single parent, also has to contend with his rebellious teenage daughter, Jenna (Chloe East).

After each full moon, mutilated bodies start turning up, some with missing parts. While his underlings begin to suspect a werewolf, Marshall insists it's a man and through good police work, he'll be caught.

What follows is a quirky, funny, horror-comedy sustained by Cummings' Jim Carrey-like energy and exceptional comic timing. Werewolf movies have been done to death (pun intended!), but Cummings finds new ground to traverse. At its heart, it's the story of a man under immense pressure from



OVERMATCHED: Small-town deputies Julia Robson (Riki Lindhome) and John Marshall (Jim Cummings) struggle to solve a series of gruesome murders in the deadpan funny horror-comedy *The Wolf of Snow Hollow*, available through Amazon Prime.

his family, his department, and the town he's charged with protecting. I loved it! (83 min.) ○

—Glen



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Home is where the wine is

Orcutt retiree Brad Bunkelman scores Best of Rosé at Mid-State Fair's 2020 Home Wine Competition

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Throughout his teaching career of 35 years, lifelong Orcutt resident Brad Bunkelman taught classes for two departments at Santa Maria High School, science and fine arts.

"I enjoyed teaching in both subject areas," said the local retiree, about his career before segueing into his longtime hobby as a home winemaker. "I think making wine is a combination of science and art. That's one of the reasons I enjoy it."

Bunkelman was in his 50s when he embraced the concept of making wine from home and joined the Central Coast Home Vintners' Association (CCHVA) in 2003. He took a course in winemaking from instructor and local commercial winemaker John Kerr at Allan Hancock College the same year.

"I jumped in with both feet," Bunkelman, now 70, told the *Sun*. "Since then, I have never stopped making wine."

Working in a small group of other novices at CCHVA, Bunkelman's first grape he made wine from was pinot noir, under the supervision of experienced home winemakers Jim Ford and Ron

Redman. Bunkelman credits both instructors and fellow CCHVA members John Thunen, Hank Rickett, Kathy Sullivan, Mary Michael, Gil Carra, Fred Carbone, Gerry Shoemaker, and Steve Rau as integral influences in his origins as a home winemaker.

CCHVA promotes a better understanding of winemaking, wine preparation, wine evaluation, and wine appreciation, as stated on the local nonprofit's website (cchva.org). Founder Bob Weldon formed the association in 1991 with a group of winemakers he met at the Santa Barbara County Fair in Santa Maria.

Bunkelman still buys most of his grapes, from cabernet franc to cabernet sauvignon, for home winemaking from the CCHVA grape-purchasing co-op, which originated in 2000 as a convenient way for home winemakers to acquire premium grapes at competitive prices.

The co-op typically distributes between 25,000 and 35,000 pounds of grapes to CCHVA members each year. Bunkelman's other main grape supplier is Still Waters Vineyards in Paso Robles, owned by Paul Hoover, who Bunkelman described as a generous, former home winemaker with "a soft spot in his heart for us 'little guys.'"

It wasn't long after Bunkelman's foray into home winemaking that he decided to start entering local and statewide contests. Between 2007 and 2019, Bunkelman took home several Best of Show awards from both the Santa Barbara County Fair and the Orange County Fair.

His most recent accolade came from the California Mid-State Fair's 2020 Home Wine Competition. Bunkelman and three other competitors took home a "best of" award, out of more than 100 submissions. The contest's winners were officially announced in December, which also included 24 gold medalists (see the full list of winning wines at midstatefair.com).

"The competition has become a valuable asset for those who make wine as a hobby, and you can tell each year by the entries," Mike Jones, chief judge of the contest, said in a press release from the Mid-State Fair.

For Bunkelman, one of the most enriching elements of any competition he enters is reading constructive comments from the judges.

"I have learned a lot from the feedback in the judging sheets," said Bunkelman, who is the only Santa Barbara County resident out of Mid-State's four "best of" recipients.

Bunkelman took home Best of Rosé, while Peter Allman-



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: Home winemaker Brad Bunkelman uses a basket press among other equipment to create Volition, his award-winning rosé, and other homemade wine varieties.

All's fair in love and wine

For more info on the California Mid-State Fair's Home Wine Competition, visit midstatefair.com. To find out more about the Central Coast Home Vintners' Association, visit cchva.org.

Ward of Templeton took both Best of Show and Best of White Wine, Michael Baugh of Paso Robles took Best of Dessert, and Jim McPherson of Cambria took Best of Red.

"It's very rewarding to know that other people enjoy it," Bunkelman said, thankful for the recognition his rosé, named Volition, received.

Bunkelman completed each step of creating Volition from the comfort of his own home, from fermentation to basket pressing. Aside from the various equipment necessary for home winemaking, Bunkelman also owns a cold shed on his property to store wine barrels and bottled wines. He also designs and prints his own wine labels from home as well.

Along with the Mid-State win, another positive outcome of 2020 for Bunkelman was his recognition in the WineMaker Magazine International Amateur Wine Competition, in which he received one gold, two silver, and five bronze awards for a variety of his varietals (alliteration intended), including malbec, merlot, and others.

Aside from being one of California's premier wine grape growing regions, the Central Coast appeals to Bunkelman for several non-wine related reasons.

"Except for my college years, I have lived in either Orcutt or Santa Maria my whole life," the UCSB alumnus said. "I like living here, the weather is so easy to live in. It's close to the ocean and a short drive to the mountains."

Reflecting on the turbulence of last year,



WORKING FROM HOME: Brad Bunkelman completes each step of his winemaking from the comfort of his own home, including the "punching down" process during fermentation. Bunkelman also has a cold shed on his property to store wine barrels and bottled wines.

Bunkelman was especially grateful for the homebound hobby he's come to love over the past two decades and the continued support from his loved ones during 2020 and each year prior.

"Being stuck at home most of the time has meant more time availability for family and more time availability for crafting my wines," Bunkelman said. "My wife, Michelle; my children, Meagan and Sean; my friends; making wine; and working on other home projects have helped me keep my sanity through this crazy and sad year." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is wining and dining at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



WINNING WINE: Orcutt local Brad Bunkelman won Best of Rosé at the California Mid-State Fair's 2020 Home Wine Competition. Bunkelman was one of four competitors who took home a "best of" award, out of more than 100 submissions.



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502 Crescent, Santa Maria

Beautiful Orcutt area home with RV parking and huge backyard perfect for entertaining! This home boasts living and family rooms as well as a formal dining room. Home has three bedrooms and 2 bathrooms but formal dining room could potentially be converted to a 4th bedroom. Kitchen has upgraded granite countertops and bathroom has upgraded counters and shower. Great location near shopping, Orcutt schools and highways. Make an appointment to see this beautiful home! It won't last long! **\$510,000 (CR502)**

COMING SOON



300 Monarch, Santa Maria

Gorgeous townhome with Master suite on main level. This 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom features beautiful wood-style floor throughout, living room with vaulted ceiling and cozy fireplace, and a stunning kitchen. This kitchen is a chef's dream with granite-style counter tops, stainless steel appliances including a premium LG 5-burner gas range, tile floor, and opens to a separate dining room. Two bedrooms upstairs have vaulted ceilings and one has an inviting balcony accessed through a sliding glass door. This townhome also has an attached 2-Car Garage, sliding glass door to access your private courtyard. Association Pool and Spa is also a great benefit to this complex. **\$350,000 (M0350)**



874 Comanche, Santa Maria

Beautiful two story home in a quiet Orcutt area neighborhood! This home boasts pride of ownership throughout its 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, family and living room. The backyard is HUGE and is perfect for family gatherings or a large garden! Home also has electric heating with individual thermostats in every room. Shopping, restaurants and multiple schools all within walking distance. This beautiful home won't last long! Call your agent and make an appointment to view! **\$589,000 (C0874)**

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Developer's opportunity in Orcutt. This approximately 4.6 acre parcel is within Orcutt Community Plan. Additional units may be allowed for senior and special needs care housing development. Convenient to Union Valley Parkway and Highway 101 access. Owner financing available. **\$1,000,000**



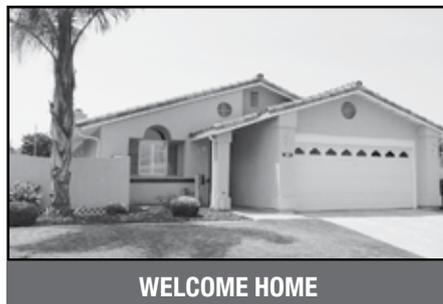
SOLD BEFORE PRINT

Sunrise on the Park Home. 3-BR/2-BA home with kitchen open to dining area and great room with warm fireplace and lovely backyard views beyond. This home enjoys great curb appeal with corner lot presentation. The large enclosed front courtyard extends your entertainment area to the outdoors. Near parks, recreation & stores.



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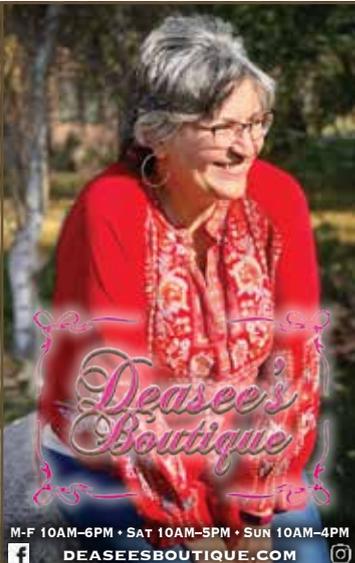
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