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News
Upcoming center in Lompoc looks to empower students, young adults [12]

BY ZAC EZZONE

Focusing on youth

Upcoming center in Lompoc looks to empower students, young adults [12]
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Mimi has been through a lot after a car hit her in Nipomo, and we decided to rescue this sweet dog two years ago. First she had two oral surgeries to fix chipped teeth, then orthopedic surgery to fix her broken leg and remove mammary tumors, which turned out to be cancer. After two years of detailed and expensive tests every 3 months to watch for a return of the cancer, we are now extremely happy that she is most likely cancer free.

Next up was hip surgery last October with a very long and hard rehabilitation in Santa Barbara twice a week, still ongoing. What’s next? Unfortunately, two days ago we were given the news that Mimi has an exposed pulp molar that needs to be addressed by a canine dental specialist immediately. At this time we are asking for donations to once again help Mimi in her time of need. Mimi has been through a lot, but remains a sweet dog with many many years left to play and run. For this week’s cover story, Staff Writer Zac Erzzone talks to them and others about what this center could provide and why it’s important [12].

Also this week, read about the state’s recent meeting in Santa Maria covering oil drilling projects and public health [7], an equine whisperer’s trip to document the wild herds of North Dakota [23], an intimate and fresh PCPA take on Julius Caesar [24], and strawberries’ potential health benefits are on trial [31].

Camillia Lanham
editor

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MARCH 12 - MARCH 19, 2020 Vol. 21 No. 2

Education, job help, a safe place to go, a chance to dream about the future. These are the things Chuck Madson and Tim Harrington hope their project can provide to Lompoc’s 16- to 20-year-old crowd. The basic goal of the center they want to build—Future—is to empower the city’s youth to accomplish whatever it is they are striving for. Madson and Harrington are still working to raise the funding necessary and find a project location, but Future is alive and picking up steam. For this week’s cover story, Staff Writer Zac Erzzone talks to them and others about what this center could provide and why it’s important [12].

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Mental health facility opening in Lompoc

In November this year, 80 mental-health beds are slated to open in Lompoc, which accomplishes a long-sought-after goal for Santa Barbara County. Private mental-health provider Crestwood Behavioral Health, which operates throughout the state, is entering into a lease with the Lompoc Valley Medical Center to take over Champion Healing Center on South C Street in Lompoc, which served as an addiction treatment facility from 2014 to 2017.

During its March 10 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved entering into a memorandum of understanding with Crestwood Behavioral Health, which stipulates the county will contribute up to $1 million for the tenant improvements that are required to prepare the existing facility for its new purpose. In exchange for this contribution, the county will have access to 32 beds in the upcoming facility for mental health clients in need of long-term rehabilitative care.

According to a staff report from the March 10 Board of Supervisors meeting, this project will result in the county’s first mental health rehabilitation center. The report states that because no center currently exists locally, the county has 57 of its clients in other centers throughout the state.

“This has been a long journey, one that’s going to provide a resource that’s long overdue in this county and will really help the citizens of this county who, when at times of most need, they’re separated from their families and have to go for services outside of this county,” 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said during the meeting.

In addition to creating the county’s first mental health rehabilitation center, the new facility will also free up beds in the county’s psychiatric health facility (PHF), which has 16 beds usually reserved for patients needing higher levels of care.

“Anticipated public benefits include freeing up beds at the psychiatric health facility by moving individuals who are not in acute crisis to a lower level of care so that individuals who are experiencing an acute phase of crisis … are able to receive treatment at the PHF,” the staff report stated.

Construction on the project is slated to begin this spring and wrap up in the fall. The center plans to begin accepting patients in November, according to the staff report.

Sweezy said, “The project includes approximately 3,000 feet of sewer replacement,” Sweezy said.

At least half of Guadalupe citizens have been affected by the current failing sewer system, and a majority of the issues they’ve faced—namely overflows and other plumbing difficulties—will be addressed by the 2020 Sewer Enhancement Project, Sweezy said.

Sweezy also told the Sun that Guadalupe residents will not be displaced or majorly impacted by the project, “other than general construction.” According to the Feb. 20 notice, the city has determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the human environment, and as a result an environmental impact statement—under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969—is not required.

Environmental impact statements are not required in cases like this one, which won’t have a significant impact, the notice states.

Sweezy said the city’s environmental review included looking at the effect the project could potentially have on air quality, endangered species, farmland protection, historic conservation, noise, and other environmental factors.

According to the notice, California Department of Housing and Community Development “will accept objections to its certification for a period of 15 days following the date of certification.” The project could then be passed on to the board for approval.

The commission wasn’t satisfied with this route. For most commissioners, their priority was an ordinance change that requires cannabis growers to prevent odor from leaving their property. At the beginning of the discussion, Commissioner Dan Blough said he wanted to see this issue pursued separately and quickly, and then the commission could work through the remaining issues.

“I have no idea why I’m sitting here today doing any of this if we’re talking about going to get this little bit of a project, and you’re going to spend the next year before you modify the ordinance, before we send it off to the [Board of Supervisors],” Blough said.

The rest of the commission supported Blough’s position. Rather than discuss every recommendation Klemann presented, Long Range Planning Division, presented the commission with a list of 13 changes that commissioners have recommended over the course of the last two meetings on the subject. Klemann said staff planned on the commission going through each item and deciding whether it should be included in a package of ordinance amendments that could then be passed on to the board for approval.

Planning Commission pursuing stricter cannabis odor control

After spending numerous meetings over the last few months discussing possible changes to the county’s cannabis regulations, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission made its first move toward pursuing stricter odor control requirements.

Last July, the county Board of Supervisors directed staff to work with the county Planning Commission on various ordinance amendments to mitigate cannabis odor and other potential conflicts that have emerged where cannabis operations are located near urban areas and existing agriculture.

During a meeting on March 4, Dan Klemann, deputy director of the county’s
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High School debunks coronavirus hoax, health officials urge preparedness

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHSD) notified law enforcement on March 4 that a hoax text message had been circulating on social media, erroneously stating that there were four cases of COVID-19, or coronavirus, in Santa Maria High School. This statement was confirmed to the Sun by Santa Barbara County Public Health Department’s public information officer, Jackie Ruiz.

Ruiz told the Sun in an email that he was not aware of who sent the text or whether it was a student. “It was a text that someone put on social media, and that’s how we found out about it,” Ruiz wrote.

Once the text was discovered by SMJUHSD officials, Klein said the district quickly issued an email to Santa Maria High School staff confirming that it was a hoax. Staff members passed the information on to students, and the district also sent a recorded message to all parents and guardians informing them of the situation.

“Once cases of COVID-19 are found in the community, it will be time to implement social distancing plans,” County Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg wrote in the March 7 press release. “We’re in a preparation phase,” Ruiz emphasized. “There are no confirmed cases of community transmission.”

—Malea Martin

Santa Maria moves forward with plans for Los Flores Ranch landfill

Santa Maria City Council adopted a resolution at its March 3 meeting authorizing the director of utilities to begin work with Tetra Tech, an engineering design services firm, on the new Integrated Waste Management Facility at Los Flores Ranch.

The city purchased the 1,774-acre Los Flores Ranch property in 2006 with the primary intention of constructing its next landfill there, according to Shad Springer, Santa Maria’s director of utilities.

With the current Santa Maria Regional Landfill expected to reach capacity by 2024, the 2006 land purchase was prompted by the California requirement that jurisdictions provide 15 years of landfill capacity as a part of their strategic planning efforts, according to the March 3 council agenda report.

“We purchased it for the future landfill knowing that our current landfill will fill and close,” Mark van de Kamp, Santa Maria’s public information manager, told the Sun.

Van de Kamp said past estimates projected that the current Santa Maria Regional Landfill would be full by now and that the Los Flores land would already be in use.

“But we’ve been able to extend the life of the old landfill, which is really good for the Santa Maria community,” van de Kamp said.

The Los Flores Ranch property is currently home to about 8 miles of hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking trails. The landfill is expected to take up about 600 acres, according to van de Kamp.

While some trails and recreation spaces will remain untouched, others will be directly impacted by the new landfill, Springer said.

“There are currently some trails that go right through where the future landfill will be, so those will need to be relocated,” Springer told the Sun.

“The idea is that over the long haul, there will still be opportunities for recreation.”

Landfill odors could potentially impact the area’s trails, and the city plans to address it by using tarps and other covering methods to mitigate the odors. Springer said that the landfill will be regulated by CalRecycle and other agencies to reduce the impact of these issues as well.

“We want to make sure this will be a win-win for the community,” van de Kamp emphasized.

The first meeting between the Utilities Department and the project’s engineering and design firm occurred on March 9. From here, Springer estimates that design will take three to five years, and then about a year and a half of construction will follow.

—Malea Martin
Rallying for change

CalGEM public health hearing held in Santa Maria allows locals to opine on proposed expansion of Cat Canyon oil production

BY MALEA MARTIN

People flanked by handmade signs spill out of a charter bus that just arrived from UC Santa Barbara. They join a growing rally outside the Veterans Memorial Center in Santa Maria, chanting, “Health, not oil,” and, “No new oil, keep it in the soil!” A microphone passed around gave different folks and organizations a chance to lead the rally cries.

“We deserve health,” declares a 6-foot-wide sign with an artistic depiction of megaphone-clenching activists. “Merecemos salud,” it also says in Spanish, “almond around the injustices that currently exist for communities that have oil in them.”

Aera Energy’s oil development project in East Cat Canyon—which proposes re-establishing a major oil development project in East Cat Canyon—will be in Oxnard on March 18 at the Pacifica High School cafeteria. The state plans to continue the hearings until April 10, according to the California Department of Conservation Public Health rulemaking webpage.

Regarding updates on the proposed Cat Canyon aquifer exemption, CalGEM Public Information Officer Don Drysdale wrote in an email to the Sun that “CalGEM and the state Water Board are finalizing answers to public comments for the proposed aquifer exemption.”

Once those public health hearings conclude, Drysdale said that comments will be “organized by issue and presented to a team of CalGEM subject matter experts.”

According to Drysdale, each issue will be considered by the team to determine whether solutions are available and to evaluate the feasibility and cost of those solutions. The team will then make recommendations about what should be included in the draft regulations based on their analysis, Drysdale said.

Integrating public comment into CalGEM’s regulation and rulemaking process is just one piece of a larger shift within the agency, including a name change that became effective at the beginning of 2020 as well as an updated mission statement. Assemblymember Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara), who authored the bill that called for these changes, told the Sun that increased civic involvement in the rulemaking process is all part of the agency’s new look and feel.

“We renamed the department, but we also changed the mission statement to include consideration for health and environmental impact,” Limón said. “There has been a long history of the [Department of Conservation’s] division of oil and gas and their role. At times they weren’t as involved with the public.”

But after witnessing the “very public reactions” of people affected by the May 2019 Kern County oil spill, Limón saw an opportunity for the agency to not just listen to the public, but to potentially codify their perspectives.

“When I authored this bill … it was done in order to give the public a voice to advocate for communities to have a say in what’s happening,” Boquin said.

“My mom wasn’t able to come here today, but she asked me to read something,” Boquin said. “She says, ‘I can tell you without a doubt that for me, the immediate health concerns are nausea, nose bleeds, and possible risk of cancer. I see it every day in my patients.’”

“I think that’s the reason for the rally,” Limón said. “We request aquifers not to be exempted from the Safe Drinking Water Act, because California needs its future water sources.”

The rally called on Gov. Gavin Newsom to halt this project, the public hearing itself drew an equally strong contingent of voices in support of local oil production.

Chad Walker, environmental manager at Vaquero Energy, was among the first to speak at the hearing, which garnered an audience that outnumbered the 100 or so chairs set up for the event. He pointed to the impact that halting oil production would have on the local economy as well as the potential for dependence on foreign oil as reasons to move forward with the project.

“Due to the pressures and burdens of overregulation, Vaquero Energy, a fourth-generation, family-owned operation, is slowly transitioning out of California,” Walker told CalGEM representatives modulating the meeting. “We’ve now further increased California’s reliance on foreign oil, lost valuable tax revenues for this community, increased global greenhouse gas emissions, and contributed to lost jobs and the increased potential for homelessness.”

Enthusiastic applause followed Walker’s statement.

But applause from oil opponents supported statements made by community members who spoke against proposed oil drilling. Carmen Boquin, an activist who had earlier led rally chants, used her two-minute speaking allowance to relay a message from her mother, a physician at Community Health Centers Central Coast.

“Mom wasn’t able to come here today, but she asked me to read something,” Boquin said. “She says, ‘I can tell you without a doubt that for people living and working near and in proximity to oil drilling, it can cause respiratory illness, nausea, nose bleeds, and possible risk of cancer. I see it every day in my patients.’”

The rally is really a way for the community to come together and advocate for a strong message to the governor that we want our communities protected.” —Graciela Cabello, Los Padres ForestWatch

The rally is really a way for the community to come together and advocate for stronger legislation.

Stay informed

To fulfill its recently revamped mission to protect public health, safety, and the environment, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) is updating public health and safety protections for communities near oil and gas production operations. Part of that undertaking involves holding public hearings across the state.

CalGEM’s next local Public Health Community Meeting will be in Oxnard on March 18 at the Pacifica High School cafeteria. The state plans to continue the hearings until April 10, according to the California Department of Conservation Public Health rulemaking webpage.

“While the rally called on Gov. Gavin Newsom to halt this project, the public hearing itself drew an equally strong contingent of voices in support of local oil production,” Limón said. “It is my hope that all of the feedback will be considered.”

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

Cuyama Valley vendors will sell goods at the second swap event

BY ZAC EZZONE

Drivers traveling on Highway 166, or people looking to purchase some locally made products, can check out what vendors in the Cuyama Valley have to offer at a swap meet on March 15.

This is a follow-up to the valley’s first swap meet last fall, which came about after the Blue Sky Center hosted a series of economic development meetings in the Cuyama Valley in both English and Spanish with the goal of bringing community members together to solicit ideas on how valley residents can tell their stories. The center is a nonprofit that works to strengthen rural communities in the valley by supporting entrepreneurs.

The center’s executive director, Em Johnson, said that during these meetings, residents identified the valley’s natural and individual resources as its top two strengths. To capitalize on the latter, two local women came up with the idea of holding a swap meet to showcase the work of local artisans and other producers.

“We’re striving to empower local champions to step into that role of organizing and implementing projects they’re passionate about,” Johnson said.

The first event was held last September at the center, which is located about a block off Highway 166. Johnson said about 130 visitors attended the event and perused the work of 15 vendors who sold produce, jams, pastries, Western jewelry, homemade soaps, handmade woodworking projects, and other types of crafted items.

The center is helping vendors hold a second event on March 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in an empty lot right off Highway 166 across from The Junk Jar, which is an antique store. Johnson said as of March 5, 17 people were signed up to sell their products.

While this is a community driven event, the center provides technical assistance, such as with marketing or helping people acquire the permits necessary to sell their goods at the event.

“That’s the biggest barrier to overcome for Cuyama entrepreneurs, just knowing what permits are required and how to access them since the Cuyama Valley is unincorporated,” Johnson said.

The center and the women behind the initial event hope these swap meets become reoccurring events, although they’re not sure how often they’ll take place. Johnson said aside from generating local revenue, these events are a way to celebrate the Cuyama Valley and increase community pride.

“We have small but mighty towns that are wonderful places to live in and visit, and we hope more events like this encourage people living in the region to visit,” Johnson said.

Highlights

• Lemos Feed and Pet Supply kicked off an effort on March 2 to raise money to help the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office purchase and train a new K-9 after one passed away in January. Donations the company collects will go toward the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Benevolent Posse, which is a nonprofit that supports the department. The company is accepting donations at all of its locations.

• The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians are hosting a Traffic Circulation and Safety community meeting on March 26 at 6 p.m. at Hotel Corque in Solvang. The meeting is part of a study that’s intended to identify potential traffic safety improvements in the Santa Ynez Valley. To RSVP or learn more about the meeting contact kpadilla@katherinepadilla.com.

Staff Writer Zac Ezzone wrote this week’s Spotlight. Send tips to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

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SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS: Vendors in the Cuyama Valley will gather on March 15 to sell handmade items.
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It’s about time
Surf Beach is open—well, almost

BY RON FINK

Surf Beach, what a beautiful place! This is probably one of the few beaches in California where a person can stand and look in either direction, as far as you can see, and find only a handful of people.

There was once a small summer village and a racetrack at Ocean Park. Railroad employees lived near the Surf Station, and many locals learned how to water ski in the estuary of the Santa Ynez River. All of those improvements are long gone because the military acquired the half 150 square miles of ranchland in the 1940s for a military training base (Camp Cooke and Arguello Naval Air Station) and Bradley Dam blocked the flow of the river, reducing the depth of the estuary and ending the water-skiing adventures.

Cool wind blows stoutly, and clouds hang on the horizon as seabirds circle looking for goodies stirred up from the tidal sands. Mist rises from the crest of the waves, and shorebirds run about hoping for some tasty treats.

The ocean seems to change every few minutes. What was a wild and restless surf suddenly transforms to a peaceable ocean with only a few low waves to remind you that the water is forever active. People have been traveling to Surf and nearby Ocean Park for more than 100 years to play and fish on the beach. Hundreds of people visited each week to breathe in the salty sea air, scamper on the sand, fish, and watch the dolphins play in the breaking waves.

Asian fishermen from all over Southern California used to visit and cast their lines for barred perch. This is the favored fish in this part of the world. When Los Angeles and Orange County fishermen were asked why they travel so far to fish in the ocean, they always reply: “Because the water is clean here.” Fishermen once could be spotted as the fishing hole shifted south for the summer. Each year it moved up and down the area in front of the Amtrak station.

Surfers were always looking for the right curl. Sometimes they would stand at the gate and stare for some minutes at the waves and then leave. Other times they stared and then put their wet suits on, grabbed their boards, and headed for the water. There, they joined the dolphins jumping in and out of the surf.

Little children were the best beachgoers! They were so excited when they got to the beach with their buckets and shovels. They seemed intent on searching for seashells and other treasures of the beach. From the top of the ramp, they looked like little birds with their parents keeping an eye on them as they screeched with delight.

The kids didn’t notice the steep climb back from the beach, but their parents and grandparents did! The sand is illusive—it looks so easy going down to the surf line. But the climb back up the hill was in loose sand and rises about 100 feet in about 100 yards.

That was before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mandated restrictions during the Western snowy plover mating season from March to September each year, and Vandenberg Air Force Base—responding to a Clinton-era executive order to comply with all environmental edicts—closed large portions of the beach.

Shore fishing was banned a couple of years later after environmentalists demanded that the fishery be closed because it was being overfished. How a single fisherman, or a dozen fishermen, could be responsible for overfishing the Pacific Ocean seems questionable.

But, after more than 25 years of beach closures, an agreement was recently reached with Fish and Wildlife Service and Vandenberg officials to relax some of those restrictions. Other efforts are ongoing to try and allow canoes and other paddle boats to use the estuary, which is home to more than 100 species of birds.

Mayor Jennifer Osborne led the effort to relax restrictions on behalf of the city of Lompoc. “I am excited and very hopeful for the future of Surf Beach,” she said. “Vandenberg Air Force Base and the California Coastal Commission are listening to the community, recognizing Surf Beach’s history and importance to Lompoc, and improving the beach and local access to it, all while protecting the Western snowy plover. The base’s proposal to eliminate the 30-violation beach closure next summer, and the Fish and Wildlife Service accepting the request, is a major milestone for coastal and great nature.”

This effort was almost delayed when Councilmember Jim Mosby circulated a petition that contained several factual errors, comparing who was responsible for closures. Understandably, this irritated base officials who were sympathetic to allowing beach access and they thought it were being disregarded in good faith with city officials.

After the dust settled, some changes were made. While the beach won’t be closed after 50 violations, the base will continue to track violations of the rules. It’s those rules that are essentially unchanged. Sections of the beach will be closed: Campfires, digging, fishing, kite flying, and dogs are still prohibited.

So, go enjoy the section of beach that’s open to the public, but respect the restrictions that are in place.

Ron Fink writes from Lompoc. Send comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com or email a letter for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

Letters

Solar’s not so green

California calls itself “green.” Closing Diablo Canyon, a plant supplying electricity to nearly 30 percent of the huge state of California, is our largest single carbon-free generator. It is a reliable “base load” energy supplier, meaning it runs all the time, while renewables make electricity a small part of the time. Natural gas has to be ready to back up when the wind dies and the sun goes down or it’s cloudy.

Billions of tons of carbon are spewed into the atmosphere to keep wind and solar going. Yet renewables are sold as “clean and environmental.” Plainly more false information.

Diablo Canyon, a plant supplying electricity to nearly 10 percent of the huge state of California, is our largest single carbon-free generator. It is a reliable “base load” energy supplier, meaning it runs all the time, while renewables make electricity a small part of the time. Natural gas has to be ready to back up when the wind dies and the sun goes down or it’s cloudy.

Billions of tons of carbon are spewed into the atmosphere to keep wind and solar going. Yet renewables are sold as “clean and environmental.” Plainly more false information.

Solar in our state cost many billions to build, yet panels can only operate on sunny days and are prone to wind generators. So prepare to spend millions of dollars for the next round of rebuilding renewables coming up.

What about the waste from renewables? Basically there is no plan on what to do with giant towers and thousands of wind turbine blades several blocks long. Solar panels contain many poisonous chemicals. What’s the plan? Gov. Newsom?

Nuclear plants like Diablo Canyon may last for 100 years with replacement of a few vital parts costing under $1 billion. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was prepared to extend Diablo’s life costing under $1 billion. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was prepared to extend Diablo’s life costing under $1 billion. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was prepared to extend Diablo’s life costing under $1 billion.

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Learn About the History of Guadalupe

Guadalupe Cultural Arts & Education Center

Providing educational cultural awareness of diverse community groups, ethnic arts, presentations & classes.

Open to the public
Tues–Sat 10am–4pm

We invite schools, clubs and social groups to tour our facility. Artist and presenters are welcome to schedule exhibits.

For more information: Karen Evangelista at 805-478-8502

1055 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe CA
www.GuadalupeCulturalCenter.com

Latino Legacy Awards
2020 Honorees

Lifetime Achievement
Raymond Segura and Margarita Olimpio

Athletics
Cam Camarena

Community Advocate
Santa Barbara County Promotores Network

Education
Maria Larios-Horton

Non-Profit
Alma Hernandez

Health Care
Fidel Villanueva

Planned Parenthood

Event Details:
Hotel Corque
Sunday March 29, 2020 at 11am
Call 805.642.6208 to purchase tickets

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A after years of working for various nonprofits and community organizations in Lompoc, Chuck Madson and Tim Harrington are tackling their most ambitious project yet.

Madson—who has developed substance abuse treatment programs in Santa Barbara County for years—and Harrington—who has spent the latter years of his career mentoring college students and serving on the boards of various community groups—began working on their plans for a youth center in Lompoc about two years ago.

They envision a location that fills gaps for young people between the ages of 16 to 20 years old who can’t find the assistance they need elsewhere. This includes education and job help, as well as a safe place where a student can hang out after school and grab a bite to eat if he or she doesn’t want to go home.

They’re calling the center Future, and the basic goal of the project is to empower Lompoc’s youth to accomplish whatever it is they’re striving to achieve. This isn’t a panacea to all of the city’s problems—of which there are many—but it’s a way of moving the needle in the right direction with each youth who walks into the center, Madson said.

Homeless issues aren’t getting any better, substance abuse is getting worse . . . . So what are we truly doing to help before they end up there?” Madson said. “It’s helping that population, those 16- to 20-year-olds so that they don’t have to end up hanging around the streets of our community, getting involved with drugs, not being able to get a job . . . . I don’t want any youth to not have an option for something they want to do.”

Before describing what Future is, Madson and Harrington explain what it’s not. This isn’t a project aimed specifically at preventing kids from joining gangs and committing acts of violence. Obviously, they hope that through this center they’re able to reach kids prior to making poor decisions, but the uptick of violence in the city wasn’t the impetus for this project.

“We hope to empower the youth to not engage in that lifestyle, but that wasn’t our main focus,” Madson said. “There’s so much more to it.”

Big needs

Cabrillo High School student Riley Wallace said she plans on leaving the Lompoc area after finishing her senior year to go to college in a different state. She feels there aren’t a lot of job opportunities for her locally, and she said many students she knows feel the same way.

“The common phrase is, ‘Leave and never come back,’” Wallace said. “That’s how the youth feel about Lompoc.”

Wallace is hoping that Future could change this mentality. She attended a youth focus group meeting at Future’s advisory council, which consists of adults from various professions.

“What I wish for the youth under me is for them to stay in Lompoc and be successful, which is an option right now,” Wallace said.

She said she thinks the plans being developed for Future could appeal to younger people living in Lompoc because of the variety of programs they’re hoping to house within the center.

Wallace points to classes that could teach youth about financial decisions, such as learning how to save or budget expenses, as the most useful to her. Other students might be looking for help with homework or to be connected with food or mental health services, she said.

But the center shouldn’t be all about work, she said. It has to be a place where younger people can have fun, such as through music or art classes, or simply a place to hang out with other people their age. She said Lompoc is really missing that kind of space, and it adds to the apathy many youth feel about their town.

In addition to being a place where young people can engage in resources for education or entertainment, Wallace said that Future needs to be a safe space where all of the city’s youth feel welcome. She said that the top concern for most people her age is the gang activity and violence that’s taking place in the city. In 2019, there were seven homicides in Lompoc, and the shootings have continued into this year.

“Besides the fun part and the school part, in all seriousness, this can be a place for kids to have a home away from home,” Wallace said.

Getting started

Madson and Harrington began kicking around the idea for the youth center about two years ago, prior to the increase in violent crimes the city continues to experience. The conversation started when Harrington visited Madson while he was working at Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center in Lompoc to discuss restarting something similar to a youth employment program that had operated in the city more than five years ago.

This youth corps program was run through what is now called the Workforce Development Board of Santa Barbara County, and employed at-risk youth in the city to work on public projects. Harrington, who served on the board, said youth in the city really embraced the program, but it ended when its federal grant funding expired.

Wallace, a Cabrillo High School student, said she wants the youth center to focus on mental health services, she said.

Madson and Harrington applied for a $250,000 grant through the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program with the aim of bringing the youth corps concept back to the city.

“Once that didn’t materialize, then the perspective changed,” Madson said. “Because that was just addressing one population, the criminal justice involved. And I think both of us really wanted . . . to provide something to any of the youth in the community.”

Madson and Harrington worked their concept and began thinking about a youth center where people from 16 to 20 years old could be connected to mentorship, entrepreneurship, job skills, and educational support. Harrington said they aren’t developing new programs, but rather creating a centralized, safe location where youth can be connected to various services that already exist in the area.

They approached the Santa Barbara Foundation to discuss this idea early last summer. The foundation’s North County director, Kathy Simas, said they awarded Madson and Harrington two $5,000 planning grants to further explore their idea because it aligns with the organization’s priority of promoting workforce development.

“The foundation viewed this as an opportunity to support building skills in the youth in the Lompoc community to improve their opportunities for eventual employment,” Simas said in an email.

After receiving the money, Madson and Harrington formed an advisory council and began holding focus group meetings to define their concept. Madson said he envisions the center as a place where a youth could receive a menu of programs and then sit down with a mentor who could walk them through the center’s offerings. Some programs would be available all the time, such as an entrepreneurship class where students
But she said the center is also an opportunity to bridge the gaps and fill those needs. She’s hoping that Future can help restore this sense of hope in the city’s youth and how to set up job-shadowing opportunities.

The city of Lompoc is partnering with the Family Service Agency—that are eager to provide programs and services through the center. But youth not interested in specific programs are welcome to stop by as well.

Creating a safe space where the city’s youth can hang out after school fills a present gap in the community, said Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne, who is on the center’s advisory council. She said that 13,000 parents commute out of the city for work, which results in many kids returning to empty homes after school without support for homework or somebody to talk to.

“We don’t really have a singular place for our community’s latchkey, single-parent household, or broken families,” Osborne said.

Another member of the advisory council, Devika Stalling, who is also the director of the United Boys and Girls Club in Lompoc, said she appreciated the city’s partnership in opening a physical location at the beginning of the 2020 school year. But despite not having a building to house the center, Harrington said he and Madison are ready to help any young person who needs assistance.

“Future is open; we don’t need four walls,” Harrington said. “Any youth can reach out to us.”

Restoring hope

Creating a safe space where the city’s youth can hang out after school fills a present gap in the community, said Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne, who is on the center’s advisory council. She said that 13,000 parents commute out of the city for work, which results in many kids returning to empty homes after school without support for homework or somebody to talk to.

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Years of giving back

Although Madison and Harrington began working on Future about two years ago, they’ve both been preparing for this project for much longer.

Madison said he decided to dedicate his career to helping other people while in Calipatria State Prison almost two decades ago. Madison—who is originally from the Los Angeles area—was addicted to methamphetamine for years while maintaining a steady job and being a husband and father.

But after his mother—who was living in Lompoc at the time—passed away from a brain tumor, Madison lost his job and his family to move to Barstow to cook meth for a motorcycle club. After purchasing ephedrine pills—which can be used to make meth—from an undercover Department of Justice agent, he was arrested and sentenced to four years in prison.

In prison, he shared a cell with a man who was serving a life sentence but nonetheless dedicated his time to helping other inmates. The man worked with a church in San Diego to organize car washes to raise money to put in other inmates’ commissary accounts, which allowed them to buy hygiene supplies or materials to write letters, Madison said.

“He accepted that he was going to serve a life sentence, but he wanted to make the most of it while he had the chance,” Madison said. “And so I took that, and I thought I had received a life sentence under the influence of drugs, but now I’ve been given another chance, and I need to do something with it.”

About 13 years ago, authorities released Madison from prison after serving half of his sentence. He spent four months on parole in the San Fernando Valley before a judge granted his request to be transferred to Lompoc.

For Madison, this was a chance to start over and become someone new. He moved in with his grandparents and enrolled at Allan Hancock College to work toward earning an addiction studies certificate.

After becoming certified, he began working at Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center, where he eventually became the director of programming. While in this position he created numerous addiction treatment programs in North County, and expanded the number of clients the center serves from 150 to 700.

Madison eventually left this position to work for Family Service Agency in Santa Maria, where he helped develop a substance abuse program focused on 12- to 24-year-olds. He’s currently employed as the program services manager at the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in Santa Barbara. But when Future opens, running the center will become his full-time gig.

The last decade, Madison has received awards and recognition from the community, which is something he previously didn’t think was possible.

“It’s a miracle that somebody like me who had no hope, now I make a difference in people’s lives,” Madison said. “I’m a member of the community in a positive way, not like what they labeled me years ago.”

For Harrington, his path to this project started with his parents. He said his mother grew up extremely poor, and his father’s family lost everything during the Great Depression, but they, always stressed the importance of helping other people.

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Hey guys, we’re all going to die because of COVID-19—aka, coronavirus. Wait, actually, we’re not all going to die. In fact, most people probably aren’t even going to be affected. People are just losing their minds over the possibility that even one person in Santa Barbara County might be infected by it because they literally have nothing better to worry about. Apparently, paper towels and toilet paper are key to germ protection and longevity of life, because Santa Maria’s Walmart—yes, Walmart, people!—was nearly out of both on Monday, March 2, according to the Santa Maria Times.

Wow, everyone. It’s not a pandemic you need to be worried about; it looks like panic is the thing that’s infectious ... and spreading. Suzanne Grimmesey from the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness told the Times that people should limit their news intake about the coronavirus to help prevent “emotional contagion.” That’s something that I feel comfortable referring to as stupidity, irrational decision-making, following the social media leader, and not being responsible for your intake of information.

Meanwhile, county Public Health Department Public Information Officer Jackie Ruiz and Santa Maria Joint Union High School District spokesperson Kenny Klein were dealing with the fallout from a hoax circulating on social media—yes, that’s where that misinformation virus spreads like a pandemic, people!—saying there were four cases of coronavirus in the county, two of which were supposedly at Santa Maria High School. Nope. Sorry, toilet paper pinchers. It’s official; there aren’t any cases in the county. Although, I could be wrong. I just get my information from official public health sources. Have you checked your social media feeds lately? But it is time to get those “social distancing” plans in place, according to county public health. Social distancing, huh? I don’t remember if that was a thing during the SARS epidemic, and I try to block out all of the information I consumed during the bird flu epidemic, because I still have nightmares about it.

However, it sounds like a prime-time excuse not to hang out with those people you keep canceling dinner plans on. Skip work, skip school, skip the cruise. Yep. You don’t need to do a thing. As long as you’ve got your paper towels and that 50-pound bag of rice, you don’t even have to fly the coop.

Lucky for some Guadalupe residents, all that toilet paper and social distancing could come in handy. At least for those residents dealing with sewage issues (estimated to be half of city citizens), who have had overflow and other plumbing problems. Eww.

Think there’s been a run on plungers in Guadalupe since the city put that press release out? You’ve gotta be prepared, you know!? But the city’s got a plan to upgrade its failing sewer system and announced plans to request $3.2 million in funding from the state Department of Housing and Community Development. So, the city might fix it. Or, it might not.

It’s kind of a crapshoot. Pun absolutely intended. ☺️
SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

ALMA ROSA CELEBRATES JULIA CHILD’S GUIDE TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Join us in the tasting room for delicious small bites prepared by Valley Piggy pair with Alma Rosa Wines. Walk-ins welcome.
March 14, 12-4 p.m. $20. 805-691-9395. Alma Rosa Winery, 181 C Industrial Way, Buellton.

Buellton Wine and Chili Festival 2020
Taste beer and wine from over 30 wineries and craft breweries from all over the Central Coast and cuisine from 25 different chili and salsa cooks. Also features live music and games.
March 15, 12-4:30 p.m. $15-$50. 805-448-7070. buelltowineandchilifestival.com. Flying Flags RV Resort and Campground, 180 Avenue Of The Flags, Buellton.

NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL
The Third Annual NatureTrack Film Festival (NTFF) returns to Los Olivos. Entries are thoughtfully curated and selected to "ignite passion for nature through film." March 20, 5-10 p.m., March 21, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and March 22, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. $10 per ticket. 805-866-2047. naturetrackfilmfestival.org. Levinia Campbell Park, 2398 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

OASIS GALA AT SANTA MARIA FAIR PARK
Presented by the Oasis Center. Check website for more details. March 20, 5:30 p.m. oasiscouncil.org. Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thorrmburg St., Santa Maria.

SIERRA CLUB HIKE ON ADOBE SPRINGS TRAIL
This is a 5 mile hike near Guayuma Valley. Bring water and snacks. Ledged dogs allowed. March 14, 9 a.m. None. 805-934-2792. Adobe Springs Trailhead, Highway 166, 21 miles east of Hwy 101, Santa Maria.

SPRING FASHION SHOW
Hosted by the Oasis Center. Check website for more details. March 19, noon oasiscouncil.org. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-973-9750.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: 100 YEARS OF OBSTETRICS
In recognition of Women’s History Month and the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th amendment, the Library and the American Association of University Women, present an historical perspective of the past 100 years of Obstetrics. Guest speaker: Dr. William H. Clewell.
March 14, 1:30-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

A CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE
Join the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of NAUW for a lighthearted and informative program.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LIVING TO BE 100
Living to be 80, 90, 100 and beyond is a new reality for which few have planned. Get answers to questions on how to live today, while preparing for the future. Hear the experts discuss health, fitness, relationships, and the importance of social connections.

THE WRITE YOUR DEEP AF BOOK HOEDOWN
Special guest writing coaches will instruct this day-long studio seminar on writing books. Special guest writing coaches will instruct this day-long studio seminar on writing books.
March 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Starts at $797, my8058x.com. Dolphin Bay Resort, 2277 Shell Beach Road, Pismo Beach.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BINGO BONANZA 2020
Presented by the Women’s Alliance of SLO, the 27th annual Bingo Bonanza offers 10 rousing games of Bingo each with a handcrafted prize basket valued at $150-$300 for every winner.

BIRDS OF SLO 2019: PART 1
A two part slide show featuring outstanding images of over 200 species of birds taken last year by seventeen of the finest nature photographers in San Luis Obispo County. Live guitar accompaniment by Bob Clark and Jack Collins.

CONSTRUCTION SURETY BONDS AT SLOBE
Come learn about what a surety bond is and isn’t, understanding requirements, various types of surety bonds, and the correct steps to file a bond.

HIGH TEA AND HATS
A wonderful Monday Club tradition returns to our newly preserved and renovated clubhouse and gardens. Join us in our historic, Julia Morgan designed building and enjoy a high tea like none other.

INSPIRED HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO
This is an event to help you learn about health and wellness. March 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-4600. inspiredexpo.com. Alex Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

SENSORY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN
Superheroic stories and a sensory night at the Children’s Museum. March 15, 10-3 p.m. $12.50. 805-720-6711. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Garden Drive, San Luis Obispo.

FUNDRAISERS
SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER: BENEFIT FOR SANTA MARIA KIWANIS
A benefit lunch event for the Kiwanis Santa Maria Valley Foundation. Features food, drinks, and live entertainment.
March 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. $20. 805-720-6711. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SOMEBODY THAT’S GREEN
The Santa Maria Public Library Garden Club, in partnership with the Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County, hosts its next Great Getters program on Saturday, March 14, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Guests can learn a variety of gardening tips during this informative meeting, which also includes a succulent exchange. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. Call (865) 925-0994, Ext. 8562 for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GROVER BEACH COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK SALE
Bring the family and browse our wide selection of authors and genres. From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., local nonprofits and educators take home books free of charge. Bring a teacher ID, or a business card or brochure from your nonprofit. March 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-481-4131. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

ARTS

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

FREE WEST COAST SWING CLASS
No partner or experience required. Mondays, 7 & 8 p.m. Free. 805-937-1574. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, mavericksaloon.org.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BALLROOM, LATIN, AND SWING LESSONS
Mame King and Kings of Swing offer dance lessons for all ages and skill levels. Couples and singles welcome. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $36 for 4-week session. 805-929-7979. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

BEADING WORKSHOP

COMPUTER DROP-IN WORKSHOP
This is a drop-in workshop. Patrons will be able to choose the computer topics they would like to cover. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. 805-929-0994 ext. 8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

COUNTRY TWO STEP DANCE LESSONS
Learn the basics to a variety of patterns. Dancers of all skill levels welcome. Thursdays, 6:15-9 p.m. $5. 805-680-5695. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

CREATIVE ART TUESDAYS
Meet other artists and support and critique others’ works. Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m. $1. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

EVERYBODY CAN DANCE
Ballet workout classes for teens and adults. Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m. Free. 805-929-0994 ext. 8562. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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The 2020 Buellton Wine and Chili Festival takes place at the Flying Pigeon RV Resort on March 15, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Attendees can look forward to tasting beer and wine from more than 30 wineries and craft breweries, and cuisine from 25 different chili and salsa chefs. Admission to the festival ranges from $15 to $50. Call (805) 448-7070 or visit buelltownwineandchilifestival.com to find out more. —C.W.
SIX DAYS OF FILM, WINE & FUN ON THE CINEMATIC CENTRAL COAST

Enjoy over one hundred movies and many special events throughout SLO County

Hotel SLO at 877 Palm St. is home to the Festival Lounge and the Festival Headquarters. The Festival Lounge is open to Full Access pass holders and Movie Star passes on week day afternoons.

Festival Passes, Special Event Tickets and our Festival Guide are available at the Festival HQ and online at: SLOFILMFEST.ORG

AND FESTIVAL HQ – HOTEL SLO (entrance on Morro St.)

Pass holders receive priority entry to all screenings. Rush tickets may be purchased at each venue before showtime based on availability. Please check slofilmfest.org for updates and announcements.

EVENT SCHEDULE | MARCH 17–22

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
THE GEORGE SIDNEY INDEPENDENT FILM COMPETITION
This is the main fare of the Festival and although some screen on Wednesday, most screen Thursday through Sunday and are eligible for juried awards, presented on Saturday evening, and Audience Choice Awards presented at Closing Night. Screening schedule and descriptions for all films in competition available at slofilmfest.org and in printed Festival Guides.

THE COASTAL AWAKENING: A TRIBUTE TO PHILIP GLASS
The Coast Awakening celebrates the indigenous counter-culture of the central coast and this year’s focus is on three films featuring the life and art of avant-garde “classicist” composer and pianist Philip Glass. GLASS: A PORTRAIT OF PHILIP IN TWELVE PARTS – 1:15pm followed by KOYAANISQATS’I at 4:15pm and KUNDUN at 7:15pm. All movies screen at the Palm Theatre.

OCTAGON BARN MOVIE NIGHT
Come and see the newly renovated historic dairy barn on the edge of SLO, and enjoy great wines, beer and an Old San Luis BBQ dinner, followed by WALKIN’ CALIFORNIA: PISMO PRESERVE and the highly acclaimed THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM. Event begins at 5:30pm.

STRAIGHT FROM SUNDANCE...
We grabbed two exciting new films from the recent Sundance Film Festival!

DISCLOSURE: TRANS LIVES ON SCREEN is an unprecedented look at transgender depictions in film and TV, featuring Laverne Cox and many other notable trans personalities. Downtown Cinemas. 7pm. Also don’t miss DINNER IN AMERICA, a nihilist punk comedy, screening at the Rock on Friday at 9pm and the Fremont on Sunday at 4pm.

MOVIE NIGHT IN PASO
Three new indie movies of varying lengths, all filmed in the Paso Robles area are the focus for this event at the Park Cinemas, starting at 7pm. After-party hosted by Jeffry’s Wine Country BBQ

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
OPENING NIGHT
Nashville Comes to SLO with a screening of IT ALL BEGINS WITH A SONG: THE STORY OF THE NASHVILLE SONGWRITER, followed by Q&A and live performances by Jade Jackson and Jude Johnson. Fremont Theatre. 7pm. Pre-Party at Luna Red at 5pm for Full Access Passholders.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
CENTRAL COAST FILMMAKER SHOWCASE
We are very proud to showcase this eclectic mix of films written, directed and produced by residents of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties. Awards will be presented to winning films on Sunday, March 22 at the Fremont Theatre. Most Central Coast films screen on Wednesday, and filmmakers are celebrated at a Red Carpet mixer at the Festival Lounge.

HOLLYWOOD & VINES EVENT: THE CHEF AND BREAKING BREAD BREAKING BREAD is a visually beautiful film offers a recipe for tolerance and hope. Combine Arab and Jewish chefs and ask them to collaborate on mouthwatering local dishes. This is what the first Muslim Arab to win Israel’s MasterChef competition did, on a quest to effect social change. Short film THE CHEF screens first. The Rock. 7pm. Also screens at The Rock on Thursday at 1pm. Both screenings offer complimentary Middle East themed appetizers too! More Hollywood & Vines Events can be found at slofilmfest.org.
FRIDAY, MARCH 20

SURF NITE IN SLO
Brent Storm’s award winning WHITE RHINO is the focus of this year’s 15th annual Surf Nite, with North Shore surfer Dave Wassel, surf photographer Brian Bielmann, and the filmmakers in attendance. Opening film, 93: LETTERS FROM MARGE will be introduced by pioneer surfer Linda Benson. Fremont Theater. 7pm.

RED-EYE CINEMA
Our new addition to SLO Film Fest 2020 is a late-night series of genre films that push the envelope a bit. If you’re into edgy cinema, come out to The Rock on Thursday and Friday nights for some great films and special guests. SLO Brew Rock’s restaurant, bar and new distillery will be open for drinks and nibbles. 9pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
SURF & SWIM FILMS AT THE BAY THEATRE
Start your day by diving in to two films about water sports in Morro Bay. WATERPROOF chronicles highly respected lifeguards who ensure the safety of residents and tourists on Long Island, NY. SPOONS: A SANTA BARBARA STORY focuses on the surfers, filmmakers and surf board shapers in Santa Barbara. Bay Theatre. 11am.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES PANELS AND WORKSHOPS
From cinematography to acting to how to make a movie in SLO County, there are a variety of ways you can learn more about the finer points of making a film, besides what you’ll learn from Q&A’s at almost all festival screenings. Panels begin at 9am at the Odd Fellow’s Hall. Check schedule for full details on weekend offerings.

FRIDAY NIGHT IN PASO
At the Justin Downtown Tasting Room on the park, a pre-movie reception will include their incredible wines and Mexican-themed appetizers. A short walk from there, the Park Cinemas will screen NOTHING FANCY: DIANA KENNEDY, a wonderful whirlwind tour through the life and work of the 97-year-old cookbook author and environmental activist who has spent her life mastering Mexican cuisine. Pre-party at 5:30pm, movie at 7pm.

CLASSIC MEXICAN CINEMA – ENAMORADA
This newly remastered classic from the UCLA Archives can be seen on the Big Screen at the Fremont Theatre. Featuring 1930’s Cal Poly grad Pedro Armendariz in the leading role, this is the story of a revolutionary soldier who falls into a difficult love affair in the town of Cholula. After the movie, he will receive a posthumous award presented to LA’s Mexican Consulate by Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong.

FILMMAKER AND KING Vidor AWARDS NIGHT
Join us for our most festive evening as we celebrate independent filmmakers with awards presented by major festival sponsors, followed by our annual presentation of the 2020 King Vidor Award. This year’s honoree is writer/director/producer Lawrence Kasdan, and he will sit down to talk about his impressive career with TCM host, Ben Mankiewicz. Kasdan’s STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK will screen after that and the SLO Museum of Art will host the after-party. Fremont Theatre. 7pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
FILMMAKERS OF TOMORROW SHOWCASE
Featuring short films made by young people 18 years and under, both local and global, this special screening is free to all students. Downtown Cinemas. 1pm. Cash awards will be presented at the Fremont Theatre later at 6pm.

THE BIG PARADE
Directed by the namesake of our annual award, King Vidor’s 1925 classic will remind you why the SLO Film Fest has been celebrating his long career for 26 years! Palm Theatre. 3pm.

CLOSING NIGHT
Awards and BANANA SPLIT Awards will be presented to Central Coast and youth filmmakers, and Audience Award winners, followed by the Spotlight Award! Then 26 yr. old Hannah Marks, actress/writer/producer of BANANA SPLIT, will introduce her newest film BANANA SPLIT. Fremont Theater. 6pm.

FESTIVAL PASSES EVENT TICKETS COMPLETE SCREENING SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION SLOFILMFEST.ORG
**CLUBS & MEETINGS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SM VALLEY: MONTHLY MEETING** Social at 6 a.m. Guest speaker at 7 p.m. Business meeting for members follows. Third Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. 805-349-2708. santamandemocrats.org.

**THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** The Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society holds meetings open to the public. Third Thursday of every month, 2-4 p.m. SMVGS.org. Family History Center, 908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria.

**ADULT COLORING PROGRAM** Come and enjoy this new trend in adult creativity and relaxation at the Santa Maria Public Library. The program is free, and all materials will be provided. Wednesdays, 12-2 p.m. Free. 805-937-9595. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**KNITTING AND CROCHETING** Bring out your inner warrior with kids parkour class presented by Calm. Tuesdays 8-9:15 p.m. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Suite G, Santa Maria.

**SPORTS**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**HOMEWORK HELP** Free after school homework help for grades K-6. No sign-ups required; first come, first served. Mondays-Thursdays, 3-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**KIDS ALL STAR GYMNASTICS: NINJA WARRIOR CLASSES** Bring out your inner warrior with kids parkour classes in a safe setting. For ages 5 and up. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m. 805-349-7575. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

**MOMMY AND ME CLASSES** Cheer gymnastics classes for ages 1 to 3 (as soon as they can start walking). Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., Santa Luis Obispo, 805-756-2797.

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**ADOPT A GRANDPARENT: MONTHLY VOLUNTEER TRAINING** Help out in your neighborhood by contacting with older adults that need a little extra help. **March 21, 10 a.m.-noon** 805-547-7025. Wilshire Community Services, 285 South St., suite J, Santa Luis Obispo, wilshirecommunityservices.org.

**FOOD & DRINK**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND** Produce, flowers, and other plants from the nursery are available for purchase. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 805-934-2182. Growing Grounds Farm, 820 W Foster Rd., Santa Maria, t-mha.org.

**ORCUTT FARMERS MARKET** Presents local farmers and small businesses. Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Ornutt Farmers Market, 125 Old Orcutt Rd., Orcutt.

**ROBLET WINE TASTINGS** Potting Shed and Barrel Room available to members. Ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-686-2603. roblerwinery.com. Robler Winery, 310 Robler Ave., Santa Ynez.

**STANDiNG SUN: TASTING ROOM HOURS** Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-961-6941. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92nd St., Buellton, 805-961-6941.

**TASTiNG AT KALYRA** Offering varietals from all over the world. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-693-8664. kalyrawinery.com. Kalyra Winery, 343 N. referees Rd., Santa Ynez.

**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS** Enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice while you meet new and old friends. Proceeds support OASIS Community Center. Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. ongoing 805-714-4027. Santa Maria Transit Center, Miller and Boone Streets, Santa Maria.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**FOOD FACTORY TASTINGS** This tasting room highlights community-based winemaking. Features various member winemakers. Mondays-Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. 805-243-8398. foodfactorywinemakers.com. Food Factory Winemakers, 5035 E. Lake Dr., Santa Maria.

**TASTING AT MONTENAR Wines** Offering handcrafted wines, charcuterie, and cheeses. Fridays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-735-5000. facebook.com/montemarwines. Montemar Wines, 1501 E. Chestnut St., Santa Maria.

**WINE TASTING AT AQUARIAN** This winery specializes in Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. Mondays-Thursdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-736-5949. arquitana.com. Aquarian Winery, 2635 E. Santa Maria St., Santa Maria.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**LOMPOC WINE FACTORY TASTINGS** This tasting room highlights community-based winemaking. Features various member winemakers. Mondays-Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-686-3898. lompocwineryfactory.com. Lompo Winery Factory, 1501 W. Lake Dr., Santa Maria.
Chumash Casino Resort presents legendary rocker John Fogerty, live in concert

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

I see a bad moon a-rising, I see trouble on the way ... "The voice of rage and ruin himself, John Fogerty, is bringing his My 50 Year Trip tour to the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez on Friday, March 13. The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the resort's Samala Showroom and tickets range from $79 to $139. As the co-founder of Creedence Clearwater Revival, Fogerty's music ranks as some of the most influential in American history. Honored as one of the 100 Greatest Songwriters, 100 Greatest Singers, and 100 Greatest Guitarists (all three lists compiled by Rolling Stone magazine), Fogerty's hits are numerous, having written and produced "Born on the Bayou," "Green River," "Proud Mary," and other CCR staples.

The classic rock legend has enjoyed solo success as well, starting with his first solo album, Centerfield (1985), which reached No. 1 on the Billboard 200 upon release and later certified as double-platinum. In 2012, Fogerty became a New York Times best-selling author, with the release of his memoir, Fortunate Son: My Life, My Music.

To find out more about Fogerty's upcoming concert, call (800) 248-6274 or visit chumashcasino.com. The Chumash Casino Resort is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez.

Staying south

Take a chance, take a chance, take a chance on indie band The Chance Makers, who make their way to Cold Spring Tavern on Friday, March 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. This folk-rock trio features Kevin McGarry on guitar and vocals, Casey McGarry on drums and vocals, and Clayton Doyle on bass. The tavern also hosts Americana performances.
MUSIC

STRING THEORY: Classic and contemporary rock cover band Different Strings performs at the Naughty Oak Brewing Company on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m.

LOCAL NOTES (from page 21)

group Oddly Straight on Saturday, March 14, from 1 to 4 p.m., followed by eclectic rock band Back Pocket, who take the stage from 5 to 8 p.m.


LOMPOC AND VANDENBERG

LOMPOC CONCERT ASSOCIATION: JEANNIE GOECKERITZ played solo flute. Jeannine Goekeritz graces the stage during this performance. Presented by the LCA. March 13, 7:30 p.m. 55-525 St. Marry’s St., Lompoc. Presented solo by Flutist Jeannine Goekeritz.

SIP MUSIC CLUB Paring music and local wine with 4 seasonal releases each calendar year. Price includes 1 VIP access tickets to each SIPMusic event.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

DANTE MARTE AND THE VIBE SETTERS LIVE perform in the theater for the month of March. Fridays, 4:30-7:30 p.m. through March 27. Complementary, Presqu’iley Wine, 5391 Presqu’iley Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquileywine.com.

DIFFERENT STINGS LIVE March 13, 7 p.m. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S. Broadway St., Ste. 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

HAVAÑA NIGHTS Enjoy live music acts, including Victor Valencia and others. Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Cubanismo Cuban Coffee House, 4869 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt.

LAS CAFETERAS: ROOTS, RHYTHM AND RHYME FROM EAST LA Using traditional Son Jarocho instruments, Las Cafeteras sing in English, Spanish, and Spanglish while adding a remix of sounds, from rock to soul, and blues dipped in thick, sweet harmony.

MUSIC AT NAUGHTY OAK Enjoy a different musical act and food vendor every Friday evening. Friday, 5 p.m. Free admission. Naughty Oak Brewing Co., 165 S. Broadway St. Suite 102, Orcutt, 805-287-9663, naughtyoak.com.

805 NIGHTS For ages 21-and-over only. Come enjoy dancing to your favorite music videos. Fridays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Free. 805-219-0977. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

KARAOKE/OPEN MIC SANTA YNEZ VALLEY


KARAOKE WITH DJ RANDY Fridays, 6-8 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.


KARAOKE WITH YASEBEL Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.


WEDNESDAY NIGHT KARAOKE Guests are welcome to take the stage and sing. Wednesdays, 9-1:30 p.m. Free. 805-686-8292. Louie’s, 213 E. Main St., Santa Maria. ♦

D/J/DANCE

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

THIRSTY THURSDAYS WITH DJ VEGA Playing today’s and yesterday’s hits. No cover charge. Bring your dancing shoes. Thursdays, 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Free. 805-478-3980. DJ’s Salon, 724 E Ocean Ave., Lompoc. ♦

KRAZY COUNTRY HONKY-TONK THURSDAYS, 6 p.m. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, 805-686-4785, mavericksaloon.org.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

805 NIGHTS For ages 21-and-over only. Come enjoy dancing to your favorite music videos. Fridays, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Free. 805-219-0977. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

DJ VEGA: OLD SCHOOL AND PARTY MIX Saturdays, 9 a.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

HULA DANCING Thursdays, 6-30 p.m. 505-898-6772. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

LINE DANCING Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m. 550-301-1827. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.


RANDY LATIN PARTY MIX Fridays, 9:30 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.

CAJA CALIENTE DANCE PARTY Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m.安东尼, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977. Caixa Caliente, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

KARAOKE WITH DJ RANDY Fridays, 6-8 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.


KARAOKE WITH YASEBEL Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Anthony’s, 859 Guadalupe St., Guadalupe, 805-219-0977.


WEDNESDAY NIGHT KARAOKE Guests are welcome to take the stage and sing. Wednesdays, 9-1:30 p.m. Free. 805-686-8292. Louie’s, 213 E. Main St., Santa Maria. ♦
Arts Briefs

SIJHS Community Theatre presents Beauty and the Beast

The St. Joseph High School (SIJHS) Community Theatre opens its production of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast on Friday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. Performances are held in the school’s gymnasium and run for one weekend only (other showings are on Saturday, March 21, at 1 and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 22, at 1 p.m.);

The plot of this popular stage musical follows Disney’s take on the French fairy tale, and features the same songs from the acclaimed animated film (music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman).

Tickets to Beauty and the Beast can be purchased online in advance at the school’s website: sjhighshts.com. Admission starts at $15. SIJHS is located at 420 S. Bradley Road, Santa Maria.

David Spade brings stand-up tour to Santa Ynez

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

David Spade returns to Los Olivos

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

Saturday Night Live alum David Spade will perform at the Chumash Casino Resort in Santa Ynez on Friday, March 22, at 8 p.m. The stand-up comedian is also well known for hosting Comedy Central’s Lights Out with David Spade and his role as Dennis Finch on NBC’s Just Shoot Me. His film credits include Tommy Boy, Joe Dirt, Black Sheep, and Grown Ups. Spade released his memoir, Almost Interesting, in 2015, which became a New York Times Bestseller.

Tickets to the show, which will be held in the resort’s Samala Showroom, range from $29 to $53. Call (800) 248-6374 or visit chumashcasinoresort.com for more details. The casino is located at 3400 E. Highway 246, Santa Ynez.

NatureTrack Film Festival returns to Los Olivos

The third annual NatureTrack Film Festival begins screening at multiple venues in Los Olivos on Friday, March 20, and will continue through Sunday, March 22. The festival features more than 60 films, which all explore themes of nature and the relationship between humans and the natural world.

Organizers of the festival are planning to incorporate Q-and-A sessions with visiting filmmakers, after showings of their films.

Individual tickets to each screening are $10 for adults, $8 for students, and $7 for children (ages 12 and under). An all-access pass, which includes admission to every screening at the festival, is available for $200. This pass also includes access to the VIP lounge, the opening and closing receptions, and all filmmaker panels.

Part of the proceeds of the festival will benefit the NatureTrack Foundation’s outdoor educational field trips. For the full line-up of featured films and more info, call (805) 886-2047 or visit naturetrackfilmfestival.org.

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

Born to be wild

Equine photographer and author Deborah Kalas documents herds of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE

In 2014, she began photographing wild horses full time, which became the basis of her new book, The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure.

C apturing rare moments of untamed horses roaming the wild requires a great deal of patience, but career photographer Deborah Kalas was well-prepared before her latest venture. For her new book, The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure, Kalas spent countless hours (within a total of more than five years) observing the herds of wild horses that occupy Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.

Kalas is bringing the book to Solvang for a special author talk at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, where she will discuss her experience shooting in North Dakota, her long career, and photographic influences as well.

“One of my favorite photographers is Henri Cartier Bresson. He believed in the decisive moment,” Kalas told the Sun. “I too believe there is a moment when all the elements fall, even if somewhat unexpectedly, into place.”

Being able to predict these decisive moments, based on observing patterns, is the key to wild horse photography, Kalas explained.

“With the wild horses, there are certain predictable moments,” she said. “When two stallions come together, there is going to be some level of discussion. When a newborn foal wakes up from a long nap, it is going to nurse before doing anything else.

“Knowing horses and watching for predictable movement helped me to be in the right place at the right time,” Kalas added.

The photographer recalled one specific instance during the project where she waited patiently and silently for one band of horses to awake from napping. “One band was cooling off underneath an overhanging rock for five hours. They had shade, I didn’t,” Kalas said. “It wasn’t until early evening that they came out. Lots of patience is required.”

An accomplished photojournalist, with credits including LIFE, People, and New York magazine, and professional equine photographer over the last three decades, Kalas had plenty of experience working with horses before her North Dakota expedition, just not with the untamed variety.

“It is like the idea of the seasons being a way of observing them in their habitat and how each changing season affected them,” Kalas added.

Winter was the most difficult season to shoot during, the photographer recalled, for a variety of reasons.

“Frigid temperature, biting wind, finding access to the horses where you won’t freeze in the process,” Kalas listed.

But even during the winter, as with the other three seasons, Kalas felt a sense of peace in the North Dakota wilderness. Photographing wild horses in open spaces without a single fence in sight made her feel like an explorer, she said.

Kalas compared the feeling to something she imagines early 1900s photographer William Henry Jackson might have experienced, as he captured the American West through the lens of his very own camera.

“It is a very calm sense of being home. Of feeling safe. Of feeling surrounded by love and nature,” Kalas said.

Send comments to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.
Knives out

PCPA takes a fresh, thought-provoking stab at Shakespeare's Julius Caesar

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears—the Pacific Conservatory Theatre’s (PCPA) production of The Tragedy of Julius Caesar is here. What better way to spend this year’s Ides of March (and through March 22) than with William Shakespeare’s quintessential, historical tale of political upheaval?

One key factor I enjoyed about this iteration, helmed by director Mark Booher, is its brooding intimacy. Held in the Severson Theatre, the stage is surrounded on all four sides (unique compared to the thrust stage of the neighboring Marian Theatre, often PCPA’s venue of choice). I can’t speak for the whole audience, but I felt as if I was part of the crowd onlooking Caesar’s (Michael Tremblay) triumphant return to Rome, after a military victory.

The visceral herd mentality feeling reaches its peak at Marc Antony’s (Yusef Seevers) stirring funeral speech, presenting Caesar’s bloody corpse to the masses; I felt genuinely moved, like most of the Roman commoners in attendance. Seevers is just so damn good, and his speech is all the more powerful when compared to the shared tenacity of his peers, whether they be friends or foes, onstage (the entire cast is brilliant). It’s as if I’m truly part of the mob in those moments, ready to revolt against Brutus (Peter S. Hadres), Cassius (Andrew Philpot), Casca (Katie Fuchs-Wackowski), and the other conspirators.

I may not be wearing a tunic or sandals, but the players’ attire isn’t nearly as B.C. as you might be imagining. Costume designer Eddy L. Barrows chose a more modern approach with the show’s wardrobe—stylistically anachronistic with rewarding results. The more militant Romans sport camouflage patterns (already game for the imminent civil war begging to erupt). Other characters are caught in blazers by day, and rain hats and ponchos during the stormy night preceding Caesar’s violent demise. And nearly everyone is in jeans, except Caesar himself, whose getup notably resembles a certain 20th century dictator, complete with a wide Sam Browne belt over his suit jacket and tie.

March madness

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Julius Caesar at the Severson Theatre through Sunday, March 22. Tickets to the show range from $38 to $50. Call (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org for more info. The Severson is located at Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

The set, thoughtfully arranged by scenic designer Abby Hogan, supports the timeless atmosphere. Before the show even began, I was immediately intrigued upon entering the theater, especially at the ceiling. At every corner of the venue hangs what appears to be a dead body wrapped in tarp (think the opening scene of Sicario), while a statue of Caesar faces us, upside down, attached to the ceiling’s center. The walls are adorned with Caesar’s image as well, in rectangular prints, which resemble political campaign posters.

In press materials, Booher reflects on the modern tone and refers to The Tragedy of Julius Caesar as a “play for today.” “It serves as a springboard for us to think about big ideas: power, honor, love, and betrayal, sacrifice, and friendships on an epic scale. Even as someone who loves so many of [Shakespeare’s] other plays this is incomparably powerful,” Booher said. “You’ll turn a page and read a passage and it’s shocking how incredibly alive and contemporary this work is. You can’t help but be amazed by it.”

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood uses a fork to stab Caesar (the salad). Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.
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Looking for the light

G

Rain O’Connor (Warrior, The Accountant) directs this sports drama written with Brad Ingelsby (Out of the Furnace, Run All Night) about an alcoholic former high school basketball star (Ben Affleck) who’s offered a coaching job at his alma mater. Can he confront his old demons, redeem himself, and lead his squad to victory? (108 min.)

Glen: It’s always tough watching someone self-destruct on film, and the early scenes of Jack Cunningham (Affleck) drinking his way through his days as a bridge construction worker and his nights easing himself in his local dive bar are pretty depressing. We don’t even find out until half way through the film what’s driven him to such despair, and I won’t ruin it for you, but he’s got a pretty good reason to want to numb himself. When he’s asked by Father Edward Devine (John Aylward) to take over coaching his old Catholic high school basketball team, Jack is trying to make a team out of a group of misfit players on a failing squad. If you’re thinking, “I’ve seen this film before,” you absolutely have. It’s a tried-and-true plot and a familiar character arc, but with O’Connor at the helm and a very committed performance by Affleck, the film overcomes its predictability and delivers an engaging cinematic experience. O’Connor has a facility with sports movies having directed Miracle (2004), about the 1980 U.S. Hockey team’s victory over the unbeatable Soviets, and Warrior (2011), the family drama centered on two brothers facing each other in a mixed martial arts contest. He knows how to film compelling sports sequences as well as capture potent emotional moments. The Way Back delivers.

Anna: Affleck has had his own personal problems with alcohol, so Jack’s darkness and struggles are ones the actor has shared to at least some degree. Jack’s life is repetitive and sad; he hides booze in his coffee cup to get through the workday and pounds beers at night just to pass out. He isn’t exactly a loner, but very much so. He’s got friends at the bar who shuffle him home every night, a sister who cares but is incredibly frustrated, and an ex-wife who still has love for him despite their separation. When Father Devine offers the coach position to Jack, he proceeds to get drunk and practice all the ways he can say no, but perhaps a bit of divine intervention or residual Catholic guilt makes Jack take on the job in the end. His team is sad, too. In fact, the school hasn’t made it to the playoffs since Jack was a star on the team. The boys are a bit directionless, unfocused, and embarrassed by their terrible record. It sucks to lose all of the time! Assistant Coach Dan (Al Madrigal) is Jack’s right-hand man, but soon he senses something is amiss with Jack, and even though the team is now winning because of him, Dan can’t look away from the fact that the fouldmouthed coach often smells like a distillery.

When we learn the complicated truths of why Jack blacks the world out night after night, the character turns from just broken to heartbreakingly devastated at what life has handed him. It’s a sad film as well as triumphant, and instead of presenting some sort of a false tale of how basketball saved his life, we get a much more complicated, much more real look at what it truly takes to recover. Glen: The film’s less than happy ending does add realism to the tale, which is propelled along by the women in Jack’s life. Their sympathy for him is palpable, as is their helplessness at inspiring him to better. His sister, Beth (Michaela Watkins), is fed up with his drinking but understands it. She does all she can to keep him involved with her kids’ lives. Likewise, his ex-wife Angela (Janina Gavankar) tries to keep in touch with him, but she’s moving on with her life—something Jack’s incapable of. Part of his path to redemption is working with his players, in particular Brandon Durrett (Brandon Wilson), whose mother has died and whose father is too busy with his two younger sons to pay much attention to Brandon’s blooming basketball career, which is garnering interest from college scouts. Jack turns out to be an amazing coach who’s able to capitalize on his team’s weaknesses. They’re small but they have hustle, and they’re willing to work. As they begin winning, it’s impossible not to be excited about their underdog charge. Of course, this wouldn’t be much of a story if Jack simply redeemed himself and took his team to the championship. More setbacks are in store, but when the credits come to a close, you’ll know this story of personal loss, alcoholic despair, and an imperfect path to redemption hit all the right notes. It’s moving without being melodramatic or mawkish, and Affleck digs deep to make Jack a character worth rooting for.

Anna: Why Jack walked away from the game after high school also becomes more clear as he digs in deep with Brandon and we learn Jack’s own complicated relationship with his father. Angela tries to be supportive, but like you said—she’s moving on, and Jack doesn’t seem to have any interest in helping himself. Beyond that, he can be downright mean, and his wounds are never more at the surface than in those moments. Coaching has managed to give him some purpose, but the devil inside of him still weighs on him every day and ends up casting a dark shadow over the sparse happy moments he has. While this is a sports movie, its focus is a lot more personal than that. Of course we want the boys to win and for Jack to turn his life and team around, but life is messier than all of that, and this film doesn’t deny it. It isn’t all low lows; there’s some humor and tenderness as well. It’s clear Jack cares about the kids on the team more than he does about the game or even himself. Affleck gives quite a performance here, and this redemption story is worth a watch.

Sun Screen is written by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey and freelancer Anna Starkey. Comment at gstarkey@newtimeslo.com.

FULL PRICE... It’s worth the full price of an evening showing
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SCORING

THE WAY BACK
What’s it rated? R
What’s it worth, Anna? Matteine
What’s it worth, Glen? Full price
Where’s it showing? Parks Plaza

EMMA
What’s it rated? PG
What’s it worth? Matteine
Where’s it showing? Parks Plaza

PICK
Jane Austen’s comedic romantic novel, Emma, gets adapted to the big screen for the seventh time with Autumn de Wilde directing Eleanor Catton’s adaptation. It’s 19th century England, and well-meaning but selfish Eliza Woodhouse (Anya Taylor-Joy), a self-styled matchmaker, goes about her days meddling in the affairs of those around her.

It turns out catching a catch and making the perfect match isn’t as easy as it might seem. Adorned with satin ribbons, corsets, and jewels, Taylor-Joy brings us this generation’s Emma Woodhouse, Jane Austen’s humorous charmer—20-year-old who considers herself to be quite the matchmaker. And yes, in this 2020 adaptation of the classic novel, Emma Woodhouse is still just as handsome, clever, and rich as ever.

If you’re old enough to read a book or watch a movie, you probably know how this old story goes. Emma lives with her father in an enormous English manor just a few miles outside London in the early 19th century. She, who tends to think a little too fondly of her own abilities, often finds herself bored by the usual goings on of the tiny town where she lives. But she, a natural social butterfly, has a knack for making the perfect match—by the usual goings on of the tiny town where she lives.

London in the early 19th century. She, who tends to think a little too fondly of her own abilities, often finds herself bored by the usual goings on of the tiny town where she lives. But she, a natural social butterfly, has a knack for making the perfect match—by the usual goings on of the tiny town where she lives.

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Bright Eyes has partnered with PLUS1 so that $1 from every ticket sold will go to the Florence Project and their work providing direct legal and social services for detained adults and children under threat of deportation.

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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

When? 1995

What’s it rated? PG

Where? Hulu, DVD, Blu-ray

It is a truth universally acknowledged

that Pride and Prejudice is an

unassailable classic.

While there is no enjoyment like

reading, if I can’t be reading the novel, the best way to trudge through

Regency England is with Colin Firth.

I ardently admire and love the 1995:

six-hour BBC mini-series. It’s all about

costumes, the sets, the actors’ posture
and executed with care and precision.

This version, unlike most of the other

adapts, allows us to dwell in the

narrative and ingest the nuances of Jane Austen’s witty, abideable jobs at
society and humanity in general. Yes, the characters’ manners are rather

stiff to our modern eyes, but there is

space to enjoy the palpable strength and authenticity of the female leads.

There’s ample time to feel the conflicts

within a society based on inheritance and

fortune—we’re immersed in

the Bennet’s situation, as they face

destitution if their daughters don’t

see the varying hues of indignant

at least four or five
times, when I’m

some sick, this is

what I want to
catch up all

day. So when my

30-year-old daughter

recently finished the

novel, we simply had
to celebrate for six

hours with a few fellow Austen fans.

One friend brought over her Blu-ray

version, and I admit I was skeptical of the difference it would make. I’d

been happy watching Elizabeth spar with Mr.

Fitzwilliam and roll her eyes at her mother

(Shusannah Ehrich) and shot levels of clarity. I was wrong to doubt.

We all commented at various times:

“Is there a pattern on his tie?” “I can

see the newspaper on the paper he’s

reading!” “I never knew there was a

floral design on her dress!”

With new eyes, I watched Jane

smile softly at Mr. Bingley (Grispin

Bonham-Carter) while his snobby sisters

(Anna Chancellor and Lucy Robinson)

snicker and approve of Mr. Darcy’s effort

to break up the innocent lovers. I could

see the varying hues of indignant

flush on Elizabeth’s cheeks as she

turns down Mr. Darcy and later as she

stands up to Lady Catherine de Bourgh

(Barbara Leigh-Hunt). And the subtle

shades of Mr. Darcy’s growing affection

for Elizabeth were all the more evident.

Pride and Prejudice is a timeless gem,
the 1995 film reveals its many facets,

but it soon becomes clear they’re part of a sick and twisted game. (89 min.) —Glenn

THE INVISIBLE MAN

What’s it rated? R

Where’s it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

I can only imagine this direct-to-tragic

romance about Christian music star Jeremy Camp (K.J. Apa) and

his romance with Melissa Henning (Britt Robertson), who

is diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

In brightly colored manners and

equally ornamental dresses, we

watch as Emma, between sips of

tea, amusingly and repeatedly

falls to force Harriet into a romantic

relationship, while clumsily stumbling

love herself.

Director De Wilde adds to the
comic and quirky tone of the

film with color palettes and

symmetry reminiscent of Wes

Anderson, and jokes fun at

the upper classes of the era with

many of the characters’ strange
centicities and silently annoyed

servants peppered throughout.

Though Emma 2020 is generally engaging throughout,

it’s not like laugh-out-loud funny

for the most part. It’s certainly

not as good as the 1995

valley girl version of Emma that,
as we all know, is a masterpiece

that deserves to stay down in

history as one of the best and most

pure comedies of all time.

(Do @ me!?) But I thoroughly enjoyed

this generation’s Emma. It’s cute.
It’s fun. It’s entertaining. I felt good and

happy once all was said and done and the credits were rolling.

When I left the theater, I smiled as I thought of the ending, and I

heard other audience members laughing as they talked it over.

In this time of democratic decline and political polarization in America,

what more could we as a nation

really need? (124 min.)

—Kasey Bunshah

THE HUNT

What’s it rated? R

Where’s it showing? Stadium 14

UNKILLABLE: A thriller (Vin Diesel) with powers of reanimation is programmed to kill, to

the sci-fi action film Bloodshot.

I STILL BELIEVE

What’s it rated? PG

Where’s it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

I can only imagine this direct-to-tragic

romance about Christian music star Jeremy Camp (K.J. Apa) and

his romance with Melissa Henning (Britt Robertson), who

is diagnosed with ovarian cancer. (115 min.)

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

What’s it rated? R

Where’s it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

I can only imagine this direct-to-tragic

romance about Christian music star Jeremy Camp (K.J. Apa) and

his romance with Melissa Henning (Britt Robertson), who

is diagnosed with ovarian cancer. (115 min.)

ONWARD

What’s it rated? PG

Where’s it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

I can only imagine this direct-to-tragic

romance about Christian music star Jeremy Camp (K.J. Apa) and

his romance with Melissa Henning (Britt Robertson), who

is diagnosed with ovarian cancer. (115 min.)

OUTLAND

What’s it rated? PG

Where’s it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

I can only imagine this direct-to-tragic

romance about Christian music star Jeremy Camp (K.J. Apa) and

his romance with Melissa Henning (Britt Robertson), who

is diagnosed with ovarian cancer. (115 min.)

THE WAY BACK

What’s it rated? R

Where’s it showing? Movies Lompoc, Parks Plaza

I can only imagine this direct-to-tragic

romance about Christian music star Jeremy Camp (K.J. Apa) and

his romance with Melissa Henning (Britt Robertson), who

is diagnosed with ovarian cancer. (115 min.)
Berries on trial
Cal Poly study focuses on women and strawberries to look at impact on heart and gut health

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Women are often left out of clinical trials and studies in fields from medicine to city planning. The result is a world with buildings, cars, and medical procedures built with men in mind, making it generally less convenient for women to function in daily life.

One big reason for this, according to Kari Pilolla, an assistant professor in Cal Poly’s Food Science and Nutrition Department, is that women’s menstrual cycles add a somewhat unpredictable hormonal variable to consider when conducting a study, widening the margin of error and making reliable data more difficult to gather.

“It’s so much easier to work with men,” Pilolla told the Sun. “So that’s why I’m particularly interested in women. There’s not enough research into women.”

Little by little, Pilolla is working to change that. In partnership with faculty and students at Humboldt State University, Pilolla is helping to lead a study into the effects of regular strawberry consumption on the health of postmenopausal women, primarily in the heart and gut.

During the ReCHARGE with Strawberries clinical trial, participants are given a powdered strawberry supplement to mix into a drink each day for six weeks, and then they’re given a different supplement for another six weeks after that. One powder contains real strawberry compounds, Pilolla said, while the other is a placebo.

Researchers, including both staff and roughly 20 Cal Poly students so far, track participants for nearly five months, and are involved in planning, budgeting, marketing, methods, testing—basically every piece of what it takes to run a research project, Pilolla said.

“These women who participate are impacting so many students,” she said.

Once they’ve made it through the program, participants are given a comprehensive analysis of the study’s impacts on their health, which Pilolla said could be incredibly helpful to their own journey post-menopause.

As women transition into and through menopause, their hormones change dramatically, and Pilolla said that can often lead to increased blood pressure and cholesterol. Menopause tends to be a confusing and turbulent time even without the heightened risk of serious health ailments, an experience that’s marred by lack of information, hot flashes, and sometimes severe mood swings.

Strawberries contain compounds that Pilolla and her students think could lower cholesterol levels and improve gut health, both of which they think could work together to improve heart and liver health. Strawberries also just so happen to be one of the most commonly eaten berries in the U.S., and one of the most important crops on the Central Coast and in California.

Pilolla said that if she and her students can make even one small part of the transition through menopause easier, possibly through a fruit that most people love to eat, she’d be happy.

“We want to give them a better quality of life,” she said.

Research into the gut, and its connections and impacts on the rest of the body, is exploding right now, and nutrition in general is a field that’s constantly changing. That’s partially why Cal Poly senior Karli McCarthy has always been drawn to applied nutrition—her major—and that’s why she wanted to get involved in this study. She likes the hands-on nature of clinical research and how scientific studies broaden the world’s understanding of everything.

As an undergraduate student, McCarthy has played a key role in conducting the ReCHARGE with Strawberries study, and she plans to continue her work with the program as a grad student next year. She’s learned a lot through this work, she said, and she hopes to use the study as her thesis project.

“It’s really rewarding,” she told the Sun. ☺

New Times Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash is all about strawberries. Send your food ideas to the editor clanhuani@ santamariasun.com.

Nibbles & Bites

• Nagy Wines invites locals to sip a glass of wine and learn to paint a sunset scene on canvas, March 12 from 7 to 9:30 p.m at the winery’s Orcutt tasting room. Laura Cherry will give instructions on how to paint Palms, a landscape of palm trees set against a vibrant sky, on canvas. All instructions and materials are included, as well as a glass of wine to enjoy while you paint. The event costs $40 per person, $36 for wine club members. Purchase tickets at nagywines.com/events/paint-night-with-laura-cherry to reserve your spot—according to organizers, this is a popular event, and space is limited. Wine Club members should contact (805) 286-7228 or email info@nagywines.com to RSVP and get the discounted pricing. The tasting room is located at 145 S. Gray St., suite 103, Orcutt.

• Zaca Mesa Winery invites locals to learn how to blind taste like a sommelier on March 21. Join the winery’s certified sommelier, Garrett Black, and assistant winemaker Randy Gardenhire for an informational tasting on how to use sight, smell, and taste to figure out what’s in your glass. The ticket price ($60, $50 for wine club members) includes small bites and a comprehensive wine tasting. Contact Taylor at (805) 688-9339, Ext. 320, or taylor@zacamesa.com to reserve a spot. The winery is located at 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos. Learn more at zacamesa.com. ☺

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SOLVANG
1241 SAWLEAF LN, 3BD, 2BA, $906,000.00, Sat 12-2, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, 805-448-7500, Laura Dramer, RE#01209580

San Luis Obispo

3920 Indian Way, 5BD, 7.5BA, $3,895,000, Sun 1-3, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, 805-448-7500, Laura Dramer, RE#01209580

FOR RENT

ORCUTT
193 Patterson Road
1bd, 1ba, $1,000/mo, rent $1,000 sec. dep. Upstairs unit, no garage, washer & dryer hook ups inside.

1224 Navajo
4 Bedroom
2 Bath
$2200 rent
$2200 deposit

SANTA MARIA
500 N. Thornburg #A
1 bed, 1 bath
$1250 rent/$1250 sec.dep.

500 N. Thornburg #B
$1300 rent
$1300 deposit
1-car garage

609 N Benwiley #C
$695 rent
$695 deposit
Highway Trailer Park

4200 TRAFFIC WAY, 3BD, 1BA, $420,000, Sat 1-3,
Century 21 Hometown Realty, 805-441-9612, Brian Wolf, 00784459

121 GRANDVIEW, 5BD, 5BA, $3,895,000, Sun 11-3 Cancelled if Ran, Auer Real Estate, 805-801-6694, Brenda Auer, #01310530

1461 BRIGHTON AVE, 4BD, 2.5BA, $625,00, Sat 11-3 Cancelled if Ran, Auer Real Estate, 805-801-6694, Brenda Auer, #01310530

640 FOXEN LN, 3BD, 2BA, $1,179,000, Sun 2-4, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services California Properties, 805-698-9902, Suzy Ealand, RE#01766178

620 FOXEN LN, 4BD, 3BA, $995,000, Sun 11-1, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services California Properties, 805-698-9902, Suzy Ealand, RE#01766178

MORRO BAY
305 ARBUTUS, 3, 3, 1105000, Sat 11-2, Paul Nagy, 805-236-4131, Paul Nagy, SL01877887

775 DEREK CT, 4BD, 3BA, $699,000, Sat 12-3, EXP Realty Of California Inc, 559-360-1428, Dylan Anderson, RE#01878277

SAN LUIS OBISPO
3087 LIVORNO CIR, 3BD, 2.5BA, $810,000, Sun 12-3 Sun 12-3, Midland Pacific Homes, 831-238-4053 or 805-712-3266, Debi or Amy, 01856543

3072 CALLE MALVA, 3BD, 2.5BA, $715,000, $827,000, Sat 11-4 Sun 11-4, Midland Pacific Homes, 831-238-4053 or 805-712-3266, Debi or Amy, 01856543

1654 OCEANAIRE DR, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, 3BD, 2BA, $680,000, Sat 12-4, Sun 12-4, Richardson Properties, 805-400-9677, Aaron Young, 01992943

3621 MONTEBELLO ST, 3BD, 2.5BA, $985,000, Sat 1-3, Sun 1-3, 1470500, Laura Dramer, RE#01209580

3920 INDIAN WAY, 5BD, 7.5BA, $3,895,000, Sun 1-3, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, 805-448-7500, Laura Dramer, RE#01209580

SOLvang
1241 SAWLEAF LN, 3BD, 2BA, $906,000.00, Sat 12-2, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, 805-448-7500, Laura Dramer, RE#01209580
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