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Sun

AT THE MOVIES



High Note: Feel good [26]

Summer is here

Never fear, the Sun still has a full calendar of activities to make those dog days fun and bright, even at a distance [12]

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

NEWS Oil projects pull out of Cat Canyon [6]

ARTS Drawing from a single line [24]

EATS Wineries are reopening with food [28]



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JUNE 4 - JUNE 11, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 14

Hey, you guys! Guess what? It's June, and the days are becoming that special kind of Central Coast warm. You can still hit the beach, and things are starting to reopen! And that's not all. We didn't forget to put together our annual Summer Guide issue for you! Although the activities and events are a smidge different than in other years, there is still plenty to do this summer. Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood can show you what's out there [12].

This week, you can also read about why two companies pulled the plug on big oil drilling proposals in Cat Canyon [6], farmworkers on strike over wages and safety [7], the beauty of learning a new skill [24], and how some wineries are able to reopen [28].

Camillia Lanham
editor

Cover design by Alex Zuniga



FINALLY! Summer did make it this year, and yes, there are still things for you to do.

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Political Watch

• On May 22, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced the launch of California Connected, a contact tracing program and public awareness campaign. The program will connect public health workers across the state with individuals who test positive for COVID-19 to ensure that those they've been in contact with have access to confidential testing and medical care. The program is in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, local public health departments, and the University of California San Francisco and Los Angeles. "We are all eager to get back to work and play, and that's why we're asking Californians to answer the call when they see their local public health department reaching out by phone, email, or text," Newsom said in a press release. "That simple action of answering the call could save lives and help keep our families and communities healthy."

• On May 26, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) spoke on the Assembly Floor in opposition to recent budget cuts made by **Gov. Gavin Newsom**. According to a press release from Cunningham's office, the governor's May Revise proposes an overall cut to K-14 Proposition 98 funding by 14.3 percent. "If education is truly our top priority, it should be the first thing we fund and the last thing we cut. Period," Cunningham said, according to the press release. The governor's revised budget, submitted on May 14, intends "to close a budget gap of more than \$54 billion brought on swiftly by the COVID-19 recession," according to a release from Newsom's office. Cunningham's May 26 speech also addressed what he called the reversal of hard-fought wins for Career Technical Education (CTE). "[CTE] is a lifeline for people. It is their pathway to a skilled profession where they can make a great living and provide for their family," Cunningham said.

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced in a May 27 Facebook post that he was in Washington, D.C., "to vote to protect Americans' privacy and make major fixes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)." The House will soon vote on changes to the small business loan program intended to give affected companies more flexibility, according to a *USA Today* article Carbajal linked to in his post. The bill would extend the June 30 deadline for businesses to rehire employees as well as extend the loan forgiveness period, the article states. "As lawmakers, we must do everything we can to protect our citizens and mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus," Carbajal wrote.

• **State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) wrote in a May 27 Facebook post that Senate Bill 1069, a bill she wrote to address emergency warning communications, passed with a 10-2 vote out of the Senate Energy, Utility, and Communications Committee on May 26. "After the experiences of the people of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in the Thomas Fire and the lack of consistent communications with the public, I authored SB 1069 to require communication service providers to share information about outages and the performance of emergency alerts on their networks as well as coordinate with emergency managers during a disaster," Jackson stated in her post. "This bill is critical to ensuring residents are given effective and clear early warnings of pending fires and other potential disastrous conditions so they can take steps to save their lives and their property." ○

Santa Maria City Council reviews ongoing emergency orders

Santa Maria City Council's Tuesday agenda included a resolution to confirm local emergency orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among these was an order "prohibiting temporary flower stand sales," as well as an order "permitting temporary modifications to retail and restaurant operation and authorizing the Public Works director to temporarily close streets or parking spaces within the Downtown Specific Plan area in order to facilitate temporary dining areas for the use of abutting restaurants," according to the agenda for the June 2 meeting.

Before the meeting, Councilmember Gloria Soto told the *Sun* about the reasoning behind the flower stands order.

"This particular order, if I'm not mistaken, was put in place around Mother's Day because there was a lot of concern about people not following social distancing," she said. "So that's how this order was actually added on here."

But with Mother's Day now passed and new reopening guidelines in place, Soto said she was looking forward to the council having a chance to discuss local orders in the context of the current, rapidly changing situation at their meeting.

"My priority is maintaining public health in our community and if the experts are telling me that this is their recommendation on how to do so, then I'm going to listen intently at their recommendations," Soto said. "I think that at tomorrow's meeting, given that things are changing so rapidly with reopening guidelines, I'm going to have a lot of questions about what that means for the residents of Santa Maria."

As far as the flower stand order, Soto said more information was needed so the council could assess the risk these operations pose to the community.

"I would want to look at the order as a whole to see if there's any gaps," she said. "We're having conversations about farmers' markets being open now. Are they included? At our local farmers' market, we have a ton of flower stands there, and so I think that that's where we would need some clarification."

The other part of the resolution that the council looked at Tuesday addressed temporary modifications to retail and restaurant operations. Santa Maria announced on May 22 that it would allow retail businesses and restaurants to designate non-ADA parking stalls as assigned parking areas for merchandise or food pickup, or for delivery services, and that restaurants can use their parking lot to establish outdoor dining areas.

Soto explained that as long as local emergency orders continue to be put in place, the council will read and review those orders at its biweekly meetings.

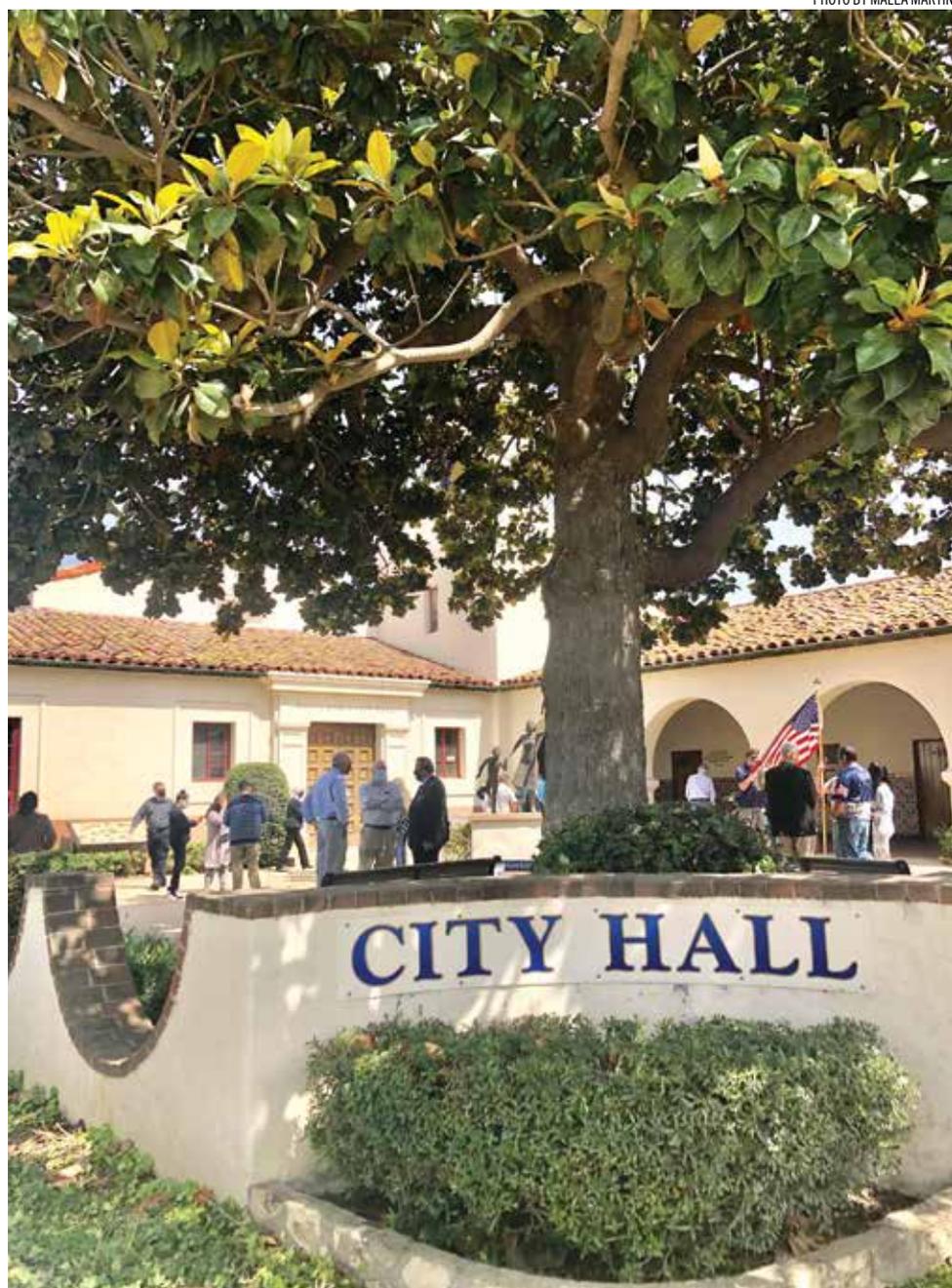
"Here in the city of Santa Maria, our community is being disproportionately affected by COVID-19 compared to our neighboring cities in the county," she said. "There's a lot of talk about it being because we have a lot of essential workers that live in our city, because we have high density in our community, and because we're the largest city in the county. But I think that the numbers are still disproportionately high compared to other communities."

The council meeting took place after the *Sun* went to press on June 2. Look for an updated story online at santamariasun.com.

—Malea Martin

County faces another lawsuit over Santa Ynez cannabis farm

A group of Santa Barbara County residents recently filed a second lawsuit over the county's



RAPIDLY CHANGING: Councilmember Gloria Soto emphasized that the City Council will continuously read and review local emergency orders at its meetings to keep up with "things changing so rapidly."

decision to approve another cannabis project in the Santa Ynez Valley.

The county Board of Supervisors approved plans for West Coast Farms, the project at the center of this most recent lawsuit, during its April 21 meeting. This project is located off Highway 246, about 1 mile west of Buellton, and includes plans to grow 46 acres of cannabis, a 4-acre nursery, and the construction of two 3,000-square-foot buildings where the plants will be processed.

Supervisors approved the project on a 3-2 vote. About a month later, on May 22, the Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, filed its lawsuit over the county's approval of this project. In its lawsuit, the group claims that by approving this project, the county violated the California Environmental Quality Act and other state laws.

In the lawsuit, the group claims that the programmatic environmental impact review the county completed when it first drafted cannabis cultivation ordinances in 2018 is inadequate because the cannabis industry was new and its impacts weren't well known. Since this review was

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Friday



COASTAL > High 73 Low 55
INLAND > High 76 Low 52

Saturday



COASTAL > High 74 Low 54
INLAND > High 79 Low 51

Sunday



COASTAL > High 72 Low 51
INLAND > High 78 Low 48

Low pressure passes over the area Friday for cooler conditions and clouds, another disturbance Saturday cools us further.

NEWS from page 3

completed and the ordinance has been in place, the coalition claims that county residents and businesses have been adversely affected by the operation of nearby cannabis farms.

"These impacts include new and substantially increased impacts to agriculture including wine grape production in the Sta. Rita Hills American Viticultural Area (AVA) where a large concentration of cannabis cultivation projects, including West Coast, are proposed or already operating," the lawsuit states.

Blair Pence, who owns and operates a vineyard near West Coast Farms, is listed as the CEO of the coalition on Secretary of State filings from May 2019. Carpinteria resident Paul Ekstrom is also listed as a member of the coalition and signed the lawsuit as the group's representative.

Prior to filing this lawsuit, Pence appealed the county Planning and Development's decision to approve this project in May 2019. This sent the project to the county Planning Commission, which denied the project in December. Representatives from West Coast Farms appealed the denial to the Board of Supervisors, which ultimately approved the plans.

This lawsuit follows one the coalition filed over the board's March approval of plans for Busy Bee's Organics in the Santa Ynez Valley. The coalition filed a lawsuit over the decision a month later, which also contends that the county violated the California Environmental Quality Act by approving the project based on an inadequate programmatic environmental impact review.

Lawrence Conlan, an attorney who represented West Coast Farms during the April board meeting, didn't respond to a request for comment prior to press time. However, during the meeting in April, he said many opponents of the local cannabis industry may want to re-litigate the programmatic environmental impact review, but the time to do so has long passed.

—Zac Ezzone

U.S. prisons implement security measures in response to nationwide protests

After a weekend of protests and unrest nationwide, the federal Bureau of Prisons told the *Sun* that it is implementing "an additional, temporary security measure" within its prison facilities, including those in Lompoc.

The bureau stated that no protests occurred inside the prisons, and that the measures are purely in response to actions occurring outside the prison system, protesting the death of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers on May 25. In an email to the *Sun*, the bureau representatives wrote that the measures are "to ensure the good

order and security of our institutions, as well as ensure the safety of staff and inmates."

The *Sun* asked the bureau for clarification on what the "additional, temporary security measure" entails.

"During this temporary national lockdown, inmate movement is further limited in our institutions," bureau representatives replied.

The agency didn't specify in what ways inmate movement is further limited.

The *Sun* asked the representatives when the bureau was planning to reinstate the visitation prisoners lost due to pandemic-related restrictions, but the email response didn't address the question.

The bureau made the protests-related decision after the Lompoc Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) reported the death of an incarcerated individual, Daniel Lee Vadnais, on June 1. This is the third reported death associated with COVID-19 to come from the Lompoc federal prison facility as a whole, which includes both the FCI and Lompoc United States Penitentiary, with two of those deaths at the penitentiary.

Incarcerated people at the FCI received universal testing for the virus, leading to a sudden spike in positive case numbers coming from the prison. The bureau isn't conducting universal testing at the penitentiary, according to the bureau's June 2 email to the *Sun*.

"There currently is no plan to conduct mass testing of every inmate at USP Lompoc as inmates are being tested in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance based on a variety of factors including exposure and objective symptoms," the email stated.

—Malea Martin

County studies potential trail along Santa Maria River

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors greenlit a study to identify a possible walking and biking path along the Santa Maria River that would connect the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe.

This study will examine the feasibility of extending the path that already exists along the river within the city of Santa Maria about 7 miles west to Guadalupe.

Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, whose district includes Guadalupe, said she is supportive of this project, which has been identified in the planning documents of numerous jurisdictions, including both cities involved. Hartmann said this potential path is needed in North County, which is lacking trails and open space, especially compared to other parts of the county.

Aside from the recreational benefits, this path could provide Santa Maria residents with

an easier access to the beach, and Guadalupe residents with another way to reach Santa Maria, which, as a larger city, has amenities that Guadalupe may be lacking.

"These are underserved communities where we have underinvested in public infrastructure," Hartmann said.

On a 3-2 vote, the board authorized county staff to accept a \$40,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy and use \$40,000 through the statewide Transportation Development Act, to conduct this study. Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino and Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam both voted against the proposal.

They rejected the idea based on the potential land-use conflicts that could arise over the development of a path where it's proposed. While the county controls and manages the levee that runs alongside the river—which is the area being studied for a potential path—it borders agricultural land between the two cities.

During the meeting, Claire Wineman, president of the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, said that farmers along the river already experience instances of vandalism and trespassing. She said that if this path were to be opened to public use, it could increase the number of times these situations arise.

Lavagnino said he could only support the county pursuing this study after hearing from adjacent property owners. Without hearing their input ahead of time, the county could spend money conducting the study, only to learn how strongly nearby farmers opposed the project.

"Probably what's going to happen is you're going to do a study, determine what would work best in that area, and have the landowner saying, 'I don't want it,' or them saying, 'I need it fenced,' which would then make it financially infeasible," Lavagnino said.

While the board ultimately approved the study, it doesn't require the county to carry out whatever plans result from this process. According to the project's grant application, county staff will work with property owners and other stakeholders while conducting this study. A report on the study results is slated to be completed by April 2021.

—Zac Ezzone

Public health officer loosens restrictions on graduation ceremonies

After speaking with concerned school administrators, district officials, and parents, county Supervisor-elect Bob Nelson sent a letter to public health officials on May 22 asking

for a few concessions in the county's initial restrictions set for graduation ceremonies. On May 26, Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansong issued an updated health order allowing for some changes.

While the updated health order is not officially in response to Nelson's letter, the changes that Nelson pushed for are reflected in the updated allowances in the new order.

"The two big ones that I identified was the idea that there would be no diplomas or awards handed out, and the second one was that everybody had to stay in the car the entire time," Nelson told the *Sun*. "There is something special about receiving a diploma, walking across the stage and getting your photo, cap, and gown."

Nelson said he believes that allowing these rites of passage could happen without putting anyone at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

"School districts all throughout the county had been providing lunches and homework packets for kids the entire time," Nelson said. "Being able to hand them a diploma doesn't seem to be a big risk. ... The second part was if they could get out of the car—not to interact with anybody, not hugging teachers—just able to go grab their diploma and take a picture on a stage, that seems pretty reasonable."

The updated order states that "graduates may be outside the vehicle to walk across a stage, receive a diploma/award, or have a photo taken as long as social distancing of at least 6 feet is maintained at all times; and diplomas, certificates, and programs may be distributed from school to graduate or participants in car."

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Public Information Officer Kenny Klein told the *Sun* that in light of the updated order, students from his district will now be allowed to receive diplomas and walk across a stage.

"Before, students weren't [allowed] to get out of the car, and now they are," he said.

Nelson believes these small concessions will make a big difference for the graduates and their families.

"I graduated from Righetti, and I used to teach here locally, so I understand what these events mean to the youth in our community, and wanted to make sure that I was doing everything that I could to help facilitate the safe utilization of the opportunities for graduation," he said.

One parent he spoke with while preparing to send his letter particularly stood out to him.

"I talked to a mom who graduated from high school here locally, but her parents had died when she was in high school so she had to work and graduate early," he said. "So she didn't actually walk across the stage, but now her son is graduating this year and she was telling me how much it meant to her and her family. This is an opportunity that was big for both her son and her." ○

—Malea Martin



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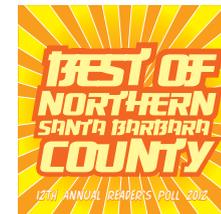
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Sun

Fossil fuel blues

Two oil projects proposed in Cat Canyon have been canceled within the last two months

BY ZAC EZZONE

In March 2019, the *Sun* ran a cover story titled “Carbon evolution” that explored the contentious debate taking place in Santa Barbara County over three large-scale oil and gas projects proposed in the Cat Canyon oil field. A little more than a year later, it appears this evolution is over before it started. Two of the projects were canceled in the last two months.

Company representatives said that the political climate in the county, where many residents and elected leaders are vocal about their preference of green energy, makes pushing an oil project through the local permitting process an uphill battle. And this hill grew even steeper with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that sent the price of oil plummeting in April to historic lows.

In late March, PetroRock pulled its proposed plans to develop 231 new wells in the Cat Canyon oil field, which is about 10 to 15 miles southeast of Santa Maria. At the time, Errin Briggs, supervisor of the county Planning and Development Department’s Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division, said the company didn’t offer an explanation for withdrawing its application. However, Briggs speculated that the low price of oil along with the state’s stringent regulatory process were probably significant factors in the decision.

On May 27, Aera Energy representative Rick Rust confirmed to the *Sun* that the company had recently withdrawn its application for the East Cat Canyon project.

“The decision is a combination of historically low oil prices and uncertainty of the permit process,” Rust said. “Together that helped us decide to make this decision.”

Until pulling its application, Aera had navigated the permitting process for six years and appeared to be near the end. In early 2019, the county held a public meeting to discuss a draft environmental impact review for Aera’s project. County staff then worked on a final version of the document that was slated to go before the Planning Commission in September. Even with the meeting only a few months away, Rust said, the company decided it was time to pull the project.

While county planning staff worked on the final environmental impact review, Aera announced an alternative to its original project last fall in an attempt to make the project more palatable for local residents and decision makers. Under this proposal, the company would have drilled 189 wells instead of the 296 identified in its original plans. This alternative, Rust said at the time, would have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, freshwater usage, and wildlife habitat impacts.

Local environmental groups weren’t satisfied,

though. They claimed it would result in the same environmental impacts because the company would be producing the same amount of oil. Now, those groups are pleased with the latest news of the project being taken off the table.

The Environmental Defense Center, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, and Santa Barbara County Action Network issued a joint press release on May 27 celebrating Aera’s decision to withdraw its application.

“Defeating Aera’s attacks on our air, water, and climate means one less environmentally damaging oil project that would have committed our county to decades of fossil fuel energy generation,” Environmental Defense Center Staff Attorney Tara Messing said in the release. “The withdrawal of Aera’s application to produce more dirty oil in Santa Barbara County is a major step toward the phasing out of fossil fuels and fostering a clean renewable energy future.”

In their joint statement, the environmental groups state that they’re turning their attention to Terracore, the company with the only proposed project remaining in the Cat Canyon oil field. Terracore took over ERG’s plans to develop oil wells in West Cat Canyon last June. At a Planning Commission meeting a few months later, the company asked to be removed from the commission’s agenda as it reviews and updates its newly acquired plans. A representative from Terracore didn’t return the *Sun*’s request for comment on the status of the project prior to press time.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino—whose district includes Cat Canyon—said he wasn’t surprised to hear about Aera withdrawing its application given the current state of the oil industry and the political

climate toward oil and gas development in the county. While Lavagnino said he hopes his fellow supervisors would have read the final environmental impact review for Aera’s project before making a decision, he doesn’t believe the majority of the board has an appetite to approve these types of projects.

Lavagnino—who supports the county pursuing renewable energy but believes local oil and gas production is still necessary—said the county seems to be losing what has been one of its major industries for decades. Historically, oil and gas companies have served as sources of well-paying jobs for many residents, especially in North County, he said.

“We used to be an oil and ag economy, and unfortunately we lost one of those,” Lavagnino said. “When I got on the [Board of Supervisors in 2010], oil companies were five of the top 10 taxpayers in the county. Now there is one in the top 20.”

Lavagnino said although he understands there are many people celebrating the news of Aera and PetroRock withdrawing their applications, the county remains heavily reliant on oil and gas. People still drive cars, fly on planes, and participate in other activities that require oil production, he said.

“There is going to be a move to more green energy with wind and solar, but there’s still a niche and a bridge that needs to be filled and that’s with the oil industry,” Lavagnino said. “We’re either going to get it here where it’s highly regulated or overseas where it’s not regulated. But for a lot of people, if they don’t see it, they can ignore it.” ☉

Reach Staff Writer Zac Ezzone at zezzone@santamariasun.com.

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Legal right

Rancho Laguna Farms workers allegedly faced retaliation for striking

As the work day nears an end on May 28, a small gathering arrives at Driscoll's Santa Maria office. The company's large green cursive logo—"Driscoll's: Only the Finest Berries"—glistens in the late afternoon sun. Mask-clad community members stand below it, and a man named José Luis Ramírez Carrera clutches a manila envelope. Inside is a petition with the signatures of more than 75 Rancho Laguna Farms workers, including his own.

The petition that Carrera and his fellow workers organized and signed demands that Driscoll's takes responsibility for unsafe working conditions they say they experienced while working at Rancho Laguna Farms LLC, a direct supplier to Driscoll's with farms in the Santa Maria Valley.

Shared with the *Sun* by the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), a local organization that's supporting the workers' demands, the petition alleges that Rancho Laguna is covering up COVID-19 cases among staff and has unfairly retaliated against workers who raised their voices. The petition's demands include a long-term salary increase of \$0.25 per box of strawberries picked, safe conditions, and respect without retaliation.

What happened on May 28 followed strikes on May 4 and 5, which included more than 100 workers and, for some, allegedly resulted in unfair retaliation.

"This really was brought to my attention by the Mexican consulate in Oxnard, because someone who was part of the first strike called the consulate," said CAUSE organizer Zulema Aleman. "They were scared that people were going to get in trouble."

Aleman said that someone from Rancho Laguna Farms called the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office on the workers for striking on May 4 and 5. The consulate also told CAUSE that someone allegedly threatened to call Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Aleman and her organization stepped in to give the workers guidance and support. On May 11, CAUSE filed an unfair labor practice charge with the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) on behalf of the workers.

"The allegation was that some people's employment was terminated, there was a threat to call immigration officials, they called law enforcement out in the fields, and changed their work assignments," ALRB General Counsel Julia Montgomery said. "We're still investigating it."

Montgomery said that workers have the legal right to engage in a strike—a protected activity—without being retaliated against. If the ALRB finds evidence of the workers' allegations, she said, they would seek either an informal resolution or reinforce the law in court.

Rancho Laguna Farms owner Larry Ferini wrote an emailed statement to *Sun* in a response to a request for comment.

"There is a process in place with the ALRB to determine the merits of charges that are filed, and we intend to fully cooperate with that process," he wrote. "It would not be appropriate to comment on an ongoing investigation, and [we] will not do so at this time."

A Driscoll's spokesperson also emailed a

statement in response to a request for comment.

"This complaint is directly related to a wage dispute, and Driscoll's does not have a role or legal standing in this process," the spokesperson stated. "We fully support this process and await a fair resolution for everyone involved."

A worker's perspective

One Rancho Laguna farmworker involved with the strikes spoke with the *Sun* and asked to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation. CAUSE organizer Aleman provided the translation from Spanish to English, so the following account is paraphrased to avoid direct misquotations.

After workers' demands were not met from the May 4 and 5 strikes, workers started considering another action, the worker said. Over Memorial Day weekend, they received a \$.10 per box raise, which was among their initial demands. However, the anonymous worker said they believe a per-box raise isn't enough.

Depending on the time of year, workers either get paid by contract—per box of berries that they pick—or by hourly wage. Right now, workers are getting paid under contract, the worker stated. While they believe that the raise will be honored during this contract season, they said that they aren't confident that it will remain in place next year because per-box wages often fluctuate.

The worker also expressed concern over how Rancho Laguna Farms is handling COVID-19. They heard that two or three co-workers had the virus, as well as one foreman. They said their supervisors have not told them how to protect themselves from getting the virus.

Aleman said that multiple workers reported that a foreman had COVID-19, was gone from work for a week, and then came back. Some workers, she said, "saw him still coughing, touching equipment."

In Ferini's statement to the *Sun*, he said, "The protocols we establish for COVID-19 prevention are consistent with CDC [Centers for Disease Control], Cal OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration], and state and local health department guidelines."

As workers await the results of the ALRB investigation, some are taking matters into their own hands. Carrera, the farmworker who attempted to deliver the petition to Driscoll's on May 28, told CAUSE that he was fired after participating in the strikes earlier that month. He received his last paycheck, but he said it bounced when he tried to deposit it. Abraham Melendrez, a CAUSE community organizer, said Carrera hired a lawyer to bring his own case against Rancho Laguna.

After gathering more than 75 signatures of fellow workers, Carrera and others made the attempt to deliver the petition directly to Driscoll's on May 28. Melendrez was present, capturing photos and taking videos of Carrera as he spoke about the demands.

In one of the videos, a man in a yellow vest emerges from the office and tells the farmworkers and community members that they must leave. Carrera holds out the petition, and folks around him ask the man to take it, but the man refuses and goes back indoors.

"Obviously some of the farmworkers were visibly upset," Melendrez said the next day. "It's a second kick while you're down kind of thing. They were wondering how they were supposed to give the petition now. But we're going to be mailing it and sending virtual copies as well. We're also starting an online petition. ... A lot of community members are stepping up." ○

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

PUBLIC HEARING

to solicit input regarding

2019 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition—Santa Maria Valley Management Area

Prepared by Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, April 2020, according to the terms of the June 30, 2005, Stipulation in the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria, et al.

**Thursday, June 11, 2020
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

via Zoom meeting that can be accessed at
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8wtiRL21RZWkesv6V9Pwbg

For more information contact the Twitchell Management Authority at (805) 925-0951 extension 7211. For those that are unable to attend, written comments should be addressed to the attention of the Twitchell Management Authority, 2065 East Main Street, Santa Maria CA 93454, as soon as possible.

The 2019 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition is available at <http://bit.ly/TMAdocs>

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Processing the deceased

Solvang funeral director helps bury those who died from COVID-19 in New York City

BY ZAC EZZONE

As a first responder, Dan Flynn has been deployed to numerous hurricanes and countless tornadoes, but he hadn't experienced anything like what he witnessed while in New York City during the peak of its COVID-19 outbreak.

Flynn—who runs Simply Remembered Cremation Care, a funeral home service with locations in Solvang, Santa Barbara, and soon Santa Maria—is a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team. Flynn said it's comparable to the National Guard, but for mortuary services.

He has served on the team for the last 14 years, but he has been responding to emergencies since long before that. He was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard for eight years starting in the late 1970s. Following 9/11, he joined a federal search and rescue team that's deployed to pull people out of collapsed buildings and other situations. Through his time with the latter, he learned about the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team and decided to join.

"We get sent out to mass-fatality types

of instances where the local jurisdiction is overwhelmed," Flynn said. "And so when you talk about the Joplin [Missouri] tornado [in 2011], they only had 156 deaths, but the jurisdictions could only handle five. So their definition of overwhelmed is different from New York."

Flynn arrived in the city on April 1 and worked 12-hour shifts every day for the three weeks he was there. During most of this time, Flynn worked at one of the city's morgues in Brooklyn where each day he helped manage the hundreds of people who had died from COVID-19. This included fingerprinting the bodies, assigning them case numbers in a computer system, and placing them in a body bag or casket.

After responding to numerous disasters over the years, Flynn has seen towns leveled by tornadoes and hundreds of people die during hurricanes, but he said he's never witnessed anything like what he experienced in New York.

"To be in a warehouse and see row after row of body bags, and to see rows and rows of refrigerated trailers, that's something nobody has seen since [the Spanish flu in] 1918," Flynn said. "[Recently] we went over 100,000 dead. In the Spanish flu, we had 800,000 dead."

Aside from the number of bodies, Flynn said it was also shocking to see how deserted the city had become. He recalls at one point standing in the middle of Manhattan with nobody else in sight. But then he returned to California in late April and witnessed people packed on the beach in Santa Barbara.

"I come back to California, people are at the beach, and everybody is acting like nothing is happening," Flynn said. "I'm just thinking, 'Are you people crazy?'"

After seeing how deadly this virus can be,

Flynn said people in California need to continue to take the threat seriously. And most importantly, he said, people should listen to the recommendations of doctors and epidemiologists. This includes wearing a mask in public or continuing to maintain social distance.

"Just because the thing has slowed down, it doesn't mean we're over this now," Flynn said.

Highlights

- On May 26, Santa Barbara County announced barbershops, hair salons, and religious services could resume operating with modifications in place. The county also recently announced the easing of regulations that provides wineries with a pathway to reopening. These are the latest moves forward in the county's reopening process amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The city of Lompoc recently launched a contest for its Spring Yard Beautification Award. Residents and businesses can nominate yards that'll be judged on physical appeal, water conservation, imagination, and other criteria. The contest takes place from June



DEPLOYED TO DISASTERS: Solvang funeral home director Dan Flynn went to New York City for three weeks to help bury people who have died from COVID-19 as part of a federal team that provides mortuary services during mass-fatality events.

8 through 19, and nominations can be sent to k_forbes@ci.lompoc.ca.us.

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

In person and Telehealth appointments available



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Donald J. Hole, M.D.
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The Fund for Santa Barbara

would like to congratulate Youth Making Change Board Member, *Olivia Patterson*, on her graduation from Righetti High School!

Olivia will be attending Allan Hancock College and transferring to her family's legacy school, the University of Southern California.

We are proud of you Olivia!



Online Poll

How would you like to see transportation officials try to make highways in the Santa Ynez Valley safer?

- 50% Add biking and walking paths along the highways to keep pedestrians away from traffic.
- 30% Reduce speed limits near certain intersections.
- 20% Build more roundabouts.
- 0% It doesn't matter. Caltrans won't do anything about it.

9 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the Sun.

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Hindsight is 20/20

But foresight was desperately needed in the case of COVID-19

BY RON FINK

This has been a very chaotic couple of weeks on the COVID-19 front. I am surprised but happy at the pace that Gov. Newsom and Santa Barbara County have adopted in reopening most businesses, even though there are many restrictions.

I am not complaining, but the “science” that the governor has repeatedly said would guide his every move hasn’t changed much, at least in this county, for the last month. The disease is still contagious; hospitalizations have remained consistent; while the number of people tested has increased dramatically, the number of people proved to be not infected is eight times greater than the total number who are infected; and the deaths

haven’t increased as dramatically as originally predicted.

So, what changed to cause the governor to ease restrictions statewide? I think the tipping point was his arbitrary closure of beaches in Orange County. While beaches in nearby counties remained open, he closed conservative Orange County beaches after he saw a ground-level photo of what appeared to be people enjoying themselves on a sunny day.

The other factor was that his choices of which businesses could remain open and which should stay closed didn’t follow any logical pattern. For example, you could shop freely in big-box stores and other places that also sold clothing, watches, computers, and other commonly purchased items that had nothing to do with feeding you or allowing you to get needed medication. But you couldn’t shop in other retail establishments using

the same protocols.

Then there were the churches; he ordered them closed even though they had taken every precaution, including reducing seating and sanitizing anything people could conceivably touch.

I think that instead of “science,” it was the filing of several lawsuits concerning infringement on the public’s right to worship, which businesses couldn’t open, and bipartisan pressure from state legislators and local politicians that changed his mind.

The county Health Department, after gaining approval from Sacramento, announced in late March that 52 previously defined “essential” businesses could remain open if they met certain social-distancing protocols. An additional 38 defined lower-risk businesses could operate with modifications to ensure physical distancing and

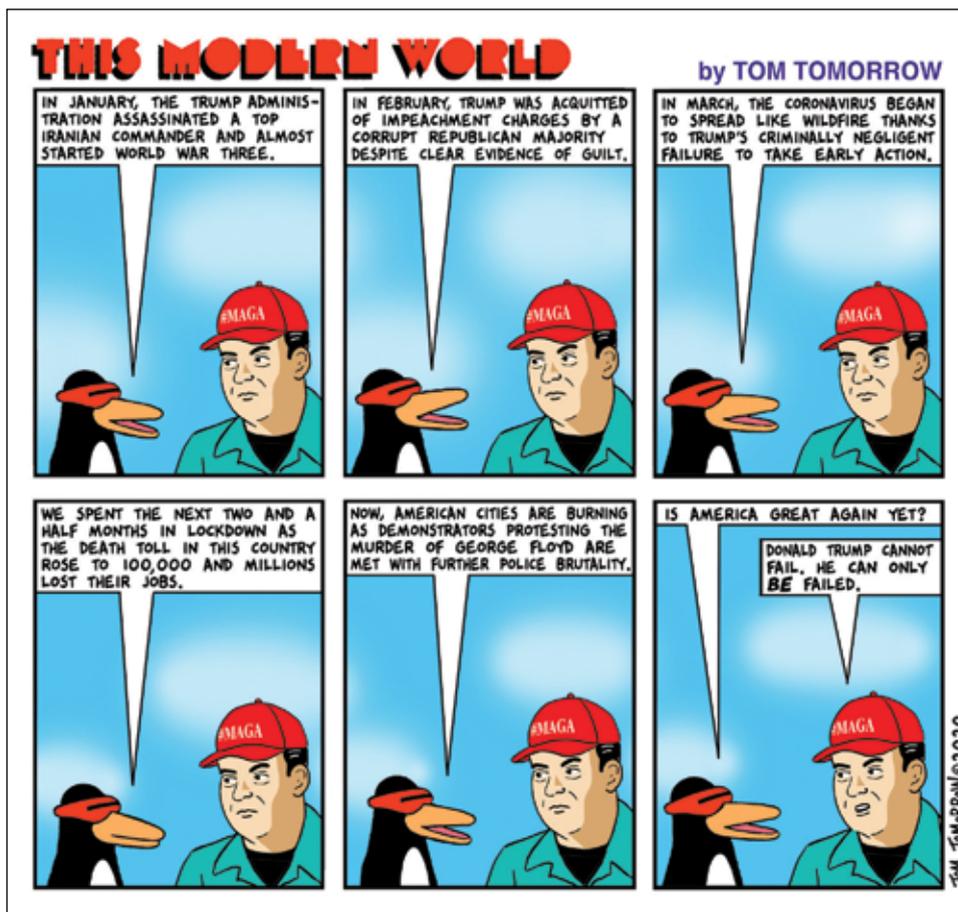
The government simply doesn’t trust the public. We have never witnessed the suspension of freedoms that have accompanied this disease in our country’s history.

offer curbside pickup only.

Health Department officials also ordered that everyone must wear a mask while in public places, specifically in places where people were near one another.

Then they followed up on May 26 by creating a new phase of the reopening plan and allowing some “higher-risk activities” to resume. This included hair salons and barber shops (not nail salons) and allowing students to attend graduations, collect diplomas, and have their pictures taken. It also included allowing in-store shopping at retail establishments if they only allowed 25 percent of the store’s occupancy inside.

It also included allowing churches to reopen with 25 percent of their capacity.



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

Dining in at your favorite restaurant is OK now, but there are a lot of rules. The operator must ask customers to wear a mask they bring with them when entering and leaving the place. Note: The mask may be removed when eating or drinking. There will be no condiments on the table, so you’ll have to ask for salt, pepper, and ketchup.

Families and people who ask to be seated with friends are allowed, but tables must be set at least 6 feet apart. Of course, the staff will have to sanitize your table and seats after you leave.

During this period, some establishments have taken the health orders concerning sanitizing shopping carts and door handles seriously. And, of course, most people are wearing masks as recommended (and now required) by the health officials.

But others haven’t been quite as responsible. I am sure that you have seen both customers and employees who haven’t worn a mask and shopped where cart handles aren’t cleaned. These places are the exception—for the most part business owners are cooperating.

I don’t like wearing a mask, but I do it because it’s a lawful order of the health authority, and I do it out of consideration for my fellow man.

At the fourth stage, we can finally “reopen high-risk workplaces, from concerts and convention centers to live audiences sports,” but as the state Public Health Officer Sonia Angell says, “We want to make sure that both the workers and the customers are safe in these settings, which means that there will be modifications to ensure physical distancing and [to make] sure that the unique circumstances of those workplaces will be addressed.”

It’s those “modifications” that will continue to inhibit our ability to really return to normal. The government simply doesn’t trust the public. We have never witnessed the suspension of freedoms that have accompanied this disease in our country’s history.

Hindsight in these matters is always 20/20, but in this case it was foresight that was overlooked.

The people in long-term care facilities are there because they can’t take care of themselves and most are in frail condition. After warning the whole country that individuals with “underlying conditions” were more prone to becoming seriously ill and even dying, you would have thought that state and local health authorities and politicians would have focused more effort to protecting these folks—but instead they concentrated on quarantining otherwise healthy people and closing businesses.

Maybe if the government had devoted more time to things they already controlled early in this disease, like long-term care facilities, there wouldn’t have been as many fatalities.

It appears that the “nanny state” has finally taken center stage but ignored the most vulnerable in our society. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send your thoughts, comments, and opinionated letters to letters@santamariasun.com.

Off-kilter

There's nothing I can say to heal the fissures exposed in this country right now. The whole thing is a bit bananas.

With advocates in the streets protesting against police brutality directed at people of color, and mayhem advocates in the streets doing their best to have some hell-raising fun, it's hard to keep it all straight. But—and I don't do this very often—I'm going to have to agree with what **Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino** said when she announced a curfew for the city.



"People came to our beautiful city to do a peaceful protest," she said. "Then, other people came in to destroy the message that had been conveyed earlier."

So now, on top of being half-on-lockdown, half-off-lockdown due to a pandemic, we now have a curfew! What the hell? Are we in high school?

Busting out the windows at the mall? Doing doughnuts around a fire in the middle of the street? Come on! Grow up! You know who you are and you know this is your fault.

And then in **San Luis Obispo**, some jackasses in a car cruised through the streets to shoot out the windows of businesses and, apparently, just needed to disrobe a store mannequin (which is weird, amirite?).

The police violence that people are protesting is real. The endemic racism that's built into government institutions is also real. The fact that another black man is dead because a police officer didn't show restraint while restraining is yet another gigantic clue that something needs to change. And the tense situation between the police and protesters is a direct result of that.

All of these people choosing to use this time to foment chaos in an already chaotic situation need to keep their antics in their box of high school keepsakes, where it belongs. The thin tightrope that society is currently walking in the wake of a pandemic that exacerbated an already strained situation doesn't need to break just because you needed to feel like a kid again. Eat some Cocoa Puffs to feed that need. I'll buy the milk.

Meanwhile, the **U.S. Bureau of Prisons** is attempting to prevent something that might not ever happen in the first place by further restricting prisoners already restricted because of COVID-19. Officials are apparently concerned that the unrest outside the prison's walls is going to leak inside, and they want "to ensure the good order and security of our institutions, as well as ensure the safety of staff and inmates."

But when that pandemic started to flare up, the prisons basically didn't do anything to stop it—and then the bureau basically lied to the public about how widespread it was at the **Lompoc Federal Correctional Institution** until it was forced to do otherwise. So that whole virus leak was OK. Just not the one where prisoners can protest their conditions or the treatment they receive inside or outside.

Speaking of asinine situations. The **Santa Barbara Coalition for Responsible Cannabis** filed yet another lawsuit against the county for a cultivation project the county **Board of Supervisors** approved in April. So, how many lawsuits do you think this coalition of mostly grape-growers and wineries is going to file before it gets its way? ☹️

The canary needs some rest. Send a pillow to canary@santamariasun.com.

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SUMMER GUIDE 2020



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE M. ABBA

THE MUSIC NEVER STOPPED

The Cal Poly Choirs, including PolyPhonics, the University Singers, and the Women's Chorus, will unite for a special virtual concert to recognize graduating seniors on Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. The choirs will perform selections they have been working on through online rehearsals during the past quarter. Tickets to view the concert online are \$5, while a \$10 backstage pass allows access to a post-concert talk. Visit music.calpoly.edu to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

OCEANO BEACH SAND CASTLE BUILDING CONTEST Children and adults are welcome to participate in the competition by building sand castles and other sand sculptures along the beach (anywhere between the Grand Avenue entrance and the Arroyo Grande Creek). Photos due to info@oceanobeach.org by June 7. **June 1-7** Free. 805-801-6148. Oceano/Grover Dunes, 100 Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FUNDING OUR FUTURE: ONLINE AUCTION FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The opportunity to bid on incredible items while supporting local businesses and students. Last year, the Rotary Club of SLO awarded \$39,500 in scholarships to 14 local students to attend college. Your bids and donations make these scholarships possible. **June 1** and **June 1-10** Varies. 805-769-8779. slorotary.ejoinme.org/FundingOurFuture. Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

GALA AND CAL POLY PRIDE CENTER: LAVENDER GRADUATION GALA Pride and Diversity Center presents a live video of Cal Poly Pride Center's Lavender Commencement (Virtual) on June 6. GALA also hosts Small Town Pride Live on June 13 and Transgender Pride on June 18. June 6, 12:1:30 p.m. Check site for more info. facebook.com/pride.center. GALA Center Gallery, 1060 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

LIVE MUSIC

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOT SWINGIN' JAZZ: LIVE STREAM The Creole Syncopators will be featured in a live stream performance. The Basin Street Regulars is hosting live stream events at its regularly scheduled concert dates and times until the restrictions on

the Pismo Beach Veteran's Hall are lifted. First Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. and **May 31**, 2-4 p.m. through July 5 Donation suggested. 805-937-8402. pismojazz.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

RSVP XXV: EPISODE I-LOOSE ENDS (VIDEO) Marking the 25th anniversary of RSVP and the departure of its founder and artistic director, Antonio G. Barata. The transmedia series picks up where last year's left off: in a combination of music, costume, dance, and video editing. **June 4**, 7:30 p.m. Free; donations accepted. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/rsvp/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-2406.

RSVP XXV: EPISODE II-A CLOSER LOOK (VIDEO) Marking the 25th anniversary of RSVP and the departure of its founder and artistic director, Antonio G. Barata. The transmedia series picks up where last year's left off: in a combination of music, costume, dance, and video editing. **June 5**, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free; donations accepted. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-2406.

RSVP XXV: EPISODE III-THE MOMENT OF TRUTH (VIDEO) Marking the 25th

LIVE MUSIC continued page 13

anniversary of RSVP and the departure of its founder and artistic director, Antonio G. Barata. The transmedia series picks up where last year's left off: in a combination of music, costume, dance and video editing. **June 6**, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free; donations accepted. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/rsvp/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-2406.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS: VIRTUAL MUSIC SERIES Follow the venue's Facebook page for a virtual series of music, wine tasting, and education. Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m. Free. facebook.com/vinaroblesamphitheatre/. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles, 805-286-3680.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: LIVE MUSIC BY RACHEL SANTA CRUZ Live music streamed every Wednesday from the Schooners Deck. Tune into our virtual happy to hear some great music and watch the sunset. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Schooners, 171 North Ocean Ave, Cayucos, 805-995-3883, schoonerscayucos.com.

THEATER AND COMEDY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK Streams live on PCPA's Instagram every Thursday and spotlights a different thespian guest each week. Hosted by Erik Stein. Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. Free. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

TECH TALKS: LIVE ON INSTAGRAM Every Tuesday sit down with one of our technical staff and learn about the ins and outs of their craft. Get the exclusive with our host Erik Stein. Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FREE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ART CLASSES (ONLINE) Check the foundation's site for various classes offered, for ages 5 to 18. Through Oct. 31 Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation, 3201 Spring St., Paso Robles, 805-238-5825, pryaf.org.

SUMMER ART

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

20/20: A RETROSPECTIVE This spring, the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature will mark its 20th anniversary with a special exhibition celebrating the Museum's 20-year history in the Santa Ynez Valley. View the exhibit online. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. 7 805-688-1082. wildlingmuseum.org/news/2020-retrospective. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

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

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION The theme of this competition's latest recurrence is Critters of the Tri-County Region, as applicants are encouraged to submit photos of all forms of wildlife—land and sea mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects—so long as they are found

SUMMER ART continued page 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOGA FOR MANKIND

TEMPLE OF ZOOM

Yoga for Mankind in Orcutt hosts a variety of virtual yoga and pilates classes over the summer, including a gentle stretch and strength course (every Tuesday, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.), which is open to all skill levels. Multiple classes stream on Zoom on a daily basis. Admission is \$10 for drop-ins, while monthly unlimited passes start at \$45. A new student monthly pass is available to beginners for \$40. Visit yoga4mankind.org to find out more.

—C.W.

NATURE ADVENTURES AT HOME



As the stay at home order and social distancing continue, we have decided to get creative and transform our trademark Nature Adventures summer camps into a fun, engaging at-home version.



Five-day camps from June 22–July 10

Camps for Ages 4–9

- Bugs, Bees, and Butterflies
- Calling All Astronauts
- Ocean Superpowers
- Dino Hunters

Camps for Ages 6–9

- Fossil Discoveries
- Endangered Creatures
- Life of Bugs
- Wizarding Science
- Kelp Forest Habitat

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLVANG DANISH DAYS

COME SAIL AWAY

The 84th annual celebration of Solvang Danish Days begins Friday, Sept. 18, and continues through Sunday, Sept. 20. This traditional, weekend-long festival includes live entertainment, a beer and wine garden, food vendors, parades, and more. Visit solvangdanishdays.org for the festival's tentative schedule.

—C.W.

within the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura. Through July 6 Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

REMEMBERING BUD BOTTOMS: A LEGACY OF ART AND ACTIVISM This online exhibit features sea life sculpture works by the Santa Barbara artist locally-renowned for his iconic Dolphin Family sculpture installed at the base of Stearns Wharf. Through Sept. 22 Free. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

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

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SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CALL FOR ARTISTS (GRADES 4-12): NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK This art contest will give students an opportunity create illustrations for a bilingual children's book that will depict local landmarks. Students are to create their

SUMMER ART continued page 12

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\$10 OFF ALL 6 PACKS of Advantage® II and K9 Advantix® II

\$8 OFF ALL COLLARS Seresto® collars, all sizes for Cat & Dog

Sale valid 6/4/2020-6/14/2020

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SUMMER GUIDE 2020

SUMMER ART from page 14

illustration on a paper template entry form. All illustrations shall be created using colored pencils only. Through Sept. 25 Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CALL FOR ARTISTS: LIBRARY CARD A call for artists to have an original art piece featured on the 2021 library cards. We are asking that there be a literary connection to the artwork submitted. Recognition of the artist will be on the library card. Check site or call for details. Through June 15 San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: A DIGITAL ART SALON The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) will be hosting A Digital Art Salon from Sept. 4 through Nov. 1 in partnership with the Digital Art Group. This juried exhibition will feature the diverse artwork being created by contemporary California digital artists. Through July 3 805-543-8562. artist.callforentry.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.



FILE PHOTO BY JOE PAYNE

HARVEST NOON

La Purisima Mission in Lompoc hosts its Harvest Mission Life Day on Monday, Sept. 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests can choose to participate in various craft activities, including tortilla making, carpentry, pottery, and blacksmithing. Admission is free. The Mission is currently closed, but check lapurisimamission.org for updates and more info.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

STUDIOS ON THE PARK: ONLINE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS Check site for a variety of virtual classes and workshops online. ongoing

date for submissions to this juried photography exhibit is April 1, 2020. Chuck Jennings serves as judge. Please see prospectus on the exhibit schedule online. Through June 15 Varies. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center

many places she has lived and visited around the world. Through June 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com.

SUMMER ART continued page 16



That's FETCH!
Lifestyle Center

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Grooming Spaw NOW OPEN with COVID Safety Modifications in Place

Shop the bowtique from our website or call in to purchase pet food, treats, toys, apparel, etc. to pick up curbside.

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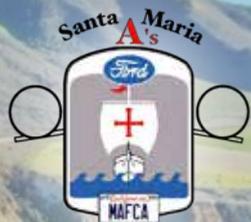
[ThatsFETCH805.com](https://www.facebook.com/ThatsFETCH805.com)

Who Needs a SPAW Day?



Grooming Team: Colette Florey, Letti Lemus, Melissa Rosario, Amanda Brown & Kara Gould

18th All Ford Car Show Grand Raffle



Grand Prize:

- 2 Nights at the Ragged Point Inn, With Ocean View Room.
- \$300 Cash
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Total Value \$1,200

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\$5 each

25 for \$100



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Winning Images

Our 25th Annual Photography Contest & Exhibition has been postponed

Stay tuned for new dates later this year

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NewTimes Sun



Carl Sepulveda, 2019



Kathleen Bosch, 2019



FILE PHOTO BY HELEN ANN THOMAS

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center presents *Bee's Knees at the Barn*, a roaring '20s-themed gala and auction, on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 5 p.m. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the Dunes Center's educational programming. Festive 1920s attire is encouraged, and the event will be held at the Historic Octagon Barn in SLO. Admission is \$125. Visit dunescenter.org for more info.

—C.W.

10, Morro Bay.

SAFETY IN THE SHADE: ART BY SARA J. FRANTZ

San Luis Obispo-based multimedia artist Sara J. Frantz is the gallery's next featured artist. Frantz is an Associate Professor at Cal Poly, where she teaches studio art courses. **June 6-July 1** Left Field Gallery, 1036 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos, 805-305-9292, leftfieldgallery.com.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CONTINUING TAI CHI ONLINE Continuing Tai Chi covers the completion of the 40 form, further refining basics. For returning students and anyone with Tai Chi experience and brave beginners. Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. through June 10 \$36. 805-549-1222. ae.slcsd.org. Online, 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo.

MEDITATION, BREATHWORK, AND GRATITUDE PRACTICE: LIVE ON ZOOM This class will support you and help you stay vital during these uncertain times. Practices include breathing techniques to calm the nervous system, guided meditation for balanced relaxation, mantra practice to calm the mind, and tips to help you cultivate and maintain a home practice. Wednesdays, 12-12:45 p.m. through Sept. 16 \$10 for SLO Botanical Garden members/\$15 for non-members. 805-540-1762. eventbrite.com. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

METABOLIC CONDITIONING We use primarily our own body weight in this interval training class to run through exercises and drills to raise

SUMMER GUIDE 2020

the heart rate, condition our muscles, and stay flexible. This advanced class also incorporates hand weights and sand bags, if you have them. Mondays-Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. \$72. 415-516-5214. ae.slcsd.org. Online, 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo.

STRENGTH FOR 55+ We begin the session in the Static Back position, then progress onto movements, using primarily our body weight. We perform a variety of exercises to maintain function, balance, and mobility. Strength will be enhanced with and without the use of hand weights. Mondays-Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. through June 11 \$72. 415-516-5214. ae.slcsd.org. Online, 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ONLINE GENTLE YOGA Using traditional yoga moves as well as active and resistant stretching and moves from the foundation training method, we create a healthy back a flexible body and increase our lung capacity to try to chew breathing exercises; all in the privacy of your own home. Mondays-Thursdays, 10:45 a.m.-noon through June 12 \$5 per session. 415-516-5214. Online (Location address included), 1297 13th Street, Los Osos.

SUMMER GUIDE continued page 18

SUMMER ART from page 15

Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE PRESENTS
FEATURED ARTIST SHERIL VIAU Enjoy art from

watercolorist Sheril Viau. A lifelong resident of the Central Coast, Sheril's vibrant detailed and uplifting watercolors are inspired by nature and her many travels. Through June 29, 1-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite

SOCIAL DIS-DANCE CAMP 2020



THIS IS WHAT 6 FEET LOOKS LIKE!

Ages 8 and up 9am – 3pm Mon-Fri

Session I: June 15 - June 26	performance June 26
Session II: July 6 - July 17	performance July 17
Session III: July 27 - Aug 7	performance Aug 7

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LECTURES AND LEARNING

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BIZ MASTERS TOASTMASTERS TUESDAYS:

ZOOM Learn more about Toastmasters, prepare for 'Your Competitive Future', and improve your communication and leadership skills. Zoom Meeting ID: 317 198 472 (Password: 630). Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. through Dec. 15 Free. 805-570-0620. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

HUMAN BEING SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION

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

PCPA READS AT HOME A literacy project that uses our students' learning to serve children and parents who are learning at home. Co-hosted by Allan Hancock College and the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to bring a love of stories and language to people right in their homes. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. Colledge, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

SMPL VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB The Valley Reads Book club meets very month on the fourth Tuesday (now over the phone). Interested community members should email jgaytan@cityofsantamaria.org to join. ongoing 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM Sara Curran Ice, PCPA's Technical Theatre Program Coordinator/Designer, is conducting Workshops via Zoom for local high school drama students. Check site or call for more info. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. Colledge, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHARLES PADDOCK ZOO

BREW CREW

The Charles Paddock Zoo in Atascadero hosts its annual Brew at the Zoo on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Each attendee will receive a collectible glass to enjoy their craft beer, wine, and cider tastings. Tickets are available in advance at my805tix.com. The event is open to ages 21 and over only. Visit charlespaddockzoo.org for more info.

TEACHER AND STUDENT GRANTS Since the program's start in 2004, the Clark Center has provided more than \$150,000 in scholarships and grants to students and teachers. Grant applications are due June 30. Through June 30 Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444,

SUMMER GUIDE 2020

crisis. This is a Zoom meeting (call for meeting ID). **May 28**, 2 p.m. and **June 4**, 2 p.m. Free. stbenslosos.org. St. Benedict's Church, 2220 Snowy Egret Ln., Los Osos, 805-528-0654.

NAWBO CCC PRESENTS: WILL THE REAL INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR PLEASE STAND UP?

Our speaker will address the challenging question facing employers in California, "Do I have employees or independent contractors?" She will also talk about the Dynamex Decision, as it has become known, which applies a standard that presumes all workers are employees instead of contractors. **June 5**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 800-556-2926. eventbrite.com.

FOOD AND WINE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS

Offering varietals from all over the world. Tuesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-693-8864. kalyrawinery.com. Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez.

STANDING SUN: PURCHASES AND DELIVERIES

FOOD AND WINE *continued page 20*

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ROOTED AND RISING: A BOOK DISCUSSION

Rooted and Rising draws together stories from people of a wide range of different faith perspectives about how they keep themselves encouraged and hopeful in a time of climate

Thank you Central Coast for all your support!

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- 12 ga • 22" Barrel • Matte Black Synthetic Stock
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- 22" Barrel • Threaded Muzzle • Lifetime Warranty
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Kimber STAINLESS II



- .45 ACP
- 5" Barrel • Front Slide Serrations
- Stainless Steel Frame & Slide • VPC# 3200007CA

\$819⁹⁸
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\$150⁰⁰**

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- 5.7X28
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Sale Prices Effective: June 4 - June 11, 2020. Layaway Available On Some Items. See Store For Details. Not Responsible For Printed Errors. Limited Quantities. No Rainchecks. Store Hours Mon - Fri - 10-8 • Sat - 10-6 • Sun - 10-5

*Pricing on firearms & ammunition does not reflect governmental or dealer fees for mandated background checks. See store for details. The advertised prices in this mailer are subject to additional terms and conditions. No offer of sale is made unless price and other terms are confirmed in person at a Turner's retail location or on the web at www.turners.com. This mailer is not an offer to sell a specific item of stock to the consumer. Turner's reserves the right to refuse for any lawful reason to sell any advertised item up to and through the point of sale.

LOS FLORES RANCH

Recreation Open Space

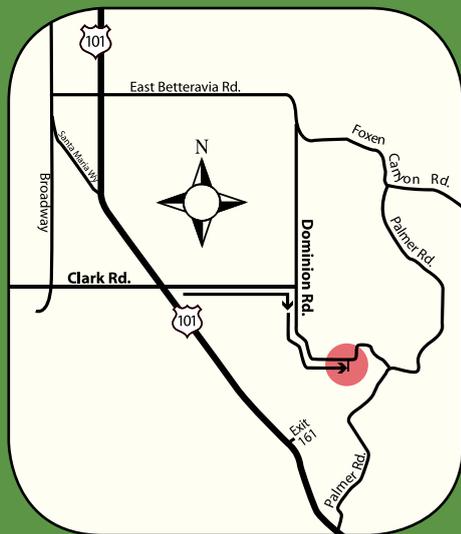
Los Flores Ranch Park, Recreational Open Space lies eight miles south of Santa Maria and offers the public 18 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking in a beautiful outdoor environment with spectacular views of the Santa Maria Valley and rolling hills!

SUMMER HOURS:
Wednesday-Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Last entry at 6:00 p.m.

Please observe CDC's recommended social distancing of 6 ft. from other visitors, while enjoying the trails with those in your household.

*Equestrians must call ahead for access to the staging area, during normal operating hours.
Visitor Center:
(805) 938-7618

For the trail map and general information, please visit
www.cityofsantamaria.org



LOCATION: 6271 Dominion Road
DIRECTIONS: From Santa Maria head south on Highway 101. Turn left at Clark Avenue Exit. Turn right on Dominion Rd.



OuterSpatial



Download the official OuterSpatial Mobile App and bookmark Los Flores Ranch Park! Find the app on the App Store or Google Play, or go to www.outerspatial.com/asp

Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

FLYING GOAT CELLARS: APPOINTMENT AND PICK-UPS This winery specializes in Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. Call or check site for pick-up and appointment info. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-736-9032. flyinggoatcellars.com. Flying Goat Cellars, 1520 Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PRESQU'ILE WINERY: RESERVATIONS ONLY Call or go online to make a reservation (reservations open to the public starting June 6). ongoing Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

VINO ET AMICIS: NEW HOURS AND FOOD TRUCK CONJUNCTIONS Working in conjunction with local food trucks and Pizzeria Bello Forno; charcuterie plates will be available to meet County expectations (meals to be served with wine and beer). Saturdays, Sundays, noon and Tuesdays-Fridays, 2-8 p.m. Vino et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 12-2:25 p.m. Arroyo Grande Farmers Market,



Olohan Alley, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SLO FARMERS MARKET Hosts more than 60 vendors. Saturdays, 8-10:45 a.m. World Market Parking Lot, 325 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

VIRTUAL WINE TASTING PACKAGES AT CASS WINERY Wine by the glass and bottles are also available for purchase. Check site for specific virtual tasting packages. ongoing Free. 805-239-1730. casswines.com/. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

MORRO BAY FARMERS MARKET A delightful mix of local farm fresh products, baked goods, crafts, and more. Thursdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Morro Bay Main Street Farmers Market, Main Street and Morro Bay Boulevard, Morro Bay, 928-350-5960, facebook.com/MorroBayMainStreetFarmersMarket/. MorroBayMainStreetFarmersMarket.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT ATASCADERO

BAND ON THE RUN

Atascadero's Saturday in the Park Summer Concert Series kicks off with a virtual performance from the Martin Paris Band on Saturday, July 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The concert will be available to stream for free. Check visitatascadero.com for details. Find out more about the Martin Paris Band at martinparismusic.com.

—C.W.

HOT STUFF

JUNE 4 – JUNE 11
2020



BETWEEN THE LINES

Gallery Los Olivos' latest exhibition is an interactive coloring book, which premiered online on the gallery's website in mid-May. The book is made up of original art by Martha Inman Lorch, Jayne Behman, Carol North Dixon, and several other featured artists. Guests of the site can download or print out images from the book to color in for themselves. Visit gallerylosolivos.com/coloringbook to view the book.

—Caleb Wiseblood

IMAGE COURTESY OF MARTHA INMAN LORCH

ARTS

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

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Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

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SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CALL FOR ARTISTS (GRADES 4-12): NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK This art contest will give students an opportunity create illustrations for a bilingual children's book that will depict local landmarks. Students are to create their illustration on a paper template entry form. All illustrations shall be created using colored pencils only. Through Sept. 25 Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK Streams live on PCPA's Instagram every Thursday and spotlights a different thespian guest each week. Hosted by Erik Stein. Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. Free. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

PCPA READS AT HOME A literacy project that uses our students' learning to serve children and parents who are learning at home. Co-hosted by Allan Hancock College and the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to bring a love of stories and language to people right in their homes. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

SMPL VALLEY READS BOOK CLUB The Valley Reads Book club meets very month on the fourth Tuesday (now over the phone). Interested community members should email jgaytan@cityofsantamaria.org to join. ongoing 805-925-0994. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TECH TALKS: LIVE ON INSTAGRAM Every Tuesday sit down with one of our technical staff and learn about the ins and outs of their craft. Get the exclusive with our host Erik Stein. Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

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

WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM Sara Curran Ice, PCPA's Technical Theatre Program Coordinator/Designer, is conducting Workshops via Zoom for local high school drama students. Check site or call for more info. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

TEACHER AND STUDENT GRANTS Since the program's start in 2004, the Clark Center has provided more than \$150,000 in scholarships and grants to students and teachers. Grant applications are due June 30. Through June 30 Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY 2020 BFA EXHIBITION: RECONNECTING (ONLINE) Cal Poly's graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts seniors present the 2020 BFA exhibition titled "Reconnecting..." that will showcase work from studio art, photo and video concentration students. The work is being featured at calpolybfa.com. Email calpolybfa@gmail.com for a link to the live opening. **June 5, 7-9 p.m.** Free. 805-756-1571. calpolybfa.com. Cal Poly University Art Gallery, Cal Poly Art & Design, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 93407-0321, San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: LIBRARY CARD A call for artists to have an original art piece featured on the 2021 library

cards. We are asking that there be a literary connection to the artwork submitted. Recognition of the artist will be on the library card. Check site or call for details. Through June 15 San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: A DIGITAL ART SALON The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) will be hosting a Digital Art Salon from Sept. 4 through Nov. 1 in partnership with the Digital Art Group. This juried exhibition will feature the diverse artwork being created by contemporary California digital artists. Through July 3 805-543-8562. artist.callforentry.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: DIGITAL SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) will be hosting the first Digital Shorts Film Festival on Sept. 26 in partnership with the Digital Art Group. This one-night-only event will feature digital shorts by artists from across California. Through July 3 805-543-8562. sloma.org/call_for_artists/digital-shorts/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

VIRTUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION This year, the Cuesta College Harold J. Miossi Student Exhibition went online. View student work, including the Salon des Refuses, on the website. Mondays-Sundays hjmgallery2020studentshow.org/. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, 805-546-3202.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 22

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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- Food & Drink.....[22]
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Family Fun Bingo Night
FRIDAY, JUNE 5
Avila Beach Community Center



Carbon City Lights
SATURDAY, JUNE 13
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Tiny Porch Summer Concert Series: Ley Line with Abby and the Myth
SUNDAY, JUNE 14
King Gillette Ranch



Barrel Room Concert: Moonshiner Collective
SUNDAY, JUNE 14
CASS Winery



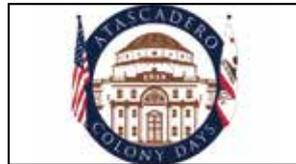
Krav Maga Level 2 Weekend
JUNE 20-21
SleepingTiger Fitness



Sunset Photo Shoot
FRIDAY, JUNE 26
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Summer Sipping 2020
JUNE 27-JUNE 28
Foxen Canyon Wine Trail



Fourth of July Drive-Through BBQ
SATURDAY, JULY 4
Atascadero Printery



Avila Beach 4th of July Doggie Parade
SATURDAY, JULY 4
Avila Beach Promenade



Season 3 Song Contest Final Round
TUESDAY, JULY 7
Painted Sky



The Mother Corn Shuckers
SATURDAY, JULY 11
Point San Luis Lighthouse



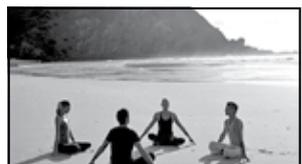
Bang Muay Thai Curriculum Review
SATURDAY, JULY 11
SleepingTiger Fitness



Stevie Nicks Illusion - A Tribute to Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac
SATURDAY, JULY 11
Rava Wines + Events



Tiny Porch Summer Concert Series: AJ Lee & Blue Summit with Miner
SUNDAY, JULY 12
King Gillette Ranch



Yoga at the Lighthouse
SATURDAY, JULY 18
Point San Luis Lighthouse



36th Annual Central Coast Renaissance Festival
SAT & SUN, JULY 18-19
Laguna Lake Park



Barrel Room Concert: Unfinished Business
SUNDAY, JULY 19
CASS Winery



B and the Hive
SATURDAY, JULY 25
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Tiny Porch Summer Concert Series: Sunny War with Laura Jean
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
King Gillette Ranch



Zongo All Stars
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Point San Luis Lighthouse

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

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

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HOT STUFF
JUNE 4 - JUNE 11 2020

THE TREE THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) posts a new art activity for children on its website every Monday. Children can complete each activity from the comfort of their own homes. One of the previous weekly projects was "Draw What You See," which guided participants on how to draw a tree. Check out next week's activity online at sloma.org.

—C.W.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 21

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

BIZ MASTERS TOASTMASTERS TUESDAYS:

ZOOM Learn more about Toastmasters, prepare for 'Your Competitive Future', and improve your communication and leadership skills. Zoom Meeting ID: 317 198 472 (Password: 630). Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. through Dec. 15 Free. 805-570-0620. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

OCEANO BEACH SAND CASTLE BUILDING CONTEST

Children and adults are welcome to participate in the competition by building sand castles and other sand sculptures along the beach (anywhere between the Grand Avenue entrance and the Arroyo Grande Creek). Photos due to info@oceanobeach.org by June 7. Through June 7 Free. 805-801-6148. Oceano/Grover Dunes, 100 Grand Ave., Grover Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CONTINUING TAI CHI ONLINE

Continuing Tai Chi covers the completion of the 40 form, further refining basics. For returning students and anyone with Tai Chi experience and brave beginners. Mondays, Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. through June 10 \$36. 805-549-1222. ae.slcsud.org. Online, 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo.

MEDITATION, BREATHWORK, AND GRATITUDE PRACTICE: LIVE ON ZOOM

This class will support you and help you stay vital during these uncertain times. Practices include breathing techniques to calm the nervous system, guided meditation for balanced relaxation, mantra practice to calm the mind, and tips to help you cultivate and maintain a home practice. Wednesdays, 12-12:45 p.m. through Sept. 16 \$10 for SLO Botanical Garden members/\$15 for non-members. 805-540-1762. eventbrite.com. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

METABOLIC CONDITIONING

We use primarily our own body weight in this interval training class to run through exercises and drills to raise the heart rate, condition our muscles, and stay flexible. This advanced class also incorporates hand weights and sand bags, if you have them. Mondays-Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. \$72. 415-516-5214. ae.slcsud.org. Online, 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo.

STRENGTH FOR 55+ We begin the session in the Static Back position, then progress onto movements, using primarily our body weight. We perform a variety of exercises to maintain function, balance, and mobility. Strength will be enhanced with and without the use of

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS Offering varietals from all over the world. Tuesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-693-8864. kalyrawinery.com. Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez.

STANDING SUN: PURCHASES AND DELIVERIES

Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

FLYING GOAT CELLARS: APPOINTMENT AND PICK-UPS

This winery specializes in Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. Call or check site for pick-up and appointment info. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-736-9032. flyinggoatcellars.com. Flying Goat Cellars, 1520 Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PRESQU'ILE WINERY: RESERVATIONS ONLY

Call or go online to make a reservation (reservations open to the public starting June 6). ongoing Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

VINO ET AMICIS: NEW HOURS AND FOOD TRUCK CONJUNCTIONS

Working in conjunction with local food trucks and Pizzeria Bello Forno; charcuterie plates will be available to meet County expectations (meals to be served with wine and beer). Saturdays, Sundays, noon and Tuesdays-Fridays, 2-8 p.m. VINO et Amicis, 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 12:25 p.m. Arroyo Grande Farmers Market, Olohan Alley, Arroyo Grande.

MUSIC

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOT SWINGIN' JAZZ: LIVE STREAM

The Creole Syncopators will be featured in a live stream performance. The Basin Street Regulars is hosting live stream events at its regularly scheduled concert dates and times until the restrictions on the Pismo Beach Veteran's Hall are lifted. First Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. through July 5 Donation suggested. 805-937-8402. pismojazz.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

RSVP XXV: EPISODE I, II, III-LOOSE ENDS (VIDEO)

Marking the 25th anniversary of RSVP and the departure of its founder and artistic director, Antonio G. Barata. The transmedia series picks up where last year's left off: in a combination of music, costume, dance, and video editing. **June 4, 5, & 6**, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free; donations accepted. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/rsvp/. Cal Poly Davidson Music Center, Room 218, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-2406. ○

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF BONNIE ERNST



SAND SLAM

Photo submissions to the Oceano Beach Community Association's inaugural Oceano Beach Sand Castle Building Contest are due online by Sunday, June 7. Winners of the competition will be announced by Monday, June 15, and will be awarded gift certificates to local businesses. Participants should send photos of their creations to info@oceanobeach.org. Call (805) 801-6148 for more info.

—C.W.



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Arts Briefs

Orcutt artist Lori Mole accepts commissions, announces new online gallery

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI MOLE



Lori Mole's last public exhibition was held in the Santa Maria Public Library's Shepard Hall in 2019, but on Thursday, May 28, the Central Coast painter announced a new online gallery to exhibit her latest works.

The paintings online (at lorimolefineart.com) are also available for sale. Mole recently shipped her largest painting to date (40 inches by 60 inches), titled *Key to the City*, to a customer in New Jersey. Mole is also accepting commissions through her website. One of Mole's recent commissions, titled *Vineyard View*, was sold to Arroyo Grande couple Clete and Bonnie Doyle (pictured with painting). The Doyles provided Mole with one of their favorite antique wooden frames, which she was instructed to use for a vineyard landscape. Since the frame didn't allow much room for glass or a backing, *Vineyard View* was created on watercolor paper rather than a stretched canvas, Mole said in press materials.

"Commissions are challenging, as you want them to love it," Mole said. "You want it to sparkle, catch their interest, and mimic their initial response to why they chose the painting idea in the first place."

To contact Mole directly, call (707) 322-8586 or email paintings@lorimole.com.

Elverhoj Museum hosts talk with artist Isabella Kelly-Ramirez

IMAGE COURTESY OF ISABELLA KELLY-RAMIREZ

The Elverhoj Museum of History of Art kicked off its Artist Q-and-A Instagram series on Wednesday, June 3, and will continue the series with guest artist Isabella Kelly-Ramirez on Wednesday, June 17. The livestream will begin at 4 p.m.

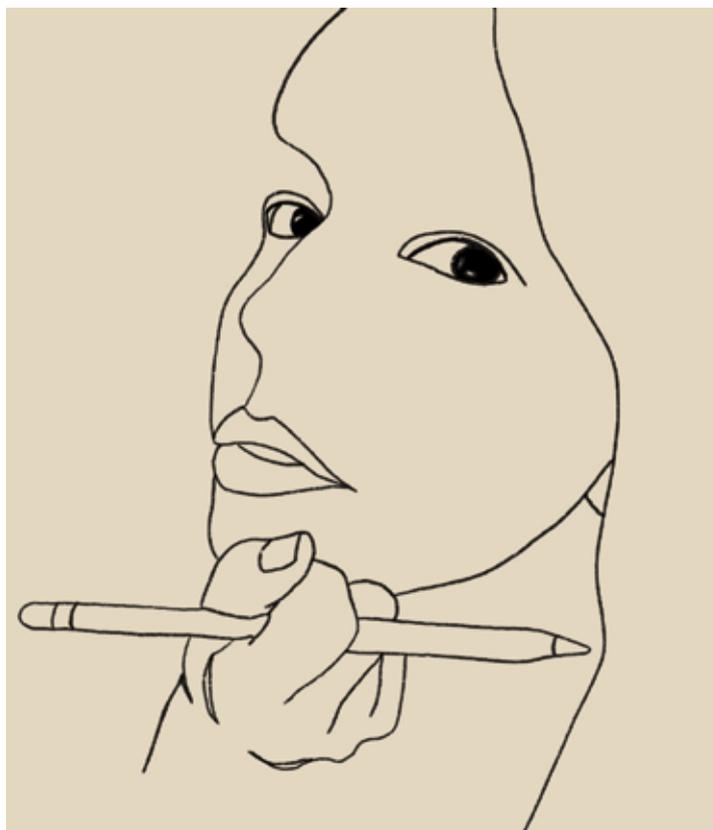


Kelly-Ramirez is one of the 14 featured artists in the museum's new virtual exhibition, *The Art of Face Masks* (online to view for free at artoffacemasks.com). The Central Coast-based artist will discuss her full line of face masks included in the group show and the symbolism behind the charms she chose to adorn her masks with. Kelly-Ramirez used cotton fabric, beads, and trinkets, among other materials, to complete her creations.

Other upcoming Q-and-A programs in the series include talks with more of the exhibit's featured artists—RT Livingston on Wednesday, June 24, and Susan Owens on Wednesday, July 1. Follow the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art on Instagram to view the interviews live for free (@[elverhojmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/elverhojmuseum)). Recorded interviews will be available the following day to watch anytime online (artoffacemasks.com).

Call (805) 686-1211 or visit elverhoj.org for more details. The museum is located at 1624 Elverhoj Way, Solvang. ○

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



SELF-PORTRAIT: "A few years ago, I stumbled upon the concept of single-line drawings," Alexandra Wallace (self-portrait pictured) said. "I never even took the time to give it a spin myself until the shelter-at-home orders suddenly gave me a lot of free time on my hands."

Whose line is it anyway?

Orcutt artist and photographer Alexandra Wallace mingles with single-line portraits

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

When COVID-19 mitigation measures first went into effect, a landslide of wedding postponements left professional photographer Alexandra Wallace with plenty of downtime. Armed with the Procreate app on her iPad Pro, Wallace decided that now might be the perfect time to try her hand at an art form she'd admired for a while but never tried for herself.

"A few years ago, I stumbled upon the concept of single-line drawings, and loved the idea," Wallace said. "I never even took the time to give it a spin myself until the shelter-at-home orders suddenly gave me a lot of free time on my hands."

As its name suggests, the single-line label applies to drawings completed solely from one, single stroke. Wallace first dipped her toes into the medium by drawing a handful of loved ones. She then began re-creating some of her favorite movie moments for fun (translating stills from *Jurassic Park*, *Father of the Bride*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *American Psycho*, and other gems into single-line drawings) and posting them on Instagram (@[thelittlealli](https://www.instagram.com/thelittlealli)), asking her followers to guess which films she was paying homage to.

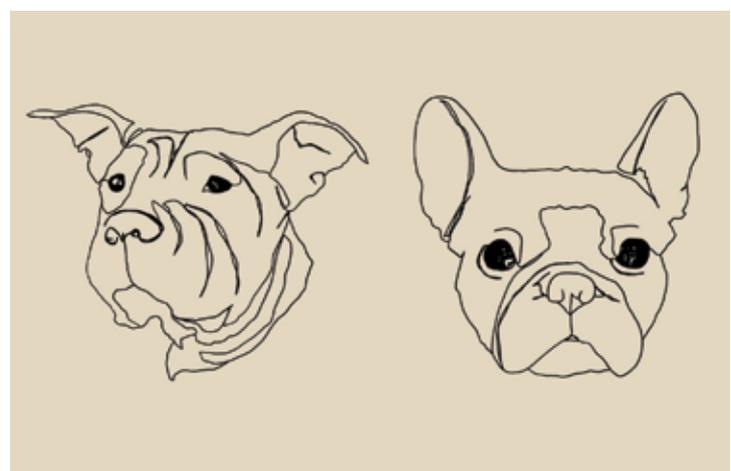
After some warm feedback on social media, the new hobby quickly evolved into Wallace accepting commissions (taking on assignments for \$20 per portrait), with customers ranging from family and friends to complete strangers. While the amount of time she spends varies from project to project, Wallace always finishes

Draw and order

Email artist Alexandra Wallace (alexandra@alexandra-wallace.com) for commissions (\$20 per single-line portrait).



THE STROKES: "Drawing in a single stroke is a little like a puzzle, and some of the finished portraits I've given people were a fifth or sixth attempt," Wallace said. "I'll do them in one sitting but will lift the pen and start back up where I left off when my wrist starts to cramp."



WHO LET THE DOGS OUT? The subjects of Alexandra Wallace's single-line portraits aren't limited to humans, she explained, as several customers request drawings of their pets.

each portrait in a single sitting. Although her first attempt at a drawing is rarely ever its final, she admitted.

"Drawing in a single stroke is a little like a puzzle, and some of the finished portraits I've given people were a fifth or sixth attempt. Sometimes I've been able to finish one in under two minutes, but others have left me a little more stumped," Wallace said. "I'll do them in one sitting, but will lift the pen and start back up where I left off when my wrist starts to cramp."

Although she ultimately appreciates the challenge, as well as the positive reception of her work so far, the task of drawing subjects she's never met before can be a bit draining, Wallace explained.

"A lot of people have reached out, requesting me to draw their friends' deceased family members and pets. It's incredibly flattering that even one person would ask me, but the pressure is enormous," she said. "I don't know 90 percent of the people I'm drawing; I know their email address and three photos I'm looking at on my phone—to capture someone based off of those few things is a little nerve-racking."

Wallace has completed more than 100 portraits between the start of quarantine and now, and she's kept busy in other artistic arenas as well, including during her recent collaboration with the May Flower Initiative, a public art project co-hosted by ARTS Obispo and the SLO Cultural Arts Committee. Wallace and several other local artists helped paint the front window displays of shops and other businesses in downtown SLO.

As a career wedding photographer, Wallace feels fortunate that some of her clients postponed rather than canceled events during the course of the pandemic, and she already has several weddings booked for 2021.

"I definitely think that both couples and venues are starting to feel more comfortable and optimistic about planning future weddings," said the photographer, who also works as the editor of *The Wedding Standard*—a Central Coast-based magazine that showcases wedding industry professionals throughout California.

"For the first couple weeks of closures, I was dreading that all of my weddings would be canceled, that my income would be in the red overnight, and that the wedding industry as a whole would collapse," Wallace continued. "Luckily, those fears were mostly fueled by spending too much time reading dramatic Facebook statuses, and all of my weddings are still on the calendar—just a little later than expected." ○

Drop Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood a line at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



DON'T FEAR THE RAPTOR: Alexandra Wallace began re-creating some of her favorite movie moments for fun (translating stills from *Jurassic Park* and other gems into single-line drawings) and posting them on her Instagram, asking her followers to guess what films she was paying homage to.

PHOTO BY ANDREA ROOKS

Mine trip

With a teen and a preteen as my guides, I venture into the pixel playground known as *Minecraft*



MINE OF THE MAKER: My 13-year-old daughter leads me through one of her favorite *Minecraft* worlds, which proves to be an exciting adventure.

BY ANDREA ROOKS

It's the last Sunday of May, and it's perfectly cloudy outside—excellent weather for the adventure my daughters and I are about to begin here in our living room.

The girls, ages 10 and 13, still love to share their worlds with me, and I do my best to enter. I know these times are finite—both the ongoing coronavirus quarantine and my daughters' youthful willingness to bring me along. However, some of their worlds are easier for me to engage in than others. They've tried many times to get me and my husband to play *Minecraft* with them, but I'm hopeless when it comes to video games. I get bored with my limitations and lack the drive to learn enough to keep a screen-based game interesting for more than 20 minutes.

When I tried playing *Minecraft*, I accidentally destroyed everything I created because I couldn't make my character stop chopping things. But today, I just sit back and watch while my daughters lead the way, Kindles on laps, thumbs and forefingers tapping away.

Before we get going: What is *Minecraft*?

"A game where you can unleash your creativity," my 10-year-old explains while making the word "enchant" on a banner above a bookcase.

Originally there was only survival mode, and players had to mine for all their resources. "You still do," my 13-year-old says. "Except wood—that grows on trees now."

We're on the couch, moving rapidly through her world. We enter one of the castles she's made here, and her first order of business is to kill an intruder. I'm sitting here watching my child beat a baby zombie to death. Cool.

"I like that you can either play in survival or creative ... Normally I prefer the creative mode," she says. That zombie wouldn't have killed her in creative mode, they're just annoying trespassers. But in survival, "they're the worst because they're really small and agile."

She likes that if she has an idea she can just do it, such as "the sky castle over there," she says pointing off into the mist.

I'm glad I don't have to physically keep up with her—she covers a lot of ground very quickly. We're now in a small castle she built in the center of a lake, complete with defenses made with redstone, which is "sort of like electricity in *Minecraft*. You can power stuff and tell pistons when to push blocks."

In this case, she pushes a button in her castle and I see a red line glow in front of us, like a

fuse, and then fire launches across the lake.

A second later we're flying over to her "super awesome treehouse," complete with a kitchen, lighted lanterns, potted plants, glass-paned windows, and a panda sitting on her bed. She explains that she watched a tutorial on how to level a tree's top and make supports before designing the house. The girls' favorite *Minecraft* gurus are Grian and Mumbo Jumbo, who make tutorials and lead expeditions through the newest releases of the game.

I get nostalgic looking at the pixelated *Minecraft* worlds because this is what I wanted to do with Legos as a kid. I would spend hours making floor plans, brick by brick, and improvising stovetops and refrigerators for my blocky people. Now my girls make multi-level libraries and zoos, self-sorting treasure chests and lava-powered meat smokers.

They can even wander around with angular parrots on their shoulders.

While flying to her next castle, she explains that in survival, you're trying to live, explore, and build while facing hunger and monsters—you can starve, suffocate, drown, get burned, and fall off a cliff and die, whereas in creative mode you just play around.

On my younger daughter's Kindle, we're wandering through the Nether dimension in survival mode. "You don't want to go in there unless you have to," she says. "I'm going to show you the lava pit of doom."

With a few taps on her screen, she returns to creative mode so we can fly over the lava and not get killed by the floating jellyfish-looking Ghosts, which shoot fireballs at you, "but if you hit it back at the Ghost, you're good."

Before I know it, we're back in her regular world, and she's showing me a hidden plateau, which features a bee enclosure, multiple bookcases, and a Nether portal. I turn away for a second and now we're riding a horse back to her castle—actually into the building where there are two other horses waiting. This is not weird in *Minecraft*.

Besides getting to fly and ride horses into houses, what's the best part of this game?

"I like that I can build whatever I want, and that the possibilities are endless."

Are they truly endless?

"-ish," she says.

Endless-ish—I like that, especially during a time when it feels like so much as ended. ○

Associate Editor Andrea Rooks still doesn't understand mooshrooms. Send cows and mushrooms separately to arooks@newtimeslo.com.

What's mine is yours

Explore new worlds and learn how to build your own with a couple of my daughters' favorite *Minecraft* pros: Grian, [youtube.com/user/xelqua](https://www.youtube.com/user/xelqua), and Mumbo Jumbo, [youtube.com/user/thatumbojumbo](https://www.youtube.com/user/thatumbojumbo).

55 Fiction

A brief story, fifty-five words or less, with a headline no longer than seven words.

Entries for this year's contest are due by 5pm on Monday, June 8, 2020

The winning stories will be published on July 9, 2020.

NewTimes

For more details:
bit.ly/55Fiction

Sun

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

Feel-good fable

Nisha Ganatra (*Chutney Popcorn, Fast Food High, Cake, Last Night*) directs this screenplay by Flora Greeson about superstar singer Grace Davis (Tracee Ellis Ross) and her overworked personal assistant, Maggie (Dakota Johnson), who dreams of being a music producer. (113 min).

Glen: First of all, oh my God it feels great to watch a new first-run film! It's been 12 weeks since we've been to the theater, with no return in sight. When I saw the advertisement for *The High Note*, I impulse-ordered it out of desperation to see a new theater-worthy film, and it didn't disappoint. This is a funny and poignant story of a venerated singer who's fallen into a rut. Grace knows that historically a black woman older than 40 doesn't make new hits. Her best option may be to take a residency in Vegas where she can churn out the same show night after night for the next several years. It's a fate she wants to avoid, but she's lost faith in herself. The film's exploration of race, gender, and age feels real. Meanwhile, Maggie represents the impossible odds of breaking into the business as a producer, which is often a male role. She hopes and dreams Grace will give her a shot, but Grace is a self-involved monster! She's so demanding of Maggie that it's unimaginable she doesn't walk off the job on any given day. Maggie's dream

to produce eventually brings her to David Cliff (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), a gifted writer and singer who makes a play for Maggie in a grocery store. With a gorgeously filmed LA as a backdrop, the story moves to a surprising conclusion that admittedly wraps itself into too neat a bow, but considering this is feel-good fairy tale, it's a forgivable dollop of treacle.

Anna: I say pile on all the feel-good films you can right now; we all need a little pep in our step after months of isolation! This charming and funny flick is just the right blend of sappy sweet goodness and quick-witted banter. Maggie has a vision for her life but no one to take her seriously. She's been Grace's personal assistant for three years now, and there looks to be no hope of it taking her anywhere except to pick up the superstar's dry cleaning. Grace is a total terror—über demanding and prone to gigantic mood swings, and she expects Maggie to be at her beck and call 24/7. When she's not working her ass off to make Grace's life run smoothly, Maggie is at home working at remixing and revamping music she's pretty sure no one will ever actually hear. One thing I can say, this woman doesn't shy away from taking a leap—when she gets a chance to show off her skills, she runs with it. While inevitably that means she will crash and burn sometimes, it also leaves her a glimmer of hope for the road ahead and her dream of breaking into the business. Watching this was a great way to spend the afternoon, and it just left me feeling good, which I so needed.

Glen: It is very funny, in part because of Grace's

house manager, Gail (June Diana Raphael), a lazy, vapid jerk who's in it for the easy life in Grace's pool house and her designer hand-me-downs. Then there's Maggie's roommate, Katie (Zoe Chao), a brash bestie willing to kick Maggie in the butt when she's down. Add in Grace's surly manager, Jack Robertson (Ice Cube), and a cadre of shallow, banal music industry flacks, and there are plenty of people to sneer at. Much of the film's heart comes from Maggie's single dad, Max (Bill Pullman), a radio DJ who instilled in his daughter both a love of music and an encyclopedic knowledge of it, and Dan Deakins (Eddie Izzard), another music star in the twilight of his career who unlike Grace is willing to help Maggie. This is a recipe for a real crowd pleaser. Oh, and Tracee Ellis Ross, who plays Grace, is Diana Ross' daughter singing publicly for the first time. Well worth the \$20, which is about matinee price for two.

Anna: I'll definitely be down for watching new releases on the home screen as we wait out COVID-19. While I still prefer the dark ambience of a big theater, it was a welcome treat. Both Ross and Harrison have some serious pipes, and the



THE MUSIC GAME: Maggie (Dakota Johnson), an overworked personal assistant to superstar singer Grace Davis (Tracee Ellis Ross), dreams of being a music producer, in the streaming-only feature *The High Note*.

film boasts a great soundtrack. Johnson was great as Maggie—a bit flustered and fumbling, but cool, calm, and collected when she needs to be. Between the blossoming romance with Maggie and David and the antics of a richer-than-God superstar diva, this movie has a little something for everyone. I agree, I think this is a great matinee-priced movie—it's a little cheesy and somewhat silly, but I had fun watching it, and it brought a smile to my face in the end. Check it out when you need a dose of cute. ○

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

THE HIGH NOTE

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Matinee**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Pay \$19.99 to stream on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Xfinity, Vudu, Google Play, Fandango Now**

Film Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF GED CINEMA



STRANGE SOUNDS: One night in 1950s New Mexico, switchboard operator Fay (Sierra McCormick) discovers an odd radio frequency in *The Vast of Night*, screening on Amazon Prime.

THE VAST OF NIGHT

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2019**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

Andrew Patterson directs this sci-fi film about two teenagers living in 1950s Cayuga, New Mexico. Fay (Sierra McCormick) is a switchboard operator, and Everett (Jake Horowitz) is a radio DJ. They discover and begin investigating a strange radio frequency. The story takes place over one night and is framed as an episode of *Paradox Theatre*, a *Twilight Zone*-esque TV anthology series.

This impressive debut by first-time director Patterson rips a page out of the Steven Spielberg playbook, mixing nostalgia, aliens, and wide-eyed characters in a story that feels like a distant cousin to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977). As Fay and Everett dig out the truth about the strange signal, they're first contacted by Billy (Bruce Davis), an ex-serviceman who claims to have been part of a secret operation that may have been involved in hiding an alien spacecraft. Later they meet homebound Mabel Blanche (Gail Cronauer), who claims her then-9-year-old son was abducted decades earlier. As the plot thickens, the action speeds up to a frantic final encounter.

It's a fun story that recalls the sci-fi films of the '50s—low key, low budget, and lots of fun. (89 min.)

—Glen Starkey

DICK TRACY

What's it rated? **PG**
 When? **1990**
 Where's it showing? **HBO**

Warren Beatty (*Heaven Can Wait, Reds, Bulworth, Rules Don't Apply*) directs and stars in this action crime comic-strip-brought-to-life about the intrepid, straight-as-an-arrow crime fighter who finds his life complicated when nightclub singer Breathless Mahoney (Madonna) hits on him as he's investigating Big Boy Caprice's (Al Pacino) attempts to unite organized crime in New York City.

The film features all the familiar comic strip characters, such as The Kid (Charlie Korsmo), Mumbles (Dustin Hoffman), Pruneface (R.G. Armstrong), Numbers (James Tolkan), Flattop (William Forsythe), Itchy (Ed O'Ross), The Brow (Chuck Hicks), D.A. Fletcher (Dick Van Dyke), and Tracy's love interest, Tess Trueheart (Glenn Headly). The makeup and facial prosthetics are amazing!

The film itself is visually stunning as well, with cinematography by Vittorio Storaro (*Apocalypse Now*), production design by Richard Sylbert (*Chinatown*), and set decoration by Rick Simpson (2010). Add in Danny Elfman's soundtrack, and you have a stylish and unique film, albeit one that can't quite



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

INCORRUPTIBLE: Crime fighter Dick Tracy (Warren Beatty, who also directs) takes on mobster Big Boy Caprice (Al Pacino) while nightclub singer Breathless Mahoney (Madonna) hits on him, in the visually stunning 1990 film *Dick Tracy*, currently screening on HBO.

transcend it two-dimensional storytelling. (107 min.) ○ —Glen

Sun film reviews are compiled by New Times Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. Contact him at gstarkey@newtimeslo.com.

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FILE PHOTO BY WENDY THIES SELL

PHOTO BY CAMILLIA LANHAM



BUY THE BOTTLE: Melville Winery between Buellton and Lompoc reopened on May 22 for some socially distanced wine by the glass or bottle.

GROWN FOR YOU: Stoplman Vineyards reopened on May 29, and that beautiful sangiovese is available for visitors to taste—by the bottle or the glass—by appointment at the Los Olivos tasting room (purchase of a boxed lunch required).

Check please!

Santa Barbara County wineries could reopen to the public at the end of May as long as they serve food, too

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

Winery visitors get the option of wines by the glass or wines by the bottle these days. But that's only if they also purchase food. And as long as the alcohol and nibbles are on the same check, paid for by the same credit card. This is the world we're living in right now. But, at least it's something. Fess Parker Winery & Vineyard joined dozens of other wineries over the weekend of May 29 through 31 in reopening their doors to let the public inside.

"We're excited. We're really happy to be able to have people come out again," Director of Hospitality Barrett Crandall said. "There's a lot of questions as people are coming out for the first time in a few months and wondering what it's going to be like."

Wineries, similar to all other businesses, have to follow a set of guidelines laid out by the state in order to reopen during the pandemic. This includes things like 50 percent capacity, socially distanced tables, regular sanitization, and wiping down tables and menus after every use.

In Santa Barbara County, everyone is also required to wear a mask most of the time. Crandall said staff will have masks on, and the winery is asking guests to wear one anytime they aren't seated at a table.

Wine tasting rooms are included in Stage 3 of the state's Resilience Roadmap for reopening, while Santa Barbara County is only in Stage 2. However, the county put an emergency rule into place on May 25 that will temporarily enable tasting rooms to open to the public as long as they act like a restaurant (allowed to open in Stage 2) and serve food.

The rule suspends certain county zoning and permit restrictions for wineries until Dec. 16 or until the county terminates the proclaimed local emergency for COVID-19.

Crandall said Fess Parker and Epiphany in Los Olivos, which is in Fess Parker's portfolio of wineries, partnered with First and Oak in Solvang to have food delivered to the tasting rooms—sandwich and salad combos as well as antipasto. Guests make reservations in advance for a 90-minute slot and are greeted by a mask-wearing hostess when they arrive.

The winery is limiting the number of reservations it's taking, for now.

"We have a big property so obviously we could fit a lot of people, but that's not the goal," Crandall said. "For us it's just baby steps. ... To have these people come out and have a nice experience, enjoy the sun, enjoy the food. ... I think if we just opened without reservations, it would open the floodgates."

What they're trying to avoid, Crandall said, is having big crowds show up. All of the seating will be outside, he said, and the winery's main focus is making sure everything is clean and everyone is safe.

"We have been anticipating that we would be able to open at some point. We have been prepping as far as getting supplies together," he said. "We went and spaced out the patio three weeks ago. We could kind of see the writing on the wall. We kind of anticipated that space was going to be an issue."

Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann said wineries that were already serving food qualified under the second phase of the governor's program, but most of the wineries in Santa Barbara

County don't serve food. The emergency rule enables them to serve food if they partner with a permitted food truck or restaurant.

But there are caveats. Hartmann said food has to be purchased alongside the alcohol, and patrons need to get that put on one bill and pay for it with one credit or debit card, which is what the state requires for restaurants.

"If restaurants, why not wineries?" she said. "Counties are creatures of the state and so county governments, they have to comply, they have to be at least as stringent as the state requires."

Still, Hartmann said that most wineries aren't set up to serve food and believes they shouldn't be treated like a bar or pub. In a letter Hartmann and 1st District Supervisor Das Williams sent to Gov. Gavin Newsom on May 27, they wrote that perhaps it would be even safer for wineries to reopen without dine-in service. The letter references a quote from a May 26 letter sent to the governor by a number of regional wine associations in the state, including the Santa Barbara Vintners.

"We have to agree with the following statement from the wine associations' letter: 'It strikes us as illogical that a winery must offer a "sit-down, dine-in meal" as a condition to reopen. If a winery can safely reopen with food service, a winery can certainly reopen

safely without food service,'" Hartmann and Williams wrote. "It would be a easy transition for most, if not all, of these tasting rooms to open with more than adequate distancing and sanitation measures."

Until the governor loosens up the restrictions on wineries that don't serve food or Santa Barbara County moves into the next phase in the reopening plan, the county's wineries are stuck following the current moment's guidelines.

While not all wineries are getting into the food service business, the ones that are, such as Fess Parker, are excited to have customers on-site again. Crandall said the last couple of months have been difficult. Everyone at the winery was looking forward to seeing people and doing what they do best: Show them a little hospitality.

"We have a wine club membership that's really loyal and miss coming out," he said. "There's a lot of these people that we haven't seen in quite a bit, and they're people we miss. We're in the hospitality business and that's what we like to do ... and we haven't been able to do that in like three months." ○

Editor Camillia Lanham is making a reservation at clanham@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO BY CAMILLIA LANHAM



SCENIC ROUTE: Those vineyard views are once again available for your eyes now that wineries across the county were able to reopen starting May 25, as long as they followed social-distancing guidelines and served food.

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