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Perry Mason is gripping [19]

55 Fiction

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JULY 9 - JULY 16, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 19

In our annual 55 Fiction issue, find stories about anything and everything. They're super short, intriguing easy reads, and some are even a wee bit political. Of course, love and death make appearances, but so do COVID-19 and sandwiches. Intrigued? Well then, I guess, you're just going to have to read them for yourself [8].

This week, you can also learn about how businesses are coping with re-closure due to increasing COVID-19 case numbers [10], the Elverhoj's annual summer solstice celebration [17], Solvang canceling Danish Days [18], and some new technology that could change the way you find wine that suits your tastes [20].



KEEP IT BRIEF: Stories told in 55 words or less are on deck this week for our annual 55 Fiction contest.

Camillia Lanham
editor

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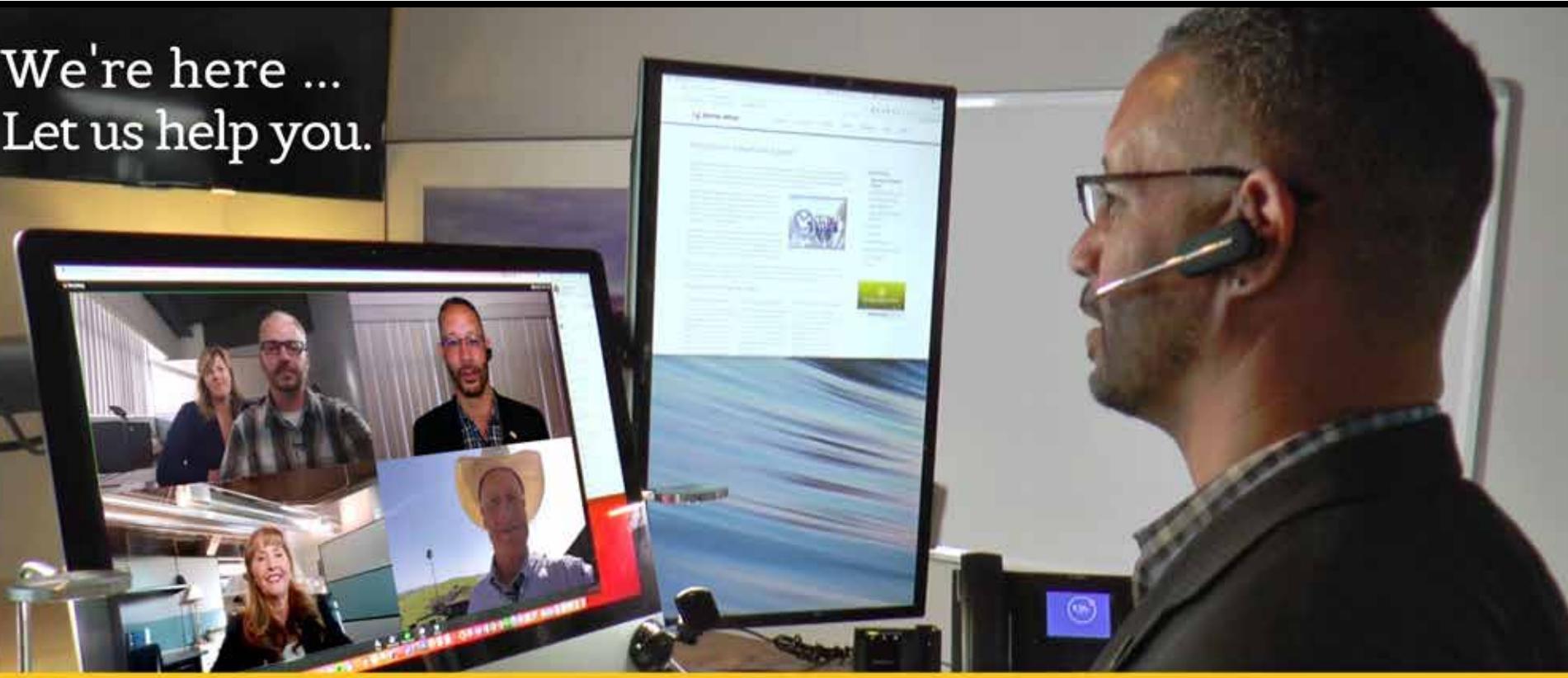
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Political Watch

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) released a statement acknowledging a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan that the **U.S. House of Representatives** passed on July 1. The Moving Forward Act would allocate money toward improving roads, bridges, transit systems, and broadband access, among other forms of infrastructure. The legislation would also invest in reducing carbon emissions, such as by dedicating funds to alternative-fuel charging stations and zero-emission buses. “The Moving Forward Act makes sure the Central Coast can repair our existing infrastructure and ensures new projects are resilient so they can withstand the effects of weather due to climate change,” Carbajal said in a statement his office released. “This timely investment in local government will create opportunities and bolster our economy at a time when local governments are struggling under the weight of COVID-19.” The Senate has not taken up the bill yet.

• On June 23, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) sent a letter to John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force, in which he expressed his support of Vandenberg Air Force Base serving as the base of operations for the U.S. Space Command. In the letter, Cunningham said the base meets all of the requirements the federal government is looking for, and has the capacity for significant future expansion. “Housing Space Command at Vandenberg Air Force Base would give the combatant command a strong existing network of facilities, space capabilities, and personnel to forward the USSPACECOM mission of national security in space,” Cunningham said in his letter.

• The filing period to run for local positions up for election in November begins on July 13. In the city of Lompoc, three positions are up for election this year, including **Mayor Jenelle Osborne’s** seat, which serves a two-year term. Additionally, council Districts 1 and 4 are up for election. Those are four-year terms currently occupied by **Gilda Cordova** and **Jim Mosby**, respectively. District 1 covers the part of the city north of North Avenue, and District 4 includes the southwestern portion of the city. In the city of Santa Maria, five positions are up for election including the mayor, two council seats, city treasurer, and city clerk. All of these are four-year terms. Districts 1 and 2 are up for election, which cover the northwest and northeast parts of the city, respectively. As of July 6, four people who are interested in running for the District 1 seat have filed candidate intention statements with the city, and two have filed statements announcing their intentions to run for mayor. Candidates interested in running can obtain the required paperwork at the city clerk’s office. The last day to file this paperwork is Aug. 7.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** signed the state’s 2020 budget of \$202 billion on June 29. The budget includes cuts and the use of reserve funds to cover a \$54.3 billion deficit related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. The budget includes an estimated \$5.7 billion directly tied to responding to the pandemic, including the purchase of protective equipment and hospital surge preparation. “In the face of a global pandemic that has also caused a recession across the world and here in California, our state has passed a budget that is balanced, responsible, and protects public safety and health, education, and services to Californians facing the greatest hardships,” Newsom said in a statement. ○



REVISIONIST HISTORY? The Santa Barbara County grand jury released a scathing report criticizing officials for the development of the county’s cannabis regulations. One county supervisor indicated that the report doesn’t put county decisions into context.

Grand jury criticizes county’s cannabis regulations in recent report

Echoing many of the talking points of the local anti-cannabis crowd, the Santa Barbara County grand jury recently released a scathing report in which it criticized county officials for allowing the creation of a cannabis industry to the detriment of county residents.

“The action taken by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to certify the development of a robust cannabis industry as the primary objective of the cannabis ordinances has altered the quality of life in Santa Barbara County, perhaps forever,” the June 30 report states.

In the report, the grand jury listed numerous concerns with the county’s drafting of its ordinances, including the formation of an ad hoc committee in early 2017 that 1st District Supervisor Das Williams and 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino served on. This committee was tasked with coming up with ideas for the county to implement that would allow a legal cannabis industry to operate within the county.

This committee wasn’t subject to the state’s Brown Act and therefore didn’t hold public meetings, which the jury said created a lack of transparency. The jury states that this process was “not good government” and led to a “seriously flawed law.”

Additionally, the jury states that during the drafting of the county’s cannabis ordinances—which were approved in early 2018—cannabis lobbyists had an inappropriate level of access to county supervisors. This led to regulations that were in favor of the industry, the jury claims.

“While the jury understands that sending emails to advocate positions favorable to the interests of their client is part of the job of a lobbyist, it was unnerving to the jury to see both the tone and timing of these emails,” the report states.

The jury also criticized the Board of Supervisors for not taking more seriously concerns regarding odor and potential ways the cannabis industry could affect other forms of agriculture. The jury repeatedly states that the county ignored many other issues in its pursuit of regulations that would

create a robust cannabis industry.

Although the jury doesn’t name the people in its reports, its critique of the ad hoc committee falls on Williams and Lavagnino, the supervisors involved. The latter said the report ignores a lot of the context around the decisions that were made and essentially rewrites history.

For example, while the ad hoc committee didn’t hold public meetings, the ideas the committee developed went before the full Board of Supervisors and were discussed at numerous public hearings. The ordinance eventually passed on a 4-1 vote.

When it comes to his conversations with lobbyists and acceptance of campaign donations, Lavagnino said he didn’t show any preferential treatment. He abided by county campaign rules and met with whoever reached out to him, both pro-cannabis people and those who were against the industry. The fact that on policy issues he happened to agree more often with the industry doesn’t mean it had unequal access, he said.

While in its report the jury is critical of the tax system the county established for the industry, ultimately the revenue levels are among the highest in the state and covered budget deficits created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Lavagnino said. This revenue helped the county avoid layoffs and service reductions, he added.

Additionally, the report doesn’t mention many of the changes the board has made to its cannabis ordinances as a result of public input since the initial regulations were put in place, Lavagnino said.

Last year the board voted to ban cannabis on smaller parcels in some rural areas and implemented an acreage cap for the whole county. The board directed staff to draft additional regulation changes aimed at odor control and other issues earlier this year, which will be presented to the board for adoption in the future.

Although he supports the board’s efforts to fix legitimate issues with the ordinances, Lavagnino acknowledged that no matter what changes are made, there are people in the county who won’t be satisfied unless

cannabis is completely banned.

“They’re just not OK with it and no matter what we do, it’s going to be a problem,” Lavagnino said. “I’ll continue to try to get to the point where we have as little impact as possible, but some people just aren’t going to be happy.”

—Zac Ezzone

Santa Barbara County picked for challenge to reduce youth homelessness

The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care and 20 local stakeholders launched a 100-Day Challenge to reduce youth

NEWS continued page 6

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS

Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist



Thursday



COASTAL > High 76 Low 53
INLAND > High 86 Low 52

Friday



COASTAL > High 80 Low 56
INLAND > High 90 Low 55

Saturday



COASTAL > High 81 Low 57
INLAND > High 94 Low 57

Sunday



COASTAL > High 81 Low 58
INLAND > High 94 Low 58

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NEWS from page 4

homelessness in Santa Barbara County at the end of June, and things are already off to a great start.

"I'm so excited to have all of these partners involved," said Lucille Boss, housing programs specialist at the county's Housing and Community Development Division. "I was impressed by how many agencies wrote back and said, 'Yes, we want to be part of this.' It's really encouraging that, as much as we're all experiencing a lot of difficulty right now, they all stepped up and said 'yes.'"

Some of those partners include local homeless shelters, school districts, colleges, housing authorities, and more. The partners will help facilitate the county's goals during the challenge.

Boss explained that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has technical assistance providers who regularly facilitate the 100-Day Challenges. Out of a large pool of potential communities who could benefit from the challenge, just five are selected at a time, and Santa Barbara County got the call.

"We said, 'Yes, we definitely want to take advantage of this opportunity,'" Boss said.

In Santa Barbara County school districts, according to a county press release, the California Department of Education reports that in the 2018-19 school year, 11.7 percent of students met the McKinney-Vento definition of a homeless youth. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is federal legislation that ensures rights and protections for youth experiencing homelessness. It defines youth homelessness as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

Boss said this definition includes children and youth who are sharing housing with other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.

"There may be three or four families who are sharing housing, so that's considered homeless children or youth because they don't have that fixed, adequate, nighttime residence," she said. "It also includes families that are living in motels, hotels, camping grounds, transitional shelters, or awaiting foster care placement."

The county's 100-Day Challenge goals include housing 50 youth, assigning a housing navigator to 100 percent of youth identified on a real-time list of people experiencing homelessness, and getting 75 percent of youth to accept case management with an individual service and housing retention plan.

A housing navigator is someone who works "on all kinds of different pieces related to your general well-being," Boss said. "They're really focused on housing and finding you the right housing and supportive services, while a case manager may be focused on other pieces of your life and your general well-being."

Boss said that while these aspirations are indeed ambitious, lofty goals are what the challenge is all about.

"You don't actually focus on a process, you focus on an outcome," Boss said of the 100-Day Challenge model. "They said to choose something that scares you, that makes you think, 'There's no way that we're going to be able to do this.' When you're at that point, that is exactly where you need to be."

—Malea Martin

County begins drafting plan to reach 2030 emission reduction goal

Over the next two years, the county of Santa Barbara will develop a plan identifying programs and policies the jurisdiction can pursue to meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals.

During its meeting on July 7, the county Board of Supervisors authorized staff to hire a

consultant and move forward with developing the Climate Action Plan 2030. County staff said the work required to complete this plan will take two years.

The county set a target for itself to reduce its greenhouse gas emission levels to 50 percent below emission levels in 2007 by 2030. In 2007, county emissions levels were more than 1.1 million metric tons and had reached 1.5 million by 2016. To meet its target, the county needs to lower this number to 675,900 metric tons by 2030.

During his presentation to the board, county Climate Program Manager Garrett Wong said some of the emission reductions will take place through legislative requirements from the state and county. Additionally, the county's decision to join Monterey Bay Community Power and the future opening of the Tajiguas ReSource Center will help lower this number.

But Wong said county staff anticipates the county will still need to reduce 320,200 metric tons of emissions. The climate action plan will propose policies and programs to address those reductions.

"In order to close the gap, we realize that aggressive programs and policies need to be developed and enacted in order to shift consumer behavior and business operations to more efficient and less polluting practices and technologies," Wong said.

Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam cast the lone vote against staff's request to work with the consultant firm Rincon to develop the plan. He said that while he has reservations about whether the climate is changing, if there is a problem, it'll be addressed by private industry and not government decisions.

"The answer to the whole problem, if there is one, is technology," Adam said. "It's not up to the government really to try to make science happen. ... That's where the answer is coming from. It's not coming from a climate action plan in Santa Barbara County."

—Zac Ezzone

Local organizations call for action over farmworker conditions during COVID-19

With about 20 percent of Santa Maria's COVID-19 cases being among farmworkers, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) and Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) released a joint statement calling on Santa Barbara County elected officials and public health to take action.

CAUSE and MICOP are asking the Board of Supervisors to use its power to direct the county's Public Health Department and the agricultural commissioner toward action. Demands include educating farmworkers on the sick leave they're entitled to, developing an inspection program for farms, and providing mobile COVID-19 testing sites at agricultural work sites.

County Public Health Officer Henning Ansong told the *Sun* that the percent of Santa Maria residents who work in the farming industry is similar to the percent of COVID-19 cases that are farmworkers, so he does not believe that farmworkers are disproportionately affected at this time.

Ansong also spoke to some of the precautions that he sees local farmers already taking, and public health's role in it.

"At the work sites, the growers do a very good job, and we're working with them from public health to have them spaced out and wear masks," Ansong said. "They have good sanitation in the fields; they disinfect and wash hands and everything."

However, he did point out that farmworkers



COMMUNITY ENERGY: Buellton recently voted to join Monterey Bay Community Power, a community choice aggregation agency that boasts the ability to bring cleaner, less expensive energy to jurisdictions.

often live in congregate settings and are unable to social distance when driving to work and on the job, making them more vulnerable to infection.

This is particularly true for H-2A workers, CAUSE Community Organizing Director Hazel Davalos said. They come to the U.S. on temporary work visas and often live in close quarters with other H-2A workers.

CAUSE and MICOP are also asking the Board of Supervisors to address issues around H-2A housing during COVID-19.

Concerns around the vulnerability of H-2A workers during COVID-19 were heightened, Davalos said, with the recent news of a COVID-19 outbreak in a Ventura County farmworker housing facility. According to the *Ventura County Star*, all 216 people staying at the farmworker housing facility were tested after two people there tested positive for the virus. As of July 3, 188 workers were positive for COVID-19.

"We're talking about workers living in dormitory-style housing," Davalos said. "We're really hoping that this incident can be a learning lesson for the agricultural industry to step up and do a better job around preventing the spread among the workforce. We see this as an opportunity for our public health department to step up and increase regulation of the agricultural industry."

One idea the organizations are proposing is to require that farmworkers who share a room are also transported to and from work together, work together, and eat together. This would essentially treat roommates as a household, Davalos said, and hopefully prevent small-scale outbreaks from reaching the larger group.

"Right now, it's often the case where [farmworkers] have their roommates, and then they're all thrown into one big bus when they go to work every day. Your bubble of four goes to 30 really quick," Davalos explained. "Public health could make stipulations around those sorts of things."

—Malea Martin

Buellton joins Monterey Bay Community Power

In June, the city of Buellton became the latest jurisdiction to opt into joining Monterey Bay Community Power, a community choice aggregation agency that has expanded along the Central Coast over the last two years.

Community choice aggregation agencies are public entities governed by a board of directors made up of officials from participating jurisdictions that handle generating and purchasing energy, while leaving companies like Pacific Gas and Electric Company responsible

for transmission and distribution.

During its June 25 meeting, the Buellton City Council voted to join the agency that includes 33 cities and counties between Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara counties. Santa Barbara, which is pursuing its own community choice aggregation program, and Lompoc, which already serves as its own utility provider through a different program, are the only cities in the county that haven't voted to join Monterey Bay Community Power.

One incentive to joining a community choice aggregation agency is that rates can be lower than those from private utility providers, so residents can save money on their bills. During the council meeting, Monterey Bay Community Power representative J.R. Killigrew said the agency has delivered more than \$17 million in bill savings to customers in the first 20 months of operations.

Additionally, the public energy provider relies on a higher percentage of renewable sources of electricity—such as wind and solar—and allocates funding to local renewable energy projects, he said.

"By 2030 there's a potential that we could be serving 100 percent of our load by new renewable contracts that we're going to build," Killigrew told the council.

The council voted to join the agency on a 4-1 vote, with councilmember Dave King voting against the decision.

During the meeting, King questioned whether Monterey Bay Community Power could guarantee that the agency's rates will remain lower than PG&E's. During a previous City Council meeting on the same topic in May, King also questioned whether the agency planned on installing windmills in the county, which he called inefficient and "an abysmal eyesore."

"If you strewed windmills across all those oak trees, that would be a travesty," King said. "That's my apprehension about going to renewable energy."

The council's vote begins a long process of the city joining the agency, with service slated to begin in January 2022. All residents and businesses in the city will automatically join the agency at that time, but will continue paying their bills through PG&E.

Residents who don't want to join the agency can opt out when service begins in 2022. Killigrew said that in the areas the agency currently serves, about 5 percent of customers have opted out.

Killigrew also told the council that due to the agency's expansion along the coast, it plans to change its name to Central Coast Community Energy. ○

—Zac Ezzone

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55 Fiction

Short stories about love, life, and sandwiches

It doesn't sound like much, but writers can do a lot with 55 words. They can kill someone, love someone, and surprise someone. And this year, yes, people from around the world submitted stories about the Trump administration, discrimination, and COVID-19. Some were cheesy, some were mushy, and some were dark. But only a select few wrote stories good enough to get published! Each year, *New Times* and the *Sun* bring you the best reader-submitted stories for our annual 55 Fiction contest, which is now three-decades strong. Our 2020 judges include Associate Editor Andrea Rooks and Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. So get ready for tales with surprise endings, lots of laughs, and a death or two.

—Camillia Lanham

Ambush—Vietnam

Walking down trail.
Horrendous gunfire from left.
Crawling, firing, to get out of line of fire.
RPG explosion, medivac down.
Perimeter set up, best friend killed from friendly fire.
Darkness, wounded moaning, praying,
Lord speed daylight.
Finally morning, medivac for dead and wounded.
Saddle-up, press on, 286 days left in the 'Nam.

Michael Huffman
Arroyo Grande

The Law

Let's say it straight: Though he had the gun, the money, the property, the armor, the helicopter, the restraints, the sneer, the cuffs, the badge, and the public, he was the one terrified of me. No small wonder, this perverse power (force of history) that keeps getting me killed: Hands up, and they still shoot.

Kyle Berlin
Arroyo Grande

Space

I love space. It's so vast, so unique. I've never seen anything like it. Some people say I'm weird and I spend too much time thinking about it, but I think they're crazy. How can you not love it? Galaxies are so amazing, too, especially the Samsung Galaxy S10e ... it has the perfect space bar.

Alessa Jackson
Centennial, Colorado

Coronavirus, Romeo and Juliet

Romeo: Did you drink my tea?
Juliet: I had some. Why do you ask?
Romeo: I have the coronavirus.
Juliet: Now we can die together.
Romeo: But I don't really have it.
Juliet: Now you do; you just drank my tea.

Jarien de Ham
Los Osos

Section 230

"Did you see his tweet?"
"I didn't read it."
"Why?"
"It was labeled *inaccurate*."
"I thought Twitter's mission was to ' ... give people power to share ideas and info without barriers.'"
"Apparently there is a barrier—a filter."
"Twitter—the arbiter of truth?"
"You prefer Trump's truth?"
"God is the only source of truth."
"Word."

Paul Jarvis
Pismo Beach

We're All Tourists Here Dad's Advice

The attorney shuffled the leaf of papers together.
"Alright, Mr. Cabot. We're set here. We've taken care of all of your final wishes." Cabot stared at the veins beneath the wrinkled skin of his hands.
"You forgot the headstone," he said.
"Of course," the attorney replied. "What should it read?"
Cabot grinned.
"Just visiting."

Kip Lorenzetti
San Luis Obispo

Dad's Advice

Emme explained to her dad that she had never felt such despair. The president actually called the press "the enemy of the people." All she dreamed about, studied, worked for was to be a journalist. What could she do about this president? Her dad looked up from his paper and smiled. "Vote," he said.

Emerald Powers
Santa Margarita

We Do The Best We Can

"How long have you two been married?"
"We've been together for several years, but we're not married. We've each had a couple of previous disastrous marriages."
"So you're living together in sin?"
"No, we live apart. But, when we have time, we try to live apart together as sinfully as possible."

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

Love in the Time of Corona

The apple falls from her hand, bounces, rolls, and stops in front of my shopping cart. "This would have been my chance to hit on her," I think. I look up. Eyes so beautiful they could tame lightning. But our masked smiles speak caution. We go in different directions. That's the loving thing to do.

Edwin Vartany
Glendale

A Matter of Principle

After waiting 30 minutes in line, Cynthia was about to enter.
"Sorry, masks are required."
"I know. ... I accidentally left mine at home."
"Can't let you in without one."
"I won't stay long. I have everything else, even gloves."
"Sorry. No."
She started forward anyway.
"Ma'am! Stay back!"
Cynthia left. There were other masquerade balls.

Mark Turner
San Luis Obispo

I am What I am

"You're a product of your culture," her father said. "Media is your messiah. You follow social fads, and adopt conflicted ideologies and incompatible lifestyles." "Synchronous and synergetic," she said. "Call it what you will, but it is impossible to be a vegan vampire."

Jeff Lahr
San Luis Obispo

Chivalry is Dead

She waited ages for a knight on a white horse. At last, in the woods where she gathered oleander, he appeared. He escorted her home and drank her tea. As he lay dying, she murmured into the mare's blond mane, "I've longed for a good horse. Plus, I needed a sword. These woods are dangerous."

Diane Smith
Arroyo Grande

How Many?

"Would you please repeat back to me what I've told you?"
"You've already told me several times."
"True. And you've told me several times that you understand. But, despite my asking, you have not repeated it back to me, even once."
"Sir, I speak six languages."
"Impressive! In how many of them do you listen?"

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

Missing the Joke

Dermatologist to note-taking assistant:
"Patient has a little Tinea Pedis."
Stifled grins. Adds for clarity, "Athlete's Foot."
Later, at home, wife asks:
"How was your skin check?"
Pulling out "Care Instructions":
"Doctor says I have a little (struggle to pronounce) 'ty-knee-uh pee-dis."
"Awe, Honey. It's not that small."

Marc Stoelzle
Santa Margarita

Doctor's Note

"Sorry Mrs. Smith, it won't happen again," she said entering the classroom tardily.
"Why are you always late to my class?"
"I had to go see my doctor and always have a doctor's note."
"She's so lucky," another student whispered.
"And why do you think she's lucky?"
replied Mrs. Smith.
"Her sister's a doctor."

Maya Moore
Allentown, Pennsylvania

I Want To Be

As I age, I become more angry inside. I don't want to be that way. I want to be like the lady who resides at the nursing home. One side of her is paralyzed, so she sits in a wheelchair. Unable to speak when I help her, she throws me kisses. She makes my day.

Sharon Peterson
Delafield, Wisconsin

Monster Under the Bed

This kid won't shut up. It's 3 a.m. I can't keep my three eyes open. I just want to sleep, but nooooo, apparently the kid's never been tired in his life. How would you like it if I jumped on your bed when you were trying to sleep? That's what I thought, jackass. Shut up.

Jules Ayres
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

The Way to A Man's Heart ...

You said, is through his stomach:
So I fed him, Momma.

Through the cheating and the beatings,
The insults and the lies, ... I fed him
Thick steaks, cheeseburgers,
Onion rings and fries, ice cream,
Cookies, cakes, and pies, I fed him.

Doctor said she'd never seen
A man's heart explode like that!

Thanks, Momma.

B.T. Risk
Orcutt

Recovery

They were watching him. Their eyes peeled his flesh away down to his marrow. Judging him. He knew there was nothing down there but rot and failure and shame, knew they could see it. All of it. All of him.
He stood. It was his turn.
"Hi, my name's Jon, and I'm an addict."

Kip Lorenzetti
San Luis Obispo

Under the Pier

I've heard all sorts of things about what happens under there.
I've seen it in movies.
Read about it in books.
Pondered if any of it is true.
But right now, I just want it to be where my car keys landed when they fell out of my pocket on the pier a minute ago.

Sheila Saltzman
San Luis Obispo

Once May Be Enough

"No fair! Hers is bigger, Mommy!"
"No! His is!"
"How can both halves be bigger? Hand them over. Hmm ... this one may be ... let me just ... "
"Hey! You took a bite from mine!"
"Mmm, yummy! But now this other one's ... "
"Hey! That's mine! Stop!"
"Mmm! Delicious! But now this first one's a little bigger, so ... "

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

55
Fiction



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UNCERTAINTY: After being open again for only a couple of weeks, Riverbench Winery was forced to close its Santa Barbara tasting room and only serve customers outside at its Santa Maria Valley winery due to an increase in local COVID-19 cases and new public health orders.

Closing again

After a few weeks of not quite normal operations, many businesses in the county shut down for a second time

BY ZAC EZZONE

Amid a surge of COVID-19 cases, Gov. Gavin Newsom recently required many businesses in Santa Barbara County to fully or partially close, a few weeks after many reopened from the previous closure.

During a press conference on July 1, Newsom announced a health order that mandates certain businesses in counties on a state COVID-19 watch list—including Santa Barbara County—to halt all indoor operations. This includes restaurants, wineries, movie theaters, zoos, museums, cardrooms, and family entertainment centers.

“California is seeing the virus spreading at alarming rates in many parts of the state, and we are taking immediate action to slow the spread of the virus in those areas,” Newsom said in a press release announcing the closures.

For Riverbench Vineyard and Winery CEO Laura Booras, the announcement came as a shock. Booras told the *Sun* that had spoken with county Public Health Department officials after Newsom recommended the county close its bars on June 28—which the county did the following day—who reassured her that the governor’s recommendation didn’t include wineries and tasting rooms at that time.

Aside from being caught off guard by the July 1 announcement, Booras said she has mixed feelings about closing again.

“As cases rise, the safety of my employees is more and more of a concern,” Booras said. “But of course my gut reaction was just that I’m devastated. We all are. The first closure was bad ... and it feels like the second shutdown is worse, to be honest.”

Booras said Riverbench’s winery in Santa Maria and tasting room in Santa Barbara both opened on June 18 after closing in March. During the two weeks between their opening and the governor’s re-closure, they operated at about 30 percent to 60 percent capacity.

This was partially a deliberate decision, she said, so that staff members could get used to the

crowds and adapt to new cleaning requirements, among other changes. But with the governor’s new order in place, business will be reduced dramatically.

The outdoor seating at the winery in Santa Maria remains open to guests, but capacity is limited due to social distancing. On the other hand, the tasting room in Santa Barbara is indoor-only and therefore is completely closed—with the exception of bottle pickup a few days a week.

The county and local cities have loosened zoning regulations to allow businesses to expand outdoor seating into parking lots and sidewalks, which Booras said she’d look into for the tasting room in Santa Barbara. But at most this would accommodate eight or so customers, and it would require Booras to dedicate an employee to the parking lot, which means more payroll costs.

So far Booras said she’s been able to keep all full-time employees on staff, and she’s hoping it stays that way. But she’s worried about this more recent closure and how long it could last. The governor said it’ll be in effect for three weeks, but if case numbers don’t improve, it could be extended.

“After three and a half months of this, it’s exhausting, my head is spinning,” Booras said.

‘As cases rise, the safety of my employees is more and more of a concern. But of course my gut reaction was just that I’m devastated. We all are. The first closure was bad ... and it feels like the second shutdown is worse ... ’

—Laura Booras, Riverbench Vineyard and Winery CEO

“I’m really caught between wanting my staff to be really safe and being able to keep them employed and this business afloat.”

Kurt Hixenbaugh, owner of *Vino et Amicis* in Orcutt, said the uncertainty is terrible. Hixenbaugh initially closed his wine bar in mid-March and then reopened in late May by finding ways to offer food. But after remaining open throughout all of June, the bar is now closed again after the county’s June 29 decision to follow Newsom’s recommendation that the county close its bars.

Hixenbaugh said this most recent closure is even more difficult than the first, during which he was able to sell wine to-go or through delivery. These options didn’t bring in a lot of cash, but it helped the business stay afloat while the doors weren’t open. This time around, neither of these options are permitted, which he said is

frustrating because restaurants and other similar businesses are allowed to do both.

Without any way to bring in revenue, Hixenbaugh said he’s just going to try to ride out the next few weeks and hope the order isn’t extended.

“[The closure] doesn’t affect big corporations; these wine bars and breweries, most are mom-and-pop operations,” Hixenbaugh said. “It’s what we do. It’s our passion, it’s our income, it’s our well-being.”

During his press conference on July 1, Newsom said the state decided to mandate these closures for counties on the state’s watch list, which consists of 19 counties that are failing to meet specific metrics aimed at measuring the spread of the virus, not just because of an increase in cases, but a rise in the state’s positivity rate.

Increases in this rate, which is based on the percentage of people who test positive out of everybody who is tested, means the virus is spreading faster. Newsom said that for weeks, the state’s positivity rate remained close to 4.4 percent, but it increased to a seven-day average of about 6.4 percent by the day of this press conference. As of July 2, this number was about 8.5 percent in the county.

The number of people hospitalized by the virus is also increasing in the state and county, although both still have the capacity to handle more cases. As of July 2, 64 county residents were in the hospital, which is twice as many

people as there were at the beginning of June. The county has 699 treatment beds dedicated to handling a surge in the virus.

To maintain this capacity, 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart pleaded with residents during a press conference on July 2 to recommit to washing their hands, wearing masks, and avoiding crowded areas. If these numbers don’t improve, additional closures could be on their way, county Public Health Director Van Do-Reynoso said during the conference.

“Please consider this, if we cannot impact the path of disease through taking very simple action as individuals, we will have a difficult future,” Do-Reynoso said. “Broad actions that impact many will need to be taken.” ○

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DALE EKSTRUM, MD

Personalized care

New Lompoc medical practice aims to restore the doctor-patient relationship

BY MALEA MARTIN

In his three decades of Central Coast medical experience, Dr. Dale Ekstrum noticed a shift in the patient-doctor relationship at traditional medical practices.

"Patients as well as doctors have experienced increasing demands, having to do more regulatory work or more electronic records work," Ekstrum said. "Spending 10 minutes with a patient involves another 20 or 30 minutes in documentation, getting authorizations, and dealing with their medications. What's been eroded away is the doctor-patient relationship: The time with a patient."

After years of witnessing a system that forces doctors to take on as many patients as possible, leading all parties to feel rushed, Ekstrum decided to make a change for his patients: A new, Lompoc-based concierge medical practice.

"For the first time I had hope when I considered the concierge model," Ekstrum said. "I could have a smaller patient slate. I basically make a promise to my patients: If you join this practice, this allows you to be assured that you'll have personalized care, and you'll have

my time. You'll be able to contact me at any time, day or night."

Concierge medicine—or as Ekstrum also calls it, personalized medical care—means that doctors limit their number of patients in order to ensure that patients get sufficient time at their visits, virtually never have to sit in a waiting room, and can even get same- or next-day appointments. In exchange for these promises, the doctor charges a monthly or annual fee to patients in the practice.

"It's basically one-twentieth of what I had before," Ekstrum said of his number of patients. "I'm able to spend an hour or an hour and a half with a patient if they need it, and have no waiting time. I call my front room a 'reception area' now: It's not a 'waiting room' any longer."

Ekstrum said that before he decided to make the leap into his new practice, he was concerned about some of the myths surrounding concierge medicine.

"There's the idea that it's a bourgeois practice, a rich person's practice," Ekstrum said. "It's surprisingly not that. ... It's a small investment in your health. When people actually call and get the rates, they're pleasantly surprised."

Depending on whether it's an individual or an entire family, Ekstrum's rates are between \$140 to \$180 a month. The fee doesn't take the place of insurance. It guarantees that patients will have little to no wait time, much longer appointments that can be scheduled the same or next day, as well as what Ekstrum said is a far more personalized and proactive approach to health care.

"I don't wait for them to get sick," he said. "I come up with a plan to keep them in their optimal health."

For Ekstrum's patient Santa Maria resident Chad Smith, having that guarantee is a huge relief.

"I'm 83 years old and have some health problems. To be able to call a doctor and get immediate contact means a lot to me," Smith said. "With going to doctors, if you call up and want an appointment, it's two weeks, three weeks, a month before you get an appointment. At my age and all, if I have a problem, I want someone right now. The concierge program gives that."

A 2018 study published by the *American Journal of Managed Care* found that high-touch care—another name for personalized medical care—leads to better outcomes and overall lower costs in the senior population. These findings are attributed to the practice's preventative, rather than reactive, approach to health care.

To learn more about Ekstrum's new practice, call (805) 741-5999 or visit daleekstrummd.com. Dr. Ekstrum's



PROACTIVE PLAN: Dr. Dale Ekstrum opened a new concierge medical practice in Lompoc that ensures patients will have longer and more personalized care, including a proactive wellness plan for each patient.

practice is located at 217 W. Central Ave., suite A, in Lompoc.

Highlight

The Santa Maria Noontimers Lions Club presented a \$1,000 check to the Santa Barbara County Foodbank recently. This gift will be directed toward providing food for those in need at the North County Foodbank. According to a press release announcing the donation,

The Lions Club also donated to Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, Community Partners in Caring, and other organizations, "to assist the local community during the current coronavirus pandemic." The Noontimers are one of several Lions Clubs in the Santa Maria area. ○

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

**7/10
2020**

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This week's online poll
7/9 - 7/16

What'd you make of the county's decision to close beaches for the Fourth of July weekend?

- It was sensible since counties to the south closed their beaches.
- I was OK with it. I set off fireworks at home instead.
- It was ridiculous. The restrictions have to stop.
- It didn't matter. I went to SLO County.

Sun

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Online Poll

What do you think of the county requiring all bars to close?

- 37% Good. We need to get a handle on the surge of cases.
- 27% It wouldn't have happened if people actually wore face masks.
- 27% It's stupid. More people are out of work again.
- 9% This is just the beginning. More closures are coming.

11 Votes

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Get outdoors

Not everyone has access to nature, and that needs to change

BY MARITZA OROPEZA

In typical Latino culture, daughters are taught how to clean and cook to keep their men happy. Not me, I was raised by a single mom who worked two jobs and cleaned houses on the weekends. I was shown the miracles of what Fabuloso could do in a bathroom and how Vicks VapoRub could cure anything.

I was taught to be a strong, independent, classy go-getter who didn't need a man, but when I got one, he would appreciate everything I had to offer. I grew up in the small town of Grover Beach. I was educated in predominantly "white" schools with most of my friends being gringas.

Sleepovers were almost like a rite of passage for my sisters and me. They weren't allowed. My Mexican mom could never understand why I'd want to sleep at someone else's house. Especially when I had a home to sleep at.

We grew up poor but never without. My mom always reminded us that we had to work twice as hard because we were Mexican-American: "We gotta prove to the Mexicans how Mexican we are, and we gotta prove to the Americans how American we are." As a teenager, trying to understand that was exhausting.

As I grew older and moved away to college, I had friends introduce me to the outdoors.

I went on my first hike when I was 23 years old in Eugene, Oregon. It was beautiful and something I remember only seeing in posters or movies. Growing up, I was completely unaware of hiking, climbing, and camping. Those

outlets weren't available for my sisters and me. Vacations were nonexistent, as my mother had no leisure time.

After I moved back home from college, I remembered seeing my younger self in Latino kids. I thought about how when I was their age, not so long before, it would never have crossed my mind that you could just find a trail in the woods or along the coast and explore the natural world. It was never for lack of imagination or desire for new experiences. Those things are innate in every child. What was missing was someone to nurture and encourage them in me, someone who was willing to pass along the joy that someone had shared with them before.

When I turned 26, I got the opportunity to go to Yosemite with a group of friends from California that I had met through an outdoor meetup. Everything about preparing for the trip

Growing up, I was completely unaware of hiking, climbing, and camping. Those outlets weren't available for my sisters and me. Vacations were nonexistent, as my mother had no leisure time.

felt foreign to me. I had to buy hiking boots, backpack gear, hiking poles, hiking socks. Anything and everything you could think of, I didn't have.

My first summit was Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. It is one of my proudest moments. A 17-mile hike that brought us more than 4,800 feet in elevation. It was one of the most challenging things I had done. Once I reached the summit, I was able to take in those Yosemite Valley views. It was truly magical. I rested and sat on top of the granite dome and took all of its beauty in. It was breathtaking, and I didn't want that moment to end.

When I got back home from Yosemite, the first thing I did was look up the next hike I wanted to do and what groups I could become a part of. For the next few years, I spent my vacations from work backpacking at national

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parks every year. I am at 22 parks and counting.

As I participated more in outdoor culture through the years, I could see the barriers that exclude communities of color. I noticed there was a lack of outdoor advocacy geared toward minorities. There is a misconception among nature lovers that nature is free and open to anyone who wants to get out in it. Nature is not free for everyone. There are economic barriers for people of color. It's never the lack of interest or initiative. Not everyone can afford all of that expensive outdoor gear or transportation. This is why it's so important that outdoor brands invest in communities of color.

Limiting outdoor culture to a "white people thing" seems more apparent than ever, and I want to change that.

Living in Portland as an adult and having the knowledge I do about how excluded you can feel as a minority in a predominately white town makes me want to share my knowledge with all people of color. Joining Latino Outdoors has broken those barriers for me, and I hope more people of color who feel excluded will join our movement. Being poor should not be a barrier to the beauty of the outdoors. Let us join together and preserve our parks for further generations to enjoy. Yo cuento! ☺

Maritza Oropeza grew up in Grover Beach. Send comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com or write a response for publication by emailing letters@santamariasun.com.



LETTER

We need intellect over instinct

Regarding the catastrophe of this pandemic—the anger, insecurity, and fear of the unknown is bringing out the baser behavior in man. The difficulties of no income generates a fight-or-flight response in us, which can help us survive. Conversely, a misfire could cause us to respond to the perception of threat inappropriately in violence and in reckless behaviors. Witness the gun-toting mob protests and refusals to mask and maintain social distance.

The pressures to resume business could open the floodgates of illness at a time when quarantine has almost tamed this wild beast of a disease. Who will be well enough to work to generate commerce if we drop our current management strategies?

We have to accept that our way of life, commerce, and social interaction are forever changed. We need a clear eye to view what needs to be done as we cautiously proceed in jump-starting commerce so we can grow out of this dilemma and not plunge the world back into the Dark Ages.

We have the intellect to proceed. We need to engage that intellect and not succumb to mere instinct.

Colleen Campbell Murr
Santa Maria

Aggressive much?

Hey, you guys! It turns out that a bunch of retirees who have an extra 20 hours a week on their hands to do research and write reports don't actually like marijuana.

A real shocker, I know.

The most recent report released by the **Santa Barbara County grand jury** is aptly titled "Cannabis." It's about—you guessed it—cannabis! More specifically, it's about the county's process for creating the recreational marijuana ordinance it passed in 2018.

It's a doozy.

Big news guys: The county screwed up the ordinance! Gosh, I didn't need a 26-page report to tell me that. I assume that's the reason why the county's been trying to fix it.

Hey, grand jury, did you know that **SLO County** screwed up its ordinance, too, and that other counties and the state of California are also tweaking their regulations? I wonder if you guys should investigate those obviously nefarious deeds.

Turns out that it's hard to regulate an industry that's never existed before.

The jury didn't name names or anything, because they aren't allowed to do that. But I guess they are allowed to level some pretty serious allegations against "unnamed" individuals.

And it's perfectly obvious who most of these allegations are leveled against: The only two members of the county's ad hoc committee that was formed to help suss out what the marijuana ordinance should eventually entail—**5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino** and **1st District Supervisor Das Williams**.

Reading this grand jury report, you would think they were the devil incarnate!

The grand jury essentially accuses **Santa Barbara**

County supervisors (you know who you are, and so do we) of pay-to-play decision-making before and during board meetings, campaign finance violations, nepotism, favoritism, and what amounts to ethical malfeasance. It takes issue with the way the county decided to tax marijuana, claims that marijuana advocates had more access to supervisors than opponents, and that the ordinance was decided on in private.

The county actually wrote a letter to the public in an attempt to address allegations about the so-called "private" decision-making process in 2019. **Deputy County Executive Officer Dennis Bozanich** said he had counted more than 60 public meetings in the lead-up to the ordinance passing. Sounds like a pretty public process to me.

You know what else the jury had a problem with? Marijuana advocates sending emails to supervisors the day before a meeting discussing an agenda item that affected them! The timing is super weird, amirite? Not! Hey, grand jury, did you know that happens *all the time*?

But supervisors received more emails and had more meetings with proponents than opponents. Did the grand jury detail that supervisors refused to meet with ordinance opponents? No.

Turns out that *anyone* can email the county supervisors and *anyone* can request a meeting with them, too. Could it be that these so-called marijuana "lobbyists" (who the jury alleges used to work for the county) actually took the time to do their legwork and advocate for what they wanted, while those on the other side didn't do as much?

Because that's what usually happens. People who don't involve themselves in the public process often have a lot to complain about after the fact. ☹

The canary thinks the grand jury had an ax to grind. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a drop in well-child visits has resulted in delays in vaccinations, appropriate screenings and referrals, and anticipatory guidance to assure optimal health. Concern exists that delays in vaccinations may result in secondary outbreaks with vaccine-preventable illnesses.

Pediatric Medical Group is scheduling well exam visits for children of all ages. Strict safety precautions have been put in place to ensure the safety of patients and their parents.

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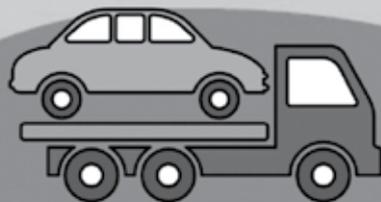
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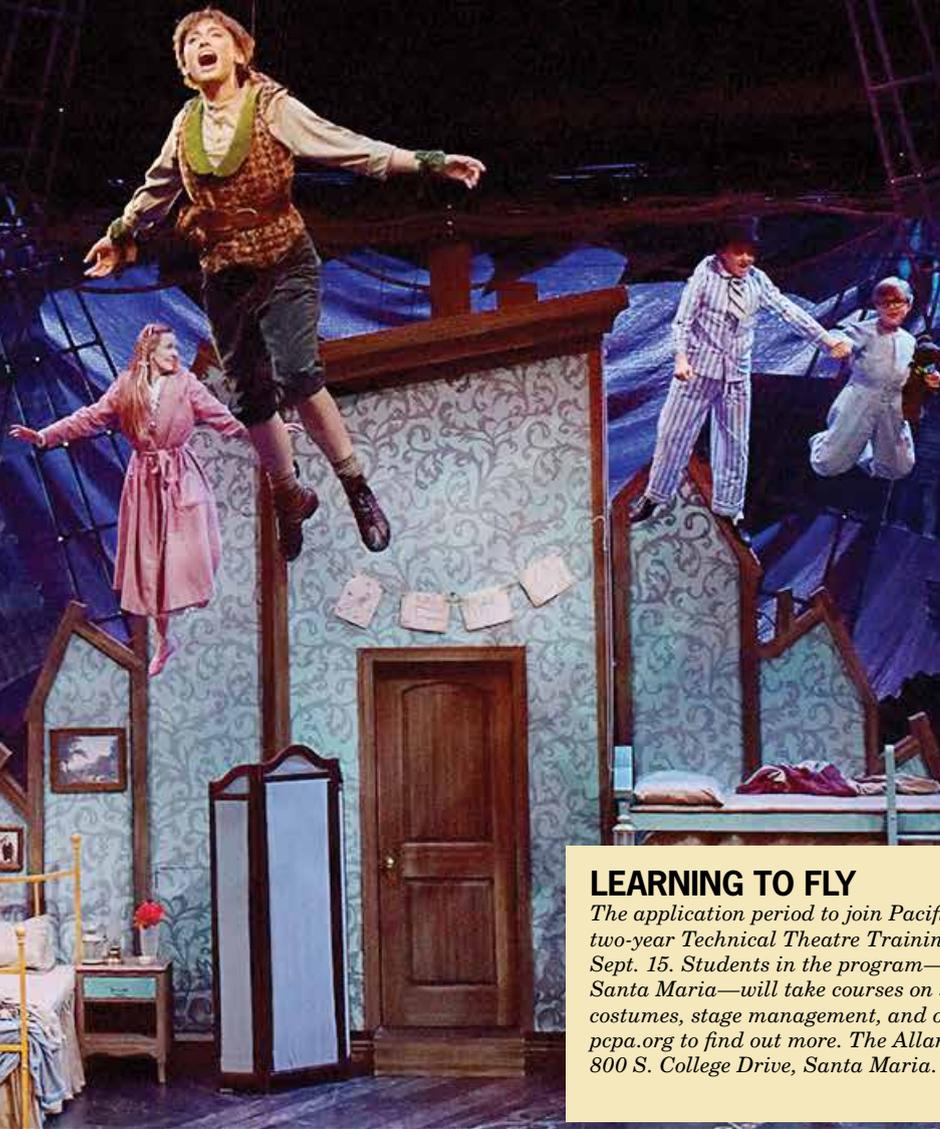
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LEARNING TO FLY

The application period to join Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCTA) two-year Technical Theatre Training Program runs through Tuesday, Sept. 15. Students in the program—which begins on Monday, Oct. 5, in Santa Maria—will take courses on stage lighting, props, set construction, costumes, stage management, and other areas. Call (805) 928-7731 or visit pcpa.org to find out more. The Allan Hancock College campus is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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ARTS

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CALL FOR ARTISTS (GRADES 4-12): NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK This art contest will give students an opportunity to 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.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CALL FOR ARTISTS: WHILE WE SHELTERED

Seeking more artists to participate in the show "While We Sheltered". Requirement is that the artwork must have been created during the shelter-in-place orders (since March). Limited to 1 piece per artist and must be no larger than 16" x 20". Through July 31 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralartsupply.com/while-we-sheltered.php. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

DRAWING WACKY ANIMAL 'TOONS: ONLINE CLASS

In this class, students will learn to draw all sorts of different creatures from throughout the animal kingdom in a humorous "Sunday funnies" type of style. They will also learn warm-up and imagination exercises that cartoonists use in making their drawings. Through July 9, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and Through July 16, 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$75. 805-546-3132. cuesta.edu/communityprograms/youth-programs/. Cuesta College, Highway 1, 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.

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.

STAINED GLASS HANGING TERRARIUM Learn to cut glass using a pattern, copper foil technique and soldering. Dimensions approx 3.5" x 4". All materials included except air plant. Limited to 4-6 participants

(based on CDC guidelines). Masks required. July 11, 10 a.m.-noon \$45. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEYOND BOUNDARIES This show hopes to push beyond unbeaten riddled viewpoints to allow viewers an opportunity to identify with artists and discover more about themselves. Un-restrained by limitations of personal, cultural, gender, man-made biases, artists exhibit their sensitivities to today's viewpoints and paradigm shifts. Through Aug. 2, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, artcentermorrobay.org.

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE PRESENTS Through July 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

THE REBOOT: STORYTELLING REIMAGINED ON ZOOM Now live on Zoom. A curated mix of invited storytellers and open mic for novice storytellers. Spoken word, improv, character sketches and interactive games. Third Friday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free. 805-772-9225. facebook.com/topdogcoffeebar/. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SOLVANG PARKS AND REC: SAND VOLLEYBALL A kids sand volleyball camp (ages 8 through 12). Through July 9 cityofsolvang.com. Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

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.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 15

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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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.

LAURUS COLLEGE: 2020 COMMENCEMENT

CEREMONY ONLINE Celebrating the Class of 2020. All graduates are encouraged to participate (applications due June 8). **July 11** Laurus College, 325 E. Betteravia Road, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-267-1690.

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

BANG MUAY THAI CURRICULUM REVIEW

Drill and rep out the yellow and orange belt curriculum. **July 11**, 12-2 p.m. \$25-\$40. my805tix.com. Sleeping Tiger Fitness, 3595 Sueldo St., San Luis Obispo.

CUESTA COLLEGE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

COLLEGE FOR KIDS SESSION II Registration is open. Classes online. Mondays-Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through July 22 \$75-\$150 (plus materials). 805-546-3132. cuesta.edu. Cuesta College, Highway 1, 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.slucsd.org. Online, 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE DALLIDET ADOBE

The Dallidet family lived in San Luis Obispo from the 1850s through the 1950s. Hear their stories while visiting the family home. Please register by noon on Thursdays. Thursdays, 1 p.m. through Aug. 27 \$5 suggested. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/virtual-tour.html. Dallidet Adobe, 1185 Pacific Street, San Luis Obispo.

VISIT THE DALLIDET GARDENS

Enjoy incomparable beauty. This hidden gem of natural beauty in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo will be open to the public Sunday mornings and afternoons in July. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. through July 26 Free. 805-543-0638. dallidet.org. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

WOODS VIRTUAL CRITTER CAMP

Woods Virtual Critter Camps offer youth and families a fun way to meet and learn about animals, get to know other campers, and help animals in need, from home. Weekly themed camps include videos, activities and challenges, plus a Live Zoom meeting daily. Through July 10, 11 a.m.-noon and Through **July 17, 11 a.m.-noon** \$100. 805-543-9316 ext. 13. woodshumanesociety.org. Woods Humane Society, 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo.



CAPED CRUSADERS

Performance Athletics Gymnastics in SLO is implementing CDC and SLO Public Health Department protocols during its Summer Gymnastics Camp, which began Monday, July 6, and will be offered every weekday through Friday, Aug. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The camp includes outdoor play and a variety of gymnastics activities. Call (805) 547-1496 or visit performanceathleticsslo.com for more info. The gym is located at 4484 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

FREE MASTER CLASS ONLINE: EMOTIONAL EATING

Are you an 'Emotional Eater'? Are you using food to cope, soothe, or escape? There is different way to cope. Free online Master Class: Food doesn't have to rule your life. Mondays-Fridays, 6:15-7 p.m. through July 17 Free. 805-235-7978.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA JURETIC

gratefulbodyhealthcoaching.com. Grateful Body, 850 Shasta, Morro Bay.

MORRO BAY MARTIAL ARTS: SCHOOL OF TECHNIQUE

A variety of adult and youth classes. Instructor has more than 35 years of experience. Offering Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Kickboxing, MMA, and Self-Defense classes. Mondays-Saturdays, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. through Dec. 31 Call for details. 805-701-7397. charvetmartialarts.com. Morro Bay Martial Arts, 850 Shasta, Morro Bay.

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.

FOOD & DRINK continued page 16



Guide for Cleaning Office Equipment to help Businesses Control the Spread of Illness

Ultrax has developed the recommendations below to help businesses properly clean and disinfect the surfaces of shared devices, including MFPs, printers, monitors and laptops.

To properly clean surfaces, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends cleaning, followed by disinfecting as a best practice for the prevention of Coronavirus and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community setting.

Recommendation for cleaning the exterior touch surfaces of office equipment

The CDC advises to use a diluted alcohol solution that consists of at least 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water. Follow these steps below to clean the touch surfaces of devices utilizing the CDC recommendation.

1. Wear disposable gloves (latex or nitrile) when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces
2. Turn off the device and disconnect AC power
3. Moisten a microfiber cloth with a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water (do not spray)
4. Begin with the display or MFP control panel and finish with any flexible cables
5. When cleaning a display screen or touchscreen panel, wipe in one direction
6. After disinfecting, copier/scanner glass should be cleaned again using an office glass cleaner
7. When finished, discard gloves and wash hands immediately for 20 seconds with soap and water

Precautions to take when cleaning and disinfecting office equipment:

- ✓ Never spray cleaning solutions on equipment, only use a moistened lint-free or microfiber cleaning cloth
- ✓ Do not use paper towels or tissues to clean equipment
- ✓ Do not use an alcohol/water mixture that is stronger than 70% isopropyl alcohol
- ✓ Avoid contact with skin and eyes when cleaning with alcohol and make sure there is adequate ventilation
- ✓ Only clean the exterior touch surfaces when cleaning and disinfecting equipment
- ✓ Never use abrasives or chemicals such as bleach, ammonia, acetone, peroxide or other cleaning agents on equipment as these can damage the finish as well as damage electrical components.

You should enact a device cleaning policy to clean the devices throughout the day. Please encourage device users to practice good personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

For additional CDC information on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>

ULTREX and the CDC make no claim that cleaning and disinfecting will completely eliminate all bacteria and viruses. ULTREX are not liable for your improper handling, cleaning, or use of the device

NO WIPES IN THE PIPES



No tire las toallitas húmedas en el inodoro



CITY OF SANTA MARIA

Utilities Department

(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270 • www.cityofsantamaria.org

Tickets on sale now at My805Tix.com and at our official Box Office at Boo Boo Records in SLO



Bang Muay Thai Curriculum Review
SATURDAY, JULY 11
Sleeping Tiger Fitness



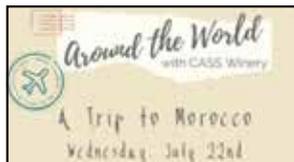
2020 Estate Beef Dinner Series: Short Ribs
FRIDAY, JULY 17
Cass Winery



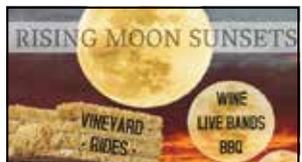
Tiny Porch Summer Concert Series: AJ Lee & Blue Summit with Miner
SUNDAY, JULY 12
King Gillette Ranch



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



Wednesdays Around the World Dinner: Morocco
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
Cass Winery



Rising Moon Sunset Series: Live Music, Wine, & Vineyard Hayrides
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



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



Barrel Room Concert: The Mother Corn Shuckers
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
Cass Winery



2020 Estate Beef Dinner Series: Ribeye
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
Cass Winery



Yoga at the Lighthouse
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Evening Under the Estrella Sky Winemakers Dinner
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
The Pleasant Valley Wine Trail



Pecho Coast Trail Plant Life
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Point San Luis Lighthouse



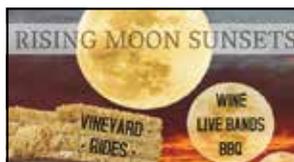
2020 Sunset Seafood Boil
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
Cass Winery



Season 3 Song Contest Final Round
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
Painted Sky



Jill Knight Band
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Rising Moon Sunset Series: Live Music, Wine, & Vineyard Hayrides
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
Doce Robles Winery & Vineyard



Sunset Photo Shoot
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Point San Luis Lighthouse



All Ford Car Show Grand Prize Raffle
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Old Town Orcutt



Back Pages Band
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
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

POWERED BY: **NewTimes & Sun**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



FOOD & DRINK from page 15

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

TACO FARM SUMMER DAY CAMP Taco Farm is a 5 day summer camp at a Frontier Ranch that exists to teach kids about agriculture, farming, food, faith, and fun. Children ages 8-12 are invited to come learn about how to grow and prepare the ingredients that make a taco. Every 4 days, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$275 per week. 415-342-0002. forthehope.org/camp/taco-farm/. Fort Hope, P.O. Box 132, 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

2020 ESTATE BEEF DINNER SERIES:

SHORT RIBS An intimate and unforgettable dinner featuring prime cuts of our estate-raised cattle. **July 17**, 6-9 p.m. \$140. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.

BURGER SATURDAYS

Enjoy burgers and award-winning wines. Cali Grill will be out every Saturday cooking burgers along with a couple other options that will change. Dog friendly patio. Reservations are recommended. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 1. Varies. 805-239-9463. Lusso Della Terra Cellars, 2850 Ranchita Canyon Rd., San Miguel.

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

BRUNCH IN THE GARDEN Enjoy the sun with a delicious meal accompanied by live music in the garden gazebo every Sunday this summer. Adult flat rate includes one entree, the choice of a homemade muffin or biscuit with jam, and a non-alcoholic beverage. Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. through Aug. 30 \$9-\$19. 805-927-4200. cambriapineslodge.com/onsite. Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Dr., Cambria.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: SOUND CLOUD

Features recordings of the Mozart Sinfonia from the Philharmonic's last live concert and other recordings.

SHOWER POWER

Sunday, July 5, marked the return of Shower the People, a nonprofit dedicated to providing complimentary warm showers to homeless or critically low-income individuals, at the SLO Library. The shower trailer, equipped with three private bathrooms, will be accessible every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. Toiletries will also be provided at no charge. Visit showerthepeopleslo.org for more info. The library is located at 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

ongoing Free. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

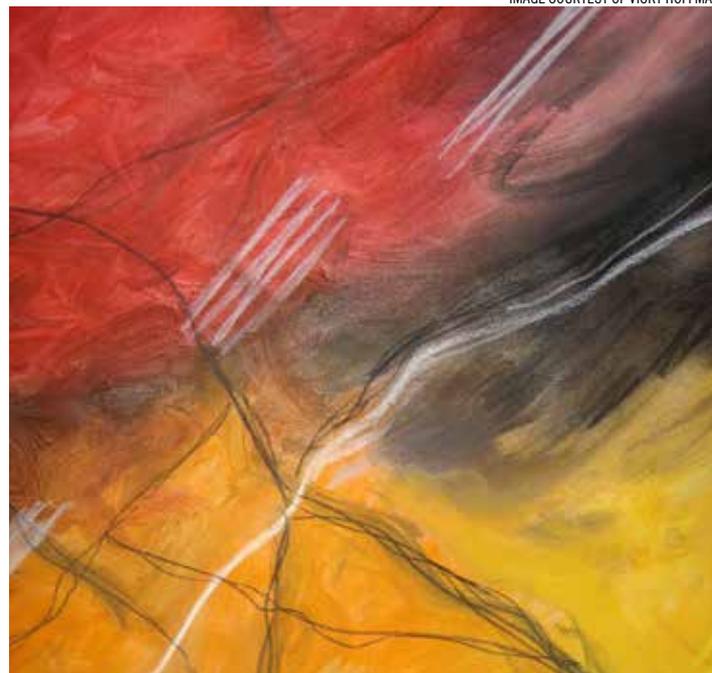
THE MOTHER CORN SHUCKERS LIVE A 9-piece acoustic bluegrass/Americana band based out of the Central Coast. **July 11**, 3:30-6:30 p.m. \$20-\$35. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BARREL ROOM CONCERT: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished Business specializes in the best and most popular music of all time: 1960s rock 'n' roll. **July 19**, 4-6 p.m. Free admission. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.

IMAGE COURTESY OF VICKY HOFFMAN



TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE

Marie Ramey Fine Art in Atascadero will host Exploring Abstract Art, a drawing and painting workshop, on Saturday, July 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. Local artist Vicky Hoffman will instruct participants of the class on abstract texture, shapes, color, and other elements. Admission is \$75, which includes all materials. Call (310) 993-1732 or visit marieramey.com for more details. The gallery is located at 5806 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

—C.W.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK: VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES

Concerts will be available to stream for free. Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. Free admission. visitatacadero.com. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, 461-5000.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY

Different acts every weekend. Fridays-Sundays, 1 p.m. Free. 805-226-8881. sculpterra.com. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

THE STEVIE NICKS ILLUSION

A tribute band to Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac. Check site for updates. **July 11**, 7:30 p.m. \$20. my805tix.com. Rava Wines + Events, 6785 Creston Rd., Paso Robles, 805-238-7282.

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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHOWER THE PEOPLE



Arts Briefs

County Arts Commission, Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation launch artist awards

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission announced it will award up to 20 stipends of \$500 each to local artists who have created work in response to circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arts Commission is partnering with the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation to present these awards “in recognition of artists’ essential social contributions,” according to a press release.

Back in May, the two organizations also partnered on a pandemic relief program to benefit county-based arts and culture nonprofits.

“The Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation is honored to participate in supporting our vibrant arts community in [Santa Barbara] County with these stipends,” Karen Kerns, vice chair of the foundation, said in the release.

As part of a lease agreement with the county, the Santa Barbara Bowl supports an arts subsidy fund, which designates \$0.50 per ticket sold toward arts- and culture-related grants.

Funds from the Bowl’s 2019 concert season will contribute to the new awards program, which was formed partly in response to a recent report from the state of California that indicated 85 percent of California-based artists have experienced work cancellations—performances, shows, commissions, freelance projects, etc.—since March this year.

“We believe that artists deserve to be paid for their labor. It is our hope that these honoraria will support the selected artists and help enable them to continue to create and connect,” Dennis Smitherman, chair of the County Arts Commission, said in the release.

The awards program is open to practicing artists and cultural practitioners (ages 18 and over) across various disciplines—landscape arts, literary arts, culinary arts, visual and performing arts, etc.—who reside in Santa Barbara County. Submissions are due by Aug. 3. Applications are available online at sbac.gov/artistsrespond.

Artworks submitted for consideration must have been created after March 13, 2020. Submissions will be evaluated on artistic merit, uniqueness of perspective, and relevance to the current context of the pandemic. Visit sbac.ca.gov/artistsrespond to find out more about the program.

Dana Adobe and Cultural Center’s new exhibit showcases paintings by the late Milford Zornes

FILE IMAGE COURTESY OF MILFORD ZORNES



The Dana Adobe and Cultural Center will open its upcoming paintings exhibition, *All About Trees*, on July 15. This group show will showcase about 20 to 25 different paintings and will remain on display at the center through Sept. 25. The exhibit’s special featured artist is the late regional painter Milford Zornes (1908-2008), known for his intricately detailed tree drawings and paintings.

Local artists chosen to join the show and have their works exhibited alongside Zornes’ competed in a juried selection process, judged by award-winning painter Jerry Smith, president of the Central Coast Watercolor Society. Call (805) 929-5679 or visit danaadobe.org to find out more about the exhibition. The Dana Adobe and Cultural Center is located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELVERHOJ MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART



SUMMER LOVIN’: June 20 would have marked the Elverhoj Museum’s eighth annual Solstice Sundowner Benefit Party, a fun gathering to celebrate the longest day of the year. Although the fundraiser was canceled this year, all of the event’s sponsors converted their sponsorship costs to general donations.

The soul in solstice

Elverhoj Museum of History and Art reflects on traditional Solstice Sundowner fundraiser over the years

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

In an alternate reality devoid of COVID-19, June 20 would have marked the eighth annual Solstice Sundowner Benefit Party—traditionally hosted by the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art in Solvang every summer to celebrate each year’s longest day.

Although the fundraiser was inevitably canceled this year, all of the event’s sponsors—including Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort, Santa Ynez Valley Real Estate Co., Montecito Bank and Trust, The Copenhagen House, and several other organizations—converted their sponsorship costs to general donations.

Esther Jacobsen Bates, executive director of the museum, was able to host a much smaller gathering with a handful of other Sundowner Committee members this year, compared to the benefit’s usual 150-plus attendees.

“I just couldn’t let the date go by without festivities to mark the occasion. And though we

Sunrise to sunset

For more info on the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art and its annual Solstice Sundowner Benefit Party, call (805) 686-1211 visit elverhoj.org.

didn’t have live music or a bonfire, it was special to share a sunset toast to reminisce about the fun we shared at the benefit parties through the years,” Bates said.

Reminiscing on the history of the fundraiser, over the course of almost a decade, Bates recalled the first event’s outcome as a particularly fond memory.

“The first year stands out for the work it took to create an intimate party space for 150 in the middle of a vineyard—and how beautiful and successful the event turned out to be,” Bates said. “There were so many toasts and smiles. For the committee, it was both hard work and lots of fun.”

Still, the museum proceeded with a bit of caution into its first Solstice Sundowner Benefit Party, Bates explained, as there was some initial apprehension within the event’s committee.

“We held our breath as we announced the party the first year, concerned there wouldn’t be enough interest to make it a success,” she added. “Were we wrong! The event quickly sold out.”



BURNIN’ FOR YOU: A large fire ring accommodates the lighting of the Sankt Hans Aften (St. John’s Eve) bonfire, a highlight of traditional Danish solstice festivities, during Solstice Sundowner Benefit events of the past.



LAKESIDE SEATS: The Solstice Sundowner Benefit Party is traditionally held in a private vineyard just outside of Solvang, which Esther Jacobsen Bates, Elverhoj Museum’s executive director, described as the perfect venue.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THERESA GINGRAS



HORSE SENSE: The Solvang Danish Days Foundation officially announced the cancellation of this year's festival due to COVID-19 concerns. IDK Events, Solvang's tourism marketing consultant, is currently planning a lineup of alternative events in the festival's place (the weekend of Sept. 18 through 20).

Seize the days

With the official cancellation of Solvang Danish Days, IDK Events proposes an alternative lineup of celebratory options

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

For Max Hanberg, owner of Solvang Shoe Store, the cancellation of this year's Solvang Danish Days Festival (originally scheduled to take place Sept. 18 through 20) is disappointing not only as a local business holder but also as a nearly lifelong fan of the event.

Fond memories of the town's beloved tradition are easy to recall for Hanberg, who grew up in Solvang and spent some of his youth working at Solvang Shoe Store, long before purchasing the shop as an adult.

"My earliest memories of Danish Days are doing gymnastics with Viggo Tarnow in Parking Lot 1, and the parade—marching in the Solvang School band with clogs and Danish outfits," Hanberg told the *Sun*.

Reflecting on later years, Hanberg remembers working the event, "moving park benches into Solvang from Cachuma Lake, on a semitruck and trailer, and then moving them back at the end of Danish Days," he said.

In 1995, when the Solvang City Council established the Solvang Danish Days Foundation—a nonprofit designated to formally plan and organize the town's Danish Days festivities each year—Hanberg joined Ken Andersen, Brenda Anderson, Hans Birkholm, Howard Petersen, David Rasmussen, and Henry Skytt as the group's original board members.

Alternative options

Check solvangusa.com for updates on IDK Events' alternative lineup of in-person and virtual events in place of this year's canceled Solvang Danish Days Festival (next year's festival is scheduled for Sept. 17 through 19, 2021).

This year's annual festival would have been the 84th. The board officially announced the event's cancellation on June 24, due to COVID-19 concerns.

"I'm definitely going to miss the camaraderie of all of the locals and friends that come out to enjoy Danish Days," said Hanberg, who currently serves as co-chair of the board.

Over the years, Hanberg said one of his favorite aspects of the festival is "seeing the preservation of all of our Danish traditions, from our rich heritage and culture."

Hanberg elaborated on the festival's cancellation in a formal press release from the Solvang Danish Days Foundation.

"With this announcement, we share the disappointment of our Santa Ynez Valley locals and the thousands of visitors who look forward to attending Solvang Danish Days each year," he said in the release. "We are currently planning our 2021 event and look forward to seeing everyone again then."

Although the release explained that none of the festival's traditional events will be held in town until next year's celebration, plans for alternative options to be hosted by the city in the festival's place are underway.

IDK Events, Solvang's official tourism marketing consultant, is currently rallying together Solvang merchants and business owners to collaborate on a safe, social-distance-accommodating lineup of events, some virtual and some in person.

"The planning [for the weekend of Sept. 18 through 20] is just beginning, and we'll have more to say soon," Scott Shuemake, president of IDK Events, told the *Sun*.

Through this collaboration with local businesses, IDK Events hopes to organize a selection of limited-seating, Danish-inspired dinner parties, baking classes, and other events in person, as well as a variety of virtual counterparts for those who wish to enjoy the festivities from their own homes.

Future updates on the proposed 2020 lineup will be posted in the months leading up to September online at Solvang's website (solvangusa.com). The city will also post updates through Facebook (facebook.com/solvangusa) and Instagram ([@solvangusa](https://instagram.com/solvangusa)) as well.

Wake up Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood when September ends—err, begins—at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



A GAME OF GIVE AND BAKE: IDK Events hopes to organize a selection of limited-seating, Danish-inspired dinner parties, baking classes, and other events in person, as well as a variety of virtual counterparts for those who wish to enjoy the festivities from their own homes.

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Hardboiled noir

Rolin Jones and Ron Fitzgerald created this origin story about gritty LA private detective Perry Mason (Matthew Rhys). Set in late 1931 and '32 during the Great Depression, the story takes place long before Mason becomes the defense attorney you know from the many novels by Erle Stanley Gardner, the popular TV series with Raymond Burr, and the made-for-TV movies. Mason's struggling to keep afloat when he's hired by attorney E.B. Jonathan (John Lithgow) to look into the kidnapping of a child, whose parents—Matthew (Nate Corddry) and Emily Dodson (Gayle Rankin)—have become the center of LAPD Detectives Holcomb (Eric Lange) and Ennis' (Andrew Howard) investigation. (eight 60-min. episodes)

Glen: By the time you read this, a third episode of HBO's eight-part miniseries will have been released, but so far we've only seen the first two, and they're thoroughly engaging. This is a much more intimate look at Mason with a lot more backstory than even the novels provide. We discover Mason fought in The Great War but left the service with a dishonorable "blue ticket," he struggles with his drinking, he's estranged from his wife and 9-year-old boy, and it's all he can do to hang on to his deceased parents' ramshackle two-cow dairy farm. He is, however, an insightful and tenacious detective working in a corrupt city filled with unsavory Hollywood players, tycoons rich from an oil boom, a shady LAPD, and the impending

1932 summer Olympic Games on the horizon. The series' whole vibe is reminiscent of Roman Polanski's 1974 neo-noir *Chinatown*, with Mason a stand-in for Jack Nicholson's character Jake Gittes. As in *Chinatown*, big changes are afoot in LA, with money to be made. Part of the story also involves radio evangelist Sister Alice (Tatiana Maslany), whose Radiant Assembly of God is capitalizing on Prohibition and the Women's Suffrage movements. There are a lot of complicated machinations at work in the city, and maybe, just maybe, this child kidnapping is about more than a ransom payout.

Anna: Mason is a tough nut to crack, and he also isn't interested in leaving something be just because someone—or everyone—is telling him to. I will say that HBO should throw a content warning up before episode one: There's a pretty gruesome depiction of a deceased child that's rough to see. However, that kidnapping and murder setup is Mason's next obsession. He knows better than to trust anyone or hold anyone beyond the veil of suspicion and because of that, he finds the lives surrounding this little lost child are not as innocent as they may first seem. Rhys is a great choice for the brooding detective, somewhat mysterious but really just tragically flawed, a man who can't conquer the inner demons that haunt him. The noir nature of the series is moody and bleak, the glitz and glam have been rubbed off of Los Angeles, and the war and depression have taken their toll. The showmanship and glitter of Sister Alice's performances hide the real inner workings of the church, and I can't wait to see where the series takes that storyline. I'm hooked.

PERRY MASON

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **HBO**



TRUTH SEEKER: LA private detective Perry Mason (Matthew Rhys) is hired to look into a child kidnapping but discovers deep veins of corruption, in *Perry Mason*, HBO's new eight-part origin-story miniseries about the man who will one day become a crafty criminal defense attorney.

very least some shady business going on. There's definitely something up with Sister Alice and her church, the murdered kid's parents aren't looking great either, and everyone seems to have secrets to hide. The introspection and Mason himself and the greater story of the case he's trying to crack are all effective devices to keep the story rolling. After watching what he went through in the war, it's no wonder Mason hides behind a tough exterior and a bottle of booze. I can't wait for more episodes of this series! ○

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

TV Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BBC



A MAN DIVIDED: Uhtred of Bebbanburg (Alexander Dreyfuss) plays a Saxon noble kidnapped and raised by the Viking Danes, dividing his loyalties between the two factions fighting to control what will become England, in the Netflix series *The Last Kingdom*.

THE LAST KINGDOM

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2015-present**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Beginning in 866 A.D. and covering more than four decades through the fourth season, the series follows Uhtred of Bebbanburg (Alexander Dreyfuss), a Saxon noble captured by the Danes as a child and raised first as a slave and then as a son. He becomes a man with a foot in each of these competing factions that wish to control what is now England.

Based on Bernard Cornwell's series of novels, *The Saxon Stories*, England is divided into seven kingdoms when the tale begins. But the invading Viking Danes want to rule it all, so they sack York and make their way toward other Saxon strongholds, eventually cornering King Alfred (David Dawson), who becomes England's remaining hope of not being overrun by the Danes.

If you're a fan of medieval history mixing fictional characters with historical fact, and sword-and-sandal epics, you'll most likely enjoy this well acted, written, and filmed series. I'm just about through season one and will most definitely keep going! (36 one-hour episodes)

—Glen

LENOX HILL

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

Netflix's new series follows four doctors at New York City's renowned Lenox Hill Hospital—two are neurosurgeons who take on the tough cases that have been turned away elsewhere, one is an emergency room physician, and the fourth is a chief resident OB-GYN, the latter of whom are both preparing for the births of their children. It's medical drama meets reality, and unlike *ER* or *Grey's Anatomy*, the stakes here are real.

Released in eight episodes with a special ninth added addressing the pandemic, we follow the doctors through not just their cases but their personal and professional lives: securing funds for research and equipment, improving patient outcomes, and connecting with the people entrusting them with their lives. Anyone who loves medical dramas will love this real-life version. (nine 48- to 53-min. episodes) ○

—Anna

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE KEITH AND NETFLIX



HIGH STAKES: Four doctors, including neurosurgeon David Langer, navigate the realities of running a renowned hospital in New York City. Real-life cases, surgeries, wins, and losses happen on screen as we watch the day-to-day lives of those on the front line of medical care in *Lenox Hill*, screening on Netflix.

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SENSORY DISCOVERY: It was just a day in the lab when former Cal Poly chemistry student Katerina Axelsson unlocked the wine flavor matrix, leading her to launch the wine industry into the future.

Sensory breakthrough

Tastry takes small wineries to the next level, while making the Central Coast the epicenter of wine innovation

BY BETH GIUFFRE

Katerina Axelsson was tinkering in a wine lab when she unlocked the flavor matrix for wine.

She's always been fascinated by human biology—particularly biotech—and relocated from Southern California to Cal Poly to pursue a chemistry degree, before getting a master's degree in bioinformatics.

So naturally, data science professor Alexander Dekhtyar, who oversaw Axelsson's master's program, canceled the rest of his classes for the day when young Axelsson presented him with technology that could change the way we drink wine.

The big discovery came about five years ago, when Axelsson was in her last year at Cal Poly. She worked at a custom grape crush operation to pay for college, and between making quality control chemistry samples, she came up with a hypothesis about the subjective nature of wine. It could be better for consumers and wineries with a correct formula that accounted for the sensory aspects of wine and an individual consumer's tastes. She ran her own experiments late at night, after work. Within a year and a half, she developed a completely new chemistry methodology for tasting wine.

"I was trying to see what I could predict from that chemistry," she said.

That half-hour meeting with Dekhtyar turned into a four-hour meeting. He invited two other professors into the office. After arguing ideas and drawing diagrams on the board, a partnership with professor Dekhtyar was born.

"I realized later that the data is so rich. Like for one bottle of wine, I have so much data that you don't need to use traditional recommenders that aren't as good," she said.

Axelsson, now 28, is the founder and CEO of Tastry: a sensory science company with a patent pending on artificial intelligence (AI) technology. The technology has been applauded by leaders in entrepreneurship and technology, and seems to be the logical next step in wine. With about

30 employees now, Tastry's technology is already sought after. But Axelsson wanted to stay in SLO County, and she wants to help small to medium wineries grow with her new technology. She already has thousands onboard.

In April of this year, Axelsson and her Tastry team launched BottleBird, an app designed to pair wine enthusiasts with artisan wines using Tastry's sensory science. The app provides personalized recommendations and locations where the wines can be purchased. By generating chemical fingerprints of consumer goods, Tastry matches products to an individual's preferences.

I tried it out, downloading the app and taking a 30-second survey on my phone.

Do I like the smell of mushrooms and tobacco?

Do I like the taste of green pepper, vinegar, and black coffee?

Bottles appeared with the percentages of match to my taste preferences. There were quite a few I had already tried and loved. I suppose it's OK to admit, even after the wine snob movie *Sideways*, that I should, apparently, be drinking more merlot. I can also modify my search by price, style, taste, occasion, varietal, pairing, and region.

"Most recommenders are using collaborative filtering," Axelsson said at a recent lunch at Novo in San Luis Obispo.

Amazon and Netflix use collaborative filtering, she explained, which is great for viewing, but doesn't work for something like wine. She said the Tastry method looks at wines each individual likes and dislikes because wine behavior is very different from the way we buy other things.

"I know that if I go out with my female friend to dinner, and even though we're in the same demographic and have the same income and like the same music and buy the same toaster oven that she could love the oaky, buttery, chardonnay and I could totally hate it, and there's nothing in the data that could predict that," she explained.

Through strategic partnerships, Tastry developed the AVEC (Artisan Vintners Expanded

Local tech

Visit Tastry—a SLO-based sensory science company—at tastry.com, or download the free BottleBird app at bottlebird.com, Google Play, or the App Store.

To learn more about Tastry's PAVE (Protecting Artisan Vintners through E-commerce) initiative visit tastry.com/pave.

Clubs) program to provide boutique wineries with the opportunity to immediately expand the geographic coverage of their wine club to 44 states. Most small and micro wineries in the U.S. have limited geographic coverage for their clubs due to the costs associated with state regulations. Once a winery has signed on with Tastry, they can opt in to the AVEC program, which provides access to online retailers such as BottleTribe to fill their immediate and long-term need of expanding their existing wine club programs.

Locals can currently find wines from Lompoc wineries Kessler-Haak and Turiya, among many other Central Coast wineries, available through BottleTribe.

"As a result of customized programs and solutions we have developed to meet the needs of artisan wineries seeking DTC [direct to consumer] sales, we are experiencing greater than 100 percent month-over-month growth," Axelsson said. "It's the future. It really is."

She added that wineries that were typically slow to adapt to new technologies are now seeing it as a necessity. The timing is just right, Axelsson said.

Another Tastry initiative, PAVE (Protecting Artisan Vintners through E-commerce), connects boutique wine brands with new customers. Tolosa Winery in SLO is

one of many Central Coast wineries involved in the program and is benefiting from higher sales.

Industry-wide, wine sales rose 25 percent during March and DTC sales from wineries rose by 18 percent, according to Sovos ShipCompliant, an alcohol compliance software company. However, larger wineries with national distribution were the ones benefiting. With Tastry's PAVE program, artisan wineries no longer have to rely solely on tasting room and wine club sales, Axelsson said.

"At the end of the day, it's all about helping people find the wines they're going to love and helping wineries find the people that will love their wine," she said.

Tastry's chief business officer said decoding the flavor matrix was the core of Axelsson's discovery, and it was something that other tech companies had unsuccessfully tried to do.

"They didn't realize that problem that needed solving," Axelsson said.

Axelsson has always been an entrepreneur, and modestly describes herself as a "cerebral child." She immigrated from Russia when she was 8 and grew up in Southern California. At the age of 10, she invented a game complete with detailed ledgers where she and her friends would simulate the buying and selling of goods. In high school, she was the president of the chess club and a state champion in speech and debate. While completing her bachelor's in chemistry, she actively participated in the Vines to Wines, Biomimicry, and Entrepreneurship clubs at Cal Poly. A foodie, Axelsson said that one of her favorite dishes in SLO is La Locanda's lasagna alla Bolognese made with béchamel sauce.

So the next time you head to the store for a bottle or two, check out the app, take the little quiz—you might find your perfect wine. ○

Contributing writer Beth Giuffre knows her taste buds. Send foodie ideas to bgiuffre@newtimeslo.com.
SCREENSHOT FROM BOTTLEBIRD.COM



POP QUIZ: Wine lovers of all levels can get acquainted with Tastry's artificial intelligence through the BottleBird app. The results of a quick quiz reveal the app user's flavor profiles and leads them to wines the AI says they'll enjoy.

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\$2295 3943 Hillview Rd 4+2, Orcutt single stry just remodeled hm w/RV access, wd lam flrs/crpt in bdrms, L/R w/decor F/P, F/R, kit w/granite ctrs, ss appls, mstr ste w/lg walk-in shower, 2car det grg w/ltry hkups, on-demand wtr htr, yd w/grdnr, no pets

\$2295 2718 Niverth Pl 4+3, Classics 1stry hm with front bdrm/bath, open flrplan, 2x F/PS, F/R, L/R, lg mstr ste, ldry rm hkups, 2car grg, low maint yd, grdnr, no pets

\$2095 207 Valley View Dr 3+2, Orcutt 1stry hm w/all new wood lam flrs, fresh paint thru-out, ceiling fans, F/R, Sunroom w/fireplace, 2car grg, lg yd, no pets

\$1595 144 George Lane 1+1, Orcutt Granny Unit w/priv entry, full kit, fridge, wd/tile flrs, all basic utils incl, w/d hkups, 1 alloc pkg, 1 cat considered w/addtl dep

\$1395 4555 Glines Ave 0+1 (Studio), Orcutt studio w/priv entr, new paint/flrg thru-out, priv cover'd patio, w/d hkups, kit w/fridge, built-in desk, lots of storage, all basic utils inc w/internet access, no pets

Call 805-928-4320 for additional Santa Maria houses and condos.

LOMPOC VALLEY (805) 735-2492

\$2800 3042 Courtney Drive - 3 + 2, Beautiful Mesa Oaks home situated on picturesque, oak studded half acre, elegant formal sunken living room and a formal dining room both finished with crown molding, well laid out country kitchen opens to cozy family room that has gas log fireplace with remote, large picture window, kitc has butcher block, upgraded applic, lg mstr bdrm w/walk-in clst and patio slider to bckyd, RV prking, 3car attch grg, lawn care incl, sm pet considered.

\$2200 233 Huntington Place - 4 + 2.5, Southside spacious tri-level, Crestview Terrace hm is ideal for commuters exiting Hwy 1 & Hwy 245, features lg frml L/R w/vaulted ceilings, F/P bordered by antique wd mantle, kit is open to lg dining area w/French doors leading to back yard, all stainless steel applic, lot of cntr space & pantry, 2car attch grg, yd care incl, pets neg.

\$2100 1311 Crown Circle - 4 + 2.5, Beautiful newer 2015 2stry hm in gated comm, home is backing up to park area, some rms facing south hills, 2car finished grg, ldry rm u/s, located 8 miles to nearest VAFB gate or to beach, pet friendly w/dep, yd care incl, no section 8.

\$1850 505 Mars - 3 + 2, Single family South Vandenberg Village home with large family room, all newer paint and flooring throughout, includes 2 car garage, yardcare included, no pets.

\$1450 207 Village Circle - 2 + 2, Comfortable townhouse on second floor but one level, 1car grg, living room has fireplace, vaulted ceilings and open to dining area and kitchen, living and dining rooms have slider to balcony, kitchen has garden window with all appliances with separate closet with washer and dryer, tile flooring throughout, carpets in bedrooms only, pool and spa included, gated community, no pets.

\$1250 112 S. "M" Street #B - 2 + 1, South side apartments, spacious bedrooms, good size living room, dining area off kitchen with slider to fenced back patio, 1 detch grg and Indry on site, apartments are freshly painted, with new carpets and new plumbing fixtures, refrigerator included, no pets please, water is paid.

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PREFERRED PROPERTIES



729 Laguna Avenue Santa Maria

Located in Southeast Santa Maria, this charming home is ready and waiting for a new family! Built in 1953, this affordable property offers 3BR/1BA, 1080 SF of living space w/many updates. Inside you will find newer tiled flooring, updated eat-in kitchen w/tile countertops, Bathroom was remodeled in 2016 with new vanity, new tiled floor & tile tub enclosure. Home has dual pane windows making it energy-efficient. There is an indoor laundry room, large fenced rear yard w/patio & lemon tree. Lot is 6098 SQ FT. Great for commuters with easy access to the freeway. Close to Allen Hancock College and just minutes from shopping & Medical Facilities. **\$330,000 (LA729)**



4751 Titan, Santa Maria

This exceptional home is well maintained! Easily everything you need and more! The kitchen features oak cabinets, Corian counter tops, tile flooring, pantry, stainless steel appliances, and opens to the great room with built-ins.. 2 masters - 1 with built-in cabinets and 1 with private entry and fireplace. 2 sides of the property have block wall fence, covered patio, and RV parking. Near Dunlap school. This home is perfect for all of your toys, at home gym, workshop, whatever your heart desires with a 4 car detached garage and 2 car garage attached.. Possibly an ADU? You must check with the county! This is a must see!!! **\$529,990 (T1475)**

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