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AT THE MOVIES



Greyhound: Tight thriller [26]



STATE OF THE UNION

Trade unions provide opportunities for local people and build tomorrow's skilled workers, but they say the community fails to recognize those efforts [8]

BY MALEA MARTIN

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Linda Rodriguez, Sonographer, Radiologic Technologist, Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital

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JULY 16 - JULY 23, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 20

Building trades union membership is lower than it was 30 years ago, with about 15 to 18 percent of construction workers unionized in California today versus about 25 percent in the 1990s. Local trades unions attribute the decline to several factors, which include contractors and municipalities that don't want to hire union labor as well as an education system that doesn't encourage students to enter the trades. Staff Writer Malea Martin talks to trades unions and others about it for this week's cover story [8].

This week, you can also learn about why Lompoc filed a lawsuit against the Mission Hills CSD over a 20-year-old contract [6], one photographer's webinars and how the pandemic impacted his bottom line [24], the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission's ask for pandemic artwork [25], and fresh catch from the Pacific Ocean [28].



LEARNING THE TRADE: Manuel Iniguez, a second-year apprentice at the local electrical workers union IBEW 413, gives a thumbs up during an exothermic welding lab.

Camillia Lanham
editor

Cover photo courtesy of IBEW 413 > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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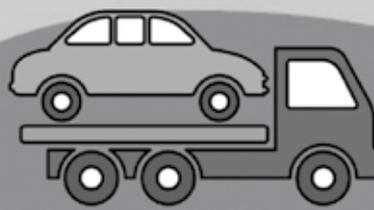
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Political Watch

• On July 9, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced that the state would hire 858 more firefighters and six California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews through October, according to a press release from his office. "Even in the midst of a global pandemic, the state of California hasn't taken its eye off the threat of wildfire," Newsom said according to the release. "Even in a challenging budget climate, we have undertaken major action and made significant investments to fortify our state and help fight increasingly severe wildfires." Over the past year and a half, California has also made investments in wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response. "Cal Fire completed the last of its 35 emergency fuels management projects in May, making 90,000 acres safer ahead of wildfire season and protecting 200 vulnerable communities," the release stated. Cal Fire also recently received more helicopters and airplanes, and the state "won critical safety victories from PG&E to make the utility [company] more accountable to the state and ensure wildfire safety and reliability are top priorities."

• After the **Small Business Administration** released new data on Paycheck Protection Program loans, **U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced on July 8 that assistance to California's 24th Congressional District totaled more than \$1 billion and helped retain more than 150,000 jobs on the Central Coast. "This data illustrates how federal resources provided by the CARES Act are being used to preserve jobs and provide businesses on the Central Coast with a safety net as we grapple with economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19," Carbajal said in a press release from his office. "However, this data only represents 15 percent of the total number of loans. We need more complete data, including information on how economically disadvantaged business owners have fared." The Paycheck Protection Program was established by the CARES Act to provide aid to small businesses and organizations that took a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. The loan is forgivable if certain criteria are met, such as putting a large percentage of the loan toward maintaining payroll.

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) voiced his support for the Great American Outdoors Act in a July 12 Facebook post. The act aims to protect public lands and national parks. "This is an important bill to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund so our parks and public lands are preserved for the next generation to inherit," Carbajal wrote in the post. Introduced in the Senate by a bipartisan majority, the act would also address a backlog of maintenance needs at national parks. According to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition website, during "this past fiscal year 2020, only \$495 million was appropriated to LWCF—far short of full funding, and yet the highest amount in 15 years." The Great American Outdoors Act would provide the full funding appropriation of \$900 million each year for LWCF.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** declared July as "California for All Small Business Month," according to a July 8 release on the governor's website. A product of Newsom's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery, the new campaign is encouraging Californians to #ShopSafeShopLocal by helping small businesses in their communities operate safely during the pandemic. The state is partnering with "industry-leading companies, such as Nextdoor, Google, and UPS, to connect California's small business owners with critical tools and resources," which can be found on business.ca.gov, "to help them adapt to new consumer and market demands and create safer shopping experiences by improving their online presence," the release states. ○



TESTING, TESTING: Santa Barbara County recently announced changes to COVID-19 testing requirements, re-focusing on those who the county believes need to get tested.

County shifts COVID-19 testing recommendations, asks cities for help

At a Santa Barbara County Public Health Department press conference held on July 10, county officials asked only certain county residents to seek COVID-19 testing at community based testing sites.

"In order to ensure the community has access to testing, we have heavily promoted the broad use of these sites," Nick Clay, Santa Barbara Emergency Medical Services Agency director, said at the conference. "This has resulted in the sites being booked to capacity with no immediate availability. Consequently, we are seeing a trend of high numbers of missed appointments. This is incredibly frustrating, as we were unable to test those who were at risk, because the appointments were not immediately available."

This issue, combined with the rise of cases, prompted the county to adjust its messaging from a "want to get tested" model to a "need to get tested" message, Clay said.

Clay explained the criteria for those who need to get tested. He asked members of the public to consider the following questions when deciding whether they should get tested: Do you work in a high risk environment where you have frequent interaction with the public? Do you live or work in a congregate setting, like a licensed care facility or a shelter? Are you an essential worker? Has a health care provider or public health professional advised you to get tested? Have you had close contact with a person confirmed with COVID-19? Do you have symptoms of COVID-19?

"If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you should consider being tested," Clay said. "Close contact is not a passing in the grocery store. ... It requires four elements to have a close contact, all of which must be present: contact

for a duration of over 15 minutes with a COVID positive individual while neither of you were wearing a face covering, that has occurred within 6 feet of each other in an enclosed space."

County Board of Supervisors Chair Gregg Hart also spoke during the conference about enforcement of social distancing and mask wearing in businesses. He said the county is "working directly with the businesses that folks have complained about and said there are issues with proximity of patrons in particular businesses."

For businesses that "continuously and egregiously violate those standards," Hart said county counsel is working with local city attorneys to use cease and desist letters as a business enforcement tool.

At the city of Santa Maria's July 7 meeting, City Attorney Thomas Watson expressed concerns over the county's request, and voiced frustration over a lack of COVID-19 resources coming from the county to Santa Maria.

"If you're asking us to form citations, I guess my first question would be how many public health nurses have been sent up here, and how many other county resources have been sent to assist us?" he said.

Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso responded to these inquiries stating that "education and enforcement goes hand in hand."

"I'm just sharing that we have codes, and we have health officer orders, so not only are we needing to [educate], but we also need to do our enforcement piece," Do-Reynoso said. "There needs to be a coordinated effort, whether that be a hub where the city can be aware of all the different efforts going on in Santa Maria—I think that would be a really good strategy as well."

—Malea Martin

Lompoc City Council approves pay raises for police officers

Amid nationwide and local calls for redistributing funds from police departments, the city of Lompoc recently approved pay raises for its officers.

During its meeting on July 7, the City Council approved an agreement with the Lompoc Police Officers' Association that includes a 2 percent salary increase for the union's members.

NEWS continued page 4

Weekend Weather

KSBY NEWS

Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist



Thursday



COASTAL > High 76 Low 55
INLAND > High 83 Low 51

Friday



COASTAL > High 76 Low 56
INLAND > High 86 Low 53

Saturday



COASTAL > High 76 Low 55
INLAND > High 85 Low 53

Sunday



COASTAL > High 74 Low 56
INLAND > High 85 Low 53

Very seasonal pattern with night and morning clouds and afternoon clearing with a breeze. Near average daytime highs.

NEWS from page 3

According to a staff report for the meeting, the city is also increasing its medical contributions to the officers.

This agreement, which will remain in place through June 2021, replaces a previous one that expired at the end of June. According to the staff report, the agreement will cost the city \$126,190 over the next year.

The council last approved a pay raise for officers in its 2017-19 budget. In exchange for this raise, the police department agreed to hold three officer positions vacant.

Following the passage of the 1 percent sales tax measure earlier this year, the council decided to again fund those positions. But as the *Sun* has previously reported, the city—which pays its officers less than surrounding jurisdictions—has had a hard time filling openings within its police department.

This increased investment in the city's police department is taking place while advocacy groups across the country are pushing for changes in how police departments are funded and operated following the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minnesota.

During the meeting, resident Shawndel Malcolm urged the council to find funding in the police department's budget to provide body cameras for the city's police officers.

"I know that in our last City Council meeting, there was the issue of cost, which is a little alarming to me that we are looking at the cost of body cams instead of looking at the people that it's going to protect," Malcolm said.

While the council didn't respond to Malcolm's request, Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne proposed that the council consider resolution declaring systematic racism as a public health crisis. Councilmembers Gilda Cordova and Dirk Starbuck backed the mayor's proposal to place this on a future agenda.

Osborne said she plans to work with local health organizations and the recently formed Building BLOCK (Black & Latinx Offering Community & Knowledge) to identify what local issues exist and how the problems can be addressed. She said the resolution will include actionable steps, rather than a hollow proclamation that acknowledges systematic racism is a problem, but doesn't do anything about it.

"I'd like for the council to consider a resolution that systematic racism is a public health crisis," Osborne said. "By us partnering with our public health facility in the community, find ways to address it, and start providing solutions to our community."

—Zac Ezzone

Public health, agricultural officials discuss COVID-19 mitigation

At the Santa Maria City Council's July 7 meeting, County Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso presented findings from a demographic study conducted by the county that compares Santa Maria COVID-19 cases to those outside of Santa Maria.

"We were able to denote that, countywide, 18 percent of our cases as of June 11 represent ag workers," Do-Reynoso said. "Whereas in Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and Orcutt, that number hovers around 26 percent."

Do-Reynoso first presented the study findings to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors back on June 16. Given recent concerns in the community about the number of Santa Maria agricultural workers affected by the disease, Do-Reynoso spoke about some of the county's recent public health efforts to address this disparity.

"We have partnered with community members to increase distribution of face coverings, [and] of health information," she said. "We've also partnered up with our employers on preventative measures. Some of that includes with growers on the prevention messaging and the ag commissioner, I know, has distributed N95s."

Do-Reynoso said the county has also met with growers and "had conversations with them about the outreach that's needed, about the workplace adherence[s] that would discourage clustering, like having more bathrooms, or more water stations, more shade, and offering time to do temperature screening and symptoms checking."

She said public health is also working with "community partners on the destigmatization of COVID-19 once a worker has been infected, and then always thinking about how we partner to address the income replacement."

The council also heard from Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties President Claire Wineman, who talked about what the farming community is doing to address these issues.

Wineman said the commission has partnered with the Western Growers and the California Strawberry Commission to develop "outreach materials in multiple languages and multiple formats," that are targeted toward both domestic and guest workers.

Wineman also said that they are continuing to "provide outreach on the county's availability of isolation housing to essential employees, including farmworkers, and we've increased our outreach to employers and employees on safety considerations during non-work hours, especially before holiday weekends."

—Malea Martin

Planning Commission approves cannabis project on Williams Ranch

A cannabis project located about 2 miles west of Buellton is moving forward after the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission rejected an appeal filed by a nearby vineyard operator.

Last August, John Wagner of Peake Ranch Winery appealed the county Planning Department's decision to approve a land use permit for the Castlerock Family Farms cannabis project. In a unanimous decision, the commission rejected the appeal and allowed the project to move forward.

Attorney Courtney Taylor, who represented Wagner and the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis in the appeal, claimed the project shouldn't be approved because the odor it and other proposed cannabis farms could generate would be detrimental to the nearby vineyards and wine tasting rooms. Taylor said that for most wineries, tasting rooms are their main source of revenue.

Blair Pence of Pence Vineyards and Winery—which is located across Highway 246 from the project site—said that these odors could prevent customers from returning. Pence is one of the founders of the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, which has filed multiple lawsuits over the county's approval of cannabis farms in the Santa Ynez Valley.

"If we cannot effectively sell wine in our tasting rooms, we are done," Pence said. "It is simple logic that wine aficionados will not return if the smell of pot ruins the experience for them."

But most commissioners said odors aren't as much of an issue in this case. The project includes the cultivation of 23 acres of cannabis on a nearly 700-acre ranch. The closest tasting room to the grow site—which is Pence's—is about 2,000 feet away.

Troy White with TW Land Planning and Development—who represented the project applicants during the meeting—said no onsite



APPROVED: The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission recently dismissed the appeal of a cannabis project in Buellton.

drying will take place, which is generally when the most odors are generated.

The project is located on land leased on the Williams Ranch, which is otherwise used for cattle ranching and grazing. White said the Williams family has ranched in the valley for generations and has routinely leased out about 25 acres of its land to row crop farmers for additional income. This proposed situation is no different, other than the crop being grown.

"The supplemental income stream associated with this farming has been and continues to be an important source of revenue for the Williams family," White said.

While the commission unanimously approved the project, Commissioner Dan Blough acknowledged that the final decision will likely rest with the Board of Supervisors just as other projects the commission has either rejected or approved.

"I'm not concerned about my decision today because I know it's going to be appealed," Blough said.

—Zac Ezzone

Santa Maria, Lompoc to reopen aquatic centers

The cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc each recently announced plans to reopen their respective aquatic centers, with modifications.

Santa Maria's Paul Nelson Aquatic Center is slated to open on July 20, though only partially and in accordance with county public health guidelines.

"The rescheduling is going to look completely different than we've had in years past," Dennis Smitherman, recreation services manager, told the *Sun*.

The pool, Smitherman said, will offer lap swimming with one swimmer to a lane. Swimmers will need to reserve their lane ahead of time, with more information coming soon at cityofsantamaria.org.

The city's also finding ways to offer swim lessons in a socially distanced manner.

"This year how it's going to look is, if the child doesn't know how to swim, a family member or someone who lives in the same house as the child needs to be in the pool with them," Smitherman said. "Then our instructor will be on deck working with probably three families, separated by 6 feet."

The aquatic center will also provide some fitness programming. Activities like

water aerobics, Smitherman said, can be done while following 6-foot-apart guidelines.

"One of the ways we thought about doing [fitness programming] is teaching classes like stand-up paddleboarding, where you can still be 6 feet away. Everything we're going to be doing will be small-group settings," Smitherman said. "We're trying to think of innovative and creative ways to utilize the pool to the full extent without compromising any of the regulations and requirements we need to follow for everyone's safety."

The city of Santa Maria originally proposed a budget that would have kept the pool closed until January 2021. But after community members spoke out against the closure, City Council members passed the budget with the stipulation that the pool reopen as soon as possible, funded by money from delayed capital projects.

The Lompoc Aquatic Center was slated to open on July 13, according to a Lompoc Recreation Division press release.

"The Lompoc Recreation Division is concerned about the safety and well-being of our patrons and program participants. To provide an enjoyable and safe experience, new procedures have been implemented for our programs," the release said.

Like the Nelson pool, the Lompoc Aquatic Center will operate on a reservation-only model for lap swimming, with reservations available at cityoflompoc.com/recreation.

The pool will also phase in some water exercise classes, swim lessons "for levels 5 and above," adult swim lessons, "parent and tot" lessons, and private swim lessons, according to the press release.

Programs and features that will not be available during the summer at the Lompoc Aquatic Center include recreational swim, group swim lessons for levels 1 to 4, day camps, pool rentals, waterslides, AquaPlay structure, and Aquatic Center Splash Passes, though lap swim passes will remain available.

In a July 13 press conference, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced new restrictions for counties that are on the state's watch list, such as Santa Barbara County. The restrictions require that fitness centers close their indoor operations. It's unclear how the new orders will impact pools with indoor elements.

As of July 13, Lompoc Aquatic Center confirmed that the pool was open for reservation-only lap swimming, and the center is actively monitoring how the new restrictions affect its operations. ○

—Malea Martin



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Drawing the lines

Lompoc sues Mission Hills Community Services District over 20-year old annexation agreement

BY ZAC EZZONE

Lompoc, a city looking for new housing, is taking legal action to try to move forward a development that city officials said is being held up by a 20-year-old agreement.

In 2000, the city of Lompoc and the Mission Hills Community Services District entered into an annexation agreement that states the land slated for a roughly 400-unit housing development would become part of the city's jurisdiction. However, because the city lacked the adequate infrastructure at the time, the district agreed to provide water and wastewater services to the homes built.

But, in a lawsuit filed on July 2, the city claims that the district is holding up the build out of the Burton Ranch housing development by not being able to fulfill its end of the deal.

"The Burton Ranch Project is now at the point where water and wastewater services are needed; however, [the district] does not have and, despite representations to the contrary, never had, the infrastructure and capacity to provide water and wastewater services to the Burton Ranch Project," the lawsuit alleges.

In 2007, the developers behind the project and the district entered into an agreement that required the developers to pay for the infrastructure upgrades necessary to the district's system. Jon Martin—who is the general partner for Harris Grade Partners LP, which owns 32 acres of the Burton Ranch area—said that in exchange for funding these upgrades, the developers would receive credits to offset connection fees and other costs the district charges.

But this initial agreement has since expired, and they've been unable to reach a new one. Martin said that a few years ago, the district completed a study that established a new fee structure that removed the credits the developers were set to receive and increase the proposed connection fee amount.

Martin said that under this proposal, the development would not have been economically feasible.



PURSuing LITIGATION: The city of Lompoc is suing Mission Hills Community Services District over a 20-year-old annexation agreement.

"Once that agreement expired ... they said, 'Agreement is over, here's the new deal,' and the new deal killed the project," Martin said.

With this stalemate preventing the project from moving forward, Derek Hansen, executive vice president of The Towbes Group—another firm involved in the project—said the developers are hoping to instead receive water and wastewater service through the city, which would make the project economically feasible and allow it to move forward.

Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne said that's all the city wants as well. About 30 percent of the city's housing stock is designated as low-income, which is by far the highest percentage in the county. The city needs homes at other income levels that people can move into in order to open up the low-income housing for other people who need it, she said.

Hansen said the Burton Ranch development consists of more than 400 single and multifamily housing units at price ranges suited to various income levels. The addition of these homes to the city's stagnant housing supply could help entice new businesses to the city that could provide jobs.

Although at the time the annexation agreement was signed the city couldn't provide water and wastewater services to the development, it's since developed the infrastructure to do so as the north end of Lompoc has grown over the last

20 years. Osborne said the city filed the lawsuit with the aim to amend the agreement or scrap it altogether, so that the city can provide these services and allow the homes to be built.

"Standing in the way of building housing at a time when California needs housing is an undue burden on our community," Osborne said.

As of July 10, the Mission Hills Community Services District (CSD) hadn't filed a response

meeting in April 2019. During this meeting, Walt Fasold, who serves on the CSD's board of directors, said the district is ready and willing to provide services to the development.

Before he spoke, Fasold passed out a six-page letter to the council that laid out concerns the district had with the development that its members believed needed to be worked out. Additionally, the letter names improvements the district has made to its water and wastewater infrastructure to support the Burton Ranch development.

"We as a district fully support the effort of moving the development forward," Fasold said. "We don't see ourselves as a delay."

But the city and the developers disagree with this assessment. If

the city is successful in its attempt to take over the rights to provide the development's water and wastewater services, Martin said some environmental studies would have to take place. But, depending on how long the court battle takes, he said he's hoping the developers can start construction next year.

"We want to get the project going," Martin said. "We're in the business of providing housing. We just want to get our homes built." ○

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

'Standing in the way of building housing at a time when California needs housing is an undue burden on our community.'

—Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne

to the city's lawsuit. District General Manager Loch Dreizler said the CSD would meet with its attorney soon to decide how best to respond.

Dreizler noted that the 2000 annexation agreement remains in place. He added that the developers and the district had a "can and will serve" letter in place that stated the district would provide water and wastewater services to the development. But the letter expired last year, and another one has not been agreed upon.

This issue was last publicly discussed when the city approved a five-year extension to the Burton Ranch development plan during its City Council

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'Anti-union animus'

Building trades unions provide specialized training, negotiate living wages, and create local opportunity—but the community, they say, is unsupportive

BY MALEA MARTIN

Initially, the pressure to go to college overshadowed Santa Maria High School 2016 graduate Lizbeth Hernandez's true passion.

She attended Fresno State University after high school, but, "It didn't work out," she said. "I knew college wasn't going to be great for me. It just didn't seem that I wanted it."

Now, she's an apprentice at the local electrician's union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 413.

Hernandez first became interested in the trades after participating in agricultural mechanics competitions in high school. This experience led her to speak with Brian Gregory, membership development representative at IBEW 413, at a career fair her senior year.

"It seemed right," Hernandez said of joining the union. "But I was caught up in the whole,

the percentage has stagnated around 15 to 18 percent, as compared with 25 percent in 1990.

One might assume that the overall decline and stagnancy of statewide union building trades reflects less interest in the union itself. But according to Lopez, the opposite is true, at least locally.

"There's never, in the 25 years that I've been in a trade, been a shortage of people who want to get into the building trades," Lopez said. "That's not what the problem is."

In Lopez's opinion, the problem is that "this community, Santa Barbara County as a collective, doesn't support us."

Gregory calls it "anti-union animus": a negative attitude toward the organized labor movement, especially from the people who want wages set without union interference.

Union advocates like Lopez and Gregory

to honor negotiated wages. According to Lopez, out of nearly 200 contractors that do plumbing and pipefitting in Santa Barbara County—which include one-man shops—just a handful are union contractors. There are also contractors from outside the area that bid and win local work and are committed to contracting and hiring local union workers for their jobs, Lopez said.

Building trades union apprentices learn both on and off the job. At UA Local 114, apprentices work 40 paid hours a week and learn the theory behind their trade in evening classes.

That's why the number of signatory contractors impacts how many apprentices a union can take on: The program is designed around learning on the job, so the union needs enough signatory contractors for all of its apprentices.

Lopez attributes the lack of local signatory contractors in part to a tendency toward "fiscal conservatism" in Santa Barbara County. In other words, companies are wary of being contractually obligated to employ union workers, who negotiate their wages with employers. And it's not just companies. Lopez said that city of Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo is the only mayor in Santa Barbara County who he considers to be pro-union labor.

"The culture here has just never been friendly to the trade unions," Murillo told the *Sun*. "I think the construction companies here and

it's what contractors commit to when they sign with the union.

At IBEW 413, journeymen electricians make about \$44 an hour, Gregory said, plus a full family-plan benefit package that brings the hourly wage up to about \$66. That compares with a \$28 hourly wage for the average electrician in the Santa Maria-Santa Barbara metropolitan area, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics.

But for some companies, entering into union contracts and committing to negotiated wages isn't the route they choose to go. For Santa Maria-based Jack's All-American Plumbing, a relationship with local unions simply wasn't woven into the founding fabric of the company.

"It's really based off of Jack's experience when he got into the trade," Bingham said. "He started working for a company. They were not union, so he really didn't have any experience with that. Then when he went out on his own, he just followed the model he was used to."

From Lopez's perspective, the value of his union tradesmen makes their labor costs worth it.

"In the state of California, there is no training required for you to put a shingle in front of your door and say, 'I'm a plumber,'" Lopez said.

This isn't to say that non-union plumbing companies don't require some sort of training, education, or prior experience for their employees. Bingham said that at Jack's, they specifically look for workers with a strong aptitude to learn, even if they don't have the most experience, and then implement on-the-job training.

Lopez said that non-union companies aren't mandated to train in the pipe trades—so when they do, it's not state-regulated.

Because they're state-sanctioned, union apprenticeships must partner with a host school for things like grading and bookkeeping, Lopez said. For the local pipe trades and electrician unions, it's Allan Hancock College.

Hancock Superintendent and President Kevin G. Walthers explained how the partnership works.

"They're the independent union shops. We work with their experts and certify them as faculty," Walthers said. "For those programs, all of our students are always at their sites in Buellton. We don't teach any of those classes here on campus."

The hands-on classroom experience happens at the union facilities—the county's pipe trades and electrical workers unions are located in Buellton—where all the specialized equipment lives.

"We have pipe fitting equipment, we have a full welding lab here, we have the ability to do copper braising and jetting," Lopez said. "Two or three years ago, the union decided to invest in service and repair training. We got \$250,000 worth of training modules, specifically oriented to service and repair plumbing. We really put our money where our mouth is as far as training. All of that is paid out of membership dues."

Each year, Lopez said, his apprentices spend around 1,500 to 2,000 paid hours learning on the job, plus 200 hours of classroom training, for all five years of the apprenticeship program.

With all the training and classroom time that goes into making an apprentice into a journeyman, Lopez said he feels that the average person doesn't understand the value of a union-trained worker.

"Probably the biggest thing for us is trying to get the general public to understand the choices that they're making. There's no way I'm going to stand here and tell you we're going to be the cheapest guy on the block," Lopez said. "But you have to look at the value of sending somebody out who's specifically trained. It's a five-year apprenticeship program with a specific state-sanctioned curriculum and entrance exams. Apprenticeship means something."

A wage that works

As Lopez points out, building trade union laborers aren't "the cheapest guy on the block."



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.A. LOCAL 114

SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT: U.A. Local 114 has specialized pipe trades equipment to teach its apprentices a variety of plumbing, pipe fitting, and pipe welding skills.

"You have to go to college."

After the experience at Fresno State, Hernandez decided to follow her original inclination and apply for the union.

"I ended up getting in, and it was honestly the best decision I've ever made. I enjoy my work, I enjoy class, and I actually feel comfortable," Hernandez said. "Personally, I'm upset that I didn't go [into the union] out of high school, because I could have been almost done with my apprenticeship."

Michael Lopez, business manager at the local pipe trades union, UA 114, calls this pressure to go to college "the big lie": the false idea promoted by the American education system that a four-year degree is the only path to a successful career.

But Lopez said this is just one of a slew of challenges that building trades unions are facing locally.

The percentage of private construction workers who are unionized in California saw a steady decline in the '90s and early 2000s, according to data from the Union Membership and Coverage Database. In more recent years,

argue that their workers, though perhaps more costly, provide a better overall value with their work. Furthermore, they say, unions keep jobs local and ensure a wage that workers can live and retire on—namely because they're the ones negotiating it.

However, some companies opt not to sign contracts with unions, such as Jack's All-American Plumbing, and several municipalities, like the city of Santa Maria, prefer not to get wrapped up in project labor agreement policies. Jack's Director of Operations Josh Bingham said his company is having difficulty finding enough skilled workers—something that union-minded individuals think could be alleviated by more apprenticeship opportunities.

Unfriendly environment

From Lopez's perspective, he "should have three times the number of apprentices" at UA 114. But his union is limited in how many apprentices it can bring on, based on the number of signatory contractors they have.

Signatory contractors are the companies that sign agreements with trades unions promising

the contractors here didn't want that kind of structure, where ... trade unions are given preference to the jobs."

Balancing benefits

Because union members negotiate their pay—which, for the workers, is a major draw of organized labor—union wages are inevitably higher than those of non-union workers.

As of May 2019, the average wage for plumbers and pipefitters in the Santa Maria-Santa Barbara metropolitan area was about \$30 an hour, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics. Those statistics, it should be noted, include union wages, which bring the average up.

Lopez said his journeymen (apprenticeship program graduates) make a total package of about \$76 an hour. He explained that this number includes their actual wage—about \$51 an hour in taxable income—plus the value of their benefits, which include insurance, a pension, and training.

That wage and benefit package follows workers even if they switch employers, because



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.A. LOCAL 114

IN THE CLASSROOM: Building trades apprentices get a mixture of on-the-job experience and classroom training. Here, pipe trades apprentices sit in class at U.A. Local 114.

But he believes that a union wage is necessary in Santa Barbara County, and Gregory from the electrical workers union agrees.

The cost of living in Santa Barbara County, Gregory believes, is too high for many non-union trade laborers to support themselves, which he thinks could be contributing to skilled labor shortages. Anecdotally, he's noticed it in the local demand for electricians.

"We have no shortage of people that want to be apprentices, but whether there's a worker shortage is a different question," Gregory said. "If you look on Craigslist you see lots of advertisements for electricians. ... It does look like there might be a worker shortage when I see how many ads are out there from non-union companies."

Bingham from Jack's All-American Plumbing attested to this reality.

"There is a definite shortage in really all of the skilled trades," Bingham said. "I've heard of many construction companies having trouble finding work[ers]."

An underlying problem, Bingham believes, is that the local economy is "more of an employee's market than an employer's market." Bingham explained that, locally, it's relatively easy for skilled workers to become employers themselves, or open up a one-man shop, which could contribute to fewer employees in the hiring pool.

"With trades, if you're really good and want to go out and have your own company, that's not too hard to do nowadays," Bingham said. "Some people want to control their own destiny."

While being a union contractor may take away some of an employer's autonomy, Gregory argues that it's worth the benefits. One such benefit, he said, is how easy it is for employers to get more workers the moment they need them.

"When a member is out of work—say a job is completed—they come to the union hall and sign the out-of-work list. Then when a union employer has a job, they call the hall. That call goes to whoever is next on the book. ... What's great about it is the employer is not on Craigslist or anything: They just put in a call one day, and the next day a qualified electrician shows up."

While non-union contractors must acquire workers through traditional routes, Gregory said, the unions "take a pool of workers and a pool of employers, and put them together. ... It's run by the workers, for the benefit of the workers."

Underlying factors

A phrase that you'll commonly hear in the union world is "project labor agreement," or PLA. A PLA is a collective bargaining agreement that establishes the employment terms and conditions for all workers on a construction project, both union and non-union. The agreement is negotiated between the union and the institution facilitating the project, such as a city, county, school district, or college.

Public works projects—those paid in whole or part by public funds—are common among municipalities and schools.

Typically, people employed on public works projects must be paid what's called "prevailing wage." There are different prevailing wage requirements at the federal and state level, but Lopez explained that those in California are usually based on rates agreed upon through collective bargaining—in other words, union wages.

What's beneficial about establishing a PLA with prevailing wages, Lopez said, is that all workers on the project get paid the union wage. And from his perspective, a union wage isn't just higher than average, it's a living wage.

California also demands that 20 percent of the total hours in a prevailing wage project be performed by apprentices registered in a state-recognized program.

"The state of California has the intelligence to understand that a commitment to 20 percent is building the workforce of the future," Lopez said.

But project labor agreements in the county are scarce when compared with other parts of the state.

"PLAs are very common—except for here," Gregory said. "We're really behind here in Santa Barbara County."

As a result, Lopez said, local folks aren't guaranteed spots on large construction projects.

The city of Santa Maria's public works projects, as required, pay prevailing wages. But the city doesn't have a project labor agreement policy, Mayor Alice Patino told the *Sun*, because of cost factors.

"You have to pay attention to the taxpayers' money," said Patino. "When you have a PLA, it increases the cost of building."

Shari Brunner, executive manager at the Central Coast chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, said she doesn't believe that PLAs are a common cause of construction cost increases, since prevailing wage is going to be paid on public works projects regardless.

"Everyone has to pay prevailing rates, which are our rates anyway," Brunner said. "If a non-union contractor wins the bid, that's not a problem, because we know we bid with them on a level playing field."

Building affordable housing is another type of project that sometimes falls under prevailing wage requirements, since these projects can receive federal or state funding. Some feel that

prevailing wages make building affordable housing more costly.

"It's hard for us," said John Fowler, president and CEO of Peoples' Self-Help Housing. "Obviously we think people ought to be paid a fair wage. That's part of what we believe."

But prevailing wages are so high, Fowler said, that they can "add about 30 percent to a project's cost. That's a significant increase to build something."

Different studies reveal wildly different conclusions about how much prevailing wage impacts California residential construction cost.

As Liam Dillon wrote in a 2017 *LA Times* article, The California Institute for County Government finds that prevailing wages add 11 percent to a project's cost, while Beacon Economics says it's 46 percent. Smart Cities Preval says that prevailing wages don't increase costs at all "when taking into account increased worker productivity and savings from decreased public subsidies."

Either way, some people think it's just another obstacle to building affordable housing that should be removed.

Rob Wiener, executive director of the California Coalition for Rural Housing, was quoted in Dillon's article.

"We have the worst affordable housing crisis we've ever had in the state. We should be trying to find ways to reduce the cost of building housing," he told the *LA Times*.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IBEW 413

BECOMING JOURNEYMEN: The IBEW class of 2019 poses at the graduation ceremony. From left: Gilbert Rea (training director), Fred Garcia, Edward Gonzalez, Benton Ray, John Morris, Jose Rios, Amanda Olafsson, Calam Pimentel, and Chris Scott.

But, Dillon points out, "prevailing wage advocates, chiefly the building trades, have made an argument that has resonated with lawmakers: No one who builds affordable housing should earn so little that they need affordable housing themselves."

Providing opportunity

There are a handful of Santa Barbara County politicians who are vocal about addressing union concerns. Santa Barbara Mayor Murillo said that she and Santa Barbara City Councilmember Oscar Gutierrez are

particularly pro-labor. "If the city voters know that we're pro-labor candidates, and they vote us in, then they're supportive of that kind of systemic change, where our big-ticket construction projects create jobs for our local families," she said. "We're on the cusp of doing it here."

Murillo said that right now, Santa Barbara city administration is negotiating a project labor agreement policy

with the Tri Counties Building & Construction Trades Council. The agreement, if approved, would mean that any construction project greater than \$5 million would be a project labor agreement construction project.

The next big public works project on the horizon for the city is a new police station, and Murillo said she "wants a project labor agreement in place for that particular project."

What underlies the frustrations from union and non-union trade folks alike is the attitude our society perpetuates toward the trades as a viable career option in the first place.

Murillo said she wants to make sure that local youth, especially those from working-class families, know that trade careers are not just an option, but a financially smart one, especially if they're making a living wage.

"Say a young person has discovered that they're really good with their hands, or has a knack for construction work. Then they're perfect for an apprenticeship," she said.

This was true for Santa Maria High School grad and UA 114 apprentice Hernandez.

"College isn't necessarily the path for everybody right out of high school," State Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) told the *Sun*.

Cunningham is part of a bipartisan group of state legislators who want California high schools to get the funding they need for career

technical education programs, like the one that led Hernandez to her passion.

In 2018, Cunningham and others pushed Gov. Jerry Brown to commit \$300 million in funding toward career technical education in the state budget, which Cunningham said was a big win.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's May revise this year proposed some large cuts to the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant in the state budget. But after Cunningham and other legislators spoke out in opposition to the cuts, the adopted budget ended up preserving the program's funding.

Budgets aren't permanent, Cunningham said, and legislators must continue actively fighting to keep "hard fought wins," like the grant, included.

"I see it every day in my district. It changes people's lives," Cunningham said of career technical education. "It makes a big impact on our economy, and gives kids opportunity."

For Lopez, that's what it's all about: providing opportunity.

"You can argue, 'Union-yay, union-nay.' That's all cool. But one of the things that's really hard to be negative about is apprenticeship programs," he said. "Just because you're not going to be a doctor, lawyer, or engineer, doesn't mean you don't have the right to have a decent life." ○

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF IBEW 413

GIVING BACK: Lizbeth Hernandez, current IBEW 413 apprentice, first learned about the local electrician union at her high school career fair. Now, she's the one recruiting new apprentices at the career fair

Beginning the process

A recent meeting gave Orcutt residents the chance to weigh in on a future cannabis store

BY ZAC EZZONE

The process of selecting the owner and location of the single cannabis retail store that'll operate in Orcutt recently kicked off with a virtual community meeting.

Santa Barbara County officials held the meeting on July 9, which included an overview of how the decision will be made and a chance for residents to provide input. According to county regulations, one cannabis retail store is permitted to open in each of the six county community plan areas, including Orcutt and Los Alamos.

Selecting who receives the permit to each of these locations involves a lengthy application process that weighs neighborhood compatibility among other factors. The county Board of Supervisors will vote on a final score sheet that'll be used to guide this process during its Aug. 18 meeting, Assistant County Executive Officer Barney Melekian said during the virtual meeting.

"We are all very aware of the sensitivity and the concerns that this issue generates, and our

commitment is to developing a process that is objective and transparent," Melekian said.

During the meeting, which more than 100 people called in to—although not everyone spoke—many residents voiced their opposition to the store potentially being located in Old Town Orcutt. In May, the public learned that Helios Dayspring, who runs the Natural Healing Center stores in San Luis Obispo County, purchased the building where Old Town Market is located with the intention of applying for a cannabis retail permit.

Wendy Seller, who has owned the market with her husband, Mark, for the last 16 years, said she's concerned about the amount of vehicle traffic a cannabis store could bring through the community. She asked how the county would keep kids safe as they crossed Clark Avenue walking to and from school with that additional traffic on the roadway.

While traffic was a common concern repeated throughout the meeting, other speakers said that a cannabis dispensary simply doesn't fit with the character of Old Town Orcutt.

Joe Dana, who works at the Orcutt Union School District, said that while about 60 percent of county residents voted in favor of legalizing cannabis, the majority of Orcutt residents didn't. Therefore, he proposed that a store shouldn't be located at the center of the community.

"And so it follows, in my view, that the best locations for a cannabis dispensary are on the periphery of Orcutt, away from our schools, away from the core of our community," Dana said.

According to a county map presented at the meeting, there are only a few areas where a cannabis retail store could open in Orcutt that would also be outside of the 750-foot buffers the county established around sensitive receptors,

such as schools and day cares. This includes parts of Old Town Orcutt, the area near Clark Avenue and Highway 101, near the intersection of Union Valley Parkway and Broadway, and near the intersection of Black Road and Tanglewood Drive.

Although many of the people who spoke at the meeting were opposed to a potential store opening in Orcutt, Natural Healing Center representative Joe Armendariz spoke about the economic opportunity the cannabis industry presents for the community. He said the store could bring in up to \$1 million a year in sales tax, which he recommended the Board of Supervisors should consider reinvesting directly into the community where the funds were generated. "The reality is that this opportunity that the people of Orcutt have could be the difference between funding our public infrastructure and not funding it," Armendariz said. "I just think you can't overstate the importance of the opportunity we have today."



LOOKING FOR INPUT: Santa Barbara County officials held a community meeting to discuss where a cannabis business could open in Orcutt.

Highlight

• The city of Santa Maria is offering free indoor recycling bins to businesses in the city. Businesses can choose from either tall bins with a lid for cans and bottles or a small bin for recyclable paper. Businesses can request up to four bins until the city runs out. Interested businesses should contact the city's Utilities Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 7270. ○

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

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- 30% It was ridiculous. The restrictions have to stop.
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- 10% It was sensible since counties to the south closed their beaches.

10 Votes

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Palpable disrespect

Two Lompoc City Council members are on the receiving end of apparent disdain from the rest of the council

BY RON FINK

In August 1920 a woman's right to vote was ratified and became public law, and later women were guaranteed the right to serve in elective positions in local, state, and federal governments. Since then, many have been elected and served as council members and as mayor in Lompoc.

I have worked with and for women in the military, in private industry, and in local governments since 1975; I have always found that they have positive and thoughtful contributions to make to whatever issue is being discussed. In each case their ideas were included in the end-product of the discussion.

At least one Lompoc City Council member and his two enablers apparently haven't gotten the message that women have an equal voice in city government. Some recent examples demonstrate how disrespectful Councilman Jim Mosby is to the women who serve with him on the City Council.

One such example was on June 3 when the city manager was discussing COVID-19 improvements needed in order to reopen the City Hall lobby for business. He was soliciting ideas from council members so that staff could prepare a plan for their approval.

Councilman Mosby wanted a bilingual employee to "guide traffic," an additional plastic barrier at the front door, removal of the furniture in the lobby area to preclude people from sitting down to wait (using the space for queuing), and to maintain the current reception area for use when

the social-distancing requirements are terminated.

Mayor Jenelle Osborne agreed with most of Mosby's ideas and suggested repurposing the small conference room in the lobby and turning it into the reception area.

Councilman Mosby pressured his two male accomplices to support only his ideas and rejected the mayor's suggestions out of hand. But this time he failed—only Councilman Victor Vega, who seconded the motion, supported his motion and it died for lack of a third vote.

Later in the same meeting, the council members were discussing how to spend some projected new sales tax revenue; even after numerous concerns were expressed by Councilwoman Gilda Cordova, Councilman Mosby, ignoring her input, made a motion to adopt a resolution binding the City Council to the proposed new retirement payment schedules.

Councilwoman Cordova once again expressed caution. She said, "I don't feel comfortable with these projections and that we weren't really assessing the aftermath of COVID-19" because the city was "already on a downward path before it happened." She was also concerned that the "unemployment rate would be there for some time to come" and that could adversely impact the sales tax revenue prediction.

She further cautioned that if the projected revenue gains were wrong, that locking in a new payment schedule at this time would be premature.

She then offered a substitute motion to instead adopt an internal policy and see how it worked out during the next two-year budget discussions, which will occur early next year, before making a commitment concerning the retirement fund that the city couldn't back out of; it was quickly seconded by Mayor Osborne.

Councilman Mosby strenuously objected to this motion citing budgeting actions by previous councils that occurred decades ago as his justification. Predictably, Cordova's motion failed on a 3-2 vote with Councilmen Mosby, Vega, and Dirk Starbuck voting no. And equally predictable Councilman Mosby's motion passed 3-2.

This is Mosby's style; his bullying tactics are well known, and if you watched the entire council meeting on June 3 his disdain for the two female

members of the council was palpable. There have been numerous times when the female council members have waited their turn to speak, sharing ideas, and Councilman Mosby is seen whispering to another council member or looking at papers with an outward appearance of disinterest and disrespect.

On one occasion, Mayor Osborne had to ask Mosby to stop talking to the councilman beside him so she could be heard; on another, the mayor asked for a time extension of the meeting so that she and Councilwoman Cordova could have a chance to speak—initially she couldn't get a third vote but finally one of the men conceded.

All this got me to wondering: If Mosby marginalizes women during public meetings, what happens during closed sessions?

The specifics of issues discussed during these meetings are sensitive, and the participants are forbidden to discuss what happens. But how the meetings are conducted and the mood in the room aren't sensitive. So, I asked former attendees about the decorum in the room.

Sources told me that the antics of the three councilmen are more like those you would find in a locker room; their ringleader is Councilman Mosby. When a consensus is needed for almost all topics, the ideas of Councilwoman Cordova and Mayor Osborne are dismissed out of hand as Mosby pushes his agenda and the other two follow him blindly.

These are just the most recent occurrences; he has been doing this during council meetings for several years.

Mosby's character flaw is discouraging to see in an elected official; he needs some social grooming if he wishes to continue public service, but it may be hard to teach him a new way of thinking and acting.

With the current unrest in the country and people getting tired of how they and others are being treated, this should be the season when voters demand respect from their elected leaders. Councilman Mosby can't seem to grasp this concept, and his treatment of the women on the council dais and out of public view is deplorable. ○

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

LETTER

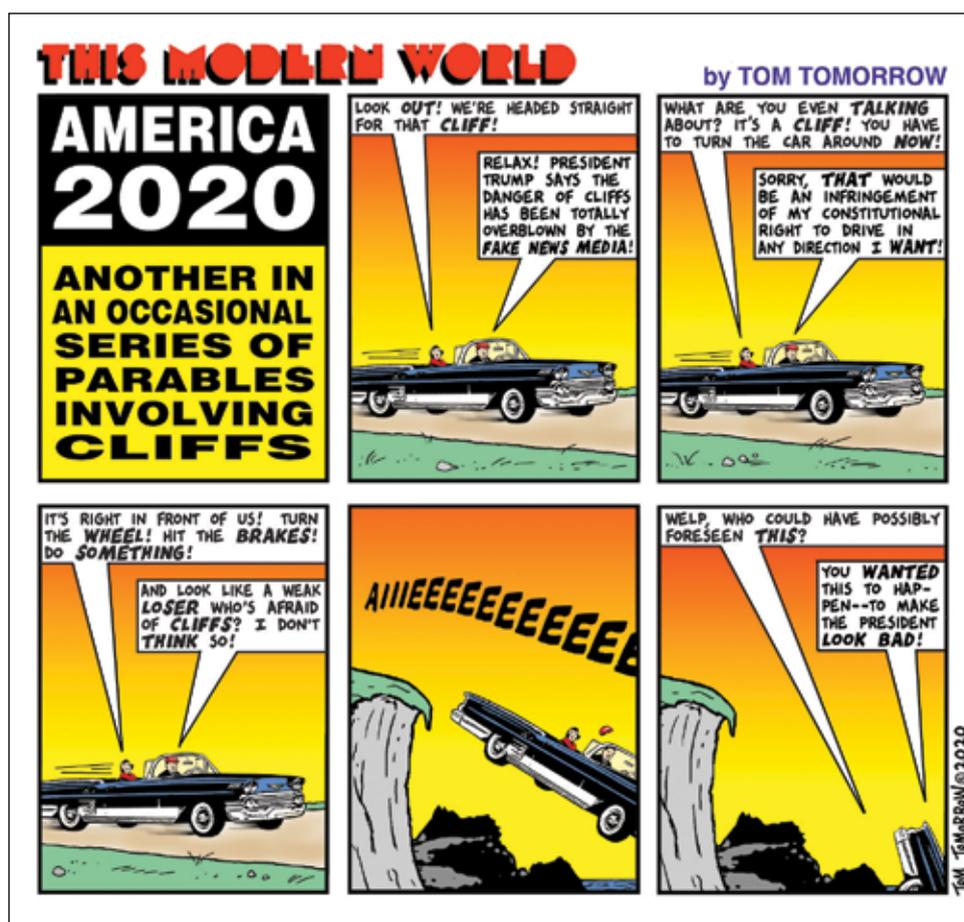
Wildfire and pandemics

Like a wildfire, this pandemic is now at a point where those fighting the emergency are either going to successfully put out the numerous spot fires and prevent a disaster, or lose control and move into a defensive posture where they are struggling to care for the many victims who will overwhelm our capabilities.

As the disease spreads in California, we may soon reach a point where there are more spot fires than first responders. If the spot fires are allowed to grow, they will combine into a conflagration where the virus is everywhere, creating a disaster. In a disaster, first responders become overwhelmed and the casualties mount. Even first responders become victims as more risks are taken in the firefight.

In a wildfire, once the unified incident commanders see the potential for a disaster, they immediately order more resources, develop contingency plans, and ready their forces. We now must support our pandemic leaders as they lean forward to ensure there are adequate supplies and personnel. Back them as they prepare to implement their contingency plans under a unified command. The next few weeks are critical. Let us use this time and support their efforts—lives depend on it.

Robert Lewin
San Luis Obispo



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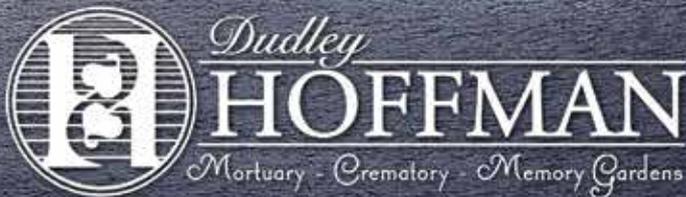
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Disconnected

Well, it's official. The apocalypse is back in full swing! Indoor activities are mostly off-limits, and the state is closing down *again*.

Gross! I don't want to write about this, again. I'm tired of it. You're tired of it, Gov. Gavin Newsom's tired of it, believers and nonbelievers are tired of it. We're sick and tired of it! But. It's. Not. Going. Away.

So here we are again. Facing off with the pandemic, in the throes of rising cases, blaming every which wayward soul that we can.

"It was the protesters!" says one set of people.

"It was the holiday weekend revelers!" says another.

"It's people not wearing masks!" says yet another.

"It's the bar patrons!" says yet, yet another.

"It's a lie!" say the idiots. Those people get their own category, because I really don't know what else to do with them.

Gosh. You know what we're good at in this country?

The blame game!

You know what we're bad at?

Listening to solid reasoning and addressing the root of problems.

Like the wineries who are blaming cannabis projects for an anticipated *future* lack of tourism business. You know the ones. They keep appealing **Santa Barbara County Planning Department** decisions to approve cannabis cultivation land use permits.

This is a bit of a rerun for those of you who tune in regularly: But now they have a group called the "**Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis.**" And by "responsible cannabis," they mean "not growing cannabis."

And I know this next part sounds like a rerun, but it's not. This is a different cannabis project and a different winery owner who's pissed off about it—but, yes, that coalition is indeed involved!

John Wagner of **Peake Ranch Winery** is concerned that a cannabis growing operation 2,000 feet from his property is going to smell so bad that it's going to ruin the experience for his customers. That's two-thirds of a mile!

So how far is too far and how far is too close?

Seems like something the county should study, since odor is No. 1 on the anti-cannabis complaint list. At least, then, there will be some scientific study to back up the claim on either side. Seems like the perfect thing for the county to do as part of the ordinance it's making changes to.

But then again, people don't believe scientific studies that they don't like or agree with.

Cough, cough: All the folks out there who think COVID-19 is a liberal hoax to destroy the economy and prevent **Donald Trump** from getting re-elected.

Because that's the world that we have built for ourselves. You see the reality you want to see and I see the one I want to see—even though we're both probably wrong and we're too stupid to notice to the fog of our self-righteous opinions about how incorrect the other is.

I, for one, am tired.

Can we just stop arguing about everything and try to find something we can actually see eye to eye on? It's actually easy. We just have to stop yelling at everyone, and we need to start listening to each other.

Now is not the time to dig our heels in. It's the time to come together and find a way forward. ○

The canary feels melancholy. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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Santa Maria Valley YMCA

OUR MISSION

To strengthen our community by improving the quality of life and inspiring individuals and families to develop their fullest potential through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

OUR IMPACT

The Y is, and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities. Every day our impact is felt when an individual makes a healthy choice, when a mentor inspires a child, and when a community comes together for the common good.

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The Y is and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities.

The Y makes accessible the support and opportunities that empower people and communities to learn, grow and thrive.

With a focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y nurtures the potential of every youth and teen, improves health and well-being and provides opportunities to give back and support neighbors.

The Santa Maria Valley YMCA serves more than 6,550 people of all ages. More than 3,000 of them cannot afford membership or program fees and benefit from financial assistance. At the Y, strengthening community is our cause and we are accessible to all people.

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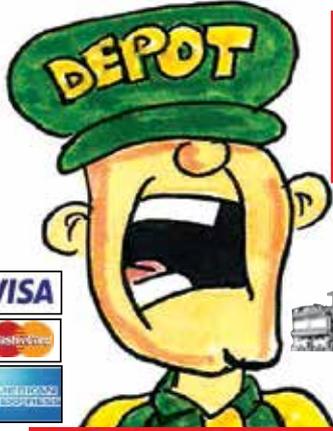
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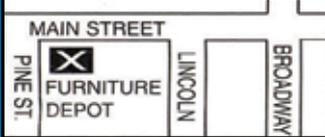
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2020



POOL RULES

The Lompoc Aquatic Center will begin hosting new water exercise classes, beginning on July 20 and through Aug. 12. To support social distancing, each class will be limited to 10 participants, and reservations online are required. Classes will take place every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Visit cityoflomdoc.com/recreation for pre-registration and more info. The pool is located at 125 W. Walnut Ave., Lompoc.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LOMPOC

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.

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.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

New Times and the Sun now share their community listings for a complete Central Coast calendar running from SLO County through northern Santa Barbara County. Submit events online by logging in with your Google, Facebook, or Twitter account at newtimeslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimeslo.com. Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at 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 16, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and Through July 22, 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 slooma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562.

VIRTUAL ART GALLERY

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

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, prya.org.

MOSAICS FOR BEGINNERS

Learn how to mosaic in the comfort of your home. Great for beginners. Curbside kit pick-up on July 20. Includes how-to video. Preregistration

required. Choose from a boot, wonky bird, or heart. July 20, 6-7 p.m. Various. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Centennial Park, 600 Nickerson Dr., Paso Robles.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK: ONLINE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Check site for a variety of virtual classes and workshops online. ongoing studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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/](https://www.facebook.com/topdogcoffeebar/). Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

SEA GLASS HAMMERED METAL JEWELRY

Learn how to drill holes in sea glass, how to harden, strengthen and texturize metal to create a gorgeous jewelry set. Create in the comfort of your home with supplies and how-to video provided. Kit pick-up dates are listed. July 25, 10-11 a.m. \$80. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

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 22

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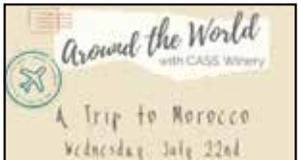
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2020 Estate Beef Dinner Series: Short Ribs
FRIDAY, JULY 17
Cass Winery



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



Tiny Porch Summer Concert Series: The Coffis Brothers
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
King Gillette Ranch



41k
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
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.

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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.

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

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

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. 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.

TAI CHI AND QI GONG: ZEN IN MOTION

Small group classes with 2019 Tai Chi Instructor of the Year. Call for time and days. Learn the Shaolin Water Style and 5 Animals Qi Gong. Beginners welcomed. Mondays, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call for price details. 805-701-7397. charvetmartialarts.com. Morro Bay Martial Arts, 850 Shasta, Morro Bay.

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOW



THE TREES THAT KEEP ON GIVING

All About Trees, a new group show at the Dana Adobe and Cultural Center in Nipomo, premiered on July 15 and will remain on display through Sept. 25. This exhibit pairs paintings by local artists with the works of Milford Zornes (1908-2008). Call (805) 929-5679 or visit danaadobe.org for more info. The venue is located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

—C.W.

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 17, 11 a.m.-noon

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/VANDBERG

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. vinoetamicis.com. 156 S. Broadway, Orcutt, 805-631-0496, vinoetamicis.com.

FOOD & DRINK continued page 23



ZUMBA ZONE

Zumba with Heidy sessions take place in Heritage Square Park in the Village of Arroyo Grande on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 to 10 a.m. each morning, through July 31. To support social distancing, space at each class is limited, and pre-registration is required at arroyo grande.org/catalog. Admission is \$6 per class or \$60 for an unlimited pass. The park is located at 205 Nelson St., Arroyo Grande.

—C.W.

FOOD & DRINK from page 22

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 12:25-2:25 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. and Every 4 days, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$275 per week. 415-342-0002. forthope.org/camp/taco-farm/. Fort Hope, P.O. Box 132, Arroyo Grande.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: SOUNDCLOUD Features recordings of the Mozart Sinfonia from the

Philharmonic's last live concert and other recordings. ongoing Free. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

B AND THE HIVE LIVE Led by the stunning vocals of Brianna Lee, B and The Hive create music from the heart **July 25**, 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.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK: VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES Concerts will be available to stream for free. Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. Free admission. visitatascadero.com. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, 461-5000. ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMBRIA PINES LODGE



GARDEN STATE

Cambria Pines Lodge hosts one of its Happy Hour in the Garden events on July 26, from 3 to 6 p.m. Guests can expect to enjoy wine tastings provided by Hearst Ranch Winery, beer flights, food pairings, and live music in the venue's Gazebo Garden. Admission is \$22 and the event is designed to accommodate social distancing. Call (805) 927-4200 to make a reservation or visit cambriapineslodge.com for more info. The lodge is located at 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria.

—C.W.

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8/8	Noach Tangeras
8/9	Cocktail shorty
8/15	Jill Knight
8/16	Shameless
8/22	Rockin Bs
8/23	Spanky Paul
8/29	Sol effect
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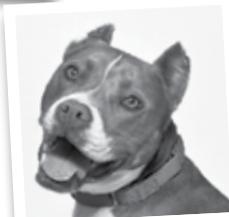
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Sex: Female
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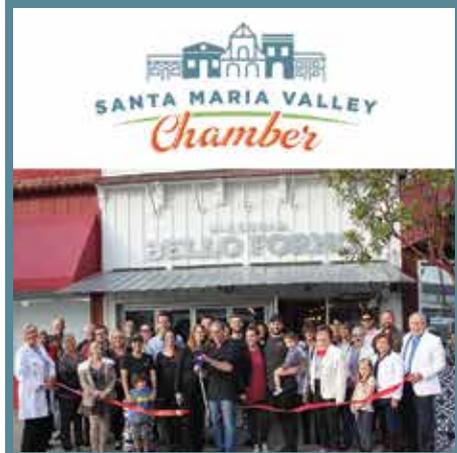
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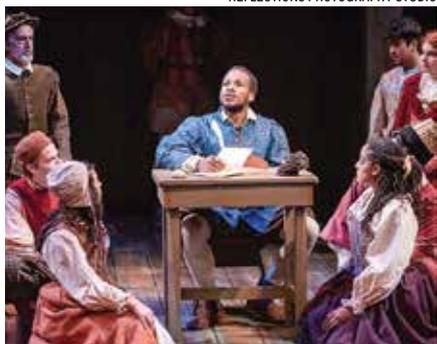
Sun

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Arts Briefs

PCPA Plays On expands free summer programming online

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF LUIS ESCOBAR
REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) is expanding its PCPA Plays On program, a selection of free, virtual theater-arts-based classes for both youth and adults. Part of the new programming includes Community Enrichment, a series of workshops and virtual tours organized by Kitty Balay, PCPA's director of engagement, which kicked off on July 8 with "The Need to Speak." Resident artist Andrew Philpot (last seen as Cassius in PCPA's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*), explored William Shakespeare's diverse uses of language during the program's premiere webinar.

On Monday, July 20, at 6 p.m., PCPA Artistic Director Mark Booher will host "What's in a Season?" in which he will give a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the company's play selection process. Other upcoming entries in the series include two hands-on crafting workshops, "Crown Making" (Wednesday, July 22, at 6 p.m.), with PCPA Costume Shop Manager Robin Newell, and "The Artistry of Costuming" (Wednesday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m.), with resident costume designers Sara Curran Ice and Eddy Burrows. Those hoping to participate in either class can find a list of required materials on pcpa.org/pcpaplayson.

Admission to each Community Enrichment session, held online through Zoom, is free, but pre-registration is required. Each webinar is roughly an hour in length, a format shared by PCPA's Youth Enrichment programs, which are organized by PCPA Education and Outreach Director Leo Cortez and intended for ages 8 through 18. Each course in this series is broken up into two separate segments, one designed for ages 8 to 12 and the other for ages 13 to 18. Upcoming youth workshops include "Video Your Audition" with PCPA Casting Director Erik Stein and "There is no 'I' in T.E.A.M." with Resident Artist Yusef SeEVERS.

Check pcpa.org/plays/youthenrichment for the full schedule of events.

Lompoc cancels annual Mother Son Luau due to COVID-19 concerns

The city of Lompoc Recreation Division officially canceled the 2020 Mother Son Luau, the annual two-night dance party originally scheduled to take place on July 24 and 25 this year. The event has been canceled "as a precautionary measure due to the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak," according to a press release from the city.

All other Lompoc Recreation Division programs and facilities remain closed for the time being, the release also stated. Questions can be directed to the Recreation Division staff at (805) 875-8100. Additional resources and info on the division's programming can be found at cityoflompoc.com.

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



COASTAL ACCESS: Landscape photographer and Central Coast local Nic Stover captured *Absorbing Inspiration* at Inspiration Point at Channel Islands National Park.

Zoom raider

Globetrotting landscape photographer Nic Stover hosts a variety of virtual workshops

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

During the run of COVID-19 mitigation measures, beginning in mid-March, San Luis Obispo-based photographer Nic Stover has had his fair share of ups and downs. While he was able to develop a successful series of online photography tutorials, Stover—like many professional artists—was still hit hard financially over the course of quarantine.

"The pandemic absolutely gutted my print sales," Stover told the *Sun*. "Three of the four galleries I sell in remain closed, and print clients were not investing into prints for their homes or businesses.

"The other unfortunate casualty has been arts fairs being canceled along with having to postpone or cancel my in-person workshops," Stover added.

But in place of said workshops, Stover turned to webinars, where he has continued to instruct classes on photography composition, processing, image planning, and other topics. One of his most recent Zoom sessions, held on July 14, was co-hosted by the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, where Stover's works were previously exhibited as part of the Celebrating the National Lands of California group show in 2019.

"I first became interested in showcasing at the Wildling through following the work of Mark Muench, and seeing that he had been involved with them, I elected to enter one of their contests and go from there," Stover said. "The entire organization is a pleasure to work with."

While the Wildling webinar was free to join, Stover donated 15

Travelog in

Visit stoverphoto.com for more info on Nic Stover's upcoming webinars and tutorials. For updates on the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature and other entries in its Zoom meeting series, visit wildlingmuseum.org.

percent of the gross of any prints sold to viewers during the stream to the museum in support of the museum's diverse programming. The Zoom session was consistent with his other tutorials, Stover explained.

"In the webinars I lead and the classes I teach, I strive to uphold my vision: helping photographers understand the unique perspectives that assist in the discovery of their capabilities, while enabling a deeper connection with themselves and others through creative expression," Stover said.

While Stover is well known for capturing landscapes during his several travels—ranging from trips to more than 20 different countries—much of his work is based in California, and more specifically the Central Coast. Stover and his wife, Jen, moved to SLO County only three years ago, although their intro to the region was about a decade earlier.

"We 'found' the Central Coast on our honeymoon in 2007," Stover explained. "We were



HOME SWEET HOME: Nic Stover and his wife discovered the Central Coast on their honeymoon in 2007. About a decade later, the couple moved to SLO County from Boise, Idaho.



MEET NIC: "In the webinars I lead and the classes I teach, I strive to uphold my vision: helping photographers understand the unique perspectives that assist in the discovery of their capabilities," SLO-based photographer Nic Stover (pictured) said.

living in Boise, Idaho, at the time but kept finding our way back to SLO whenever we could."

The couple relocated to San Francisco first before moving to SLO in 2017. Stover warmly sums up their "love affair" with the Golden State with a quote from Ed Abbey: "There is science, logic, reason; there is thought verified by experience. And then there is California."

"California has been my home for the past eight years, and it is easy to forget about the amazing beauty of this state and the incredibly diverse landscapes," Stover said.

Among the photographer's international adventures, some of Stover's favorite trips have been to South America, Greece, and Greenland. Stover recalled his trip to the latter country as an emotional paradox.

"Greenland was absolutely fascinating and terrifying at the same time—seeing the enormity of the ice cap and seeing how fast it was retreating," Stover said.

Commenting on his trip to Torres Del Paine in Patagonia—at the southern end of South America, shared by Argentina and Chile—Stover described the region as "breathtaking and spellbinding."

"Both places [Greenland and Patagonia] have hidden beauty that you can easily find and solitude that can't be taken for granted," he said.

A portfolio of Stover's diverse landscapes can be found on his website, stoverphoto.com, where you can also access his various virtual workshops.

When it comes to advice for his students and aspiring photographers in general, Stover uses his own story as a "late bloomer" in the world of photography as a helpful and hopefully inspiring example.

"I had dismissed myself as a creative from a young age in part because I didn't have natural art talents. It was only later in life where I discovered that creativity can be learned and expression is not something reserved for the gifted few," Stover said. "It takes time to hone your craft and figure out what you want to say with your images." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood loves hearing from local photographers. Contact him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA BOWL FOUNDATION/A. ARTHUR FISHER



BLAST FROM THE PAST: While the Santa Barbara Bowl's 2020 concert season was inevitably put on hold earlier this year, proceeds from the 2019 season were collected into an arts subsidy fund, which will pay for the 2020 Awards for Responsive Works program.

Heed the call

Santa Barbara County-based artists encouraged to apply to the inaugural Awards for Responsive Works

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

If you've been working on any art projects since the early days of quarantine back in March, you just might be eligible for a new countywide stipend.

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission is currently accepting submissions for consideration into its newly launched artist awards program. The deadline to enter is Aug. 3, and up to 20 artists will be chosen to receive a stipend of \$500.

Dennis Smitherman, chair of the Arts Commission, said the program—titled the 2020 Awards for Responsive Works—was created to help support artists who have suffered financial losses due to COVID-19 closures and cancellations.

“Gig artists have been some of the most impacted in terms of loss in revenue,” Smitherman told the *Sun*. “This specific grant was developed as an offshoot of the previous grant cycle, which provided funding to smaller nonprofit arts organizations to help them through this time when most facilities are closed due to COVID-19 and the restrictions they are under.”

Tangible support of Smitherman's claim can be found in a recent report from the state of California, which indicated that 85 percent of working artists within the state have experienced work cancellations over the course of the coronavirus pandemic.

The former grant cycle benefited organizations specifically, and this awards program is open to individual artists and cultural practitioners of various disciplines, from culinary to literary arts, as long as they reside in Santa Barbara County. Applicants must also be at least 18 years old to enter.

“We hope that these stipends will allow artists

to continue to help us create the new ‘normal,’” said Smitherman, who explained his stance on art as essential to society, especially following or during a crisis.

“Artists tend to be one of the first groups to create new ways to reimagine and rebuild the culture and environments after a disaster, relying on each other and viewing the world from a different perspective,” Smitherman said.

Also similar to the pandemic relief program, the new stipends are possible through funding from the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. While the venue's 2020 concert season was inevitably put on hold earlier this year, proceeds from the 2019 season were collected into an arts subsidy fund, which will in turn fund the stipend program.

The subsidy fund is part of a lease agreement between the Santa Barbara Bowl and the county, which designates \$.50 per ticket sold to benefit arts-related grants.

“Staff and commissioners worked hard to develop the proper protocol and procedures for granting this new avenue of funding,” Smitherman said.

The Arts Commission will evaluate submissions based on artistic merit, uniqueness of perspective, relevance to the current context of the pandemic, and other factors, Smitherman explained.

“This is not an easy process; as with the previous grant cycle, you have to take a lot into account to determine those most eligible,” said Smitherman, who added that representatives from sponsoring agencies will also assist in jurying the submissions.

Another requirement for applicants to the awards program is that their respective art must have been completed after March 13, as the program is intended to help artists who have continued creating art during quarantine, regardless of being paid for their labor or not.

Artists who have not been severely financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis are encouraged to pass on the stipend opportunity, a statement on the program's website reads, in order to support “the members of our creative economy who are most in need, as many cultural practitioners are facing tremendous financial hardship right now.”

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to know what artists have been up to during quarantine. Reach him at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Winning Images

Our 25th Annual Photography Contest & Exhibition has been rescheduled!

Entry forms available August 20

Enter by 5pm September 7

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LAND/SEASCAPES
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Reception at SLOMA: Sept. 30

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Exhibit runs through Oct. 4



Kathleen Gerber, 2019



Dylan Kyle, 2019



Ana Evans, 2019

NewTimes Sun

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

Naval thriller

Aron Schneider (*Get Low*) directs this World War II naval adventure written by star Tom Hanks and based on C.S. Forester's novel *The Good Shepherd*, about an inexperienced U.S. Navy captain, Cmdr. Ernest Krause, whose ship, *Greyhound*, is tasked with protecting an Allied convoy bringing desperately needed supplies from North America to Europe. As they move across the Atlantic out of range of air support, Krause must contend with a German U-boat wolf pack stalking the armada. (91 min.)

Glen: This taut naval adventure is mostly a character study of Cmdr. Krause, in charge of the destroyer the USS *Keeling*, codenamed *Greyhound*. His ship, along with two British destroyers and a Canadian Flower Class corvette, are all that stand between the U-boats and 37 Allied ships traveling to Liverpool. Krause, a devout Christian and thoughtful tactician, has limited resources, and three days before they reach air support they encounter their first U-boat, soon followed by six more. Using ship-mounted guns, depth charges, and some clever maneuvering, Krause and his crew do their best to limit the damage against overwhelming odds. As the attack continues to unfold, Krause is faced with some impossible decisions, and we soon learn the measure of the man. Admittedly, this is a somewhat repetitive and claustrophobic story.

GREYHOUND

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Apple TV**

They're stuck on a ship, after all, and most of the drama is confined to the ship's bridge and the commander barking commands to turn right, left, or fire the weapons, but at a brief 91 minutes, the action doesn't lag.

Anna: There is a lot of rudder talk going on, but Hanks offers a compelling and magnetic performance as the man tasked with life-or-death decisions for himself and a large crew of men whose fates are in his hands. The responsibility weighs heavily on Krause; he is without sleep or food as he plugs on through the treacherous waters as German U-boats bite at his ankles every waking moment. Claustrophobic is right—you can practically feel each character's breath in the air in the tight quarters from which he commands. It's a pretty interesting camera device that tricks the mind without having to address the situation in dialogue. We also get a lot of shots from outside the window where Krause is peering through binoculars and a lone windshield wiper scrapes off seawater in constant repetition. It really was a visually interesting film, which made the lack of dialogue beyond shouting commands much more tolerable. It's more a story of the man and not the mission, and Hanks is his usual incredible self here.

Glen: Frankly, after four months sheltering at home, I'm feeling pretty claustrophobic myself, not to mention starved for first-run movies. I'm really missing the theater! I'm not sure it would matter too much if this was on the big screen rather than at home. There are a lot of murky surging seas, gray skies, and ships bobbing in an endless oceanic void. I certainly

think there are better naval films. *Master and Commander* (2003) comes immediately to mind, as does *Das Boot* (1981), *The Cruel Sea* (1952), and *San Demetrio London* (1943). All these aforementioned films bring attention to what's usually the least interesting form of combat. Ships at sea don't have the immediacy of ground or aerial fighting. There's just something slow and monotonous about sea battles. But if you're fascinated by the tactics and want to wallow in the dread of feeling like sitting ducks as U-boats shoot torpedoes at you, *Greyhound* is worth seeing. It's a film held together by Hanks, again in the role of the unremarkable everyman who once thrust into a trial by fire behaves with nobility, honor, and resolve. Whether it's his Capt. Miller of *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), his terrified titular turn in the modern-day pirate film *Captain Phillips* (2013), his FedEx exec turned survivor in *Cast Away* (2000), his portrayal of astronaut Jim Lovell in *Apollo 13* (1995), his death row prison guard Paul Edgecomb in *The Green Mile* (1999), or his turn as airline pilot Sully Sullenberg in *Sully* (2016), Hanks delivers.

Anna: I do love the foreboding nature that an unseen enemy immediately brings, and when your foe is just a blip on the sonar, the unknown is palpable. Krause is a devout man who never misses praying over a meal (even if he doesn't end up eating it) or mourning the souls lost in battle, no matter which side they may fall on. He's both pragmatic and sentimental, weighing the risks and possible outcomes of every move. Commanding yet approachable, he takes his leadership role deep into his heart. He's got a woman at home he hopes to marry (an underused Elisabeth Shue) and plenty of reasons



COMMANDER: Tom Hanks stars as a World War II destroyer captain accompanying a convoy of supply ships through the U-boat-infested North Atlantic waters, in the new Apple TV film, *Greyhound*.

to not go gonzo trying to thwart the enemy. As you said, there's no shortage of harrowing naval tales, and while this one may not be the cream of the crop, it was refreshing to see a full-scale new movie, even if we had to hunker down and watch from home. I'll always be down for a Tom Hanks flick, and this one gave me plenty of his mug on the screen and enough suspense to keep me intrigued. ○

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INEXPLICABLE PICTURES

TV Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENVER AND DELILAH PRODUCTIONS



DEATH PROOF: Andy (Charlize Theron), an immortal warrior, leads a group of immortals, including Nile (KiKi Layne), in the new Netflix action fantasy, *The Old Guard*.

THE OLD GUARD

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

Gina Prince-Bythewood (*Love & Basketball*, *Beyond the Lights*) directs this screenplay by Greg Rucka based on the graphic novel series he co-created with Leandro Fernandez, about a covert group of immortal warriors who've been quietly protecting humanity for centuries. Led by Andy (Charlize Theron), the soldiers have all the benefits (spontaneous healing and inability to die) as well as the travails (loneliness and watching your family and friends die) of vampirism without have to drink blood. What they are good at, however, is spilling blood. When they agree to rescue some kidnapped schoolgirls, it soon becomes clear their secret of immortality has been discovered, and now a Big Pharma company run by a cartoonish villain named Merrick (Harry Melling) wants to capture and capitalize on their special powers. Some effective action makes up for the hackneyed dialogue and story, and as someone hungry for first-run films, this was well worth the watch, but it's essentially direct-to-video quality that would be total trash without Theron in the lead. (125 min.)

—Glen Starkey

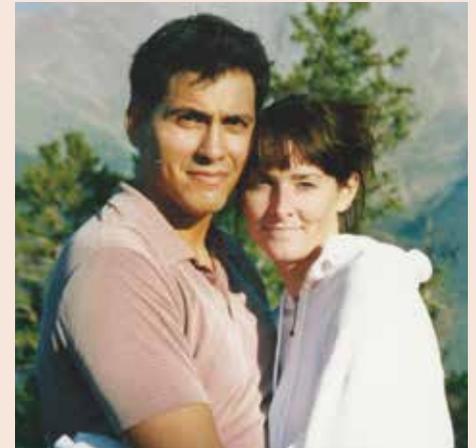
UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

What's it rated? **TV-14**
 When? **2020**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

If you were anywhere near a television in the '90s, you undoubtedly recognize the eerie music that marked the beginning of the spooky, magical show that was *Unsolved Mysteries*. Netflix has released volume 1 of the newly revamped show, and any fan of true crime or an unanswered puzzle will rejoice. Switching the format to a more character-driven show means no host (RIP Robert Stack!) and fewer re-enactments. Instead, it's mostly interviews with people who were up close and personal with the mystery. Spanning from missing persons to slain families to a town seemingly the site of alien visitation, the series stays gripping from beginning to end. Don't be surprised if you find yourself yelling at the TV at the end of each episode; remember—these are *unsolved*, and therefore resolution is still to come. This is a binge-worthy treat! (six 39- to 53-min. episodes) ○

—Anna Starkey

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



POOF, HE'S GONE: Rey Rivera (left) disappears, leaving his wife, Allison (right), mystified, in *Unsolved Mysteries*, the newly rebooted series screening on Netflix.

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What's Your Take?

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This week's online poll
7/16 - 7/23

What do you think about Solvang canceling its Danish Days festival that was scheduled for September?

- It was inevitable. They should have canceled it a while ago.
- It's a bummer but completely necessary.
- It's dumb. We have to get back to normal eventually.
- That city's budget is really taking a hit this year.

Enter your choice online at:
SantaMariaSun.com



Catch and eat

Rockfish are on the menu straight out of the Pacific Ocean

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

A Pacific rockfish by any other name is cod, snapper, and any one of the more than 70 species that swim about in the waters between Alaska and Baja California.

There are red ones, blue ones, black ones, and yellow ones.

Olive ones and striped ones.

Those species with giant ugly, bulging eyes and those that look less freaky.

Ones you're not allowed to catch based on federal law, and those that you can.

With most species, though, recreational fishers (who have a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) can bag up to 10 per day, combined. Anglers can fish from shore, off a pier, or from a boat, although there are slightly different rules depending on the method.

The flesh has a light, lean texture with a soft nuttiness—and although I couldn't really tell the difference in taste between say, a red or blue rockfish, there are people out there who swear they can.

Either way, there's nothing like fresh caught fish for dinner, and on Sunday, July 12, I got the opportunity to indulge thanks to the hard work of the Collier boys and an early morning. They left the house at 5 that morning with their boat in tow and headed out onto the open water from Port San Luis.

Eric, 8, caught the biggest fish of them all, and he was proud to show it off the second they pulled back into the driveway around 2:30 p.m. The fish were packed into a cooler on ice, and they got to work filleting as soon as everything was unloaded.

Those filets went from the cutting board to the flat-top grill after receiving a bath in some tangerine olive oil from Pasolivo and a sprinkling of Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning. A little citrus and a little heat along with some sautéed onions and serrano peppers did the trick. We wrapped the finished product up in a heated flour tortilla with fresh mango and pineapple salsa and a cilantro salad for a fresh, healthy, light Sunday dinner.

This isn't the first fresh fish dinner I've had at the Colliers, either. The weekend fishing trip is a staple in that household. We've beer-battered the fish, put them in tacos, and just had it grilled. Really, it can't be beat, and no matter how simple you make it, eating fresh caught fish always feels special. ○

Editor Camillia Lanham is full of fish. Send comments to clanham@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIL COLLIER



Fishing regulations

Visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website, wildlife.ca.gov, to find out more about recreational fishing regulations, where to buy a permit, bag limits, and the fish that are off-limits.

FISHY FISHY: Eric Collier, 8, holds up the biggest catch of the day! A red rockfish that he caught himself out on the water near Port San Luis.



FRESH CATCH: This is one of 10 fish that the Colliers caught out on the water July 12. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife limits recreational anglers to 10 rockfish a day.



FILET O' FISH: There are several tricks to filleting fresh caught fish, but the most common involves slicing along the spine and above the ribs from collar to tail.



SIDE SALSA: Cilantro, pineapple, mango, serrano pepper, onion, and tomatoes make up this tropical salsa, which is a fantastic topping for fresh fish tacos, burritos, or salads.



SEASONED EATING: Pasolivo tangerine olive oil and Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning give the rockfish a kick of heat and a citrus backbone.



GRILL IT UP: Don't feel like starting a fire? There's always the flat-top grill (or a cast iron skillet near you) for a quick sauté with onions and serrano peppers.



READY FOR DINNER: For a tasty meal after a long day out on the water, tortillas wrap up grilled fresh rockfish, a tropical salsa, and cilantro salad.



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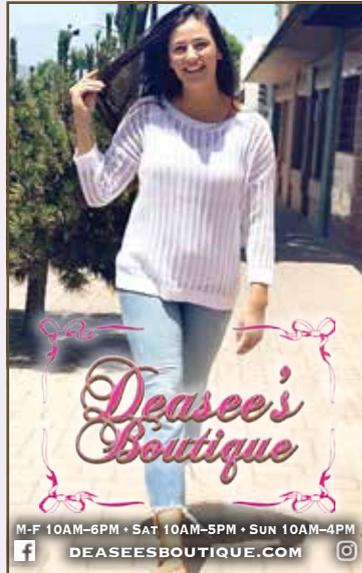
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