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Sun

AT THE MOVIES



Bill & Ted: Not so excellent [22]

Reserved

CANCELLED



Local nonprofits struggle with pandemic-canceled fundraising events [6]

BY MALEA MARTIN

NEWS Project Roomkey aims to house during COVID-19 [3]

ARTS A virtual outlet for Nipomo artists [20]

EATS Peek into the fields for Farm Day [23]

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SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 27

Organizations that depend on big fundraising events to build the revenue they need to run are banking on virtual events to make up some of their projected losses this year. Staff Writer Malea Martin speaks with organization leaders about the challenges they're facing [6].

This week, you can also learn about how the county's program to house the unhoused during COVID-19 is faring [3]; the online outlet Nipomo artists now have to show and sell their work [20]; and what the upcoming Santa Barbara County Farm Day has in store [23].

Camillia Lanham
editor



RAISING MONEY: Many nonprofits face an uncertain future because they haven't been able to hold the fundraising events that sustain them.

Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced on Aug. 26 that the state signed a contract with PerkinElmer, a major diagnostics company, to allow California to process up to 150,000 additional COVID-19 tests a day, with a results turnaround time of 24 to 48 hours. The state's goal is to begin processing tests in a new laboratory facility by Nov. 1 and run at full capacity by March 1, 2021, at the latest. "This first-of-its-kind agreement aims to disrupt the testing marketplace, help break supply-chain logjams and drive down the costs for tests for every Californian," according to Newsom's office. The per-test cost would be about \$31. "To support this contract at the lowest cost to taxpayers, the state will enter into a contract for third-party billing services to recoup costs from health insurance companies or other payers," the governor's office stated. Then on Aug. 28, Newsom announced that he signed an executive order to help the state build out its laboratory capabilities. The order will "expedite efforts by the Department of General Services and the Department of Public Health to establish and operate up to three sites for use as laboratories to increase the state's COVID-19 testing capacity," according to Newsom's office.

• State **Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's** (D-Santa Barbara) Senate Bill 493, which ensures that California schools provide a transparent and fair process for all students involved in a sexual assault allegation, passed the state Assembly on Aug. 30, representatives from Jackson's office announced. The bill is a direct response to **U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos'** rollback of Title IX protections for student survivors of sexual assault on college campuses. Jackson's new bill will require state-funded colleges and universities "to adopt common-sense processes that ensure a fair, transparent, consistent response to reports of sexual violence," Jackson's office stated. This includes making it easier for students to report sexual harassment and violence, requiring that schools respond to off-campus incidents that could interfere with a student's access to education, and prohibiting "courtroom-style direct cross-examination of survivors by their assailants or their attorneys." It would also require adequate training for school officials involved. "Studies show at least 1 in 5 U.S. women, 1 in 8 men, and 1 in 4 trans or gender non-conforming students survive sexual assault as undergraduates," according to the senator's office.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom, state Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins** (D-San Diego), and **Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon** (D-Lakewood) announced on Aug. 28 that they reached an agreement on Assembly Bill 3088, an eviction protection bill. Co-authored by Assemblymembers **David Chiu** (D-San Francisco) and **Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara), and state Sens. **Steven Bradford** (D-Gardena) and **Anna Caballero** (D-Salinas), the bill will protect tenants and small-property owners from the economic impacts of COVID-19, according to Newsom's office. "Struggling renters need protection from evictions for missed rent, and property owners need relief from foreclosure. Our agreement today provides both," Newsom said in a media release. The agreement protects California renters with pandemic-related economic hardships by disallowing eviction until Jan. 31, 2021, "so long as the tenant makes certain declarations and partial payments going forward," the release stated. "Tenants are still responsible for repaying unpaid rent eventually, but it can never be the basis of an eviction." The agreement also protects small-property owners from foreclosures with new "accountability and transparency protections." This includes expanding the Homeowner Bill of Rights to cover all properties from single-family homes up to four units owned by landlords, the release stated. "These new laws will provide immediate protection for millions of struggling Californians worried about keeping a roof over their heads or making next month's mortgage payments," Newsom added in the statement. ○



HELP FOR THE HOMELESS: Santa Barbara County opened Project Roomkey, a 74-room non-congregate homeless shelter, in partnership with Santa Barbara Hotel Group and People Assisting the Homeless on April 20. The project isn't available in North County, but other services are.

Project Roomkey isn't open to North County, but other homeless services are

Roughly 30 people experiencing homelessness have found housing thanks to a non-congregate shelter that Santa Barbara County opened at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, but the program is only really accessible to South County residents. Homeless advocates in North County say this time, that's OK.

Santa Barbara County opened Project Roomkey, a 74-room non-congregate homeless shelter, in partnership with Santa Barbara Hotel Group and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) on April 20. The program, which cost more than \$1 million in state funding, is aimed at getting homeless individuals who are especially at risk of experiencing complications due to COVID-19 off the streets and into housing.

But Project Roomkey, which the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors discussed at a meeting on Aug. 18, wasn't available in North County.

"What about the rest of the county?" Andy Caldwell with the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business said at the meeting during public comment. "Santa Maria and Lompoc have homeless problems. Is this another issue where the county's going to spend a million dollars on the South County homeless?"

Community Services Director George Chapjian said the county wanted to offer a similar program in North County, but couldn't find willing partners.

"We looked at a number of sites in North County," Chapjian said at the meeting. "We just couldn't find any hotel owners who were willing to lease out space for us for this purpose. So it was really, really difficult. Even in South County we barely found this one as the Roomkey site."

But Sylvia Barnard, executive director of Santa Maria's Good Samaritan Shelter, said a program like Project Roomkey wouldn't have been as feasible or as effective in North County.

"We are not disappointed at all," Barnard told the *Sun*.

Non-congregate programs like Project Roomkey are challenging to run, Barnard said, and require an abundance of support services to operate successfully. While the county provides those services to Project Roomkey clients in South County, where Barnard said most county staff work and live, that work would have likely been left to the Good Samaritan in North County.

Good Sam already provides those services—addiction treatment, counseling, social work, rapid rehousing—to those in its shelters and programs, and Barnard said her staff is stretched thin.

Between the 50 beds (down from its usual 90 beds due to COVID-19 safety precautions) Good Samaritan has at its regular overnight shelter, the nonprofit is also charged with operating a 10-bed overflow center, a 12-room family shelter that can hold about 48 people total, three trailers that can each hold a family of four, a 20-person emergency shelter for the elderly, and a program that provides temporary non-congregate housing services for veterans. Good Sam also helped operate a 70-person emergency shelter at Santa Maria High School for two months in the spring, all on top of the extra cleaning and safety work that COVID-19 now requires of staff.

"It's just too much for us to be able to handle," Barnard said.

So Barnard and her staff were glad when the county decided to keep Project Roomkey out of North County.

Instead, Barnard said, Santa Barbara County is working to support the services that are tailored to North County's needs by helping to fund emergency shelters, hazard pay for shelter employees, and purchasing trailers for families. South County has a larger population of individuals experiencing homelessness, who Barnard said benefit more from non-congregate shelter settings, while North County serves a

larger population of homeless families that need to be kept together.

"We feel completely supported by the county," she said.

Still, she understands the concerns regarding safety at congregate shelters right now. Although the Good Samaritan is doing all it can to spread clients out and keep everyone safe, the shelter had to quarantine for four weeks in late June after 14 of 120 clients in the shelter tested positive for COVID-19.

"It's been a super challenging time," Barnard said. "I'm just super grateful that we haven't had a lot of turnover in our staff."

—Kasey Bubnash

NEWS continued page 4

Weekend Weather

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Microclimate Weather Forecast
Dave Hovde
KSBY Chief Meteorologist



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COASTAL > High 77 Low 57
INLAND > High 92 Low 55

Friday



COASTAL > High 81 Low 58
INLAND > High 98 Low 59

Saturday



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Sunday



COASTAL > High 89 Low 60
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NEWS from page 3

New apartments could increase Guadalupe's population, alleviate housing shortages

The city of Guadalupe's population size could grow by the hundreds in the near future thanks to new housing developments that are set to receive occupancy clearance this month.

Peoples' Self-Help Housing has 38 new units, Guadalupe City Planning Director Larry Appel told the *Sun*. These affordable housing units are deed restricted, meaning they will rent for less than the market rate for the next 50 years.

Another deed-restricted affordable housing project in Guadalupe will be developed by Santa Barbara County's Housing Authority, which recently received approval to turn an old 50-unit complex into an 80-unit apartment complex with a community center called Escalante Meadows, Appel said.

Two other Guadalupe apartment complexes, though not required to be affordable housing, will add nearly 50 more apartments to the city: Pioneer Apartments with 34 units, and the Eleventh Street Apartments with 12 units.

Steve Simoulis, owner and developer of Pioneer Apartments, told the *Sun* that his units will house H-2A farmworkers.

"The advantage here is, by adding this new H-2A housing, we're not displacing any existing residents or tenants, and we're filling a need in the community here," Simoulis said.

In addition to these new, higher density housing units, the city's Pasadera single-family housing development continues to build around 60 houses a year, Appel said. In total, about 800 single-family homes are approved within that project, meaning hundreds if not thousands of people could move to Guadalupe once the project is fully built out.

Appel said these homes and other new Guadalupe housing cost considerably less than almost anywhere else on the Central Coast.

"Guadalupe has kind of become what Orcutt was back in the early '80s when the prices started going up so fast on the South Coast: People were buying houses in Orcutt and then commuting," Appel explained. "I know there are a number of people who live in Guadalupe, but they'll work in Santa Maria or they'll work up in San Luis [Obispo] County. The housing prices, especially with Pasadera, are so much less than what you have to pay other places. It's really a bargain."

Lupe Alvarez, owner and developer of the Eleventh Street Apartments, said the same goes for his units and generally most housing in Guadalupe.

"We've always looked for opportunities to provide safe, clean, affordable housing in Guadalupe," Alvarez said.

Alvarez and his family have lived and built in Guadalupe for more than 60 years.

"We've always loved and supported Guadalupe," he said. "We've believed in the city in the good times and the bad times, and we've always done projects, from single-family homes to duplexes or multi-family projects."

Alvarez added that his Eleventh Street Apartments were full almost immediately after going on the market. This indicates that there's a strong need for more housing in Guadalupe, he said.

"Every city, every county: The whole state knows that housing is needed," Alvarez said. "But the process is never simple, it's never easy. You need architects, you need engineers, you need different tradespeople doing the work for you."

"I always say that Guadalupe is the last affordable place on the Central Coast, on Highway 1, with beach access," he added.

Appel said that he is currently working on changing zoning in the city to accommodate more high-density housing developments down the road.

"You have to show that it's in the public interest to be able to change the General Plan," Appel said of making zoning changes. "We're going to have

all the single-family we need through Pasadera, so that's why I'm trying to increase the density in other areas so we can keep building apartments."

Pioneer Apartments developer Simoulis said that Guadalupe can provide housing at prices that nearby areas can't, which could help alleviate the housing shortage on the Central Coast.

"Generally in California, there's a shortage of affordable housing," he said. "With Pasadera and the other housing in Guadalupe being more affordable than other areas, I think that's a good thing for the community."

—Malea Martin

Santa Barbara County meets halfway mark for reducing youth homelessness

More than halfway through the 100-day challenge to reduce youth homelessness, local groups and stakeholders have already met some of the program's goals.

On June 29, Santa Barbara County was one of six counties chosen to participate in the challenge—the others are Kings, Tulare, Monterey, San Benito, and San Bernardino counties.

Each area has specific goals to meet based on its unique needs and demographics. The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care along with 20 local stakeholders created goals that included: housing 50 youth, assigning a navigator to the youth identified on a real-time list of people experiencing homelessness, and making a housing retention plan for 75 percent of the youth who accept individual case management.

Challenge stakeholders meet once a week for a progress check-in and to discuss resources, county Community Development Division Housing Programs Specialist Lucille Boss told the *Sun*.

The last check-in was Aug. 27, which also marked 59 days into the challenge. Boss said the efforts of all those involved have housed 22 individuals so far.

"I will say only a handful of them have been directly because of these efforts; the others have been because of the work that we're already doing," she said.

The groups assigned a housing navigator to 100 percent of the youth on the list of people experiencing homelessness. Boss said a housing navigator follows up with the unhoused youth and helps them through the process of finding and keeping permanent housing. All of the youth who have accepted case management and are housed also have a housing retention plan.

Through the program, collaborating agencies also designed a letter for landlords to raise awareness about the program and tackle the stereotypes that come with renting to young adults.

"We know it can feel risky accepting younger tenants; however, we are committed to helping them succeed," the letter states.

According to the letter, the agencies are committed to assisting the prospective tenants financially and preventing problems through home visits.

There are 41 days left in the challenge, but Boss said there's a sustainability workshop through this program because "once the 100 days are up, we don't want the work to stop."

This program has helped establish new partnerships throughout Santa Barbara County that didn't exist before, she said, and are vital to continue reducing and ending youth homelessness.

—Karen Garcia

Rental assistance available for most eligible North County residents

The city of Santa Maria announced a new emergency rental assistance program on Aug.

27 for low- to moderate-income households that have experienced a decrease in income as a result of COVID-19.

Made possible through special Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that's targeted at pandemic response, the program offers up to three months of assistance, a maximum of \$5,000, to qualified households.

In Santa Maria, qualified households are those that earn 80 percent or less of area median income. A four-person household, for example, would qualify if its total annual income is \$95,300 or less, city Grants Specialist Alicia Vela told the *Sun*. That maximum qualifying amount increases or decreases depending on the number of individuals in the household, and the exact guidelines can be found on the county's website.

Santa Barbara County received the same special funding to provide a rental assistance program for its unincorporated areas. The funds will also be available for residents in Carpinteria, Buellton, Solvang, Guadalupe, and Goleta.

"It's the same application and the same process," Santa Maria Community Programs Manager Rosie Rojo said. "We teamed up to streamline it so that it would be as easy as possible for almost anybody in the county to apply."

Those interested can apply online at countyofsb.org/housing. The deadline to apply online is 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, though county Grants and Programs Manager Laurie Baker said that people should apply as soon as they can. The deadline could close earlier depending on the number of applicants.

The application is available in Spanish and several other languages, and people can apply regardless of their citizenship status, Rojo said. Eligible applicants must reside in unincorporated areas of the county, Santa Maria, Buellton, Solvang, Guadalupe, Goleta, or Carpinteria.

Santa Maria is what's called an "entitlement community," Rojo said, meaning the city automatically received the special funds, called CDBG-CV, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as did the county for its unincorporated areas. CDBG-CV funds must be used to prepare, prevent, or respond to COVID-19, Rojo said. This includes, but is not limited to, rental assistance.

"We automatically got [CDBG-CV] funding from the government, based on our low- to moderate-income population," Rojo said.

But not all cities in Santa Barbara County are entitlement communities, she continued.

"Then you've got cities like Solvang, Guadalupe, and Buellton," she said. "They actually have to apply, and they don't automatically get the funding. For this extra money that rolled out, they did not get additional money like [Santa Maria] did."

To ensure that these communities also have access to rental assistance, Rojo said the county is "doing everybody a solid" by allowing residents in these communities to also apply for the CDBG-CV funding pool.

"The one city that is not included is Lompoc," Rojo said. "Lompoc is also an entitlement city, but Lompoc decided not to participate in the rental assistance program. They're opting to use their funding for utility assistance for their residents."

The utility program is accessible from the city of Lompoc's website at cityoflompoc.com.

Rojo added that the city of Santa Barbara is doing a separate rental assistance program for its residents, run through United Way.

"We want to make sure that we're as inclusive as possible," Rojo said. "We're doing the best we can under the circumstances and with a limited amount of resources. There's a lot of people needing assistance." ○

—Malea Martin

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- A completed online entry form **MUST** be submitted for **EACH** photo entered.
- Entrants are asked to submit a high-quality digital file of their image (jpeg format, at least 300 dpi) on the submission form.
- Photos submitted in previous years are ineligible.
- All photos must be the original, creative work of the submitting photographer.
- All photographs must be taken within the boundaries of San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara Counties – except submissions to the Travel and Open categories – for which photos may be taken anywhere.
- After entering your photos, submit your payment online via PayPal. You may also mail a check (made payable to *New Times*) to: Winning Images, c/o New Times, 1010 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Be sure to include your name, address, email, and a brief description of the photos entered online.
- **Photos must be received and entry fees must be paid in full by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 to be considered officially entered.**
- Entry in the contest constitutes permission to use the photo in the paper, online, and for display.
- Judges have the right to reassign categories for mislabeled or misfiled photos at their discretion.

YOUTH (Under 18 years old)

- This is an **Open** category. Photographs can be of any subject of the entrant's choosing, but must have been taken within the boundaries of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.
- Entrants must be younger than 18 years old as of October 1, 2020 and must be enrolled in any school (including a home school) that's not a college. A winner's legal guardian will be required to sign a release form.
- All other rules from the adult categories apply.

All entry money goes toward cash prizes for winners in each category. Winning photos will be published in the Thursday, Oct. 1 issues of *New Times* and the *Sun*; will appear in an online gallery; and will be on display in various locations around the county.



Kathleen Bosch, 2019



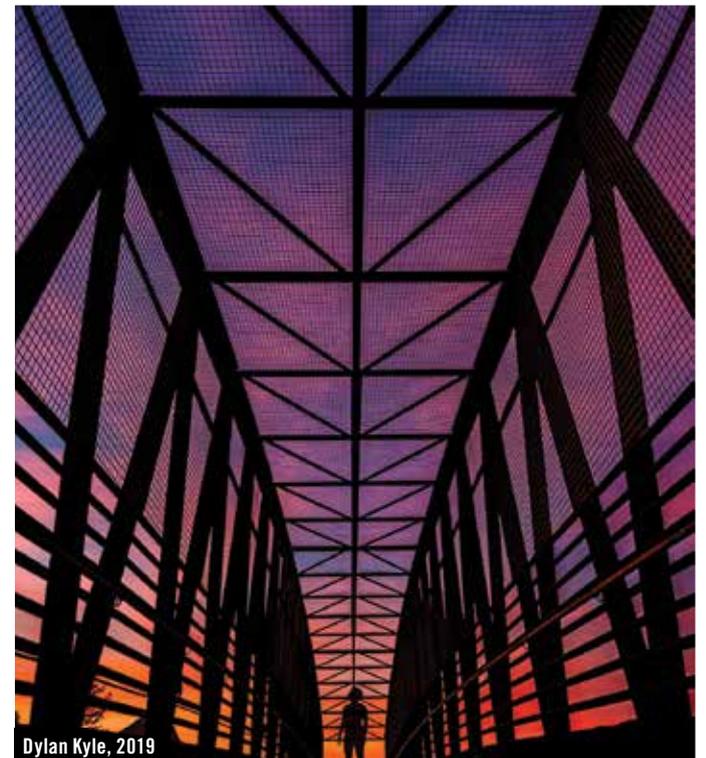
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Staying afloat

COVID-19 has particularly challenged organizations that rely on large fundraising events to keep doors open

BY MALEA MARTIN

The pandemic has forced nonprofits and small businesses alike to find creative ways to stay afloat. For businesses, that could look like upping online sales while physical doors remain closed, or bringing services outdoors. But for organizations and foundations, adapting to pandemic limitations has been uniquely challenging—especially with budgets that depend more on fundraising events than selling goods and services.

For The Wildling Museum in Solvang, the cancellation of its annual spring barbecue earlier this year will leave a large gap in the art institution's budget.

"It's been quite a tradition for The Wildling, and it's been our primary fundraiser for most of the years that we've been around," Executive Director Stacey Otte-Demangate told the *Sun*. "It's something we really count on to bring in a good portion of our revenue for the year. This year, probably about 15 percent of our revenue was projected to come from that."

After being forced to cancel the spring event, the museum hoped that its annual October brunch fundraiser could help make up for some of the losses. But as autumn nears and the virus is showing no signs of letting up, Otte-Demangate said the museum will have to change gears entirely.

"We actually ended up having to cancel three events this year, which all together would have been 18 percent of our budget. Now we're trying to figure out if we can recoup that," she said. "We're pivoting to a virtual event on Oct. 16, so a completely online fundraiser, to still try and celebrate our 20th anniversary."

Otte-Demangate said she expects The Wildling "to squeak through this year relatively whole," thanks to sponsors, a forgivable loan from the Paycheck Protection Program, and a small reserve that the museum has worked hard to build up in recent years.

But she added that, for many arts and culture organizations, having a safety net to fall back on is not a given.

"There are many smaller groups that are very year-to-year in how they survive and how they make their money. This could easily be, if not their end now, certainly a major wake-up call," she said. "For us a few years ago, we would not be telling such a satisfying story."

Stephanie Hassett, finance director of the Ian M. Hassett Foundation and an executive board member of the Santa Maria Arts Council, said that canceled fundraisers have posed similar challenges for the organizations she's involved with.

The foundation honors the memory of Hassett's son, Ian, an artist and musician who lost his battle with cancer at 19 years old. Each year, the Ian M. Hassett Foundation hosts a fundraiser to support its programming. Among the foundation's impactful programs are a mobile art trailer with free supplies for students, a gallery show, arts classes for adults with disabilities, and an art scholarship.

"Being a small organization, we basically just had one big fundraiser a year. We're reliant on that to fund our programs," Hassett told the *Sun*. "So not being able to have that fundraiser has obviously impacted the programming, and because of COVID, the programming has come to a grinding halt."

Luckily, as a small organization, Hassett said the foundation was still able to give out its annual \$1,000 art scholarship. But for the Santa Maria Arts Council, where Hassett serves on the board, canceling its annual Grant Showcase was acutely felt.

"The Grant Showcase has been going on since 1972, and they give out between \$10,000 and

'I think traditionally, arts and culture organizations have been placed on the back burner. I think we take them for granted, and we don't notice they're gone until they're gone.'

—Stephanie Hassett, finance director, Ian M. Hassett Foundation

\$13,000 in grants every year to students," Hassett said. "We normally would hold that in May, and that had to stop for the first time since 1972. So that's a big impact, and the organization has not been able to give out any grants this year."

Hassett said the difficulties that arts and culture organizations are facing during the pandemic underscore a larger societal issue of how the sector is valued.



FUNDING OBSTACLES: The Lompoc Hospital District Foundation is one of many local organizations being forced to cancel annual fundraising events because of the pandemic.

"I think traditionally, arts and culture organizations have been placed on the back burner," Hassett said. "I think we take them for granted, and we don't notice they're gone until they're gone."

But arts organizations aren't the only ones feeling the severe blow of canceled events. The Lompoc Hospital District Foundation, which supports Lompoc Valley Medical Center, was forced to cancel its annual Flower Valley Golf Classic and Colorthon 5K run.

"We were well into planning it. We had already collected about \$20,000 in sponsors," foundation

year the project was purchasing eight patient monitoring systems for the Lompoc Valley Medical Center, for the post-anesthesia care unit. We won't have the money for that."

While in an ideal world hospitals wouldn't need to rely on fundraising to pursue vital projects, Mulligan said that the foundation also serves an important role in the community.

"We don't just fundraise for equipment and programs, we also have seminars," Mulligan said. "It gets the community more educated in terms of what the hospital provides. So irrespective of what has happened or will happen, I think there will always be a foundation."

For The Wildling Museum, finding unique ways to maintain community involvement has been one of the brighter points of the pandemic. Otte-Demangate said the museum now hosts regular Zoom webinars, with some guests even tuning in from out of town. The museum is mulling whether to continue these programs for the long term, even after their physical doors open again.

Hassett hopes the pandemic will encourage people to consider supporting the services they may have previously taken for granted.

"These organizations are having to survive during this shutdown in order to bring back the programming that people have become accustomed to, when we're all able to get out again," she said. "Any support people can offer, whatever their organization of choice is, send in whatever you can to help them through this time." ○

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



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CHEWING AROUND THE COUNTY:

The animals of the Goat Girls munched on mustard while scaling the Pismo Preserve's hillsides in May.

Becoming a goat girl

Local ladies offer up their goats as a way to manage vegetation

BY KAREN GARCIA

Goat girl" was a nickname that Beth Reynolds loathed. She received that moniker when she was in college working with goats at Cal Poly as part of her senior project in 2003.

The project focused on the service goats provide to manage vegetation—aka targeted grazing, which involves accomplishing vegetation or landscaping goals by using a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity.

On top of observing the animals at work, Reynolds also learned to herd them and build fences for them. She worked alongside the herd's owner, Howard Trew, who at the time was creating a fire break behind the Cal Poly dorms.

When Reynolds completed her senior project and was preparing to graduate, she said Trew acknowledged her talent for the trade and nudged her to start her own ecological grazing and land management service.

With a background in raising dairy goats and fresh experience in grazing, it was a no-brainer for Reynolds. In 2005, she purchased his goats and equipment to start the business, Green Goats, with the help of her parents.

It was a challenge for Reynolds. She inherited customers who belonged to Trew, but bringing in new customers wasn't easy, as neither the cost nor the concept were accepted.

"It was like a joke. They would say, 'You would ask us to pay to feed your goats?'" she said.

Nevertheless, Reynolds knocked on doors and gave presentations. She eventually took time off from the business to teach in the Animal Science Department at Cal Poly. Reynolds was also encouraged to get on committees and participate in the sheep and goat industry.

"I started to realize that I had this voice for this industry that's called targeted grazing," Reynolds said.

In 2018, Reynolds teamed up with a Cal Poly graduate Catherine Ahsam to reinvigorate Green Goats, however it was difficult to associate the service with the business name because Reynolds' nickname followed her.

"Everywhere I went it was like, 'Oh, you're the goat girl.' Finally one day I was on the corner of Foothill and Los Osos Valley Road at the Beth David Temple. I was out with my goats and I was building a fence, and somebody hung out of their window and yelled, 'We love the goat girl,'" Reynolds said.

At that moment, she stopped fighting the name. She appreciated the remark and said she

couldn't have asked for better brand recognition.

Now Goat Girls works on residential, business, city, and county properties throughout San Luis Obispo County.

Reynolds said the grazing by her goats and sheep removes fuel and aids in fire reduction.

"The impact their little hooves can have on stimulating the surface of the soil and helping to prevent erosion can increase native plant species in the area," she said.

The goats can also reach a lot of terrains that large machinery cannot.

"I think that's what drives me to really push this concept is that I see a lot of communities, especially in the state of California, where the terrain is really limited to other methods for fire reduction and so the fact that they can go down these steep canyons and clean up vegetation is a really cool opportunity," Reynolds said.

In January, Cal Fire recognized livestock-managed grazing as an official approved part of fuel reduction methods and vegetation management.

The two women have added two more employees to their team and are encouraging interested individuals to reach out to them to learn more about their service. Visit the Goat Girls' website at thecaligoatgirls.com for more info.

Highlight

• The city of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department announced a new learning option for families with children in grades K-6: a distance learning camp. According to the city, the camp's schedule mirrors a typical school day and offers "a safe setting for students to observe lessons and complete school work from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m." Students are required to bring everything they need for school and a face covering. A statement from the Recreation and Parks Department adds that, after the "school" day ends at 3 p.m., the camp will also give attendees "a fun and educational environment that will aid youth in achieving a positive self-image while enhancing their physical, mental, and social growth." The distance-learning option will be held at the Minami Community Center, at 600 West Enos Drive, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The camp costs \$100 per weekly session, per participant, and those interested can register at cityofsantamaria.org/register. ○

Staff Writer Karen Garcia wrote this week's Spotlight. Send news tips to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

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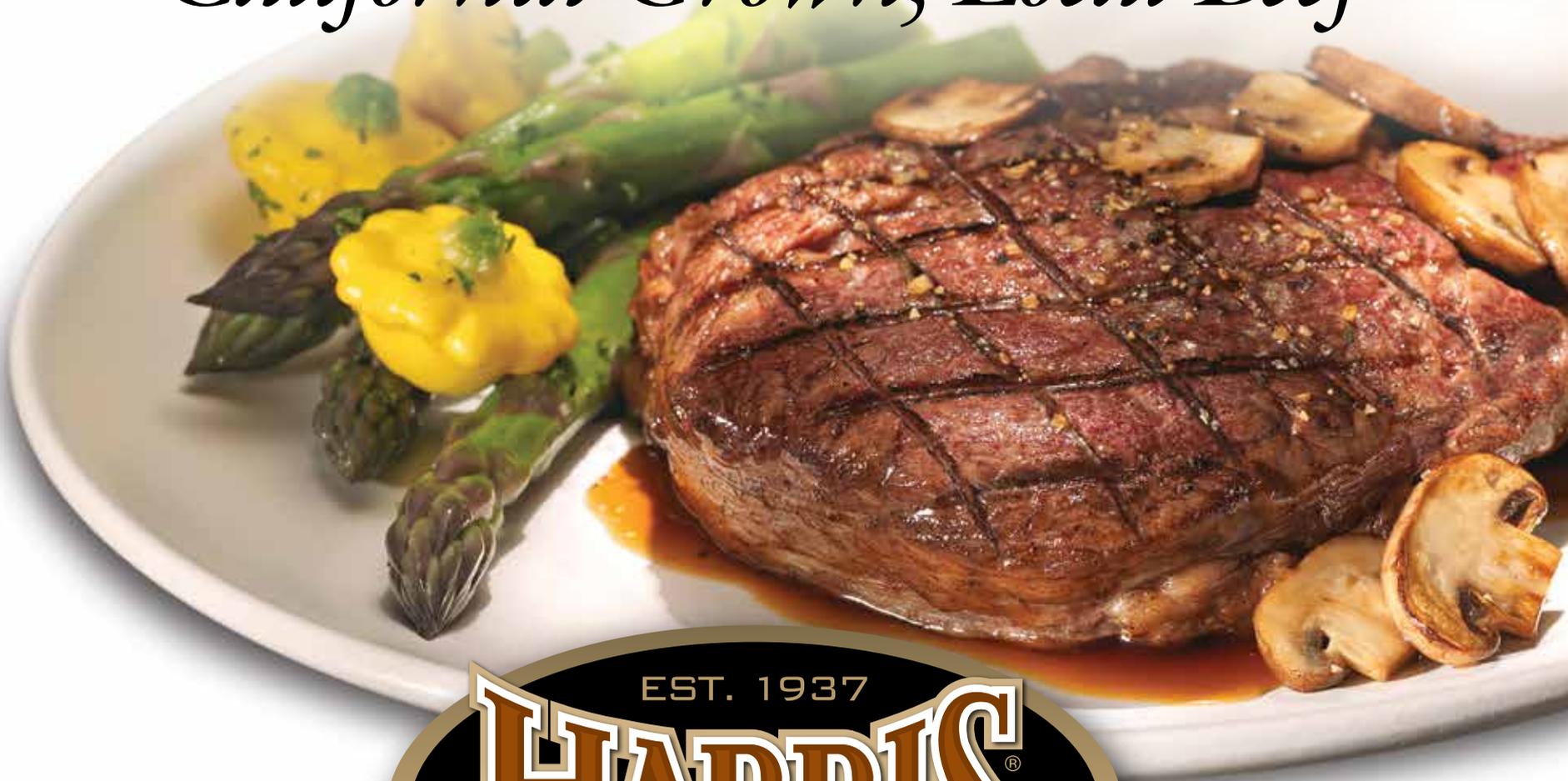
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Online Poll

Should the city of Solvang ban horse-drawn carriages?

- 63% No, it's a staple of the Danish community.
- 18% Yes, it's an inhumane service that exploits horses.
- 10% We can't use it right now anyway due to COVID-19.
- 9% I didn't even notice that was still happening in Solvang.

22 Votes

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

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Be gone, Big Oil

The situation is growing slippery for Central Coast oil projects

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE

Katie Davis, chair of Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter (Santa Barbara and Ventura counties), recently described what it was like to live through the Refugio Beach oil spill five years ago:

"You can't completely clean up an offshore oil spill. The oil sinks into the marine environment, damaging fragile underwater ecosystems, killing or contaminating fish and smaller organisms that are essential links in the food chain, including the food we eat. The environmental damage can last for decades. More than 300 dolphins, seals, sea lions, pelicans, and other birds and animals washed up dead. Many others were found alive and suffering. Oil clogs the blowholes of whales and dolphins, affecting their ability to breathe and communicate. It coats the fur of seals and birds, impairing their ability to float, fly, and regulate temperatures. They die of hypothermia or toxicity or starvation. They go blind or develop birth defects or tumors."

Ms. Davis also described what it was like to live through the 2018 Holiday Fire, turbocharged by global warming, while Exxon pressed for approval of more oil projects that will lead to more oil spills and worsening climate change. (A recent scientific study confirmed that every barrel of California oil left in the ground will result in a net decrease of about half a barrel of oil consumption globally.)

Exxon's offshore platforms and Goleta processing facilities—major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions on the Central Coast—shut down when the Plains All American Pipeline ruptured onto Refugio State Beach in 2015 and have not reopened. Now, Exxon—in the midst of a pandemic and an oil glut—is seeking a permit to allow up to 70 oil tankers a day to truck oil from its Goleta facility to Santa Maria, and then across

the Twitchell Reservoir and the length of the Santa Maria watershed to the San Joaquin Valley on Highway 166, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

From the resumption of offshore drilling to a spike in regional greenhouse gas emissions to impacts on a coastal watershed and the danger to drivers on our highways, there is nothing good awaiting the residents of the Central Coast in this unnecessary project.

For Santa Barbara County, a touted \$2 million increase in property tax payments to the county general fund resulting from the restart of offshore drilling amounts to 0.2 percent—one-fifth of 1 percent—of the county's \$950 million annual budget. It cost \$257 million to clean up the 2015 Refugio spill.

In response to proposals by the Trump administration to dramatically expand drilling off the California coast for the first time in more than 30 years while simultaneously rolling back protections that prevent catastrophic oil spills, more than 80 West Coast communities have formally voiced their opposition to offshore drilling. More than 1 million Americans have submitted comments to the administration demanding that we keep offshore oil in the ground and not prioritize the profits of the fossil fuel industry over the interests of our communities and the health of our oceans.

The cities of San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Goleta, and Santa Barbara, as well as UAW2865, Environmental Justice Alliance, Sweetwater Collaborative, Mercury Press International, Quail Springs Mercantile, Sunburst Sanctuary, Gaviota Coast Conservancy, and the Cuyama Valley Community Association have let the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors know that they oppose Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Project Case No. 17RVP-00000-00081, an application to truck offshore oil along Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Kern county highways.

Review of the environmental impact report by Santa Barbara County was scheduled to commence in September. County planning staff have recommended a slightly reduced version of the project—one that would involve truck transport only to the Phillips 66 Santa Maria facility, not the

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trip across Highway 166. The recommendation does nothing to address the impacts of the revival of the offshore platforms and the restart of the biggest carbon-emitting facility in the region. It does nothing about the fact that burning the 4 million barrels of oil intended to be trucked every year would result in more than 1.7 million metric tons of carbon pollution, equivalent to burning nearly 2 billion pounds of coal.

That Planning Commission meeting is now looking iffy. On Aug. 13, Phillips 66 notified SLO County that it will be shutting down the Santa Maria refinery in 2023 and converting to renewable fuels. It also withdrew an application for the replacement and relocation of the local portion of the pipeline between its Santa Maria facility and its refinery in the Bay Area, which will also be closing.

Phillips 66's announcement is a reminder that the era of oil is coming to an end. For communities, public health, and the climate, it's time to terminate oil drilling off the coast of California and ensure a just transition for workers. ExxonMobil should follow Phillips 66's lead and withdraw its dangerous offshore drilling and oil trucking project. #ExxonBeGone. ○

Andrew Christie is the director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Send comments through clanham@santamariasun.com.

LETTER

Canary took a cheap shot against carriages

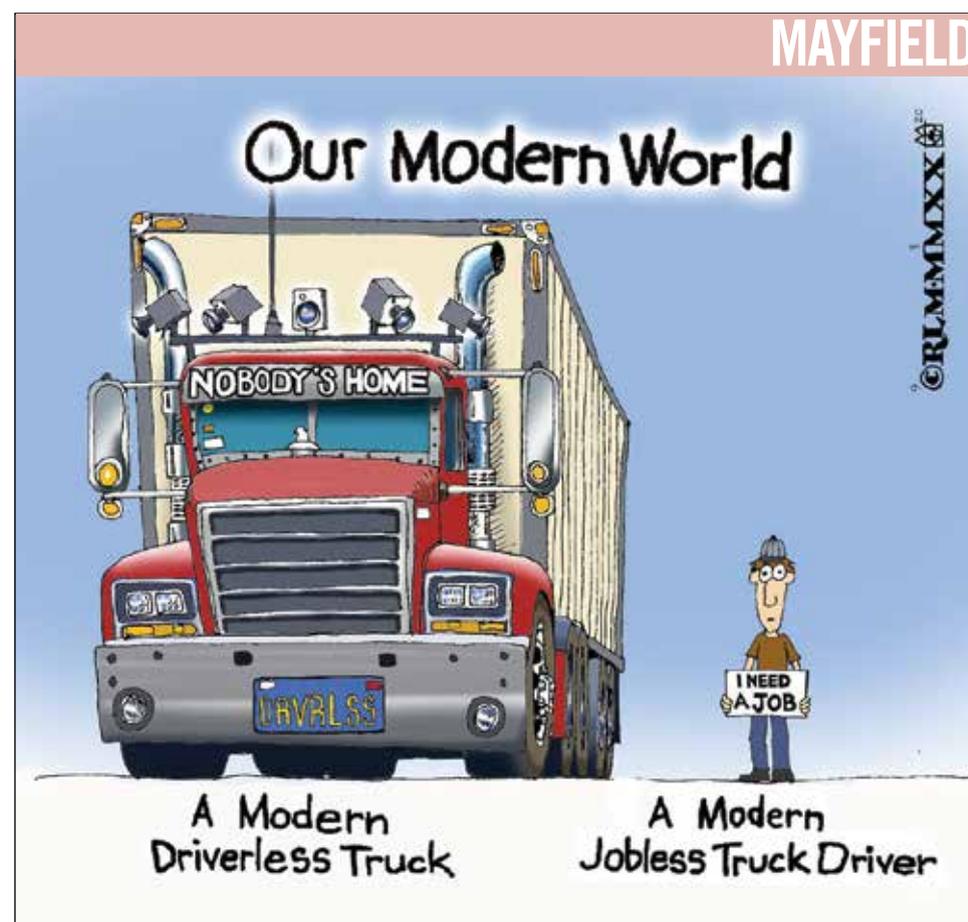
Unless you watched the Aug. 24 Solvang Council Meeting, the facts as reported were skewed at best. The Canary opinion ("Overdramatic," Aug. 27) was a cheap shot. Of the 52 emails the city received—how many were from horse owners?

There is no room for a second horse conveyance in the tourist-related-commercial area with Copenhagen Street closed off for two blocks, and not due to outside pressure.

Why would anyone at their own expense come all the way from Chicago and the East Coast to talk for their three allotted minutes about the slim potential of two horses getting hurt? You need to follow the money.

As for the Santa Barbara veterinarian who came over the hill—who asked him to speak against horses to pull a conveyance? None of the valley vets were concerned.

The city has gone out of its way to impose rules to ensure the horses are protected and cared for during the time pulling the trolley in the city. If the outsiders had done their homework, they would have understood that this valley is horse country. Horses are trailered all over this valley on a continuous basis. Valley horse farms have owners from as far away as Saudi Arabia with Arabian, Egyptian, quarter, and Belgian horses being the majority. Endurance rides around Lake Cachuma are a yearly event. One woman brings horses in her Boeing 737 from Florida to be trained in this valley.

Fred Kovol
Solvang

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

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

- All individuals entering the building are pre-screened and temperature is taken.
 - Face masks are required to be worn
 - Only well-patient visits are seen inside the building
 - All sick visits are seen either outside in a tent or via telehealth
- Strict sanitation practices are in place including disinfecting exam rooms after each visit.

Pediatric Medical Group wants to ensure all newborns, infants, children and adolescents are up-to-date on their comprehensive well-child care, inclusive of appropriate screenings, complete physical exam, laboratory exams, fluoride varnish and vaccines.

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GOOD NEWS!

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Rambling and confused

To be perfectly frank—to speak with extreme candor—I have a hard time following almost anything that tumbles out of **Andy Caldwell's** mouth. But then again, perhaps that's because his thoughts are just too big for my simple canary capacity.

Or maybe, it's because this particular candidate for the **24th District** seat in the **U.S. House of Representatives** is long-winded and doesn't make any sense. But what do I know? I'm only a bird.

It's "heady stuff," to use his own descriptor from a speech he gave to what he called "the best Republican club in the whole entire region." And no, that club wasn't in **Santa Barbara County**. That club exists in **Atascadero**, where the **Republican Party of San Luis Obispo County's** headquarters are.

The term "best" is a bit of a reach. Unless of course you are a Trump-lover who clings to family, faith, and country and believes that the disintegration of the nuclear family led to the disintegration of our inner cities, which gave rise to the **Black Lives Matter** movement and is destroying America because socialists, anarchists, and globalists have formed an unholy alliance with **China** and **George Soros**. Are you following me?

No? Good. I lost myself at, "Unless of course..." "Empires come and go," he told this particular group of Republicans in July. "What we are seeing right now could be nothing else than the end of the American empire."

And guess what? "It's been happening since the 1960s." He's been holding on to all of this angst since the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** passed!

This is America! Where we discriminate against everyone who isn't like us! We can't outlaw

discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin simply because people were protesting about it. Protesters ruined this country! Bunch of goddamn liberal progressives whining about civil rights!

People just need to stick to faith, family, and country so the Empire can Strike Back. He repeated the phrase, "We hold these truths to be self-evident," without actually making a cohesive point. But he never actually said the second part of that statement in the **Declaration of Independence**. You know the one: "... that all men are created equal."



Yes. I should have known better than to travel down Caldwell's little rabbit hole of propaganda on **YouTube**.

But it's because a "sponsored" piece of "heady" propaganda popped up on my **Facebook** feed. Yeah. I clicked!

He trotted out the old frog and the scorpion fairy tale. Today's "woke progressives" are the scorpion in the story "who literally stung the minds of young people raging against America," he said. So, that I can follow—except really, guys like Caldwell and his guy in the White House, **Donald "the divider in chief" Trump**, are a more adequate analogy for that stinging scorpion. We're all going to drown if this keeps up.

What I didn't understand was the disintegration of Caldwell's message, when he started rambling about how we would all drown because of "secular humanism," which is what progressives have been "inculcating" us with. Jesus Christ. What?

"This is not a political battle," he whined at his fellow Republicans in Atascadero. "It is an existential crisis." ☹

The canary thinks Andy Caldwell is an existential crisis. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

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The Goal of Lompoc Senior’s Club is to organize and finance resort type entertainment for local seniors, at the Dick Dewees Senior Center.

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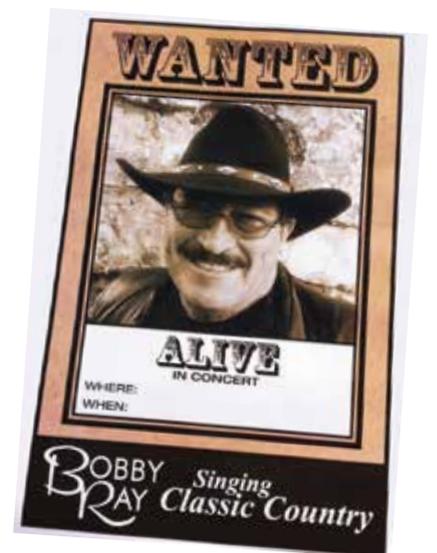
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- Celebrate birthdays by sending out greeting cards from our volunteer group
- RV Club: Go camping at Jalama Beach, or Oceano Beach, and use the RV for "Common Use Area" and use tents & cots for sleeping
- Provide scholarships to seniors with low financial resources that want to take dancing lessons, etc. from the City of Lompoc Recreation Division
- An "Entree Brigade," for seniors who love to cook, and give back to seniors and other people experiencing disaster or hard times, etc.
- Potluck lunches on weekday holidays when the senior center is closed and there is no CAC lunch
- Providing affordable (\$3.00) tickets to local plays and concerts, etc. to seniors with low income monthly. (approx. \$27 max limit per senior for about 30 to 40 seniors)
- Get together in the lobby of the Dick Dewees Senior Center twice a week to chat and eat candy
- Annual Space Exposition / Center / Museum Fundraiser
- A Lompoc Senior's Club thrift / consignment store with senior's lounge, medical equipment lending closet, and a disaster / hard times relief closet
- The Lompoc Senior's Club Buddy System for home alone seniors
- Quarterly "Make A Wish" for seniors (\$100 maximum limit)
- A Lompoc Senior's Club endowment fund



The Lompoc Senior's Club has fundraisers and gets grants to finance the above entertainment.



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Make Things
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LOMPOC SENIOR'S CLUB

- Lompoc Senior's Club Thrift Store, Antiques, Collectibles, & Consignments (*Hopefully opening soon!*)
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- Lompoc Senior's Club Garage Sale



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*The Lompoc Senior's Club is part of the
Lompoc Valley Parks, Recreation, & Pools Foundation.
It is not part of the City of Lompoc Recreation Division.*

*We would like to thank all our
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Especially CFSLOC, Walmart, Albertsons, & Vons.

Thank you Sun
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HOT STUFF

SEPT. 3 – SEPT. 10
2020

READY TO ROCK

Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay presents its latest fine art photography show through Tuesday, Sept. 29. This trio exhibit features photographic landscapes by Gregory Siragusa, Terry Garvin, and Karen Peterson. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com to find out more. The gallery is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGORY SIRAGUSA

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 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

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

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

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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. Also offering kids camps for summer. ongoing Varies. wineanddesign.com/orcutt. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS Each week we will combine two or more mediums in several pieces.

We will work with watercolor, acrylic, ink, pastels, charcoal, as well as various printmaking techniques in the course of a month.

Maximum of 5 guests. Pre-registration and masks required. Mondays, Wednesdays,

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.

1:30-3 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 7-12 Each week students will have the opportunity to use two mediums while emphasizing an Element of Art and a Principle of Design. Maximum of 5 students. Pre-registration and masks required. Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-6 Each week students will have the opportunity to use two mediums while exploring the Elements of Art. Maximum 5 students. Masks are required. Pre-registration required. Mondays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$20. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

NIPOMO ARTISTS VIRTUAL SHOW AND SALE Missing all those great Central Coast art shows this year? Join nipomoartists.com for online purchasing and in-person pickups after the show. Items for sale include functional and decorative ceramics, jewelry, painting, and more. **Sept. 5**, 6 a.m.-11:30 p.m., **Sept. 6**, 6 a.m.-11:30 p.m. and **Sept. 7**, 6 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Free. 805-633-0796. nipomoartists.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SUMMER DATE NIGHTS WITH THE CLARK CENTER: ONLINE A weekly online performance series. Look for it on the Clark Center's YouTube Channel and Facebook page. Donations will be split between artists/organizations and the Clark Center. Saturdays, 6-7 p.m. through Sept. 26 Donations accepted. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/summer-date-nights-2020/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BRUSHSTROKES 2020 Brushstrokes 2020 is a digital exhibition featuring 42 paintings by members of The Painters Group, an affiliated artist group of SLOMA, and members of Art Center Morro Bay. Artists explore a variety of subject matter, from portraits of loved ones and animals

to serene landscapes. Through Sept. 27 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/brushstrokes-2020/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

CALIFORNIA SCULPTURE SLAM 2020 California Sculpture SLAM showcases current works by established and up-and-coming California sculptors. The exhibition's goal is to provide a platform for a wide variety of concepts and materials. Exhibition slideshow online. Through Sept. 27 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/slam-2020/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

DIGITAL EXHIBITION: TERMINALLY OPTIMISTIC-THE PRINTS OF RACHAEL WINN YON This retrospective exhibition explores the prints of Rachael Winn Yon, who was joyous, adventurous, curious, and energetic. Her large personality is reflected in her prints, with playful imagery and imaginative scenes. You can view this digital exhibition at SLOMA.org. Mondays-Sundays, through Sept. 27 Free. sloma.org/exhibition/terminally-optimistic/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562.

RAYTOONS ONLINE CLASSES: CARTOONING, VIDEO GAME DESIGN, AND CREATIVE WRITING Raytoons will be having online classes this fall in Cartooning, Video Game Creation, Comic Book Making, 2D Animation, Claymation, Creative Writing, and more. Available through the Outschool Online School. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Sept. 21 \$10. 805-546-3132. outschool.com. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

SLO CAMERA CLUB Online Zoom meetings and competitions. Everyone is welcome. Visit site for meeting links. Second Thursday of every month Free to guest. slocameraclub.org/home.shtml. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0639.

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

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

ARTS from page 17

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS ONLINE:

TAMING THE RESTLESS MIND A virtual exhibit. These featured artists for September bring works of abstraction. Deborah Pepin works with pastels, oils, and cold wax to create what she calls her doodles. Marvin Sosna, now 93, will be exhibiting abstracts. Mondays-Sundays, **Sept. 5, Sept. 6, Sept. 11, Sept. 12 and Sept. 13**, through Sept. 27 Free. cambriacenterforthearts.org. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

RESIN WORKSHOP An at-home class that includes a kit and how-to video so you can create in the safety and comfort of your home. **Sept. 5, 10-11 a.m.** Various. 805-286-5993. creativetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR

Zoom with a docent on a virtual tour of the Point San Luis Light Station. Travel back in time to 1890, delve into the history of the light station, and see all the places you'd see on an in-person tour, plus more. Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. \$10. 805-540-5771. pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SUNSET PHOTO SHOOT An evening for photographers and enthusiasts to come to the station and take sunset photos. A perfect place for photographers to come snap shots of beautiful San Luis Bay, the setting sun, and other picturesque views such as the breakwater and whalers island. **Sept. 11, 5:45-9 p.m.** \$40. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SWIM LESSONS Call or go online for full schedule and to pre-register. Mondays-Thursdays Member \$130; Non-member \$160. 805-481-6399. 5citieswimschool.com. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPLORE ECOLOGY

BEYOND THE SEA

In lieu of the traditional Coastal Clean-up Day, Santa Barbara County Resource Recovery and Waste Management is encouraging the community to participate in Coastal Clean-up Month by picking up trash in their own neighborhoods on every Saturday in September, starting on Sept. 5. Participants can help stop potential marine debris from traveling through storm drains and into creeks and on to the ocean. Visit exploreecology.org for more info.

—C.W.

SEA GLASS HAMMERED WIRE JEWELRY An out-home class complete with supplies and how-to video. Video shows how to drill holes in sea glass, texturize and strengthen metal, and basic jewelry making techniques. **Sept. 5, 10-11 a.m.** Various. 805-286-5993. creativetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SUCCULENT WORKSHOP An at-home project which includes supplies and how-to video. Kit pick-up is at Art Center Morro Bay. **Sept. 6, 10-11 a.m.** Various. 805-286-5993. creativetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SUMMER ARTISTS SHOW Featured artists are Page Graeber, Greg Simmons, and Lori Slater. Cambria Gallery's final show before its move to downtown SLO. Expanded and renamed SLO Gallery, it will be directly across the street from SLOMA. Through Sept. 7 CambriaGallery.com. Cambria Gallery of Art, 1561 Main Street, Cambria, 805-926-5050.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LOMPOC/VANDEMBERG

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

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. diving.weebly.com. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St., Santa Maria.

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: MOVIE TALK DISCUSSION GROUP A video conference movie discussion group; meets on the second Thursday of each month. For more information email sstarnaud@cityofsantamaria.org or call 805-925-0994. Second

POP-UP DRIVE IN THEATER
COLONY SQUARE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
MOVIE STARTS @ 8:15
Showing: **FANTASTIC FOUR**
Special Thanks to our Sponsors:
Wild Fields Brewhouse
Paloma Creek Park
Wild Fields Brewhouse, Atascadero

Colony Square Pop-Up Drive-In Theater: Fantastic Four THURSDAY, SEPT. 3
Wild Fields Brewhouse, Atascadero

SUMMER MOVIES IN THE PARK
at PALOMA CREEK PARK
FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIES on the BIG SCREENS

Summer Movies in the Park Drive-In: Onward SATURDAY, SEPT. 5
Paloma Creek Park, Atascadero



Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour
WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30
Point San Luis Lighthouse

Around the World with CASS Winery
A Trip To Persia
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH
6:30 - 10:30 PM

Wednesdays Around the World: Persia
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

POP-UP DRIVE IN THEATER
COLONY SQUARE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
MOVIE STARTS @ 8:15
Showing: **DR. DOOLITTLE**
Special Thanks to our Sponsors:
Wild Fields Brewhouse

Colony Square Pop-Up Drive-In Theater: Dr. Doolittle THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Wild Fields Brewhouse



Empty Bowls Fundraiser for 5CHC
SATURDAYS: SEPT. 12, 19, & 26
5Cities Homeless Coalition



Virtual Cocktail Class: Shrubs & Reductions
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Online with Make & Muddle



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

POP-UP DRIVE IN THEATER
COLONY SQUARE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
MOVIE STARTS @ 8:15
Showing: **SPACE CHIMPS**
Special Thanks to our Sponsors:
Wild Fields Brewhouse

Colony Square Pop-Up Drive-In Theater: Space Chimps THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Wild Fields Brewhouse

Around the World with CASS Winery
A Trip To Italy
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Wednesdays Around the World: Italy
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

"Socially Distanced" High Tea on the Blue Deck
FRI, SAT, SUN, SEPT. 25, 26, 27
Los Osos/SLO Master Chorale



Bang Muay Thai Seminar w/Sensei Duane Ludwig
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Sleeping Tiger Fitness

HOT BUTTERED RUM

Hot Buttered Rum with The Dales and Abby and the Myth
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Tiny Porch Concerts



Cass Wine Seminar: The Evolution of Rosé
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

TENT CITY AFTER DARK
ATASCADERO, CA

Tent City After Dark
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2
Tent City Sunken Gardens, Atascadero

Estate Beef Dinner
2020 Fall Series
Featuring Plate Ribs
Friday, October 2nd
6:00 - 9:00 PM

2020 Estate Beef Dinner Series: Plate Ribs
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

Rally
A Benefit for the Children of the Santa Maria Valley

Kiwanis of SMV Foundation Poker Rally
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
Allan Hancock College

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

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

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
CLASSES FOR SENIORS**

Have you heard the phrase, "Sitting is the new smoking"? Cuesta College's Emeritus exercise program, taught by Doris Lance, is offering a 45-minute class of stretching, balance, and cardiovascular fitness three days a week available to seniors. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9-9:45 a.m. through Dec. 18 Free. 805-546-3942. cuesta.edu. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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

**TOWARD A MOMENT
OF RECKONING:
UNDERSTANDING THE
HISTORY OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL RACIAL
VIOLENCE**

Structural racism and the racial tensions that accompany it affect our community just as they affect our nation. Join Dr. Leola Dublin Macmillan as she provides her own perspective as both a Black woman and as a scholar of race in America. **Sept. 11**, 5:30 p.m. Free. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/lecture. History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

VISIT THE DALLIDET GARDENS Enjoy the unparalleled natural beauty of the gardens through Labor Day weekend. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. through Sept. 7 Free. 805-543-0638. dallidet.org. Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT RALLY Join the NAACP SLO County and Latino Outreach Council for an evening of inspirational speakers, drum circle, dancers, and live music by The Monroe. The event will be livestreamed through Facebook and Twitch. **Sept. 3**, 5:30-7 p.m. naacpslocty.org. San Luis Obispo County Courthouse, 1050 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 866-249-9475.

FOOD & DRINK

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.

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

NINTH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS Patrons who purchase tickets online will have three separate dates and locations to pick up (and pick out) bowls handcrafted by local artisans. And in an effort to support local businesses, ticket-buyers will receive a coupon good for a bowl of soup from one of the participating restaurants. **Sept. 12** 805-574-1638. 5CHC.org. Trilogy at Monarch Dunes, 1640 Trilogy Pkwy, Nipomo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

WEDNESDAYS AROUND THE WORLD: PERSIA Immerse your palate in delicious cuisine from around the world without even leaving Paso Robles. This culinary experience will take you on a journey to discover the best dishes from around the globe. **Sept. 9**, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$120. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.



POOL SCHOOL

September marks the first month of new swim classes at 5 Cities Swim School in Arroyo Grande, which are offered every week, Monday through Thursday, at various times. Participants are required to pre-register for classes, and admission packages range from \$130 to \$160. Call (805) 481-6399 or visit 5citiesswimschool.com for more info. The school is located at 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande.

—C.W.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: SOUND CLOUD Features recordings of the Mozart Sinfonia from the Philharmonic's last live concert and other recordings. ongoing Free. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

YNANA ROSE: VIRTUAL CONCERT All donations are split equally between Ynana Rose and the Clark Center. **Sept. 5**, 6 p.m. clarkcenter.org. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY ARTS VIRTUAL MUSICAL SERIES: A KILLER PARTY A collaboration between more than 50 Broadway professionals all working together remotely. A 9-part musical. Wednesdays \$12.99 for complete series. akillerpartymusical.com/cal-poly-arts. Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7113.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

SATURDAY IN THE PARK: VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES Concerts will be available to stream for free through YouTube. Upcoming acts include Chad Land Band (Sept. 5), Rockin' Bs Band (Sept. 19), and Ghost/Monster (Oct. 3). Saturdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free admission. atascadero.org/youtube. Atascadero Lake Park, Atascadero, 461-5000.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN MARTIN FEE



PUMPKIN KING

Art Center Morro Bay and Creative Me Time co-host a curbside pickup for its take-home Succulent Pumpkin Workshop on Sunday, Sept. 6, from 10 to 11 a.m. Each kit includes all supplies needed to complete the project and an instructional video. An additional pickup date is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 4, from 10 to 11 a.m. Visit creativemetime.com for more info. Art Center Morro Bay is located at 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

—C.W.



BUTTERFLIES

Alive!

**NOW OPEN
THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

Walk through a beautiful garden while nearly 1,000 live butterflies flutter freely around you. The exhibit features a dazzling variety of butterflies, from local favorites to exotic tropical varieties. Learn about the life cycle and behavior of these spectacular invertebrates while observing them up close.



Reservations required via sbnature.org/tickets.



2559 Puesta del Sol
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805-682-4711

PRESENTED BY: Schipper Construction, Santa Barbara Independent, Voice Magazine, El Latino, Noozhawk, Santa Maria Sun, and Ventura County Reporter.

Arts Briefs

Gallery Los Olivos celebrates its reopening with a new exhibit, Simple Pleasures

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHERYL AMBRECHT



Gallery Los Olivos announced Thursday, Sept. 3, as its official reopening date. The studio's new hours will be Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests of the gallery can look forward to viewing a new duo exhibition, Simple Pleasures, which showcases oil paintings by Cheryl Ambrecht and jewelry by Patricia Wilkins.

Ambrecht paints still life, floral, and plein air pieces, while Wilkins uses gemstones, beads, and silver to create her handcrafted items. In conjunction with the exhibit, Gallery Los Olivos will be hosting special artist talk events on Sept. 12, 20, and 26.

The studio is following Santa Barbara County guidelines and precautions in order to reopen safely. Protocol information will be posted on the gallery's front doors for guests to read before entering.

For more details, call the gallery directly at (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

Santa Maria Public Library hosts new discussion group, Movie Talk

The Santa Maria Public Library is hosting a new virtual discussion group for movie fans to meet and talk online, titled Movie Talk, which will meet on the second Thursday of each month. The next video conference meeting in the series will take place on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call (805) 925-0994 or email [sstarnaud@cityofsantamaria.org](mailto:ssstarnaud@cityofsantamaria.org) for more details on the new club.

PCPA kicks off InterPlay series with Mat Smart's *The Agitators*

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents two upcoming virtual readings of *The Agitators*, to be streamed live through Zoom on Friday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 19, at 1:30 p.m. Penned by playwright Mat Smart, this historical play is centered on the friendship between Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony.

The play reading will be followed by a talkback with the actors and crew and will be the first entry in PCPA's InterPlay series, which will run through Oct. 24. Other selected plays include Andrew Bovell's *Things I Know To Be True* (Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10) and Octavio Solis' *Mother Road* (Friday, Oct. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 17) and three additional titles that have yet to be announced.

Pre-registration to join each live reading through Zoom is available online at pcpa.org, for \$5 per play. Call the PCPA Box Office at (805) 922-8313 for more details. ○

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



FACE TO FACE: Karen Fields, founder of nipomoartists.com, is showcasing and selling a collection of her sculptural clay planters and handcrafted jewelry through the website.

Clay with me

New website showcases ceramics, jewelry, sculptures, and other handcrafted media from Nipomo-based artists

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

While several art fairs and in-person exhibits were canceled or postponed this year, supporting local artisans is still possible in the virtual realm. Central Coast-based multimedia artist Karen Fields recently launched a new website, nipomoartists.com, as an ongoing outlet for her and her fellow artists facing the same predicament.

"Practicing artists who had spent the year building inventory for shows were stuck. In addition, artists found themselves spending even more time in their studios leading to everyone having even more inventory," said Fields, who is showcasing and selling a collection of her sculptural clay planters and handcrafted jewelry through the website.

This virtual venue currently features artworks from eight different participants, and Fields hopes new artists will join the site each month, she said. Fields aimed to create an online gallery after she reached out to other Nipomo-based artists and craft vendors and pitched the idea.

"Instead of driving to the fair, customers could shop online and then pick up their purchases from the artists' homes," Fields said. "This approach allowed everyone to social distance at their own comfort level—an important selling point."

Price points of the featured items range from \$10

Shop till you drop

Check out nipomoartists.com to view a wide variety of artworks from local artists. Each piece on the site is also for sale.

Clay Geeks. This local couple has been working with clay since 2005.

Lately clay has also been Fields' medium of choice, although she's mainly dabbled in textiles, metalsmithing, and painting over the years. During the course of voluntary quarantine, Fields has been spending a majority of her time in her studio, creating new works fashioned from polymer clay. Fields said one positive

aspect of this surreal time period has been its encouragement of experimentation, she explained. "COVID-19 isolation has been hard in the human sense, but it has also put me in my studio every day. Not being able to run out and grab particular supplies has caused me to solve problems in new ways—which is one definition of creativity," Fields said. "I've already done a lot more experimenting than usual and have produced things that a year ago I wouldn't have come up with."

Other featured artists in the show include Nancy Blain, aka the Harried Potter, whose functional ceramics are constructed from clay slabs, which she rolls, textures, and paints by hand.

Nipomo couple Louie and Cindy Moreno also work in ceramics and are showcasing some of their large-scale ceramic sculptures on the website.

Although the couple feels lucky they're able to keep producing art from home, they miss



CERAMIC CACTUS: The website is currently showcasing pottery and ceramics—both functional and decorative—from Walt and Rochelle Hoylman, aka the Clay Geeks. This local couple has been working with clay since 2005.

to more than \$1,000, Fields said, "with items as small as earrings and as large as a 7-foot-tall ceramic totem pole."

Among the gallery's featured artists during the month of September is multimedia artist Tina Ellis, who creates mosaic jewelry, large mosaics, sculptures, and other works. The website is also currently showcasing pottery and ceramics—both functional and decorative—from Walt and Rochelle Hoylman, aka the

many aspects of participating in traditional art shows and other public gatherings.

"As most of our work is done out of our own home art studio, our interactions with other artists are very limited," the Morenos expressed in their artist statement.

"While we have continued creating art, at some level, COVID-19 has probably impacted our creativity, as we no longer engage in the type of interactions that stimulate thoughts and ideas as a result of close and personal interactions with other artists."

Acrylic painter Jewel DeMoss, whose figurative and abstract pieces are featured in the virtual gallery, also misses the in-person camaraderie between her and her fellow artists in the area. DeMoss' multimedia works, created from fabric, thread, burlap, and other materials, are also on display and for sale on the website.

"COVID-19 has severely impacted communicating with and working with other artists, which is so important to stimulate creativity," DeMoss said. "Educational opportunities are rare and mostly virtual. Although I appreciate these opportunities, virtual learning is simply not as stimulating as in-person learning where artists can learn and support each other."

"Galleries are shuttered and opportunities to show art are stymied; this is the reason nipomoartists.com has been created," DeMoss added. "Artists need venues to show their work." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs a punny nickname; send suggestions to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



MOSAIC MAGIC: Among the gallery's featured artists during the month of September is multimedia artist Tina Ellis, who creates mosaic jewelry, large mosaics, sculptures, and other works.

IMAGES COURTESY OF MARILYN DOVER BENSON



THE CIRCLE GAME: "The raised circle was achieved by laying modeling paste and texturing each layer with a sculpting tool," Marilyn Dover Benson said of her piece, *Enso*. "I then painted the inner circle with a faint blush of paint, which could be interpreted as sunrise."



LET IT FLOW: One of Marilyn Dover Benson's featured acrylic pieces in the exhibit, titled *Aqua Flow*, was "fun to accomplish, although somewhat hard on my hands," the artist said—before mentioning her use of crushed glass.

Just keep painting

Valley Art Gallery showcases new abstracts from local acrylic artist Marilyn Dover Benson

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

A self-taught artist, Marilyn Dover Benson has mostly painted landscapes and still life pieces over the past decade. But a new group show at the Santa Maria Airport, curated by Valley Art Gallery, is highlighting a different side of Benson's range. She described her new venture into the abstract as "a radical change" from her usual realistic style of painting.

One of Benson's featured acrylic pieces in the exhibit, titled *Aqua Flow*, was "fun to accomplish, although somewhat hard on my hands," the artist said—before detailing some of the materials involved.

"I heavily textured the canvas and then created a flowing shape that I filled with crushed glass," Benson told the *Sun*. "The painting is wired to permit being hung either vertically or horizontally."

Benson described another abstract piece in the show, titled *Enso*, as "a very calming, serene painting." This intricate multimedia creation of a circle within a circle, which Benson said can symbolize the circle of life among other things.

"The raised circle was achieved by laying modeling paste and texturing each layer with a sculpting tool," she said. "I then painted the inner circle with a

No paint, no gain

Visit valleyartgallery.org to find out more about Valley Art Gallery's current exhibit at the Santa Maria Airport, located at 3217 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria. Check out more of Marilyn Dover Benson's art on her website, marilyndoverbenson.com.

faint blush of paint, which could be interpreted as sunrise."

Although diving into abstract art was a big switch for Benson, her process and workflow remained consistent throughout the experiment. "I rigidly adhere to this self-imposed schedule, as there never seem to be sufficient hours in a day to accomplish all the paintings I want to do," said Benson, who maintains a strict painting shift between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day in her private studio at her home.

Benson also explained why she was able to keep painting under these time constraints over the past few months. As a self-described homebody, working while quarantined throughout the COVID-19 crisis hasn't phased Benson much.

"During the course of the pandemic, my life hasn't significantly changed. I'm somewhat an introvert and always spend each day in my home studio," Benson said. "The only negative impact is not being able to easily go to stores for art supplies—but thank goodness for the internet; I can order paints to be delivered right to my doorstep."

Painting daily is a key ingredient to refreshing your artistry, Benson explained, and advises up-and-coming artists to discipline themselves with a consistent schedule similar to her own. She also suggests that beginners simply observe their own surroundings and find the beauty in them.

"Make sure you paint something daily," Benson said. "My advice to any

aspiring artist is to stretch your imagination and try to capture the beauty all around you."

Those interested in Benson's work can check out her new abstracts at the airport through the end of September, or online at her website (marilyndoverbenson.com). She also offers private, scheduled visits to her studio at home. Window shoppers are welcome, as no purchases are required to stop by and enjoy the art, she said.

"I'm fortunate enough to have a home studio that is currently open for private tours—very appealing to those who want to do something different," Benson said. "[Guests] can enter and exit through a private entrance and can browse to their heart's content." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs external consequences to maintain any kind of disciplined routine. Send scheduling advice to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



LANDSCAPE ESCAPE: Although Marilyn Dover Benson recently ventured into abstract art, she's mostly painted landscapes and still life pieces over the past decade. "My advice to any aspiring artist is to stretch your imagination and try to capture the beauty all around you," she said.

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A not excellent three-quel

Dean Parisot (*Home Fries, Galaxy Quest*) directs this third installment in the *Bill & Ted* buddy-comedy-sci-fi series about two metalhead slackers—Bill S. Preston Esq. (Alex Winter) and Ted Theodore Logan (Keanu Reeves)—who travel through time in the first two films. Idiomatic teenagers in the 1989 original, *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*, they're now middle-aged adults with daughters, and they come to the realization that they've yet to create the music that will inspire the utopian future that set off their original adventure. (88 min.)

Glen: I may have come into this film with both dreams of wistful nostalgia and unreasonable expectations. After all, the premise is pretty ridiculous. In the first installment, the bros were at risk of flunking out of high school, so “the future” sent Rufus (George Carlin) back in time to help them learn history from the people who make it, like Napoleon, Freud, and “So-crates.” You see, the people of the future told Bill and Ted that their band Wyld Stallyns would someday create music that would unite the world and usher in a utopian society. Instead, the band has fallen apart and the friends are playing near-empty gigs at a Moose Lodge. They're still married to Joanna (Jayma Mays) and Elizabeth (Erinn Hayes), the medieval princesses they met in the first film, but their ladies aren't too happy with them, dragging

them to couples therapy. About the only people who still believe in them are their daughters, Thea (Samara Weaving) and Billie (Brigitte Lundy-Paine), apples who didn't fall far from their fathers' trees. This time around, “the future” sends Rufus' daughter Kelly (Kristen Schaal) to inform the boys they have 77 minutes to write their world-uniting song before space, time, and reality itself collapses. The pals jump in Rufus' old phone booth and begin jumping into the future to find themselves after they've already written the song so they can bring it back to the present and write it. Makes sense, right? Right?

Anna: It's definitely a film built on the nostalgia of its earlier counterparts, the first of which became a cult classic and was a truly fun ride, the second of which was not as great but pretty inevitable given the success of the first. This time around the two knuckleheads are still their old selves, just a bit older and more washed up. Storywise, the whole film is set up as a countdown—the two have just a couple of hours to get their epic, world-uniting song together. Their leaps into the future soon reveal that if they don't get their act together, they'll lose their dear wives as well as rain doom upon the rest of humanity.

It's a silly romp, and perhaps not a laugh-out-loud ride, but a chuckle-inducing and eye-rolling adventure. Should I have popped an edible or two beforehand to help the experience along?

BILL & TED FACE THE MUSIC

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth, Anna? **Stream it**
What's it worth, Glen? **Rent it**
Where's it showing? **On demand**

Probably. Nevertheless, it's fun to see these two reprise their roles as idiot heroes with the added twist of their two daughters along for the adventure.

Glen: The best laughs come from Dennis Caleb McCoy (Anthony Carrigan), a poorly functioning robot sent to kill Bill and Ted. Dennis is named after one of Kelly's loser ex-boyfriends by her mom, The Great Leader (Holland Taylor), who hopes killing Bill and Ted will reverse the reality collapse. The other laugh inducer is William Sadler, who reprises his roll as Death, who Bill and Ted outsmarted in an earlier film. Death is despondent that they kicked him out of Wyld Stallyns because of his 40-minute bass solos. If you've seen the trailer, you know Thea and Billie try to help their dads by fetching from the past and enlisting Jimi Hendrix (DazMann Still), Louis Armstrong (Jeremiah Craft), Mozart (Daniel Dorr), and others to join their dads' band. It all culminates in chaos as time and space destabilize, but this is a feel-good comedy, so you know the outcome is never in doubt. It currently costs \$19.99 to on-demand stream. That's too much. Wait for it to come to Redbox for \$1.75.

Anna: I agree, this one is a better value at a lower price point. It's a quick hour-and-a-half flick, so the silliness doesn't get bogged down too badly. Dennis is definitely a welcome bit of comedy; there's only so much that rehashing the roles of Bill and Ted can do to keep things interesting.



WHOA! PARTY ON! Bill S. Preston Esq. (Alex Winter, left) and Ted Theodore Logan (Keanu Reeves) travel into the future to find their older selves after they've hopefully written a world-uniting song, in *Bill & Ted Face the Music*, now available at Redbox.

They travel to hell after Dennis lasers them out of existence, and while Bill and Ted get sidetracked by trying to fix their own futures, Thea and Billie are on a mission to put the band together. It's a bunch of nonsense, but it's not the worst nonsense I've seen. If you don't mind putting your brain on hold for a bit and letting a little ridiculousness into your headspace, this may be a fun 90 minutes, but I probably won't be revisiting this one. If anything, I'll go back and watch the first film for that dose of nostalgia. ○

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

TV & Film Reviews

[UN]WELL

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

The six-part series *[UN]WELL* looks at health practices that fall outside of the norm and sometimes into dangerous territories. From the big business of essential oil sales to bee-sting therapy or bodybuilders bulking up via breast milk, this series tackles some of the more bizarre and dangerous ways people are trying to stay well.

Using interviews with believers and critics as well as experts and scholars, the series doesn't focus on whether the practice is either right or wrong, but what the thinking is behind it and what the problematic elements are. What scientific evidence is there to support the claims by ardent supporters of these practices? Typically, not much.

While it is unknown whether or not some of these practices help, what is known is they certainly can hurt. One episode focuses on fasting, specifically long bouts of water-only fasting. A woman who lost her husband after he attended a non-medically supervised fasting clinic—which



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEFT/RIGHT

MYSTERIOUS MEDICINE: *[UN]WELL* follows six different forms of alternative wellness—from tantric sex to bee-sting therapy to month-long fasts to tripping on hallucinogens—in this Netflix series that shows the lengths people will go to get or stay well.

is still in operation today—recalls her nightmare and the blatant refusal of the center to take any responsibility. This series is a fascinating look at some pretty bizarre lengths people go in hopes of feeling good. (six 45-min. episodes)

—Anna

ACTS OF VIOLENCE

What's it rated? **R**
When? **2018**
Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Go ahead and file this film under “Bruce Willis needed a paycheck.” Directed by Brett Donowho (*Salvation U.S.A.*) and filmed in beautiful Cleveland, Ohio, it's a classic revenge tale. Former Army Rangers Deklan (Cole Hauser) and Brandon (Shawn Ashmore) love their sister Mia (Melissa Bolona) dearly, but during her bachelorette party at a night club, she pisses off the wrong dudes who abduct her to make her a part of their boss's sex-trafficking ring.

Mia's fiancé, Roman (Ashton Holmes), and her two brothers know that despite what Detective James Avery (Bruce Willis) says about letting the police “do our jobs,” Mia's chance of surviving the ordeal rests on them. Luckily Deklan, who has PTSD, also has a garage full of military-grade weapons. Unencumbered by police procedure, they do what world-weary Avery wishes he could: kill 'em all and let God sort 'em out.

Is it a fine film? Not especially. I missed it when it was released because it was a straight-to-DVD rental two years ago when I could still go to the theater where the good films are. That said, it's actually kind of decent, and while the



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE PREMIERE

KIN: After his fiancée is abducted, Roman (Ashton Holmes, left) joins her brothers Deklan (Cole Hauser, center) and Brandon (Shawn Ashmore) in finding her and dispatching her abductors, in *Acts of Violence* streaming on Netflix.

emotional stakes aren't as high as, say, *Taken* (2008), it's a fun action romp. (86 min.) ○

—Glen

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



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- I guess alright, but we can't wait till in-person begins again.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUMBAUGH PUBLIC RELATIONS



SAFETY EXPERT: As Innovative Produce's director of food safety and field operations manager, Lacy Litten helps the company keep the produce it grows safe for consumption.



FARM DAY: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, growers like Innovative Produce are virtually participating in the second annual Santa Barbara County Farm Day on Sept. 19.

several years since food safety became what it is today. And so a lot of the things that the CDC was recommending have been things that we were already doing. And so it became, what more can we do?" Litten said.

They implemented a mask policy on March 17, and the executive team started meeting weekly to research regulations and create and implement new policies to keep the workers and food as safe as possible.

Litten speaks about some of those things in the *Safety in the Field During COVID-19 Farm Day Feature*. The opportunity to educate the community about the industry she works in and the company she works for is a way to connect people to the hands and the land that feed them.

"A lot of people see our land and our crops and our people, just driving by on the road. But very few have ever stepped foot on that," she said. "And you go and you step into that and you have a whole different value of what that feels like."

And that's really what the day is meant to do, SEEAG CEO Maranville said. As someone who's spent her whole life in agriculture and is now focused on ag education, even Maranville said she gained a new perspective talking to producers for the Farm Day Features.

Public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic has focused a lot on farmworkers and some of the safety issues they face being essential workers. One of the growers Maranville spoke with during her work on the features said that the public acts like farmworkers are different than everyone else. But they are the same. Farmworkers don't want to get sick; they don't want their kids to get sick. They're scared; they're worried; they need to be educated about safety precautions—just like everyone else.

On the other side of that though, some take it seriously and some don't—just like everyone else. Everyone deals with COVID-19 in their own way, Maranville said.

"We're all individuals, and we all have related to COVID in different ways," she said.

Some people wear masks, some don't. Some people take the virus seriously, some don't. Some choose to social distance outside of work, some don't. No workplace can control what workers do once they leave for the day, she said. But with farmworkers, Maranville said, it's kind of political.

"When you hear that one of the farmworkers is sick, it's kind of a reaction that it must be the grower's fault," she said. "But if you or I got sick, would they say it was our employer's fault?"

Overall, she said, every industry is different. But because food is something that everyone has in their refrigerator—and of course, everyone depends on it for survival—the reaction to the farming industry is often visceral. But it's because humans have an emotional connection to food.

"It's an industry that I personally think is very misunderstood," she said. ☺

Editor Camillia Lanham is always down for ag education. Send comments to clanham@santamariasun.com.

YOUR FOOD: A farmworker harvests lettuce in the Santa Maria Valley for Innovative Produce, a grower participating in this year's Santa Barbara County Farm Day.

Food knowledge

Santa Barbara County Farm Day aims to educate about how local produce stays safe and gets distributed around the world

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

The second annual Santa Barbara County Farm Day certainly isn't going to be like the first.

About 1,000 people attended tours at 13 different locations for last year's inaugural event in the Santa Maria Valley—this year will be the eighth Ventura County Farm Day. But farm tours aren't really an option due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG), which organizes the days, had to plan something a little different for the Sept. 19 event.

To continue the day's educational focus, SEEAG founder and CEO Mary Maranville said the organization decided to produce Farm Day Features, 10-minute videos designed to give the public a look into the current issues facing farmers in the area. The features, *Safety in the Field During COVID-19* and *Central Coast Agriculture on a Global Stage*, will premiere on Sept. 19 at santabarbaracountyfarmday.com.

Ag education

Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) took a different approach to this year's farm days in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties by creating a series of short videos, *Safety in the Field During COVID-19* and *Central Coast Agriculture on a Global Stage*. View them during Santa Barbara County's second annual Farm Day on Sept. 19 by visiting santabarbaracountyfarmday.com.

"We actually went out to the fields and went right to where the farmworkers are working," Maranville said. "They have employee safety measures; they've had them for years. ... It's such a highly regulated industry already that during COVID they only had to make a few adjustments."

She said many people don't necessarily understand what's happening on the acres and acres of fields they drive by regularly. In her years as an educator, Maranville said she's learned a lot about what locals know and don't know about the industry.

"People—because they eat every single day and they go into the grocery stores and get their food—they think they know about it, but they don't," she said. "And that's why Farm Day is so important."

For instance, she said, a lot of people are mystified when they hear about the number of crops and pounds of produce grown on the Central Coast. They ask, "Why are these farmers growing so much? Why are they using

so much water?" she said.

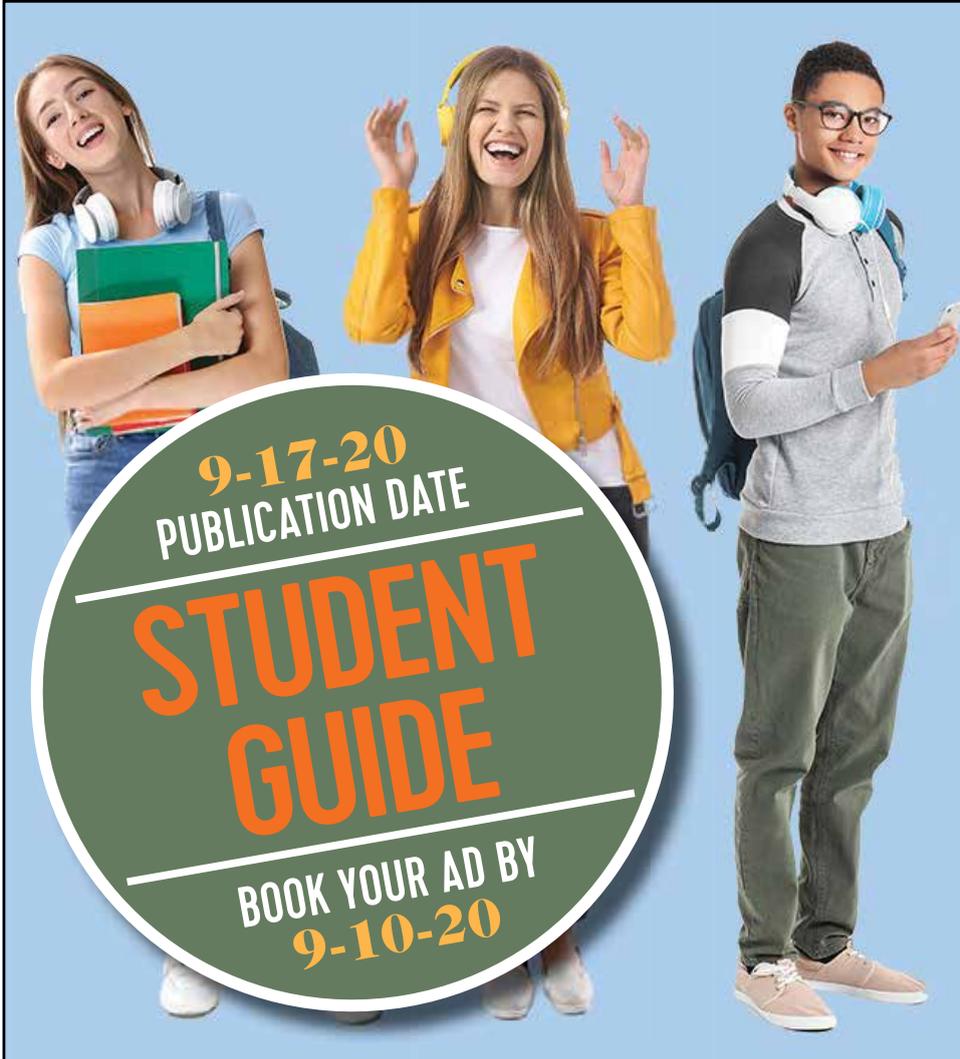
"And it's like, there are 7.2 billion people on the planet," Maranville said. "And a lot of places can't grow their own food. They're shipping all over the world to feed other countries."

Innovative Produce, which grows roughly 15 commodities across 2,000 acres of land in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, ships most of its produce throughout the U.S. and some to Japan, Canada, and Mexico. Lacy Litten, Innovative's director of food safety and field operations manager, said their biggest crops are probably Brussels sprouts and romaine, but they also grow broccoli, cauliflower, iceberg lettuce, mini peppers, carrots, fennel, and mixed leaf lettuce (among others).

"We don't like to put all of our eggs in one basket, let's just put it that way," she said with a laugh. "Diversity is important."

Litten said that the weather is ideal for growing on the Central Coast. It's that Mediterranean climate. Nipomo might have the most consistent temperatures and weather year round of the whole nation, she said.

"That climate is ideal for growing the specialty crops that we're able to produce here," she said. "Think about how much we like the weather—the crops like it too."



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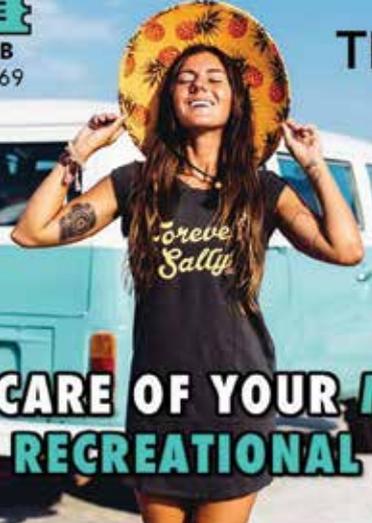
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