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# Sun

AT THE MOVIES



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Campy fun [20]

# Women's advocate

*State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson dedicated part of her political career to domestic violence prevention [6]*

BY MALEA MARTIN

The Awareness Issue



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OCTOBER 8 - OCTOBER 15, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 32

It's October, and that means more than just the beginning of spooky season. This is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which means that it's time for the Sun's annual Awareness issue! This year you can read about state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's work to help prevent domestic violence and aid its victims [6], a new event dedicated to creating a community for individuals affected by breast cancer [8], and what the pandemic means for child abuse and its victims [10].

This week, you can also read about a cannabis grow approved by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors [4]; a world of watercolor [18]; and a proposal to fund wine marketing in the county [22].



**FIGHTING FOR PREVENTION:** For all of her political career, outgoing state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson has worked on domestic violence issues.

Camillia Lanham  
editor

Cover image courtesy of state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's Facebook page > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Jessica Prather, C.N.P.

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The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that Childhood vaccinations and well exams have plummeted this year due to Covid-19 leading to concerns for possible outbreaks of infectious diseases and other missed health care that occurs during those visits, including physical exams, developmental screenings and other important care that should not be delayed.

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## Political Watch

• On Sept. 30, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a series of bills into law that address criminal justice, juvenile justice, and policing reforms in California, the governor's office announced. Most notably, the governor signed AB 1196 by Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), which bans the use of the carotid restraint statewide, as well as AB 1506 by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), which requires that the California attorney general "conduct investigations into officer-involved shootings of unarmed individuals that result in death." The governor also signed bills that make reforms in the juvenile justice system, such as SB 823 by the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, which closes the Division of Juvenile Justice. Newsom also signed AB 901 by Assemblymember Gipson, which ends the practice of sending youth to probation programs when they're struggling in school, as well as AB 1950 by Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), "which caps probation terms to a maximum of one year for misdemeanor offenses and two years for felonies," the release stated. "Americans across the country took to the streets this summer rightfully demanding more and better of our criminal justice system—and of ourselves," Newsom said in a statement. "We heard those calls for action loud and clear."

• Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation by state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) into law on Sept. 30 that seeks to "address the race- and gender-based pay gap," according to a press release. The legislation, SB 973, requires that California employers with 100 or more employees submit an annual pay data report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing that outlines its employees' compensation and hours worked, broken down by gender, race, ethnicity, and job category. "The bill is modeled after a federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission effort to collect pay data by race and gender instituted under the Obama administration that was later halted by the Trump administration," according to the press release. "Despite all the progress our state has made on equal pay, the pay gap remains a serious problem that costs an estimated \$79 billion in lost wages a year in California," Jackson said in the release. "The pay gap is especially concerning for women of color, with African American women earning 61 cents and Latinas just 42 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men." The bill allows state agencies to "identify patterns of wage disparities and better enforce wage discrimination laws, when appropriate."

• On Oct. 1, U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) voted in favor of an updated version of the Heroes Act, which passed the House by a 214 to 207 vote. "I am proud to have voted for four COVID-19 stimulus packages which were signed into law, but it is clear that those bills alone are not enough to truly address the challenges facing our communities," Carbajal said in a statement. "That's why I voted to pass two additional coronavirus relief bills in the House, which will provide the assistance [that] individuals, families, local governments, and small businesses on the Central Coast urgently need." The updated act, which totals \$2.2 trillion, addresses pandemic recovery needs that have emerged since May, when the legislation was passed by the House but not taken up by the Senate. "The bill includes additional relief for unemployed workers, another round of direct payments, strong support for small businesses by improving the Paycheck Protection Program, which helped save over 158,000 jobs on the Central Coast, and would deliver targeted assistance to restaurants, nonprofits, and event venues," the release stated. ○

## Cannabis grow near Buellton approved

It's been about a year and a half since Castlerock Family Farms first applied to operate a cannabis grow on a ranch just outside of Buellton, and despite two appeals and concerns about how cannabis odors will impact neighboring communities and businesses, the project is moving forward.

At a hearing on Oct. 6, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to approve the 23-acre project, dismissing a July 20 appeal of the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission's earlier approval.

John Wagner, who filed the appeal in association with the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, owns Peake Ranch

Vineyard and a wine tasting room that sits a little more than a mile away from the Castlerock site. Although in the letter of appeal Wagner claims recent changes in law would impact the project and require further environmental review, much of the conversation surrounding the project came down to cannabis odors and how they impact nearby businesses, particularly wineries.

Attorney Courtney Taylor, who represented Wagner at the hearing, said the Castlerock project is just one of many that are not required to mitigate odor issues in the Santa Ynez Valley, where she said intensifying cannabis odors are making it harder for already existing wineries to attract customers and sell wine.

"We are not concerned that the project will be incompliant with its permit condition or that the applicants are bad actors as stated in some of the public comment for the project," Taylor said at the Oct. 6 hearing. "We're concerned there is no permit condition that assures neighbors there will be no adverse impacts due to odors."

Castlerock Family Farms first applied in February 2019 for a land use permit that would allow for outdoor cannabis cultivation on the nearly 700-acre Williams Ranch, which sits about 2 miles west of Buellton and has been actively cultivated in some form or another for nearly a century.

The application was approved in July 2019, according to a county staff report, and Wagner and the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis appealed that decision a few weeks later, claiming the project would generate odors that could be detrimental to nearby vineyards and wine tasting rooms.

Prior to the Planning Commission's appeal hearing on July 8 of this year, Castlerock submitted a revised project plan, which included the elimination of all on-site cannabis processing—which is generally considered to be when the most intense odors are generated—and two processing facilities, along with increased landscaping aimed at shielding views of the grow from the public. Staff reviewed the revisions, and the Planning Commission dismissed Wagner's appeal and approved the Castlerock project at a July 8 hearing.

Wagner and the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis filed an appeal of that decision on July 20.

"Appellant was pleased to see the changes



**THE GREEN LIGHT:** At a hearing on Oct. 6, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to approve a 23-acre cannabis grow near Buellton.

made by the applicant," Taylor said. "But there is a remaining issue regarding the odor impacts of this project and the cumulative impacts given the adjacent projects."

Both 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam, who voted against the Castlerock project, and 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann agreed that the county's inability to prevent and enforce nuisance odors stemming from cannabis farms needs to be addressed.

Although the board largely agreed that Castlerock's proposed project meets current standards and would likely not contribute greatly to the odor issue, Hartmann said she'd like to further discuss the broader issue of cannabis odors at a later date.

"We've spent the last days in the Santa Ynez Valley with heat over 100 degrees, with heavy smoke particulates, and then it's made even worse by this cloying smell of cannabis," Hartmann said at the hearing. "I've had letters and emails and complaints from residents. We all have a letter from the city of Buellton. I want to remind everybody on this board, there's no odor control for large agricultural parcels. It's having a huge negative impact on the residents' well-being, visitors, and businesses in the Santa Ynez Valley. It's not imagined. It's not exaggerated. It's real, and it's going to get much worse."

—Kasey Bubnash

## Santa Barbara County schools could open Oct. 13, but not all will

If Santa Barbara County continues to remain in the red tier in the state's reopening plan, K-12 schools would be allowed to reopen starting Oct. 13. But it doesn't mean that every school will choose to reopen.

"The decision of when and how to reopen schools remains with our locally elected school board leaders," said 2nd District Supervisor and Board Chair Gregg Hart at an Oct. 2 press conference. "Each situation is different and presents unique logistical challenges."

Susan Salcido, the county's superintendent of schools, said that as of that morning, 21 schools had already been approved to reopen under the county's public health elementary waiver process.

"Two of those schools are public schools, Cold Spring and Montecito. And there are an additional nine waivers under consideration," Salcido said during the conference.

Salcido added that schools presently had the option to bring back small cohorts no larger than 14 students, as well as sports, with restrictions.

Santa Maria-Bonita School District Superintendent Luke Ontiveros spoke at the district's Sept. 23 board meeting about why North County districts like his are hesitant to jump too quickly into reopening.

For one, he said, the size of the district would make it difficult to meet the testing requirements for reopening. Furthermore, all schools that plan to reopen on Oct. 13 still must abide by distancing restrictions, which for larger schools could present an issue.

"We're seeing schools in South County—Cold Spring [Elementary School], which has 85 kids—they have applied for a waiver and had it approved, and they will be moving forward," Ontiveros said. "Montecito [Union School District], which has 270 kids, has the opportunity for that physical space."

But, Ontiveros continued, "the 14 largest elementary schools in the county exist in Santa Maria-Bonita, and so we've got to think more strategically around how we make this work."

The district is also taking into consideration the COVID-19 metrics specific to Santa Maria. While the county as a whole is in the red tier, Ontiveros said that he worked with a county epidemiologist to calculate rates in Santa Maria, and numbers are still elevated when compared to the county.

On Sept. 12, for example, the county's case rate sat at 6.7 percent, but according to Ontiveros, Santa Maria's was at a little more than 9 percent. On Sept. 16, he said, the county was at 5.6 percent, and Santa Maria at 7.6 percent.

"We have a higher transmission rate," Ontiveros said.

He added that between the Santa-Maria Bonita School District, Guadalupe Union School District, Orcutt Union School District, Blochman Union School District, and Santa Maria Joint Union School District, "we share families, we share kids."

"We're trying to keep contact with each other so that we're responding in similar fashions,"

NEWS continued page 5

## NEWS from page 4

Ontiveros said. "Orcutt and the [Santa Maria Joint Union] High School District, ... they're really pushing for bringing back athletic training, which has a different set of controls than those classroom environments."

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District brought back some sports practices starting Sept. 21.

Ultimately, Ontiveros said that going back to in-person learning is realistically not going to happen for a while.

"The questions come in about when we're going to get kids back in school, like the old days," he said. "It's a long ways off ... and that's what's happening in the other districts in the area as well, because we don't want to do anything that could have a negative effect."

Similarly, Santa Maria Joint Union School District Public Information Officer Kenny Klein told the Sun via email that his district is "hoping for a January reopening (second semester), but we are constantly re-evaluating that decision as COVID-19 conditions continue to change."

But Ontiveros added that, for Santa Maria-Bonita, bringing back small cohorts under the state's allowances is on the horizon, particularly for students with special needs.

"Starting with those cohorts would give us an opportunity to build some bandwidth around [reopening] protocols and procedures, and would be addressing our students at highest needs," he said.

—Malea Martin

## Four candidates vie for two open Solvang City Council seats

Solvang's four City Council candidates racing to fill the seats being vacated by current Councilmembers Karen Waite and Daniel Johnson were unanimous about one thing: They want to do things differently than the current council.

Former Architectural Review Board member Mark Infanti said that he feels the current councilmembers have not been responsive to what residents want.

"The bottom line is the City Council makes a whole bunch of decisions that keep the city running. I want to make it run as smoothly as possible so the citizens don't have to get involved but, when they are involved, we listen," Infanti said.

His goals are to develop a COVID-19 economic recovery plan and long-term budget; preserve the Danish character and culture of the city; improve the city's infrastructure, including the Vet's Hall and the wastewater treatment plant; and encourage local hiring.

Due to budget cuts, the city had to let go of some of its staff, but Infanti said when looking to fill positions in the future, he wants to ensure

they're locals.

"We have to get staff that preferably live here, like the people we had before that could tell you what's going on and know how to run an operation," Infanti said. "We could contract people that are qualified, but they aren't local and don't have a vested interest or experience in our city."

His goal is to make tangible decisions now and sustainable long-term plans for the future of the city.

Keeping the city financially viable now and in the future is candidate Justin Rodriguez's main campaign focus. He said coronavirus impacts have caused the city's revenue to drop because its usual number of tourists aren't visiting—however, tourists have started resuming their travels to the Solvang community, safely.

Continuing to allow businesses to use parking spaces for restaurant tables is necessary, Rodriguez said, but the council should look into how to assist other businesses to keep their operations viable.

Rodriguez served on the city Planning Commission and says his experience includes insight into what developers and local residents are trying to accomplish with their businesses in town. He wants to put an emphasis on streamlining the process for getting permits to renovate or upgrade buildings and facilities within the city.

"Applicants have had a lot of challenges in the past, so I think it's all about streamlining the process to allow people to reinvest in their properties and get them up and running sooner," he said.

He also wants to focus on finding ways to generate tax revenue while keeping rates down for utilities like water for residents.

"I also have a family in town; I have two little girls that are really young. I want this town to be successful in the future because I want them to be able to live here and be able to afford living here," Rodriguez said. "I want Solvang to be a prosperous place for everyone in the future."

Candidate Chris Bowyer said there's a saying he learned in the U.S. Marine Corps that's applicable to ensuring a viable future for the city: "The good plan executed now is better than the perfect plan in two weeks."

In terms of assisting businesses for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said that the Copenhagen Drive closure was a good plan.

"Now it's time to start dialing in the bold adjustments that we've made and start making some fine corrections to adapt to the world in COVID-19 and post-COVID-19," Bowyer said.

His campaign is also focused on the upcoming update to the wastewater treatment plant and finding ways to continue with that project in a fiscally responsible manner—facing a possible increase in water rates or construction costs.

"So looking at those two things and ensuring that we have certain safeguards in place but still have development in a responsible way that doesn't lose out on the soul of this town and the process

are all big priorities for me," he said.

If elected, Rodriguez wants to hold more workshops and get more community involvement in projects and plans the council must decide on. He said he has experience in listening and working with others as well as being a leader after serving six years in the U.S. Marine Corps and building a security company with his two friends.

"I do have this experience in understanding and the knowledge on how to dissect a budget to look at what kind of costs are unnecessary or nearly redundant in some cases, as well as to see how we can go about making certain systems within city government a little bit more efficient," he said.

Claudia Orona is a local business owner helming the family business, Solvang Trolley. With 13 years of experience working several positions within the business, Orona said she wants to bring that knowledge and insight of the business community onto the City Council if she's elected.

"First thing I want to do is bring the focus back on our community. I want to put the focus on engagement with our local businesses and residents into our local government," she said.

The current council puts a lot of emphasis on tourists and transient occupancy tax dollars, but Orona said there are also residents who are impacted by the tourism industry. She wants to continue working on the tourism industry with the community as a first priority.

If elected, she hopes to improve the relationship between the business community, the Chamber of Commerce, and the City Council.

"I want to make sure that we have the expertise needed at the city for the various projects that we need to tackle to keep it running smoothly, especially since the impacts we've seen from COVID," she said.

—Karen Garcia

## Carbajal reintroduces bill to incentivize renewable energy

As Diablo Canyon Power Plant's closure nears, many fear the impact that job and energy losses may have on the Central Coast, with the plant currently employing 1,500 people—but a new bill aims to mitigate some of those losses.

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) announced on Oct. 6 that he will be re-introducing the Energy Opportunity Zones Act in Congress. First introduced in 2018, the new and improved bill would expand and create tax credits to encourage private investment in renewable energy on the Central Coast.

Though not limited to Diablo Canyon, the bill could help incentivize the creation of renewable energy and jobs there, offsetting the impending losses from Diablo's closure.

Under this legislation, an area within a 120-mile radius of a nuclear or coal power plant that

was used to generate electricity and has ceased operations would be designated as an "energy opportunity zone." The zone designation, in turn, extends the investment tax credit and production tax credit for renewable energy endeavors in that area.

Diablo would be covered as well: The bill includes nuclear power plants that are scheduled to cease operations no later than six years after the enactment of the legislation. Diablo is scheduled to close in 2024 and 2025.

The bill only pertains to nuclear or coal plants, so something like the Phillips 66 Santa Maria oil refinery—which recently announced its upcoming closure—would not be included.

An area could also be designated as an energy opportunity zone if it can demonstrate that changes in its nuclear or coal economy have or will result in job losses.

"It's really not specific to Diablo, but all of the above incentivizes businesses to invest in solar, wind energy, geothermal," Carbajal told the Sun. "It really provides for broad investments, and that would lead to facilities."

For the 120-mile radius around Diablo Canyon, which encompasses both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, this could look like a repurposing of existing facilities or building new ones for renewable energy generation.

"Certainly if a company was to come up with a repurposing agreement or project in Diablo, I'm sure that is something that would be on the table," Carbajal said.

He added that projects taking advantage of the investment tax credit and the production tax credit would be required to have a project labor agreement in place, "which would ensure that we are providing good, well-paying, living-wage jobs in the region," Carbajal explained.

The congressman also announced on Oct. 1 that he "called on the Offshore Wind Working Group to reconvene and move forward with negotiations on a leasing area" for offshore wind development on the Central Coast, according to his office.

The group was created in August 2019 and has a variety of members, including representatives from the offices of Rep. Carbajal and Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Carmel Valley), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Department of Defense, the Navy, and the California Energy Commission, according to Cabajal's office.

Carbajal said the reconvened group will further encourage companies to invest in offshore wind energy.

"[The group] provides yet another tool for companies that are seeking to develop offshore wind energy to be able to get the tax credits that would incentivize them to make those projects a reality," Carbajal said. ○

—Malea Martin

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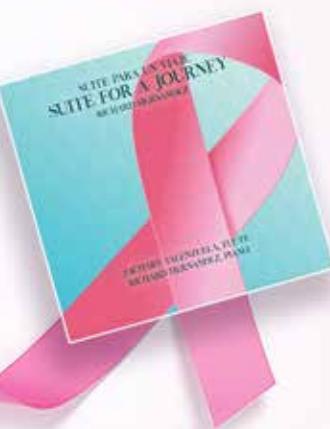
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The Awareness Issue

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## Commitment to prevention

*State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson reflects on years of advocating for domestic violence survivors as she nears the end of her political career*

BY MALEA MARTIN

Looking back at State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's legislative track record, her commitment to preventing domestic violence is indisputable. Jackson has authored or co-authored at least eight different bills over the years specifically pertaining to domestic violence, plus countless more that address related issues like sexual assault, stalking, and workplace rights.

But Jackson's impact on domestic violence prevention started long before she held elected office: Domestic violence issues first landed on Jackson's radar in the late 1970s when she was fresh out of law school and working in the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office.

"I saw a shocking number of cases coming in," she said. "The more I dug into it, the more I realized that this actually was not so unusual, and in fact, it actually has had epidemic proportions to it."

Jackson remembers that when she was first practicing law, intimate partner violence wasn't really considered a crime.

"The basic culture was that the man's home is his castle, and what goes on behind closed doors is really not the business of law enforcement," she said. "I thought that was absolutely ridiculous. ... I remember being very insistent that, when we had a case of domestic violence, the case be prosecuted and that the perpetrator have to suffer some consequences."

Jan Campbell, executive director of Domestic Violence Solutions, recalls that Jackson was involved with the organization's early founding, when it was called Shelter Services for Women, and the senator continued to be supportive over the years.

"She's just been a tireless advocate in not only her role as an attorney but also in her role in state government," Campbell said.

Before Jackson's current position as state senator, which she's held since 2013, Jackson was an Assembly member from 1999 to 2004.

"When I got to the Legislature, I immediately started investigating what we could do to create both better awareness and better outcomes for the victims," Jackson said.

She worked to address how dangerous domestic violence is, as it all too often escalates into more serious crimes like homicide.

"I wrote legislation that requires that if somebody is accused of domestic violence and a restraining order is issued, and they violate that restraining order, the prosecutor is required to notify the victim when a bail hearing for that alleged perpetrator is going to occur," Jackson said.

This allows the victim to testify so that the court can make an informed determination about whether the perpetrator is at risk of reoffending, Jackson said.

"This bill arose out of a case in Ventura involving a woman," Jackson said. "[Her] ex-husband had violated restraining orders something like 20 or 30 times. They let him out on his own recognizance. ... He broke into her home at 6 in the morning and, in front of their three children, stabbed her to death."

In response to the tragedy, Jackson's bill



**THE GOOD FIGHT:** During the past two decades, Hannah-Beth Jackson has served Santa Barbara County as both a state Assembly member and senator. Over the years, she's been a fierce advocate for domestic violence prevention and survivors through her legislation.

established what she calls a "cooling off period," so that perpetrators are held without bail until the case is resolved.

Jackson is also proud of a bill that prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against employees who suffered domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

"It allows the employee to request reasonable accommodations to ensure their safety in the workplace," Jackson said. "It also calls for implementing a workplace safety plan in response to the potential for a domestic violence incident."

Campbell from Domestic Violence Solutions said that Jackson's legislation and support over the years has helped her organization immensely.

"She looks at things holistically," Campbell said. "She's done so many things to strengthen families and particularly the role of women."

"The more stable people are, the less trauma they have to deal with," and the less domestic violence occurs, Campbell added.

There's no question that the pandemic has increased stress for many people, and Campbell said there's been a corresponding uptick in domestic violence calls.

"We had so many more calls in the north part of the county, because coronavirus was hitting Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Lompoc much harder with COVID," Campbell said. "Domestic violence doesn't really discriminate based on race or gender or economic stability, but different things create spikes."

Though 2020 will be Jackson's last year in office—she's retiring from politics this year—Campbell is hopeful that local political advocacy for domestic violence issues will continue. She expects that Monique Limón, a state Assembly member running for Jackson's seat, will continue Jackson's legacy if elected.

Campbell also commended recent efforts from Gov. Gavin Newsom, who on Sept. 29 announced that he had signed five bills into law that support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other abuse crimes.

"The legislation that he signed, primarily around funding and some housing issues, is all very helpful," Campbell said. "He understands that, when you're dealing with domestic violence, you're not just dealing with an isolated group of people. This affects the entire community."

And though this will be Jackson's last term, she said it won't be the last the community sees of her.

"I'm sure there's still mischief to be made," Jackson said with a laugh. ☺

Reach Staff Writer Malea Martin at [mmartin@santamariasun.com](mailto:mmartin@santamariasun.com).

# Sexual assault and child abuse are NEVER the victim's fault!



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# Community in the water

*Surfing for Hope Foundation is holding its first Women's Cancer Survivor Summit this year*

BY KAREN GARCIA

Breast cancer has affected nearly 1,200 individuals on the Central Coast, according to the most recent 2018 Community Health Assessment released by SLO County's Public Health Department. Between 2010 and 2014, according to the report, 201 females lost their battle with breast cancer.

The American Cancer Society believes that women who are now being diagnosed with breast cancer may have a better outlook as treatments improve over time.

Surfing for Hope founder Bob Voglin is continuing his mission of creating a supportive space for those undergoing cancer treatment or individuals with a family member battling cancer by celebrating breast cancer survivors. The Surfing for Hope team is holding its first Women's Cancer Survivor Summit, slated for Oct. 10 on the shores of Pismo Beach. During this time of the year, the nonprofit normally hosts an annual surf contest, but with COVID-19 safety practices in mind, it pivoted to creating a series of small-group cancer survivor summits.

In light of October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, co-founder Dr. Tom Spillane said the nonprofit decided to make this summit exclusively for women who are currently undergoing treatment or those who've completed cancer treatment, as well as oncology health care providers.

The day's events include yoga instruction, a beginner's surf instruction by the Shell Beach

## Surf's up

To learn more about the Surfing for Hope Foundation and its upcoming summit, visit [surfingforhope.org](http://surfingforhope.org).

Surf Shop, and a gourmet luncheon free of charge to all participants. Spillane will also lead a brief discussion on survivorship as well as give an update on breast cancer treatments and resources. The talk will be held via Zoom and is open to the public.

Voglin said the first summit has about 28 individuals registered for the event, and others interested can put their name on a waitlist on the nonprofit's website. The summit's goal, Voglin said, is to celebrate these women, whatever stage of their journey they're in, and to create a community. The activities are pressure-free—it's up to the participant to decide how they would like to enjoy their day.

He also hopes to share the healing powers he feels the beach and the ocean have.

"Surfing has been really instrumental in my life. It's helped me through many challenges, and my toughest one was my cancer experience," Voglin said. "So we want to share that and also the message that you're not alone."

A sense of community support and the ocean helped Voglin get through his battle with tongue and throat cancer after he received his diagnoses in 2004. His oncologist was Dr. Spillane, who he later partnered with to create Surfing for Hope.

Voglin surfed every day until the disease and treatments took a toll on his body, but he never forgot the medical team behind his treatment process and the community of friends and family that cheered him on along the way. On the road

to recovery, Voglin said he returned to the water, finding the waves and outdoor activity therapeutic. It was a feeling he said he had to share with others.

Creating a community of people that includes cancer survivors, Voglin said, brings hope to those who are still undergoing treatment.

"It's to help people feel more positive and really help them to continue doing what they can in their lives and put their really huge challenge behind them," he said.

With the help of Spillane and French Hospital, Voglin was able to create a surf contest, cancer resource health fair, and a memorial paddle-out. Through the contest, the nonprofit has donated more than \$200,000 toward the Hearst Cancer Resource Center and the resource center at French Hospital.

The nonprofit's Pure Stoke Surf Camp is for youth cancer survivors or children with family members fighting cancer. Voglin said children who experience the pain and suffering of their loved one are often overlooked by the medical cancer support community. Similar to the Women's Summit, the Pure Stoke Surf Camp provides a safe and fun environment for children to heal among their peers.

Linzie Littler, her two daughters, and her mother, who's a cancer survivor, have made the trip from Riverside once a month for the camp. The family has been making the drive for five years now, and her daughters now have friends they look forward to seeing at the camp, and she and her mother have connected with other families as well.

"They give the kids just a common ground where they can unwind with other kids that have seen and been through the exact same journey



**CELEBRATING SURVIVORS:** Surfing for Hope Foundation is holding its first Women's Cancer Survivor Camp in Pismo Beach on Oct. 10 for women currently undergoing treatment or who have completed cancer treatment.

they've been through. And the parents, it gives us a time to take a breath, unwind, and check in with each other," Littler said.

It's encouraging for Littler and her family to be in this environment because they don't have to constantly talk about or relive their experience. It's a place for her children to be children and not worry about their family's health concerns.

"We can just lean on each other for advice, encouragement, or whatever we need from each other," she said. ☺

Staff Writer Karen Garcia can be reached at [kgarcia@newtimesslo.com](mailto:kgarcia@newtimesslo.com).

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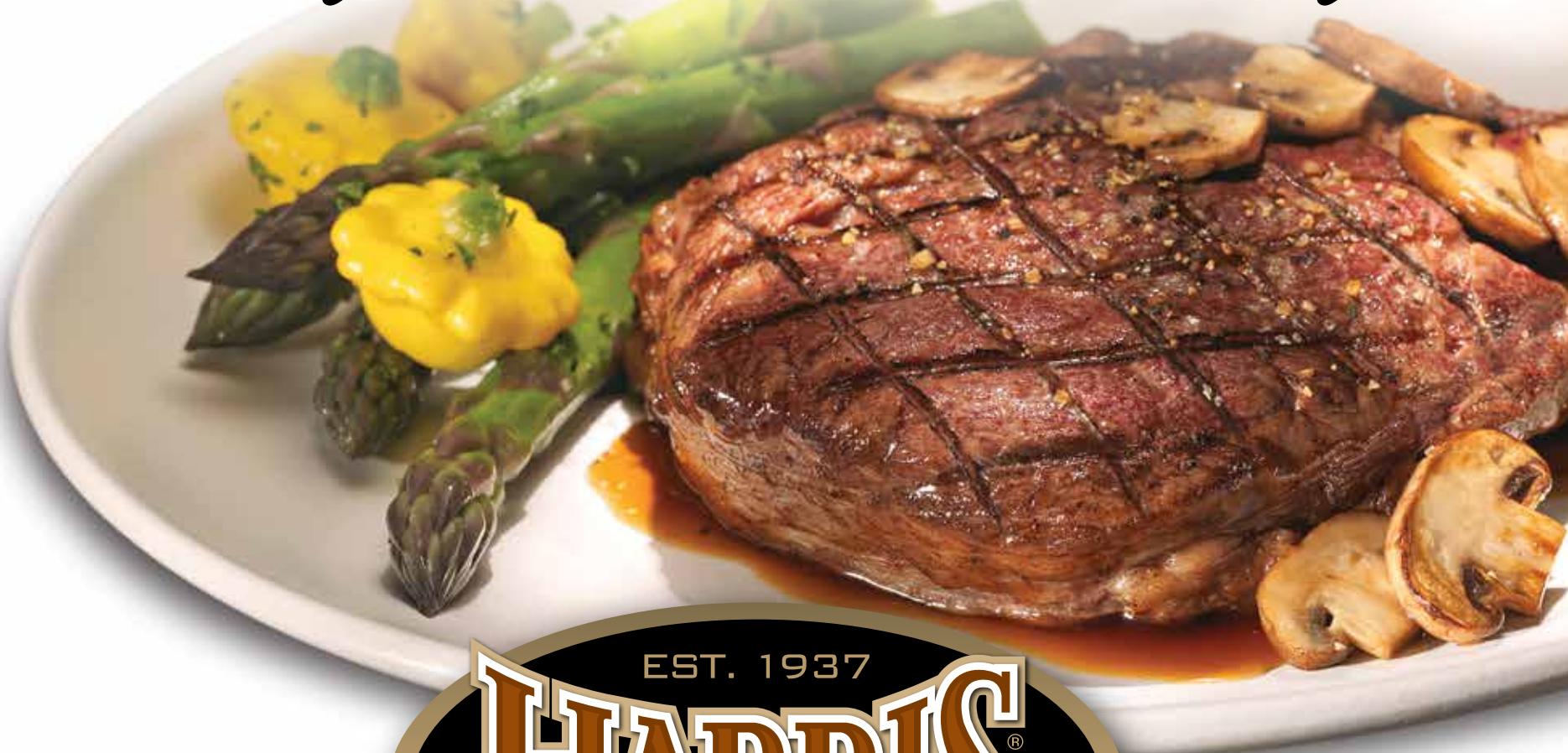
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# Unseen

*With schools closed due to COVID-19, SLO County sees a drop in reports of child abuse*

BY KASEY BUBNASH

When COVID-19 hit and local schools closed in mid-March, the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services almost immediately saw a decline in reports of suspected child abuse.

In March, calls to the county's child abuse reporting hotline were down by 25 percent compared to the same month in 2019, according to data collected by the SLO County Department of Social Services. April saw a 32 percent decline from the same month last year, and reports of suspected child abuse fell by 33 percent in May compared to the year before.

In normal times, that drop would be something to celebrate. But now, with school campuses closed and children away from their teachers, the sudden change is troubling to child welfare experts like Linda Belch, deputy director of SLO County Adult and Children's Services.

"We were all concerned about making sure that these kids didn't go unseen," Belch told the *Sun*.

Like all professionals who are likely to come into contact with children, teachers and other public school employees are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse. Historically, school employees file such reports more often than any group in California. They usually see kids every day, Belch said, and are trained to spot the telltale signs of abuse or neglect—bruises, dirty clothes, unruly behavior.

So it's no surprise that when schools closed and teachers stopped seeing their students each day, reports of child abuse dropped throughout the state. From April through August, reports of suspected child abuse in California fell 28 percent compared to reports during the same months last year, according to data provided to EdSource by the California Department of Social Services.

Now, six months into the coronavirus pandemic, schools and child welfare professionals are still adjusting to distance learning and the ways in which it's changed how child abuse is reported.

In April, Belch said, SLO County Social Services put together a resource guide on spotting, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect during the pandemic, which focuses on signs of abuse that community members—grocery store clerks, food delivery workers, and neighbors—should watch for and simple ways to intervene if needed.

It's all about getting people who wouldn't normally think about reporting suspected abuse or neglect involved at a time when mandated reporters aren't as able to.

"I think some people are hesitant to call child welfare," Belch said. But, she said, "I think a lot of people have a really good instinct."

Asking kids simple questions like, "What did you have to eat for breakfast today?" or "What is your least favorite part of staying home from school?" can result in telling answers. When in doubt, Belch said, call and report your suspicions.

The county's end goal is always to keep a family together, and even just having Social Services check in with parents and caregivers can help to prevent abuse before it happens, Belch said. Sometimes getting a family connected with the right services, whether it be counseling or financial aid, makes all the difference.

This is a stressful time for everyone, Belch said, especially for parents of school-aged children. Families are stuck at home together all day, and many parents are struggling with financial hits while also trying to help their kids with virtual learning.

"It's unfortunately just a ripe situation for abuse to happen," Belch said.

Things appear to be steadily improving. In June, July, and August, SLO County Social Services had closer to normal numbers of reports of child abuse, holding out at around 10 percent less than usual.

But Belch said that fewer reports now are coming from school employees and more from law enforcement officers responding to calls for service, typically reports of domestic disputes and violence. Belch said that means something bad has already happened by the time Social Services gets involved, and they'd like to be engaged with at-risk families a lot earlier.

Arroyo Grande High School Counselor Joanna Onato-Molina is one of the many local school employees working to increase engagement.

After the sudden transition to distance learning in the spring and the chaos that followed, Onato-Molina said counselors in the Lucia Mar Unified School District got together to brainstorm solutions to the problem of reporting abuse and neglect.

As a counselor, Onato-Molina said she often works with at-risk kids and their families, and she knows that a lot of the homes her students are now in all day are not ideal for learning or living.

"Some parents are alcoholics," she said. "Some parents are abusive."

When kids are dealing with tough situations at home, it often shows—in their behavior, their grades, and in their appearance. But now teachers have fewer signals to watch for.

Although elementary school kids in the Lucia Mar district are encouraged to keep their cameras on during Google Meets, it's optional for kids in higher grades. A lot of students are embarrassed by where they live or are caring for younger siblings while trying to attend school themselves, Onato-Molina said, and educators can't and don't want to force students to show more of their private lives than they want to.

But that also means bruises and other signs of neglect go unseen.

There is, however, one glaring red flag signaling that kids aren't OK: "They're not showing up."

"When you don't have support at home," Onato-Molina said, "and you have a parent that works all day long, and you have a kid who was already at-risk, the one thing they love to do is just not do it."

So in some ways COVID-19 has actually made it easier for educators to spot the kids who have serious issues at home. Teachers send counselors lists of students who consistently miss class and assignments, and counselors check in with those students and their families and connect them with whatever resources they need.

It's the kids who fall somewhere in between that are difficult to identify from afar.

At the beginning of this school year, Lucia Mar launched a new program aimed at regularly checking in with and identifying the needs of students. Each Friday, students in elementary school go to "care groups," and junior high and high school students go to "advisory" classes, where they take a survey about how they're feeling about schoolwork, their mental health, and their home lives.

Teachers, counselors, and administrators look over the surveys, and students who divulge concerning information are checked in on. The process has already provided schools with valuable information. It's helped schools pick out the most at-risk students as intended, but it's also helped identify trending emotions and common problems.

"Right now," Onato-Molina said, "most of the concerns and most of what we're seeing is just students really struggling with not being able to be around their peers and not having that social interaction."

"Having this advisory is something we want to continue outside of COVID," she said, "because we've learned that it's a valuable tool for us."

### When in doubt, report your concerns

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at (805) 781-5437 or 1-800-834-5437.

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at [kbubnash@newtimesslo.com](mailto:kbubnash@newtimesslo.com).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALBERTO UGALDE AND WILL SMITH



**VYING FOR A SEAT:** Alberto Ugalde (left) and Will Smith (right) are both making a run for Santa Maria mayor this November against incumbent Mayor Alice Patino.

# The challengers

*Alberto Ugalde and Will Smith are seeking to unseat incumbent Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino*

BY MALEA MARTIN

**Editor's note:** This article is the second of a two-part series highlighting Santa Maria's three mayoral candidates. The first part, "Incumbent upon us," published on Oct. 1.

**A**lberto Ugalde, lifelong Santa Marian and business owner, and Will Smith, a former educator and preacher, are each hoping to win the Santa Maria mayorship this November.

Born and raised in Santa Maria, Ugalde is a barber by trade and has owned his own shop, Landmark Barbers Shaving Parlor and Lounge, for the last five years. His career and community involvement, he said, have allowed him to "talk to different people with different points of view about the issues that are going on within our city."

This "open mindset," he believes, is what makes him the right candidate for mayor.

"I believe that we the residents need to have a better relationship with our city officials," he said. "We need to close the gap between us."

One way Ugalde proposed doing this is through more accessible City Council meetings. He said something as simple as pushing the City Council meeting to start an hour later in the evening would allow people who get off work after 5:30 p.m. to still tune in.

Another tenet of the first-time candidate's platform is public safety. Ugalde said it's about more than just policing.

"It can be putting a few extra street lights in the neighborhoods that are way too dark at night," he said. "It can be putting stop signs in our neighborhoods that have cars flying down the street. It could be putting ramps on every sidewalk, so our residents with disabilities can enjoy going out."

Ugalde said that during local police brutality protests earlier this year, he believes "our police did a great job." But he wishes there had been better communication between city officials and protest leaders.

"The protesters had announced that they were going to come and protest," he said. "I feel like local officials should have reached out to the

organizations and maybe give them a platform where they could go and do their protest, and maybe that way we would have avoided the riot that happened afterwards."

Ugalde believes the city needs to find ways to increase its budget and expand public services, particularly for people experiencing homelessness.

"There's a lot of programs out there for the homeless, but the only problem is, they have to be sober to get the help," he said. "Some of these people have been battling addiction for a long time, so I feel like we need to implement some type of a mental health service so we can help them be sober, and so they can get the help that they need."

Ugalde is also focused on planning and development. He said he loves to see his hometown growing, but wants to make sure that existing parts of the city get the care and attention they need.

"I feel that we also need to focus on the neighborhoods we already have," Ugalde said. "There's a lot of commercial buildings that are empty, especially in our downtown, so I feel that should get the same attention as growing our city."

Ugalde believes he can make Santa Maria into the county role model that he envisions.

"Santa Maria is the largest city in Santa Barbara County," he said. "I believe that our city should be the one setting the standards for the rest of the cities in our county."

Smith, who's making his second run for mayor after an attempt in 2016, was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, where he spent his formative years attending Benedictine Military School, a Catholic high school for boys.

He said it's where he learned to "stand up for what he believed in."

Eventually Smith joined the Air Force, and he said he was stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base for five years. He's now been a Santa Maria local for more than 30 years. Smith also spent time as a correctional officer at the Lompoc penitentiary, has been a preacher for more than 25 years, and taught at the Santa Maria-Bonita

School District from 2000 to 2009 before being elected to the district's school board in 2010.

But during his time as a teacher, he said, "the school district and I fell out for some years." Smith's teaching evaluations from 2004 to 2008, which he shared with the *Sun*, met or exceeded standards. However, during the 2008-09 school year, he was suspended eight times for alleged misconduct, including physically and verbally assaulting students and misusing a computer. Smith resigned in July 2010, and his teaching license was revoked in October 2013.

Smith denies these allegations, arguing, "If I had done that I would be in jail."

When Smith was elected to the school board in 2010, he said, the environment was "antagonistic" right off the bat.

"While I was there, I got wind that the brand new [two-story] buildings were supposed to be retrofitting according to the Field Act," he said.

The Field Act mandates earthquake-resistant construction in California.

"I fought with the state for six years to prove that these buildings were not right," he said.

The buildings were eventually retrofitted after Smith was no longer on the board—he lost reelection in 2014.

Now six years since being in elected office, Smith hopes to put his strife with Santa Maria-Bonita School District in the past and represent people once again as the mayor of Santa Maria.

"The school district stuff is behind me," he said. "It was a hard-fought learning experience, and it will help me in my political endeavors."

Under his slogan, "The possibility of us," Smith said his goal is "to meet the people and listen to what they have to say."

Smith also supports Santa Maria's growth, especially the addition of community spaces.

"We might go a little into debt, but the expansions would fund themselves," he said. "If we had an area where we could do car shows and use them for soccer fields, we could get enough revenue to pay for the project and make money for the city."

Also important to Smith is the local economy. He believes the city should contract with small businesses "to help stabilize them."

"If we're depending on small businesses to pay revenues and taxes, we have a responsibility to find out how we can intervene with them and swing some revenues their way," he said.

In the wake of national unrest and racial justice protests across the country, Smith also emphasized "a need to attack racial issues."

"If you look at the city of Santa Maria, the diversity we have in government offices is almost nonexistent," he said. "We need to create more diversity in the country and more equal opportunity."

## Highlight

• During October, CARE4Paws and Santa Barbara County Animal Services are partnering to put on a \$5 microchip campaign. "A microchip is a permanent form of identification that can reduce a pet's shelter stay dramatically or prevent animals from ending up homeless altogether," a press release stated. The agencies will co-host four Sunday events throughout the county to provide the microchips. CARE4Paws will also offer affordable spays and neuters, medical services, and vaccines for pets in the organization's mobile clinic. Additionally, from Oct. 5 to 11, CARE4Paws is hosting a virtual Wags 'n' Whiskers Festival, where the organization will promote pet adoption from shelters and rescues along the Central Coast. For more information about adoption, visit care4paws.org/adopt. ○

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

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# Opinion

## COMMENTARY

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 30% We wouldn't need these bans if the state just opened back up.  
 15% Love it! Businesses need the help.  
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20 Votes

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# The greasy truth

Unsavory stories from the Lompoc sewer system

BY RON FINK

When you flush your waste down the drain it doesn't just "disappear"; it eventually finds its way to the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), otherwise known as the wastewater treatment plant.

Before your waste can be released as effluent into the Santa Ynez River, it must be treated to remove harmful substances. The treatment process for these wastes begins at the source.

At your home, it starts by wiping the grease out of your pans before you wash them; another way is to stop using self-regenerating water softeners that flush the salts down the drain. These salts are bad for the POTW treatment system, so only use the new ones that have the waste salt used in the process taken away by the vendor.

For businesses, the treatment process begins with a more sophisticated "pretreatment system," usually a grease trap for food facilities, garages, car washes, and some sort of salt removal system for industries and businesses that use large soft water systems.

The Lompoc POTW and every other plant like it in the United States operates using a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. These permits contain conditions, which the operator—in this case the city of Lompoc—must comply with.

The EPA conducts routine audits to assure compliance. This is where the actions of three Lompoc City Council members (Jim Mosby, Dirk Starbuck and Victor Vega) and a utility commissioner (John Linn) created compliance problems for the wastewater utility.

On June 28, 2019, the city of Lompoc received an inspection report from the EPA concerning an April inspection of its wastewater discharge permit; seven violations were noted. While some were technical, there were also some violations aimed at the current political attitude toward regulatory compliance.

What caused the EPA auditors the greatest concern was the actions elected officials and appointees took to circumvent pretreatment regulations. The EPA noted that the city had "violated its monthly average oil and grease limits in June 2018 and March 2017," and that "the City Council has not been supportive of the Municipal Code requiring grease traps."

Councilman Dirk Starbuck noted that the EPA report cited grease limit violations that occurred

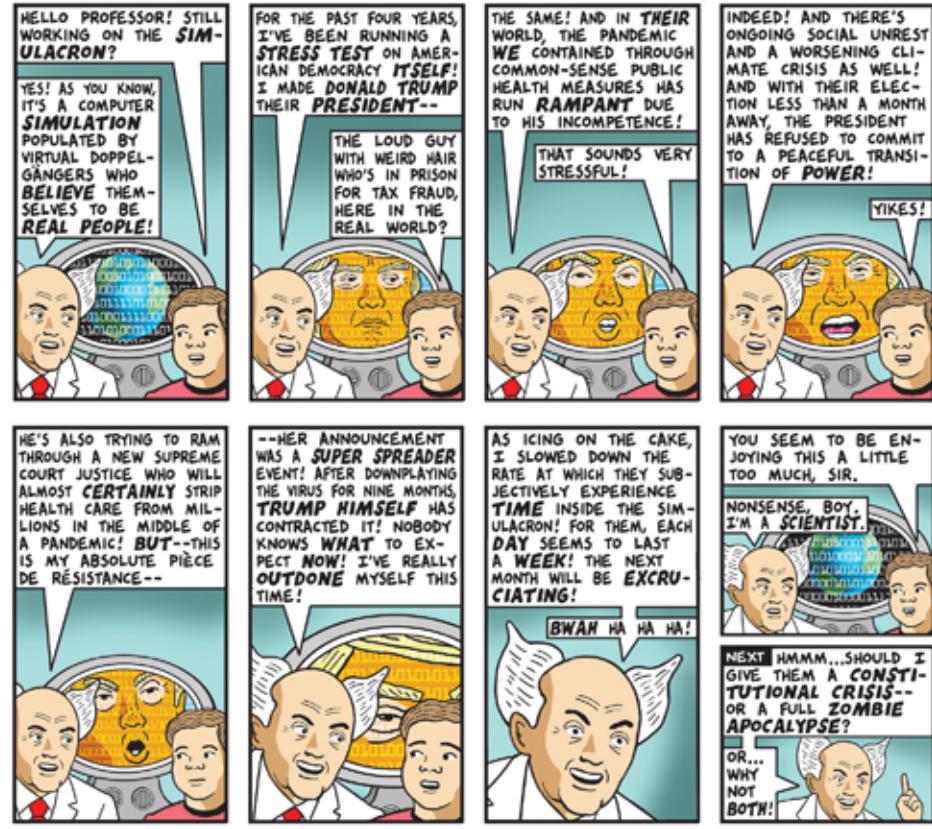
... as has become their normal practice, the council majority simply ignored the professional staff and their attorney's warning.

long before fast-food restaurants were required to install grease traps. But the fact is that in 1981, the EPA required that "each POTW must establish specific local limits for industrial users to guard against interference with the operation of the municipal treatment works."

In other words, the city's requirement for grease traps at the source evolved from federal laws that have been in place for at least 38 years.

In October 2018, the city sent a standard food establishment survey form to all businesses, including a bakery owner; the bakery ignored it, and the city staff visited the site. On July 19, 2019, the city inspected the businesses sewer line and "determined it is coated with grease"; so, clearly a trap was needed. The utility director ordered him

### THIS MODERN WORLD



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to install a grease trap.

The owner refused and appealed the order. He also "informed staff that individuals had stopped by his location and told him he didn't have to put in a grease trap." Who these people were, or what qualifications they had to make these statements, wasn't discussed in the staff report.

The other serious EPA finding was that a kidney dialysis center had been operating an on-site self-regenerating water softener contrary to Lompoc municipal code. The treatment center discharges high concentrations of sodium, chloride, and total dissolved solids that violate the city's local pretreatment limits. The utility director ordered corrective action, but the operator appealed.

Three rogue Lompoc councilmen and an unqualified utility commissioner tried to tell professionals how to operate the wastewater system.

Utility Commissioner Linn tried to establish himself as an expert on wastewater pretreatment and represented violators at the Feb. 5, 2019, council hearing. Armed with information he acquired from the internet and a list of local businesses he created, he challenged both city and EPA requirements for grease traps and salt discharges.

None of the council members have any technical knowledge about wastewater treatment or POTW permits, and the city attorney advised them that "your decisions (to support the appellant) could cause a cumulative violation of the city's NPDES permit." Translated this meant that substantial punitive fines could be assessed by the EPA.

Of course, as has become their normal practice, the council majority simply ignored the professional staff and their attorney's warning. On June 18, 2019, the crew led by Councilman Jim Mosby heard and granted the dialysis center's appeal. The council also granted the grease trap variances.

The EPA audit report noted that "the City Council has not been supportive of the Municipal Code requiring grease traps." Councilman Starbuck criticized the staff for "not being council friendly" during the inspection.

I have been an industry representative during numerous audits/inspections by outside regulatory agencies during my working life, and the focus is to measure compliance with regulatory requirements and how supportive the management team, in this case the City Council, is of the professional staff efforts to comply with permit conditions. This is what's lacking in Lompoc.

The final EPA report arrived in late September; it ordered that the enforcement authority for POTW permit conditions is in the hands of the Utilities Director (the highest ranking local technical expert), to the exclusion of all other parties (mayor, council members, city manager, etc.).

Three rogue councilmen and an unqualified utility commissioner have no business weighing in on POTW waivers. People who would cause embarrassment to the city and bring critical regulatory attention and/or potential fines have no place in policy-making positions.

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send your thoughts, comments, and opinionated letters to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).

# Touchy, touchy

People are testy these days, with patience worn thin, looking for any excuse to get snippy.

Take this exchange between 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam and County Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-

Reynoso at the Oct. 6 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' meeting.

They were chit-chatting about COVID-19 stats, as they often do these days, and Adam asked about a graph that illustrated the county's positivity rates over time. Well, he wasn't really *asking* a question, so much as he was trying to prove a point, and Do-Reynoso wasn't making it easy for him!

He asked whether the spikes on this graph indicating increased positivity rates corresponded with times when the county limited testing to COVID-19 symptomatic people only. And it totally does. Of course it does.

That's exactly why the positivity rate is such a stupid way for the state to measure COVID-19 exposure. When more people are tested, asymptomatic people are tested and the COVID-19 positivity rate will decrease—as I pointed out in my Sept. 16 column, "The roof is on fire."

Well as Do-Reynoso, who I'll admit could talk me into a deep sleep, tried to explain the reasoning behind the county, the state, the testing capacity, isolation, quarantining procedures... Adam cut her off.

"Excuse me, excuse me, that's not responsive to my question," she said.

"But if you let me finish, I would," Do-Reynoso retorted.

"I'd rather just get the answer to my question instead of your speech," Adam said with a laugh or three.

Eek! That's awkward to listen to. And I guess 1st District Supervisor Das Williams thought so too, because he basically chastised Adam for interrupting.

"I understand there's passionate feelings here, and I appreciate Supervisor Adam asking questions, but interrupting staff is just not an appropriate way to do this," Williams said.

"Negative! Negative. There's a long-standing tradition of doing exactly that," Adam responded.

Eek! More awkwardness. I guess Adam is over COVID-19 and he's over Do-Reynoso. He's done with pretense and he's done pretending to be nice about it. Well, we all are. But here we are talking about the coronavirus at the beginning of every stupid Board of Supervisors meeting since March.

You know what I'm over? Hearing about odor issues every time a cannabis cultivation project is brought up. And we got to hear about it again at that same meeting during the discussion over Castlerock Family Farms in the Santa Ynez Valley, a project the supes approved.

The whole odor discussion waylaid a decision on the project until after lunch/closed session! Adam and 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann agreed that the county's inability to enforce nuisance odors needs to be addressed, but only from cannabis farms.

The stench of rotting broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and lord knows what else wafting in the Santa Maria air from surrounding agricultural operations should also be addressed then, I guess. Because, frankly, it smells like farts—arguably on par with the smell of fresh skunk.

So if you're going to push for an odor ordinance, don't forget about the rest of those beloved crops. Because they're stinking up my flying air and I don't appreciate it. Especially on a warm summer night. ☺



# VOLUNTEER



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CASA volunteers make a life-changing difference for children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect. We urgently need more volunteers! 192 children are waiting for a CASA. Contact [voluteer@sbcasa.org](mailto:voluteer@sbcasa.org)

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# HOT STUFF

OCT. 8 – OCT. 15  
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## BETTER CALL FALL

Gallery Los Olivos presents its October duo show, *HeART and Soul*, through Saturday, Oct. 31. This collaborative exhibition showcases landscapes by local artists Linda Mutti and Sheryl Knight. Attendees can view Mutti's pastel pieces and Knight's oil paintings on display during the gallery's regular hours (Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Call (805) 688-7517 or visit [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com) for more info. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE IMAGE COURTESY OF GALLERY LOS OLIVOS

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

Emcee and auctioneer Jim Farnum will guide guests through a lively event full of special tributes, beautiful art, and fun bidding wars on great live auction items. **Oct. 16**, 5 p.m. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

**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](http://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](http://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](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

**SHERYL KNIGHT AND LINDA MUTTI: HEART AND SOUL** A duo exhibit of pastel and oil landscapes. Through Nov. 1. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, [galleryleosolivos.com](http://galleryleosolivos.com).

**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](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

#### THIRD ANNUAL NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL:

**VIRTUAL** Nature documentaries carefully curated. All Access pass includes 60 films in ten days. **Oct. 9-18** \$100 All Access Pass; \$10 Single Ticket. 805-886-2047. [NatureTrackFilmFestival.org](http://NatureTrackFilmFestival.org). Downtown Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

### LOMPOC/VANDEBerg

#### CLAUDETTE CARLTON: LVAA

**FEATURED ARTIST** Claudette Carlton will be showcasing her watercolor works in this show, called "It's a Watercolor World". Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. through Oct. 25. Free. 805-737-1129. [lompocart.org](http://lompocart.org). Lompoc Valley Art Association, 119 E. Cypress, Lompoc.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**INTERPLAY: READING SERIES** PCPA will be presenting a different, ground-breaking play each weekend from Sept. 18 to Oct. 24. Through Oct. 24 \$5. The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

**MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO** Call or go online for the Academy's current offerings. The Academy offers private lessons by the hour or half hour for all age groups and ability. ongoing 805-925-0464. [coelhomusic.com](http://coelhomusic.com). Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., 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](http://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 Free. The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://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. The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

**VALLEY ART GALLERY OF SANTA MARIA: FALL ART SHOW** Parking is free. Admission is free. There is plenty of space to view art and stay six feet apart. Great for family outings and dates. Through Dec. 7. Free. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

**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](http://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 for high school drama students. Check site or call for more info. The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**CERAMIC STUDIO OUTSIDE POP-UP** Local ceramic artist opens studio with outdoor pop-up. Features unique planters, many planted with succulents. Lots of functional and decorative ceramics spaced out for safe viewing. Masks suggested. **Oct. 10**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free.

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 [newtimesslo.com](http://newtimesslo.com). You may also email [calendar@newtimesslo.com](mailto:calendar@newtimesslo.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@newtimesslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimesslo.com).

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EVENTS

805-773-0356. [sandyferrisceramics.com/events/](http://sandyferrisceramics.com/events/). Sandra Ferris, 698 Vista Pacifica Cir, Pismo Beach.

**DANA'S ALL ABOUT TREES: A MULTIARTIST EXHIBITION** DANA Adobe and Cultural Center showcasing the best in local and regional art. Artwork is available for purchase. Through Dec. 4, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. \$5, free for DANA members and children under 12 years of age. 805-929-5679. [danaadobe.org](http://danaadobe.org). DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oak Glen Ave., Nipomo.

**FASHIONS FOR A PURPOSE: VIRTUAL FASHION SHOW** Proceeds benefit programs to promote awareness for domestic violence and safe dating. **Oct. 17**, 9:30 a.m. \$25-\$75. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Fashions for a Purpose, 665 Sequoia Lane, Nipomo, 805-929-5282.

**MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-6, FOR AGES 7-12, AND FOR ADULTS** 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](http://lila.community). Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CALL FOR ENTRIES: GROUNDED (EXHIBITION AT SLOMA)** Artists of all media are eligible for this digital exhibition. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 29. Exhibit runs January 8 through Feb. 28, 2021, with a digital reception on Jan. 1, 2021, with awards and cash prizes. Assistant Curator Courtney Davis will make selections from submitted entries. Through Nov. 29 805-543-8562. [sloma.org/call\\_for\\_artists/grounded/](http://sloma.org/call_for_artists/grounded/). San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**I'LL TAKE YOU THERE: ART EXHIBIT** Art Central will host well-known painter Rosanne Seitz with her latest watercolor works. Over 15 works created from her solo travels on out of the way roads to places showing the grandeur, and quiet beauty of California scenery, that revitalizes mind and body. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. through Nov. 24. Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralartsupply.com](http://artcentralartsupply.com). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**LIVE THROUGH THIS: VIRTUAL EXHIBIT A** collection of portraits by photographer Dese'Rae L. Stage featuring the true stories of suicide attempt survivors across the Untied States. Select portraits along with links

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### NORTH SLO COUNTY

#### ATELIER 708 FACEBOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

Hosts and artists Kim Snyder, Janice Pluma, and David Butz have been colleagues for the last 8 years. View the show on the gallery's Facebook page. Second Saturday of every month, 10–11 a.m. through Feb. 13 Atelier 708, 708 Paso Robles St., D, Paso Robles.

#### 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, [pyraf.org](http://pyraf.org).

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

ARTS continued page 16

# GOOD NEWS!

The *Sun* is announcing a new  
**Matching Grant Program**  
available to all nonprofit and arts  
organizations in Santa Barbara County.

The *Sun* will provide matching funds to local nonprofit and arts organizations for a print and digital marketing campaign in the *Sun* from now until the end of 2020.

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**5CHC Empty Bowls "Second Helping"**  
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St. Patrick's Church Hall

**Kiwanis Poker Rally**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
A Benefit for the Children of the Santa Maria Valley  
Sunday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 p.m.  
Allan Hancock College



**Open Air Vineyard Yoga**  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30**  
CASS Winery, Paso Robles



**Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour**  
**WED.: OCT. 14, 21, 25, 28**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Paso Harvest Weekend Pig Roast Dinner**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Fashions for a Purpose Annual Fashion Show and Silent Auction**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**  
Online · Fashions for a Purpose



**Krav Maga Level 2 Weekend**  
**SAT & SUN, OCTOBER 17 & 18**  
Sleeping Tiger Fitness, San Luis Obispo



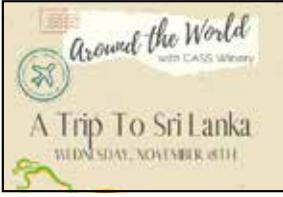
**Drive Up Theatre Spooktacular**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



**Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour**  
**WEDNESDAYS: NOV. 4, 11, 18, 21, 25**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**2020 Estate Beef Dinner Series: Brisket**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6**  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Wednesdays Around the World Dinner: Sri Lanka**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Paint n Sip at Point SLO**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



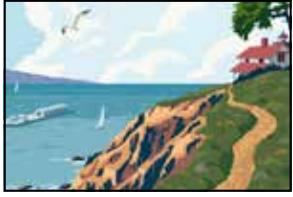
**Candlelight Christmas Concerts Fundraiser**  
**FRI-MON, DEC. 4-7**  
Cambria Concerts Unplugged



**Yoga at the Lighthouse**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour**  
**WEDS: DEC. 2, 5, 9, 16, 23, 30**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Pecho Coast Trail Plant Life**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Devin Dawson**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**  
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## NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE PRESENTS FEATURED ARTIST ATUL PANDE** "I am a self-taught painter working in water-based media, mainly acrylic. My style is based on the non-objective modern expressionist movement that originated in post-WWII New York. I work in an intuitive manner exploring line, form and color, but without a goal in mind," said Pande. Through Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### SCARECROW FEST AND DAY IN THE COUNTRY

Celebrate Los Olivos' charming businesses with great deals all over town. During the entire month, see more than 20 Scarecrows with different themes and vote on your faves. Through Oct. 31, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-688-9049. [losolivosca.com/day-in-the-country/](http://losolivosca.com/day-in-the-country/). Downtown Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

#### 30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT

Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. ongoing partnersincaring.org. Santa Maria.

#### 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, Santa Maria.

#### HEART OF THE VALLEY: LOCAL HISTORY SERIES

**(VIRTUAL)** A video conference presentation looking at the storied past of four members of the Hancock family, along with some insights into the ongoing and planned research that is taking place regarding their place in local and state history. The speaker will be Roger Hall. Presented by the SM Public Library. **Oct. 10**, 3-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, Santa Maria.

#### HUMAN BEING SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION

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

**KIWANIS POKER RALLY** Pick up your map and instructions at the Allan Hancock parking lot. Participants don't even have to get out of the car. At each of the seven stops, you will pick up a playing card and the location of the next stop. Drop off your best 5-card hand at the last stop. The best hand wins the \$500 jackpot. All other hands earn entries into our prize raffle. **Oct. 11**, 1-4 p.m. \$50. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, 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 [starnaud@cityofsantamaria.org](mailto:starnaud@cityofsantamaria.org) or call 805-925-0994. Second Thursday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

**VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM** Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. ongoing Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, [unwindsantamaria.com](http://unwindsantamaria.com).

#### YOGA FOR MANKIND: ZOOM CLASSES

Offering a variety of virtual yoga and pilates classes over the summer. Check site for class schedule. ongoing Starts at \$10. [yoga4mankind.org](http://yoga4mankind.org). Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, suite B, Orcutt.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

#### HALLOWEEN HORROR MOVIE NIGHT AT DANA

Come watch a classic thriller under the stars. Health & safety precautions will be taken. Masks, social distancing, and hand washing will be enforced. Snacks will be for sale. **Oct. 16**, 7:30 p.m. \$5 parking fee. 805-929-5679. DANA Adobe Center, 671 S. Oak Glen Ave., Nipomo, [danaadobe.org](http://danaadobe.org).

#### INFANT DROWNING RESCUE COURSES

Family classes in a 90 degree indoor pool. Fridays, Saturdays, 2-6:30 p.m. \$130-\$160. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, [5citiesswimschool.com](http://5citiesswimschool.com).

#### ZOOM YOGA AT THE MONDAY CLUB

A 60-minute restorative flow yoga class on Zoom. Pre-registration is required. Zoom meeting info will be included in your registration confirmation email. **Oct. 12**, 4-5:15 p.m. \$15. [themundayclubslo.org](http://themundayclubslo.org). Zoom, Inquire for Zoom ID.



## SERIOUS CERAMICS

**Local ceramic artist Sandra Ferris presents an outdoor pop-up studio event in Pismo Beach on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** A variety of functional and decorative ceramics and planters, many already planted with succulents, will be on display and for sale. Featured items will be spaced out for safe, social-distanced viewing. Call (805)-773-0356 or visit [sandyferrisceramics.com](http://sandyferrisceramics.com) for more info. Ferris' studio is located at 698 Vista Pacifica Circle, Pismo Beach.

—C.W.

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/](http://pointsanluislighthouse.org/). Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

#### SEVENTH ANNUAL CHARITY RUMMAGE SALE:

**BENEFITING FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE** Proceeds go to Friendship Bridge, a non-profit that empowers Guatemalan women to find solutions to poverty through microloans. Masks and social distancing advised. **Oct. 9**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and **Oct. 10**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 609 Myrtle Street, 609 Myrtle Street, Arroyo Grande, 860-989-7001, [FriendshipBridge.org](http://FriendshipBridge.org).

**SWIM LESSONS** Call or go online for full schedule and to pre-register. Mondays-Thursdays Member \$130; Non-member \$160. 805-481-6399. [5citiesswimschool.com](http://5citiesswimschool.com). 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**HOMESHARESLO CALL-IN COFFEE CHAT** Connect with the folks at HomeShareSLO to talk about homesharing and other housing solutions twice a month during our Call-In Coffee Chat events. Second Wednesday of every month, 12-1 p.m. through Dec. 9. Free. 805-215-5474. [smartsharehousingsolutions.org/events](http://smartsharehousingsolutions.org/events). Inquire for Zoom ID.

**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, 9:45-10:45 a.m. through Dec. 18. Free. 805-546-3942. [cuesta.edu](http://cuesta.edu). Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

**METABOLIC CONDITIONING** We use primarily our own body weight in this interval training class to run through exercises and drills to raise the heart rate, condition our muscles, and stay flexible. This advanced class also incorporates hand weights and sand bags, if you have them. Mondays-Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. \$72. 415-516-5214. [ae.slcusd.org](http://ae.slcusd.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SPEAK OUT PRESENTED BY NAWBO CENTRAL COAST CALIFORNIA** To provide a forum for you, as a business owner, to Speak Out about what you need from local government officials to support the success of your business. **Oct. 16**, 5-6:30 p.m. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

**TRIVIA NIGHT AT LEROY'S** Prizes awarded for first and second place. Fridays, 7-9 p.m. through Oct. 31. Free. 805-544-8600. [thekinneyslo.com](http://thekinneyslo.com). Leroy's Restaurant, 1850 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**VIRTUAL 28TH ANNUAL WIGGLE WAGGLE WALK FOR WOODS AND 5K** Woods Humane Society's annual Wiggle Waggle Walk is going virtual this year and anyone, anywhere can participate. Participants can walk, run, kayak, hike, bike or stroll. All proceeds benefit homeless dogs and cats at Woods. Through Oct. 31. \$25. 805-543-9316. [woodshumane.org/walk2020](http://woodshumane.org/walk2020). Woods Humane Society, 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**ZOOM YOGA AT THE MONDAY CLUB** A 60-minute restorative flow yoga class on Zoom. Pre-registration is required. Zoom meeting info will be included in your registration confirmation email. **Oct. 12**, 4-5:15 p.m. \$15. [themundayclubslo.org](http://themundayclubslo.org). Zoom, Inquire for Zoom ID.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 17

## NORTH SLO COUNTY

**FREE FLIGHTS FOR YOUTH AGES 8-17** Free flights for youth ages 8-17, sponsored by Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 465 Paso Robles. Please pre-register online. All participants must wear face covering plus observe social distancing when possible. **Oct. 17**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-464-9863. [youngeaglesday.org](http://youngeaglesday.org). Paso Robles Airport, 4912 Wing Way, Paso Robles.

**KRAZY DAZE SIDEWALK SALES** Call or visit site for more details on this special weekend-long event. **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m. and **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m. No admission. 805-238-4103. [pasoroblesdowntown.org/](http://pasoroblesdowntown.org/). Downtown Paso Robles Shopping Core, 12th and Park Streets, Paso Robles.

**OPEN AIR VINEYARD YOGA** Intentionally carve out time for quiet, movement, and a little self pampering in the open air of the vineyard with Yogi Chelyc Westphal Johnson, of Mindful Movement Collective. Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$28-\$150. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.

**PASO, HERE WE COME** Redwings Horse Sanctuary is making their permanent home on Union Road in Paso Robles. Donate to its \$1 million fundraising campaign. Redwings offers public tours, volunteering with the horses, and a foster to adopt program. ongoing Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Union Road, Paso Robles, 831-386-0135, [RedwingsHorseSanctuary.org](http://RedwingsHorseSanctuary.org).

**POP-UP DRIVE-IN** The businesses at Colony Square would like to invite you down to a Pop-Up Drive-In Movie where we can provide you with donuts, popcorn or brews directly to your car during the film. Thursdays, 8:15 p.m. \$11-\$20. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Colony Square, 6909 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

## FOOD &amp; DRINK

## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**BBQ BOOTCAMP AT THE ALISAL** A lineup of guest chefs, who will be announced, will team up with Chef Endy to lead demonstrations. The weekend's itinerary features a variety of seminars and workshops with the celebrity chefs, ranging from meat-smoking techniques and seasoning, to dessert confections and breadmaking. **Oct. 9**, 3-11 p.m., **Oct. 10**, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. and **Oct. 11**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. \$2,720. 800-425-4725. [alisal.com/experiences/bbq-bootcamp/](http://alisal.com/experiences/bbq-bootcamp/). Alisal Guest Ranch and Resort, 1054 Alisal Rd., Solvang.



**KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS** Offering varietals from all over the world. Tuesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-693-8864. [kalyrawinery.com](http://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](http://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](http://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. 5391 Presquile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110. [presquilewine.com](http://presquilewine.com).

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

## DRIVE-THRU TRI-TIP BARBECUE

**DINNER** Dinner includes tri-tip and loaf of garlic bread (serves at least 4). No meals will be available without a reservation (by Sept. 14). Money raised will be used for scholarships. **Oct. 17**, 2-4 p.m. \$45. [slo-ca.aauw.net](http://slo-ca.aauw.net). Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 2201 Lawton Ave., SLO.

## MUSIC

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

## SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: SOUNDCLLOUD

Features recordings of the Mozart Sinfonia from the Philharmonic's last live concert and other recordings. ongoing Free. [smphilharmonic.org](http://smphilharmonic.org). Soundcloud, Online.

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

## PUMPKIN PARTY WITH THE CLIFFNOTES AT

**AVILA BARN** The Cliffnotes perform outdoors at Avila Valley Barn. COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be taken during this festive event. **Oct. 17**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-595-2816. [avilavalleybarn.com](http://avilavalleybarn.com). Avila Valley Barn, 560 Avila Beach Drive, Avila Beach. ☺



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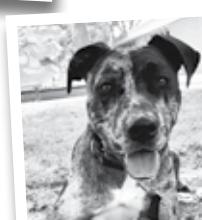
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Sex: Female  
Weight: 66 lbs.



## Kona

Age: 6 years, 1 months  
Breed: Great Dane/Catahoula Leopard  
Sex: Female  
Weight: 77 lbs

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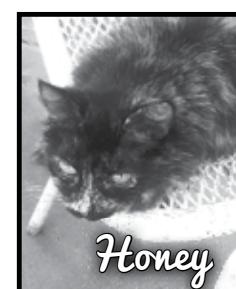


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# Arts

## Arts Briefs

### SLOPOKE announces winners Art of the West Exhibition

PHOTO COURTESY OF SLOPOKE



Twenty-three artists participated in SLOPOKE's 10th annual Art of the West Exhibition and Sale, held on Sept. 25 through 27 at Flag is Up Farms in Solvang. Three awards were presented by featured artist and jurist Jim Wodark of the California Art Club, and two additional sponsored awards were presented by SLOPOKE owner and developer Tom Burgher during the event.

Best in Show was presented to Lisa McLoughlin, an Arizona-based artist and rancher, for her display of multiple paintings of contemporary life on a modern horse ranch. Best Painting was awarded to Simon Lok, an artist and California Art Club member from Arcadia. Lok also received the Artist Choice award, sponsored by *Western Art and Architecture* magazine, during the event.

Also a California Art Club member, sculptor Dino Mehaffie received the award for Best Sculpture, while Morango Valley-based artist Carolyne Hawley took home the award for Best Wildlife, sponsored by *Art of the West* magazine.

The dates for SLOPOKE's next Art of the West Exhibition and Sale have been announced as Sept. 24 through 26, 2021. This year's event marked SLOPOKE's first live, in-person art show since the COVID-19 mitigation measures began in March. The 100-acre open-air venue helped facilitate social distancing, and attendees received free commemorative SLOPOKE cowboy bandanas.

Find out more about SLOPOKE at [the-slopoke.com](http://the-slopoke.com).

### Lompoc Public Library presents 31 Dreadful Days of Terrifying Treats

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LOMPOC



The Lompoc Public Library is hosting 31 Dreadful Days of Terrifying Treats, a special month-long Halloween program online for children ages 4 through 12, through Oct. 31. Participants can win one of 10 \$25 gift cards by taking part in daily Halloween-themed activities to earn raffle entries. Registrants can sign up for the program on the Beanstack mobile app.

In addition to this new virtual offering, the Lompoc Library staff will be placing painted, Halloween-themed rocks throughout the city of Lompoc for program participants to find and take photos of. Participants also have the option to re-hide the rocks they find for others to in turn discover. The hashtag #31Dreadful will be written on the back of the library's rocks. Each rock found will count toward a raffle entry in the 31 Dreadful Days program. Participants can also paint their own rocks to earn raffle entries.

Find out more about the program by calling (805) 875-8781 or visiting [cityoflompoc.com/library](http://cityoflompoc.com/library). The Lompoc Public Library is located at 501 E. North Ave., Lompoc. ☐

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

## GALLERY

IMAGE COURTESY OF CLAUDETTE CARLTON

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAUDETTE CARLTON



**WATERCOLOR DIVINER:** "I've drawn and sketched since I was 30, but it wasn't until I retired from my 21-year teaching career at Vandenberg Middle School that I had time to follow my dream and learn to paint," Cypress Gallery's current featured artist Claudette Carlton told the Sun.



**BIRD IS THE WORD:** It's a Watercolor World includes landscapes, seascapes, and animal portraits, all painted in soft hues, including Claudette Carlton's parrot painting, *Polly* (pictured).

### Color your world

Cypress Gallery hosts It's a Watercolor World through Oct. 25. The gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc. Visit [lompocart.org](http://lompocart.org) for more details. To find out more about featured artist Claudette Carlton, visit [cfcarltonart.com](http://cfcarltonart.com).

quarantining was stricter, a number of my usual activities were shut down. That definitely gave me more time to paint, to get into a groove."

Carlton used a photo reference for one of her latest watercolor paintings, *Praying for America*, which is also on display as part of It's a Watercolor World. Carlton's initial goal with the piece was to paint a pair of hands clasped in prayer, so she asked her husband to pose for a photo to paint from, Carlton said.

"It wasn't until I was reviewing the photo that I noticed the T-shirt he was wearing had an American flag in the shape of the 'USA' across the chest," said the artist, who was then inspired by the shirt's inclusion to imply a specific prayer with the painting's title.

"I can't think of anything more appropriate during this crisis than prayer for our country and the world," Carlton said. ☐

*Help make Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood's world feel even smaller at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.*

IMAGE COURTESY OF CLAUDETTE CARLTON



**WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM:** Among Claudette Carlton's favorite watercolor pieces in her new exhibit at Cypress Gallery is *Buffalo Love*, a painting of a mother buffalo nuzzling her calf.

# Bittersweet symphony

Santa Maria  
musician Richard  
Hernandez  
composes Suite for  
a Journey, donates  
proceeds to Mission  
Hope Cancer Center

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, composer and pianist Richard Hernandez is donating proceeds from his recent instrumental album, *Suite for a Journey* (*Suite Para Un Viaje*), to the Mission Hope Cancer Center in Santa Maria. The album was directly influenced by people in Hernandez's own life who have suffered from breast cancer, the musician explained.

"The inspiration behind this album came from individuals whom I personally know. They are family members, friends, fighters, and survivors," Hernandez told the Sun. "My album was assembled by feelings of resentment, frustration, loss, and hope."

Hernandez is local to Santa Maria, and while digital downloads of the album are available through his HearNow page, physical copies of *Suite for a Journey* (*Suite Para Un Viaje*) can be purchased locally at Boo Boo Records in San Luis Obispo.

Described as "an intensely personal project," Hernandez sought to honor "those who have experienced the journey of being diagnosed with the insidious disease of breast cancer" through classical, instrumental music, he said. *Suite for a Journey* (*Suite Para Un Viaje*) consists of six tracks. Each composition illustrates a different aspect of the "journey."

"The Diagnosis (El Diagnóstico)" is the most personal track on the album. It's composed in a free form that alternates between the tensions of anger and confusion one might experience with a diagnosis," said Hernandez, who recommends that first-time listeners experience the album in its entirety rather than one track at a time.

Hernandez performs piano and he's joined by Los Angeles-based musician Zachary Valenzuela, who plays the flute on the album. Since 2002, Valenzuela has been the flutist in residence at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

While Hernandez has worked as a professional composer and conductor in the television industry for several years—with compositions appearing on



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHARD HERNANDEZ

**KEY MASTER:** Local composer, conductor, and pianist Richard Hernandez (pictured) is donating proceeds from his recent instrumental album, *Suite for a Journey* (*Suite Para Un Viaje*), to the Mission Hope Cancer Center in Santa Maria.

## Sound on

Find out more about *Suite for a Journey* (*Suite Para Un Viaje*) at [suiteforjourneysuiteparavijaje.hearnow.com](http://suiteforjourneysuiteparavijaje.hearnow.com).

Physical copies of the album are also available for purchase locally at Boo Boo Records, located at 978 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

shows for A&E, ABC, Bravo, Lifetime, MTV, NBC, Telemundo, TLC, The History Channel, and other networks—his career and musical aspirations were kick-started in his hometown of Santa Maria, where he recorded *Suite for a Journey* and currently resides.

"Growing up in a small town like Santa Maria teaches life lessons," Hernandez said. "During my early years as a student, I studied and/or played under some of Santa Maria's finest musicians, including Herb Adams, Patricia Boyd, Samuel Gorbach, Chris Kuzell, Chuck Osborne, Bob Swayze, Gary Thompson, and several others."

Later in adulthood, Hernandez went on to earn his bachelor's degree in music from the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific and his master's degree in conducting from UCLA, under the tutelage of Donald Neuen.

Aside from professional composing, conducting, and mentoring, Hernandez also spent nearly a decade in the music licensing business while working for CBS Television Music Operations (West Coast). Now in the midst of a seasoned, diverse career in the music industry, Hernandez still considers himself a constant learner, he said.

"I would describe myself as a lifelong student of music driven by a desire to serve, create, teach, and learn," Hernandez said. ☺

Send local music recommendations to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**GUEST ARTIST:** Los Angeles-based musician Zachary Valenzuela (pictured) plays flute on *Suite for a Journey* (*Suite Para Un Viaje*). Since 2002, Valenzuela has been the flutist in residence at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.



**SANTA MARIA LOCAL:** While Richard Hernandez has worked in the television industry for several years—with compositions appearing on shows for ABC, Telemundo, and other networks—his musical aspirations were kick-started in his hometown of Santa Maria, where he recorded *Suite for a Journey* and currently resides.



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# Pulp horror

**C**reator Misha Green teams with producers J.J. Abrams and Jordan Peele to bring this fantasy horror series to life. Based on a novel by Matt Ruff, it's set in 1950s Jim Crow-era America, and Black Korean War vet Atticus Freeman (Jonathan Majors) teams up with his Black travel-guide-writing Uncle George (Courtney B. Vance) and friend Letitia "Leti" Lewis (Jurnee Smollett) to go in search of his missing father, Montrose (Michael Kenneth Williams). Drawn to Ardhams, Massachusetts, a town famed horror writer H.P. Lovecraft supposedly set many of his fictional tales in, they discover they're battling both the racist terrors of white America and horrifying Lovecraftian monsters. (10 53- to 68-min. episodes)

**Glen:** This clever mashup mixes terrifying monsters, ghosts, secret occult organizations, magic, and supernatural phenomenon with racist police, sundrafter towns, and cross-burning neighbors. It's filled with all the B-movie fun of drive-in horror flicks and a timely examination about America's original sin—slavery and racism. Each episode is connected, but they can also feel separate. For instance, episode 7, "Meet Me in Daegu," is set in 1949 South Korea and follows Ji-Ah (Jamie Chung), a beautiful young woman who turns out to be a mythical monster, Kumiko, who must kill 100 men to become human again. She decides to

## LOVECRAFT COUNTRY

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

seduce and kill Atticus, thus connecting to the previous episodes. Expect a lot of gore and a lot of insightful examination of racism in America. Another episode is about a potion that allows a Black woman to become white, as she revels in the way she's treated by other white people. It's fun and serious at the same time.

**Anna:** What a ride *Lovecraft Country* is, a chef's kiss blend of drama and horror. When we first meet Atticus, he's bound and determined to find his missing father and sets out with his Uncle George and Leti, and soon enough it becomes clear that their journey has taken a wild turn. There are forest monsters and invisible force fields; blond-haired, blue-eyed captors; and occult magic in the works. You definitely need to be OK with gore to get through this series; besides monster attacks there is enough blood, guts, and skin-shedding to make anyone squirm. Beyond the bigger story, *Lovecraft Country* gets personal with Atticus and his wounded past as a veteran and the budding relationship between himself and Leti. It's hard to peel your eyes away from the screen.

**Glen:** Smollett and Majors are really compelling

as the two leads. Despite the B-movie shlock of a lot of the story, the two never waiver in their commitment to the material. I guess Smollett came to fame in the TV series *Full House* (1992-94), which I'd never seen. I've seen her in a number

of films but never put together it was the same actress, which to me is a testament to her ability to disappear into a role. Here she plays a strong, talented Black woman struggling to find her place in a white world. Majors is a relative newcomer.

I first noticed him in *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* (2019), where he turned in a quiet, sublime performance, and then in *Da 5 Bloods* (2020), Spike Lee's newest. He's a natural and brings a vulnerability and inherent nobility to Atticus, who it turns out is somehow connected by blood to a weird cult. The implication is that his bloodline was conceived in rape by a white slave owner and cult member. We're seven episodes into a 10-episode season, and it's so interesting and well done that I'll probably watch it through again.

**Anna:** I'll be right there re-watching with you.

There's so much going on, and the story seems to come out in chunks that the audience pieces together week after week. Added to the mix is William (Jordan Patrick Smith), who seems to be the appointed leader of the cult, and mysterious Christina Braithwhite (Abbey Lee), who seemingly knows secrets about everyone. There's time loops and shapeshifting, downright creepy ceremonies, and rooms full of mystery. With names like J.J. Abrams and Jordan Peele behind it, you know it's gonna get weird. It's just the kind of weird I'm here for though, not just a shock of gore and horror, but an actual story to back it up. I loved that episode you mentioned

## SUN SCREEN

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONKEYPAW PRODUCTIONS



**SPLATTER FEST:** HBO's *Lovecraft Country* mixes campy horror with Jim Crow-era racism to create a gleefully fun series starring (left to right) Jurnee Smollett, Jonathan Majors, and Courtney B. Vance.

that took us to South Korea and out of the world we were previously in yet still connected to Atticus' character while building his backstory. Majors is just great here, and Smollett brings the same game to her performance. The costuming is fantastic, the gore is visceral, and the story just keeps on giving. I can't wait to see where the rest of this season goes. ☀

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

## Film Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIC LIGHT AND NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL



**SURVIVAL STORY:** One of the 70 films screening online during the NatureTrack Film Festival is *Queen without Land*, about a polar bear mother and her cubs surviving their shrinking habitat, available Oct. 9 through 18 at naturetrackfilmfest.org.

## NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL

What's it rated? Not rated  
When? Oct. 9 through 18, 2020  
Where's it showing? Online at naturetrackfilmfestival.org

See more than 70 films from 20 countries when the third annual NatureTrack Film Festival goes virtual. All films are nature related and carefully curated under the motto, "Igniting passion for nature through film."

"What better time than now to think more carefully about how we go forward to take care of Mother Earth? Explore all the far-flung locations around the world humans are drawn to investigate, this year from the comfort of your own home," organizers announced. "The All-Access Pass (\$100) is the best bargain. Proceeds benefit NatureTrack Foundation. California residents can get in on a terrific raffle for outdoor gear and more. Info is on the ticketing page online."

You can also pick and choose the films you see in \$10 programming blocks. As an example, *Queen without Land* is a 2018 film by Asgeir Helgestad, who for four years follows Frost, a polar bear mother, in Svalbard, Norway, as her habitat shrinks due to global climate change.

—Glen

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAUT ET COURT AND CANAL+



**ZOMBIES CALLING:** After awaking to discover Paris is filled with zombies, Sam (Anders Danielsen Lie) struggles to survive in a locked apartment as his supplies dwindle and his sanity unravels, in *The Night Eats the World*, screening on Amazon Prime.

## THE NIGHT EATS THE WORLD

What's it rated? TV-14  
When? 2018  
Where's it showing? Amazon Prime

Dominique Rocher, in his feature-length debut, directs this

low-budget French horror film about Sam (Anders Danielsen Lie), who after attending a party at his ex-girlfriend's wakes up to discover Paris is filled with flesh-eating zombies. Trapped in her apartment, he soon discovers his real battle isn't with the hungry zombies but his own loneliness.

Based on the novel *La nuit a dévoré le monde* by Pit Agarmen, it's a story of a man going crazy from solitude. At one point Sam sees a cat outside and almost loses his life trying to lure it into the apartment building for companionship. He also begins conversing—one-sidedly, of course—with a zombie named Alfred (Denis Lavant), who's trapped in the apartment's elevator. He's that desperate for connection.

The zombie genre has been done to death (pun sadly intended), but this English-language film (no subtitles!) finds a few unexplored areas to mine. Don't expect the high production values of *World War Z* (2013), the comedy of *Zombieland* (2009) and *Shaun of the Dead* (2004), or the action-packed adrenaline rush of *28 Days Later* (2002), but this small French film offers its own rewards. (93 min.) ☀

—Glen

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

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## Searching for revenue

The Santa Barbara Vintners Association proposes a business improvement district for wine marketing efforts

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

Solvang resident Tom Orem is in seven wine clubs and purchases maybe 300 bottles of wine a year from Santa Barbara County wineries.

"You gotta have something that's your hobby, and mine's drinking wine," Orem said. "I know how many [bottles] I drink a year, because there are 365 days, so that's easy to figure out."

He figures that he spends around \$5,000 a year supporting the local wine economy in his retirement. When he isn't picking out a wine to go with dinner—like a light pinot noir to go with his wife's turkey shepard's pie on a recent weeknight—he's sitting on his back porch overlooking the Santa Ynez riverbed or battling the ground squirrels and gophers in the yard.

Orem isn't a fan of the Santa Barbara Vintners Association's proposal to increase wine marketing efforts by forming a wine business improvement district. California's Property and Business Improvement District Law of 1994 allows business districts to fund business-related improvements, maintenance, and economic growth by collecting an assessment from the businesses that would benefit from the district's formation. It's most often used to increase tourism in downtown areas and cities with an assessment on hotel stays. Although there are a couple of other wine improvement districts proposed in California, including in Sonoma's Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley, it would be the first of its kind for the wine industry if it's successful.

Currently, the Vintners Association's proposal, aka the Santa Barbara County Wine Preserve, would be funded by a 1 percent assessment on direct-to-consumer wine sales to pay for industry marketing, advocacy, and education efforts. The

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA BARBARA VINTNERS ASSOCIATION

business improvement district (BID) would raise \$1.2 million for the association, if it moves forward.

"Wine is a product. It's like aluminum foil. ... Imagine if you went to the grocery store and everything you bought had an extra tax on it," Orem said. "It would be like if they charged me an extra 1 percent for my steak at Albertsons so they could give their cows an extra immunization shot or whatever."

### Improving business

Vintners Association Chief Executive Officer Alison Laslett said that taxes fund the government and assessments fund an industry, so the fee is an assessment—not a tax. She said they started working on the project in April 2018, because the association wasn't bringing in enough funding through events and membership dues to pay for everything that its members were asking it to do.

"Historically, I would say that Santa Barbara County's vintners' ambitions have outpaced their funding. We have a wine region that's unique and successful in that the wines are elegant and win a lot of awards. But we're not as well known as we might be if the Vintners had the funding," Laslett told the *Sun*. "Forty years ago, the Vintners were able to raise quite a bit of money because they were the only [event] game in town. But if you look at the festivals now, you've got so many to choose from.... It's a very crowded space."

In an Aug. 18 presentation to county supervisors, Laslett compared the operating budgets of wine associations in Santa Barbara County, Sonoma County, Paso Robles, and Napa. Santa Barbara Vintners had the lowest budget. In 2017, Santa Barbara brought in \$552,000 while the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance had an operating budget of \$1.57 million, Sonoma had \$1.6 million, and Napa \$7.3 million.

While areas like Sonoma and Napa have successful trade auctions that help fund their respective associations, the Paso Wine Alliance, which Laslett said the Santa Barbara Vintners are compared to the most, has a much larger membership than the vintners do. While the Vintners Association has a membership of around 70 to 80, the Wine Alliance has upward of 500. And while Santa Barbara County brings in around 800,000 wine tourists annually, the Paso area alone has about 1.6 million, Laslett told supervisors.

"If you look at any of the wine regions, they're different, and so this is one of the things that you really have to consider when you look at the money that an association is able to raise for itself," Laslett told the *Sun*. "It's very hard to compare wine regions up and down California. Each of them has their own flavor and culture."

The association has looked at myriad ways to fund itself, including sponsorships and increased membership, with which the Vintners have so far been unsuccessful, and creating a grape commission. A grape commission, which would tax grapes, needs to be done through the California Department of Food and Agriculture by district. That district also includes Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties, and the Vintners Association is still interested in pursuing

that, but it would take collaboration between the three counties and the state, so Laslett said the association is pursuing the BID first.

"Santa Barbara County has never found particular success in raising funding through its wine association," Laslett told supervisors on Aug. 18. "What makes them succeed as a wine industry is also what prohibits them from working together."

These challenges include a geography that breeds the wide variety of grapes and wines produced in the county, which has eight different official American Viticultural Areas and produces wines from giant Bordeaux varietals to softer pinots and chardonnays at a range of price points.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SANTA BARBARA VINTNERS ASSOCIATION



UNIQUE AND DISPARATE: With eight designated American Viticultural Areas in Santa Barbara County, the region has a wide range of grape growing regions, wineries, winemakers, and price points.

"Obviously people are pushing their agenda forward," Griffith said. "It's not the sense of camaraderie that we really need in this county, to come together and to get engagement."

She's spearheading a resolution in opposition to the proposal for the Lompoc City Council to pass, which would mean that if the Wine Preserve assessment becomes a reality, Lompoc wineries won't have to participate, Griffith said. So far, she has about 20 wineries signed on in support.

### Promote the future

The Vintners Association has always been an organization with controversy, Griffith said, due to the variety of business models in the county, which include a lot of small wineries and a lot of big wineries; people growing grapes and selling those, making wine and selling it, or doing both.

"When you have a lot of different business models out there, it creates, you know, a lot of different approaches to what makes really sound business decisions," Griffith said. "This wine BID has brought more collaboration than I've seen in 19 years, because there are so many of us who don't want this. ... Maybe at the end of the day, this will bring us all together, help us realize that we need a new vision for the future."

Doug Margerum, a Vintners Association member and owner of Margerum Wine Company and Barden, said that he believes the diversity of Santa Barbara County wines, winemakers, and grapes is its greatest strength. He said they don't have a good way of marketing Santa Barbara County to the rest of the world, and it's one of the highest quality regions for grapes and wines in California. So he supports the wine BID creation because, at the moment, it's the best proposal on the table to promote the region.

"Every single one of the people who are against this aren't members of the Vintners Association, so they've taken themselves out of the equation," he said, adding that people don't want to pay what they perceive to be a tax. But it's just 30 cents on a \$30 bottle of wine. He encourages anyone with a better proposal to come forward with it.

"For me, I see this as an innovative new idea to do something that no one else has done. It's a new idea. It's a great idea," Margerum said. "It will raise a tremendous amount of money to promote our cause." □

REVENUE BID: Santa Barbara Vintners Chief Executive Officer Alison Laslett is leading a business improvement district proposal to fund area wine marketing efforts, which would be the first of its kind for the industry.

Editor Camillia Lanham is into all makes and models of Santa Barbara County wines. Send food and drink tips to clanham@santamariasun.com.

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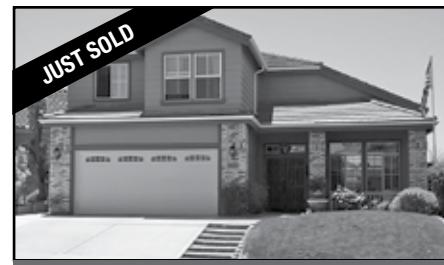
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