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Sun

AT THE MOVIES



The Third Day: A dark mystery [20]



Even COVID-19 can't keep spooky season at bay; you can still get scared from the comfort of your car [19]

Drive-through haunt

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OCTOBER 15 - OCTOBER 22, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 33

Elks Recreation and the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department teamed up to craft a COVID-19 friendly haunt this October. You don't have to leave your car to experience the frights brought to you on a 3-mile-long journey through 20 different horror-themed scenes at the Elks Unocal Event Center every Friday and Saturday through the end of the month. Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood has the details [19].

This week, you can also read about candidates facing off for Lompoc's 4th District City Council seat [6]; artistic therapy in the time of COVID-19 [18]; and Bob's Well Bread and Bakery's new spot in Ballard [22].

Camillia Lanham
editor



HAUNTED HILLS: A red-eyed skull is definitely not the only thing waiting for you at the 3-mile-long haunt at the Elks Unocal Event Center.

Cover image courtesy of Elks Recreation > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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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

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced on Oct. 7 that he had signed an executive order to advance the fight against climate change. The order directs state agencies to “deploy a number of strategies to store carbon in the state’s natural and working lands and remove it from the atmosphere,” according to the governor’s office. Some of those strategies include healthy soils management, compost applications, wetlands restoration to protect coastal areas, active forest management, and green infrastructure. The order also sets a goal to conserve 30 percent of the state’s land and coastal water by 2030, making California the first state to do so in the nation. “Once again, California is taking on the mantle of global climate leadership and advancing bold strategies to fight climate change,” Newsom said in a statement. “The science is clear that, in our existential fight against climate change, we must build on our historic efforts in energy and emissions and focus on our lands as well. California’s beautiful natural and working lands are an important tool to help slow and avert catastrophic climate change, and today’s executive order provides important new tools to take on this existential threat.” The governor’s new goal to conserve 30 percent of the state’s land and coastal water by 2030 puts California among the ranks of 38 countries worldwide that are also committed to achieve protection for 30 percent of the planet by 2030. The release added that California’s conservation is particularly critical given that it is considered one of the world’s 36 biodiversity hotspots.

• **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) encouraged constituents in an Oct. 12 Facebook post to sign a petition he created asking Caltrans to fix congestion on southbound Highway 101. “The Pismo Beach backup is responsible for some of the worst traffic congestion on the Central Coast,” Cunningham wrote. “Caltrans is considering a proposed fix to the congestion along southbound 101 that would include an additional, part-time lane that could be opened during high-traffic times.” The Caltrans website states that the project would “improve operations on southbound U.S. 101 from just north of Spyglass Drive to the Pismo overhead (bridge over railroad tracks) within the city of Pismo Beach.” Congestion would particularly see improvement during weekday afternoon commutes, summer or seasonal traffic, and weekend traffic. “Sign the petition today, and let’s tell Caltrans that the Central Coast needs this project!” Cunningham wrote.

• On Oct. 8, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** proclaimed October 2020 as California Farmers and Farmworkers Month. “With the fall harvest underway, Californians are reminded of our deep debt of gratitude to the farmers and farmworkers working tirelessly through the pandemic and increasingly unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires and climate change to supply food to supermarket shelves, food banks, and our tables,” Newsom wrote in the proclamation. “As the largest agricultural state, farming in California supports more than 1.2 million jobs and provides \$263 billion in generated economic revenue.” Newsom commended farmworkers for working on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and detailed some of the efforts he’s taken to protect them. “We have built a pipeline of personal protective equipment to help workers stay safe on the job and provided necessary COVID-19 testing and treatment at no cost for undocumented or uninsured Californians,” he wrote. “We have taken action to expand paid sick leave to food sector workers, create temporary housing options for agricultural workers to safely isolate and quarantine, and provide detailed workplace safety and health guidance.” ○

Five chosen for redistricting commission despite representation concerns

The first five Santa Barbara County residents who will serve on a citizens’ redistricting commission were randomly chosen at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Oct. 13, but hanging over the process were unanswered questions about how applicants in the drawing pool were initially chosen and concerns about lacking representation.

Laura Katz, William McClintock, Norman Bradley, Cary Gray, and Glenn Morris are the first residents named to serve on the Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission, a group of 11 responsible for drawing the lines that will define the county’s five supervisorial districts for the next 10 years. The first five—one person from each district—were chosen randomly from a pool of a little more than 40 applicants and are now tasked with interviewing other candidates and filling the commission’s six remaining seats.

But the county initially received nearly 200 applications for the commission, and at the Oct. 13 meeting, community members and supervisors alike questioned the process county Registrar of Voters Joseph Holland used to whittle it down to what was supposed to be the 45 most qualified candidates. Instead, critics say Holland landed on a group that does not adequately represent the people of Santa Barbara County.

“We have, for example, only 13 percent Latino in this pool, whereas we have 46 percent in our population,” 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann said at the meeting. “We have only 14 percent under the age of 40, when they’re 57 percent of our population. We have it skewed toward males: 65 percent when there’s 50 percent female in our population. So in other words you’ve created a skewed pool that is old, white, and male.”

Federal and state laws require district boundaries to be examined and adjusted every 10 years to ensure members of the public are equally represented, according to a county staff report. Historically, the county has redrawn supervisorial district maps through a public process facilitated by staff and consultants and ultimately approved by the Board of Supervisors.

But in 2018, Santa Barbara County voters changed the redistricting system with the approval of Measure G, which enabled the creation of the Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission, a group of 11 Santa Barbara County residents who will use data collected during the 2020 U.S. Census to adjust the boundaries of the county’s supervisorial districts. It’s an attempt to create districts that will better represent the county’s current population independently from elected and county officials.

As outlined in the ordinance, elections official Holland looked through all of the applications and chose the 45 “most qualified” based on applicants’ experience demonstrating analytical skills relevant to redistricting; the ability to be impartial; and an appreciation for the diverse demographics and geography of Santa Barbara County. Holland said when considering potential candidates, he looked to the criteria outlined in the ordinance.

“It does not request of me to take into account gender, age, or ethnicity,” Holland said at the meeting. “So I selected the most qualified of the applicants. I’ve reviewed thousands of applications throughout my career. And it’s always the case that applicants that don’t get accepted think they should have got accepted.”

That information didn’t seem to satisfy Hartmann, who then interjected to ask exactly what criteria Holland used to choose the final pool of 45 applicants.



RANDOM: Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley selects a number from a bingo cage at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Oct. 13 as part of the process for randomly selecting the first five members of the Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission.

“With all due respect,” he answered, “I’m not going to go into the criteria. The ordinance does not call for me to do that.”

Several community members also called in to complain about the lack of representation for Latinos, women, and young people in the pool, but others pointed out that those who applied are likely community members who are already deep into their careers and without young children to care for.

Still, it will be up to the first five commissioners to ensure the Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission is representative of all the county’s demographics.

“It will be very difficult for the people that are selected by this random process to fix the errors that are created by this initial pool,” 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart said. “And I think there will be tremendous concern from the residents of the county if this goes sideways at this stage.”

—Kasey Bubnash

Osborne, Ball lead the pack for money raised in Lompoc city races

Candidates running for city office in Lompoc have raked in thousands of dollars in campaign contributions so far. Incumbent Mayor Jenelle Osborne leads the pack for money raised from campaign contributions, while City Council candidate Jeremy Ball has raised the most total money from both campaign contributions and a loan.

According to state campaign finance law, candidates must report their contributors’ name and donation amount if that contribution is \$100 or more. The most recent filing period went from July 1 to Sept. 19.

Osborne had raised \$5,304 in monetary contributions by Sept. 19, plus an additional \$3,000—her largest contribution yet—on Sept. 24 from the IBEW Local Union 1245 in Vacaville, California. This brings her total contributions as of Oct. 13 to \$8,304, according to the city’s website. Osborne received an additional non-monetary contribution worth \$300 from DenMat, a dental supply company in Lompoc, which donated hand sanitizer to her campaign.

While Osborne leads in campaign contributions, District 4 council hopeful Ball leads for total money raised thanks to a bank loan of \$2,905. He also raised \$4,014 in campaign contributions before the Sept. 19 deadline, plus an additional \$2,000—his largest contribution—on

Sept. 24 from the same union that gave Osborne \$3,000. Ball’s campaign contributions (without the loan) total \$6,014, and his total money raised tops out at \$8,919.

Current District 2 Councilmember Victor Vega, who is running against Osborne for the mayor’s seat this November, had raised \$4,200 by the Sept. 19 filing deadline, plus an additional \$1,000 from McIntosh Roofing Inc. on Sept. 22, for a total of \$5,200 raised.

Six of Vega’s 20 donors are listed as “anonymous” because their donations are exactly \$99, meaning the law doesn’t require their identities to be revealed. Two more of his donors are listed as “online anonymous,” and gave \$9.41 and \$96.80.

Vega’s largest donations include the aforementioned \$1,000 from McIntosh Roofing Inc.; \$1,000 from Thomas W. Hinkens, a real estate broker; and \$1,000 from Cheryl and George Bedford, car dealership owners at Sunset Auto Center.

According to the California Fair Political Practices Commission’s Campaign Activity FAQ sheet, if someone receives two monetary contributions of \$99 from one contributor, then that contributor must be named and itemized, if their “contributions, including monetary, non-monetary, and loans, aggregate to \$100 or more in a calendar year.”

Vega did not respond to a request for comment on the donors who gave just under \$100.

Lompoc City Clerk Stacey Haddon told the *Sun* via email that committees and candidates are required to track contributors of \$25 or more.

“This is to track aggregate contributions, and once the \$100 limit is reached, then that source is named on the Form 460,” Haddon wrote.

All candidates completed a 460 form to report contributions from the recent filing period, from July 1 to Sept. 19. Contributions received after the filing deadline are reported in a 497 form.

Incumbent District 4 Councilmember Jim Mosby, who is running to defend his seat against challenger Ball, didn’t report any campaign contributions for the recent filing period. He told the *Sun* that he made the explicit choice during this election cycle to not accept contributions.

“I wanted to be able to stand up and say I don’t owe anybody,” Mosby said. “I haven’t been bought and paid for.”

District 1 Councilmember Gilda Cordova is running unopposed for reelection. She raised a total of \$1,377 by the Sept. 19 filing deadline, and has not reported any additional contributions.

—Malea Martin

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS from page 4

If Solvang recall vote prevails, two candidates look to fill the seat

Solvang residents get to vote on whether to recall current City Councilmember Chris Djernaes in November, and if that recall passes, residents can choose between candidates Jim Thomas and Jaime Baker to fill the seat.

The recall question and candidate choice will both be on the ballot this November.

Both candidates say they have the approval of the community group that successfully carried out the petition to put the recall on the ballot.

Thomas said the way he sees it, Djernaes is running against himself and his activities.

"I'm running against a man named Jaime Baker and he's a nice guy. I believe either one of us would be a vast improvement," he said.

Thomas said he was in contact with the group after seeing several incidents during City Council meetings in which he felt Djernaes didn't act appropriately.

The most recent incident, Thomas said, took place during the July 13 City Council meeting when the council was deciding on the business license renewal for the Solvang Trolley and Carriage Company.

"He went on a rant for about 10 minutes, made some pretty questionable comments I think directed at the young woman that made the presentation, and then he packed up all his gear and walked out with only half the meeting over," Thomas said.

At that moment Thomas said to himself, "I can do better than that."

Thomas has been a resident of Solvang for 30 years, is a retired Santa Barbara County sheriff, and filled a vacant fire chief position at the request of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for three years in 1993. Recently, he was a consultant on the Aera East Cat Canyon Oil Field Redevelopment Project.

"In my own view of my capabilities, I have the ability to go into a situation where I may not know everything, but I know how to listen, I know how to gather information, and I know how to make decisions," he said.

In terms of his experience in local government, Thomas said he might not be completely knowledgeable of general plans or land use plans, but he's not afraid to do the research and gather viewpoints from constituents.

"I think I have a sense of what the majority of the people in the city want, which is to maintain the value of Solvang as it is and as the founding fathers envisioned it to be," Thomas said.

Council candidate Baker told the *Sun* he first came to Solvang in 1979 when he was 17 years

old and fell in love with the magic of the town. If the recall passes and the voters elect him to the council, he also would like to restore that magic to the community.

Baker is the business owner of Space VR, a virtual reality entertainment center that due to COVID-19 hasn't had as many visitors as previous years. He was approached by the community group petitioning to recall Djernaes because he has the time and the ability to speak with city staff, other members of the council, and the community with civility.

For the past three years, he said he's attended City Council meetings to get the pulse of the city.

"I've watched [Djernaes] for the last two years. He's had some really good ideas and some outbursts that are not what you want to see up on the council. In that position should be someone with more control," Baker said.

A council member, he said, should be able to communicate with all, have healthy debates, come ready with researched ideas, and a willingness to collaborate.

The other issue he sees on the council is a lack of diverse backgrounds that represent the community.

"In the last 10 years I've been here, I've seen very little creativity up on that board," he said.

One of the main ideas that Baker has is changing back the dynamic of the town from being a tourist attraction four months out of the year to having it be active to the community and out-of-towners year round.

"If you're a town that's based on revenue-generated activities, you've got to create happenings and magical moments. If you create events that bring people here on the off-season, that's going to be a safety net for the general fund," Baker said.

Djernaes was not available for comment before the *Sun's* deadline.

—Karen Garcia

Santa Maria families receive tablets to keep them connected during pandemic

Twenty Mixteco families from the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD) received free tablets on Oct. 9 in an effort to connect parents with online resources as their children continue to learn at a distance.

The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), an organization that provides programming to engage and empower parents of schoolchildren, was awarded the tablets as part of AT&T's Distance Learning and Family Connections Fund. PIQE is distributing the tablets to families across California, including the 20 families in Santa Maria.

Outside of pandemic times, PIQE normally provides in-person classes to parents to help them to become more engaged with their children's schooling, and the organization has partnered with SMBSD in the past for this purpose.

"They provide their classes in our school locations to many of our students' parents," district Public Information Officer Maggie White said. "It's about giving parents who aren't familiar with the United States school system some assistance in how to be involved, how to contact teachers, understanding how board meetings work, understanding that attendance is important, those kinds of things."

But during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing those in-person services became a challenge.

"COVID hit, obviously everything pivoted like any other organization, but we knew that our families were going to be those most disconnected," PIQE Policy Director Patricia Chavez said. "They are the ones who don't have computers at home or don't have internet, are struggling financially."

With the help of AT&T's grant funding, PIQE set up a parent focus group in March to learn where parents were at with accessing technology, and continued to onboard parents over the phone and provide some of its programming virtually.

"We learned many of them didn't have computers. They didn't know how to navigate the web," Chavez said. "But they did have mobile phones, so we needed to get parents onto a virtual platform."

Thanks to the donation of tablets from AT&T, PIQE was able to give 20 families free tablets. The families chosen to receive the tablet include 15 parent leaders from Comité Asesor de la Comunidad Mixteco Nū ndavi, a group of Mixteco parents with kids at SMBSD, plus five parents who graduated from PIQE's parent program.

White emphasized that all children enrolled with SMBSD are given a district laptop to use for



TOOLS TO SUCCEED: The Parent Institute for Quality Education, thanks to an AT&T donation, gave out tablets to 20 Santa Maria-Bonita School District families to help them stay connected during the pandemic.

distance learning. The tablet donation is designed for parents so that they can stay connected to resources too, and help their kids succeed.

"The tablets that were given out Friday were more for parents to use," White said. "It's to help them connect with resources in the community, to help them connect with their children's teacher, to help them do Zoom meetings for these parent advisory groups that they're a part of."

White added that the district has made efforts throughout the pandemic to ensure that families have access to the internet, including helping families sign up for low- to no-cost internet service and providing hundreds of internet hotspots to families. ○

—Malea Martin

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COUNCIL CONTENDERS: Incumbent Jim Mosby (left) and opponent Jeremy Ball (right) are running for Lompoc City Council's District 4 seat. While District 1 is also up for election, incumbent Gilda Cordova is running unopposed, making District 4 Lompoc's only City Council race, outside the mayoral seat.

District 4 face-off

*Incumbent Jim Mosby runs against Jeremy Ball,
Lompoc's only new City Council candidate
this year outside of the mayoral race*

BY MALEA MARTIN

Jim Mosby, a businessman, property owner, and incumbent City Council member, is facing off against challenger Jeremy Ball, a business owner and host of *Good Morning Lompoc*, for Lompoc's 4th District council seat this November.

While the two contenders hold many things in common—they were both born and raised in Lompoc, grew up attending local schools, and are involved in the business community—the *Sun* spoke with each candidate to hear where they stand and diverge on the issues.

Mosby has served on the City Council for six years—first appointed and then elected—and previously served on Lompoc's Utilities Commission and the Santa Barbara County Parks Commission. Over the past 10 years Mosby said he's only missed one City Council meeting.

"Experience matters," Mosby said. "Especially in these times, with a pandemic, I think it's very important to have people there who have been in the ditches and understand what it's going to take to move us forward."

Opponent Ball also holds experience in city government from his service on the Economic Development Committee in 2012. During the same year, he and his wife, Michelle Ball, started their local business, Bottle Branding.

Ball said serving on the Economic Development Committee was where he really started to dig into some of the issues the city faces.

"I started to see that there was some disconnect between some of the folks that worked really hard and had really good efforts, but they weren't always plugged in with each other," Ball said. "I felt like there was an opportunity to bring some of those folks together."

Mosby believes that fiscal responsibility is key, and he said his track record illustrates his commitment to stabilizing the city budget.

"I've used some of my success in business to run some of the same ideas with the budgets,"

Mosby said. "I've worked hard and diligently on these budgets."

He said one of his proudest moments as a council member was supporting the repayment plan for the city's unfunded liability with CalPERS.

"We refinanced the unfunded pension obligation, the \$95 million debt, to a 15 year payoff schedule, saving the people \$21 million," he said. "Like I've always said, the easiest money you make is the money you save."

Ball said there's "no doubt about it" that the city needs to pay off the debt. But he feels that the payment plan that Mosby and the council majority approved is perhaps too aggressive during COVID-19.

"We're right in the middle of a once-in-100-year pandemic," Ball said. "It's difficult for me to see the reasoning to lock away some of those funds as we recover from COVID over the next year or two. We've severely limited our options. I wish we would have waited maybe just one year, at least for part of that, to see where everything landed."

Ball believes that some of Lompoc's financial woes come down to "our access to resources."

"We have a higher percentage of low-income housing, which is not a problem, except that when it comes to property taxes we don't necessarily get the same full amount that some of our other neighboring cities do," Ball said. "We brought cannabis in to try to beef up our resources, so that's something that we have but still needs to be tinkered with."

As the city faces social and economic recovery from COVID-19, Mosby believes Lompoc needs to be "the tool to help connect the services that are available."

"One of the items we did recently was with CDBG [Community Development Block Grant] funding," Mosby said. "We have a program out there for utility assistance. ... We definitely need to be one of the corridors of connection between all the resources and continue doing what we're doing."

Ball, who serves as the chair of the Lompoc

Valley Chamber of Commerce board of directors, also emphasized the importance of collaboration as the city recovers.

"Lompoc can't answer all of these questions by itself," he said. "It's super important to have a leader that can connect with not only our county and our state, but our federal leaders too ... to make sure we're at every single table."

Both candidates named public safety as a topic the city needs to address.

Mosby said that while he does not support cutting public safety funding, he does support oversight and transparency.

"I did present a reference manual on grant funding for body cameras, and the police department fully agrees and wants a body camera system," he said.

Mosby said he advocated for moving the Public Safety Commission's meetings to City Hall to increase public access.

"We had 112 people at a Public Safety Commission meeting after one of the travesties that happened last year," he said. "I am very supportive of more transparency with the police department."

Lompoc experienced a record of seven homicides in 2019, and a police official told the *Sun* in August that gang violence in the city had increased.

Ball said that "we're already dealing with the consequences and ramifications of having stripped a lot of the basic funding, and our crimes are going up."

"We've got to beef our [public safety] up, but not just ad nauseam," he continued. "I'd love for the police department to have someone that is actually a mental health expert. We put so many of these issues onto the backs of our police departments, and that's not fair."

Ball added that "we absolutely need to step up and review all of our policies and our procedures and make sure that we're in line with a pragmatic, progressive approach to policing."

Going into the election next month, Mosby believes that his experience and connections with his constituents make him the right person for the job.

"I've put myself out there to be as available to the public as they want me to be," he said.

Ball hopes that his ties to the community will give him a shot at the incumbent's seat.

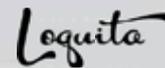
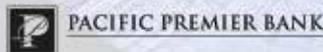
"The reason I'm in Lompoc is because it's my favorite place," he said. "It just has amazing, heartfelt, authentic people." ○

Staff Writer Malea Martin can be reached at mmartin@santamariasun.com.

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Unraveling

Battle erupts over dispensary as investor sues founder

BY PETER JOHNSON

Helios Dayspring, co-owner and founder of Natural Healing Center dispensary in Grover Beach, faces a civil lawsuit from 81-year-old William Szymczak—an early supporter and investor and a former director in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The lawsuit filed on Aug. 17 in SLO County Superior Court claims that Szymczak recently learned that the companies he invested at least \$15 million into in 2018 were being “grossly mismanaged” by Dayspring—pointing to criminal investigations, late tax payments, and the alleged diversion of millions of dollars in company funds for Dayspring’s benefit.

The dispute hits as Natural Healing Center was poised to open two new dispensaries in the cities of SLO and Morro Bay and commence cannabis farming activities throughout SLO County, as it’s received several scarce land-use permits from local governments. The company also recently purchased a building in Orcutt for a future dispensary and has operations underway in the Central Valley.

Asserting fraud, breach of contract and fiduciary duty, and other claims, Szymczak is asking a judge to appoint a neutral receiver to take over company management until the litigation plays out. A court hearing on the motion is scheduled for Oct. 21.

“Unless a receiver is appointed, the companies

cannot operate properly,” Szymczak’s lawyers argue in court filings, “they will continue to be drained of funds, and they face irreparable damage . . . that would cause creditors to go unpaid and jobs to be lost forever.”

Among Szymczak’s claims are that Dayspring used company funds to pay for his personal legal expenses related to FBI and IRS investigations, that he distributed more than \$1 million in profits to himself this year without paying any to Szymczak, and that he improperly advanced money from his Grover Beach dispensary to other fledging projects while the companies fell into “financial peril.”

Dayspring, a well known Central Coast cannabis entrepreneur and Morro Bay High School grad, is “vigorously denying” the allegations. In court filings, Dayspring called the lawsuit “a transparent attempt . . . to try to seize for himself alone the highly successful cannabis business that I started about a decade before Szymczak’s involvement, which I have successfully managed and grown.”

In a statement to *New Times*, Dayspring’s attorney, Marc Smith, said that the lawsuit “asserts numerous misrepresentations and distortions of facts.”

“We are confident that the evidence will show that the allegations made by Mr. Szymczak are without merit,” Smith said.

Szymczak’s attorney, Miles Feldman, countered in a statement to *New Times*.

“Bill seeks full transparency, sound business practices, and compliance with all applicable cannabis laws and regulations. Bill looks forward to presenting all of the facts and evidence to the judge and a jury. Bill believes that sunlight is the best disinfectant,” Feldman said.

Szymczak’s lawsuit weaves a story of a once-promising business partnership gone awry after he was “shocked and horrified” to find out that Dayspring—in increasing legal and financial

trouble—had been “using company funds as though they were his own private checking account.”

In contrast, Dayspring and his colleagues portray Szymczak as a “formerly happy, now disgruntled” minority owner who was fully aware and supportive of Dayspring’s management decisions.

In court filings, Dayspring claimed he and Szymczak were “incredibly close.”

Their partnership began in early 2018. Szymczak, a career real estate executive and former senior official at HUD, was looking to plant a stake in California’s newly legalized cannabis market. Dayspring, already in the cannabis industry before Proposition 64 passed, needed investors to help him grow his existing enterprise in SLO and Santa Barbara counties.

Persuaded that Dayspring was a good bet, Szymczak invested at least \$15 million to help him buy property to pursue his cannabis ventures, which included a portfolio of local farms and a dispensary in Grover Beach, according to court records. In return, Szymczak received a 30 percent ownership stake.

“Dayspring assured me that he was meticulous and ethical in his business dealings and was specially situated through his local relationships to work effectively with the appropriate regulatory, permitting, and licensing committees and the key officials,” Szymczak wrote in court filings.

In mid-2018, Natural Healing Center opened in Grover Beach and Dayspring applied for cultivation permits in SLO County. In the ensuing months, the company also secured dispensary permits in SLO and Morro Bay and began discussing plans for Lemoore, Orcutt, and Turlock.

But, according to Szymczak, the venture began to unravel in 2020. Court records indicate that Dayspring is facing investigations from the FBI and IRS and that earlier this year, the FBI searched his home on Los Osos Valley Road.

While FBI officials declined to comment on any investigations, Dayspring acknowledged

the inquiries and search in court documents—tying them to “a potential tax liability from the Proposition 215 time period,” or before recreational cannabis was legalized.

In May, Natural Healing Center hired a new chief financial officer, who, according to Szymczak, began sharing more detailed financial reports on the businesses with him—reports indicating that the businesses were running out of cash.

After that, Szymczak said he discovered Dayspring’s alleged use of company funds for personal legal expenses, his “direct” taking of cash without making distributions to other members, late payments on company taxes, and use of funds to subsidize other dispensary projects in which Szymczak did not have a stake.

While Szymczak described Dayspring’s conduct as fraudulent, Dayspring denied that he acted improperly. He said that Szymczak “greenlit all of my movement and my actions” and claimed he was given “full approval . . . to invest all proceeds from Natural Healing Center in any way I chose.”

The company’s chief financial officer, who provided the reports to Szymczak, wrote a declaration in court defending Dayspring, calling the allegations “misleading and inaccurate.”

Szymczak is asking a judge to appoint a receiver to run the company while his litigation pursues a full financial accounting of Natural Healing Center and its ancillaries; a declaration of rights between all its members; damages; and the permanent removal of Dayspring as a manager.

“I had trusted Mr. Dayspring to use my capital and our profits for our shared benefit through the businesses he was running,” Szymczak said in court records, “. . . and I put far more trust in his judgment than I should have.”

Peter Johnson, assistant editor for the Sun’s sister paper, can be reached at pjohnson@newtimeslo.com.

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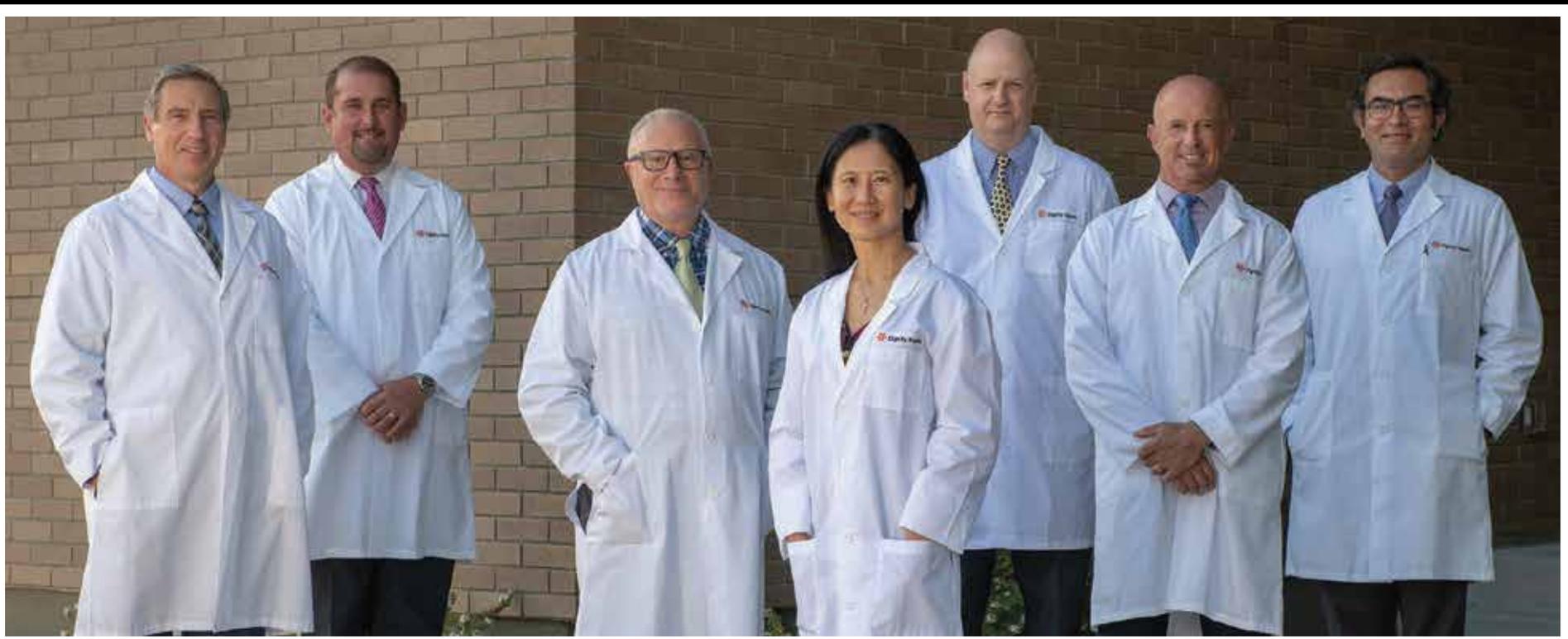
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Raising spirits

Lompoc Public Library staff members are working hard to give local kids a goblin good time this month



ACTIVITIES THAT ROCK: The Lompoc Library is getting kids outside this fall season by placing Halloween-themed rocks around town. Kids who find rocks will be entered into a drawing for gift cards, but this is just one way to have a chance at winning.

BY MALEA MARTIN

Why are ghosts such terrible liars? Because you can see right through them! How can you tell a vampire likes baseball? Every night he turns into a bat!

What do witches use on their hair? Scare spray! Everybody loves a good pun and, as much as the *Sun* would love to take credit, the Lompoc Public Library is the real goblin behind these Halloween jokes.

Every day during October, the library posts a new animated "howler" on YouTube for local kids to enjoy. But the howlers are just one piece of the Lompoc Public Library's month-long Halloween programming this year.

Thirty-one Dreadful Days of Terrifying Treats is aimed at kids ages 4 to 12, and it all leads up to a drawing for 10 gift cards to Five Below—every kid's dream store—at the end of the month.

"Of course, because of the pandemic, kids aren't going to be able to do the normal Halloween activities, so they won't be able to do trick-or-treating and things like that," said Librarian Rachell Frazian. "So I wanted to put together an online program where kids would have something to look forward to. The program is made to be very interactive: The more the kids interact, the more entries they get into the drawing."

After signing up for a free Beanstack account—a website used by libraries for reading challenges and programming—kids can submit the codes found at the end of daily, interactive videos posted by the library. Participants can score extra points by submitting reviews, drawings, photos, memes, jokes, or any other artistic creation. For every submission, kids are given another entry into the end-of-the-month gift card drawing.

The library posts a new video each day of the week that sticks to a certain theme. On Sundays, it's "The Ghastly Kitchen," where "one of our staff members makes something yummy in the kitchen," Frazian said. On Mondays, kids can hear some "Strange & Startling Storytimes." On Saturdays, participants can make some "Cryptically Creepy Crafts"—and the list goes on.

Kids who watch through the whole video are rewarded with a code which, when entered into Beanstack, results in another entry for the gift cards.

"If they want to do more, they can go ahead and do their own version of the craft," Frazian said. "The crafts are all low- to no-cost, so it's things you can easily either find at home or get out at the store. If the craft inspires them to make a meme or write a joke, or they wanted to take a picture of something that reminded them of the craft—all those things count, and they can post those for another entry into the drawing."

As of six days into the program, the library had already received 158 entries from local kids.

And the programming isn't limited to the computer screen: Frazian and the Lompoc library team is getting creative to get kids outdoors by hiding painted Halloween rocks around Lompoc for kids to find. Whoever finds a rock gets

another entry into the contest.

"*Pokémon GO* is still pretty big for a certain age group, and there's a lot of Poke stops around town. So as an added fun thing, we're aligning the rocks with Poke stops," Frazian said. "Every Thursday, we'll announce where we're going to be placing rocks, and then we post it online [on Facebook] and the kids can go and try to find the rocks."

While the pandemic might have thrown a wrench in the library's typical fall programming, Frazian said the 31 Dreadful Days of Terrifying Treats wouldn't have happened if the virus hadn't hit.

"Usually we would have themed crafts that might be once a week, and the kids would come into the library. But this is something that is every single day," Frazian said. "We're also giving the kids the opportunity to win prizes, which we don't usually do."

With the flexible and easy-to-use submission system on Beanstack, Frazian said the fun is more accessible than ever.

"We're trying to make it as empowering for kids as we can," she said. "So whatever it is that they can do, they can do that and get an entry into the drawing."

Beyond the spooky month of October, the Lompoc library also offers a Fall Reading Challenge until Nov. 30. The challenge operates through Beanstack too, but those without internet access can call the library to log their reading at (805) 875-8781.

Frazian hopes that the 31 Dreadful Days of Terrifying Treats, or #31Dreadful, can help restore some Halloween normalcy to local kids' lives.

"Because Lompoc is such a small town, it's just another dimension of adding to that community closeness," she said.

Highlight

- The Cabrillo High School Aquarium announced that it will be hosting virtual tours to allow elementary school students worldwide to "visit" the facility and learn about the marine life that dwells there. Each tour will be held on Zoom and led by student guides, who will "narrate a walkthrough of the aquarium," according to aquarium staff. At the end of each tour, the students will host a live question-and-answer session. Each tour is grade-appropriate and supports Next Generation Science Standards, according to the aquarium. Students will also have access to pre- and post-tour activities designed by Cabrillo High School Aquarium students. "While nothing compares to an in-person visit, (especially following our recently completed interactive tide pool renovations), we are excited to begin sharing the aquarium with visitors virtually," aquarium officials said in a statement. For more information on the virtual tours, visit cabrilloaquarium.org. ○

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

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Online Poll

Would you report suspected child abuse or neglect to Social Services?

- 61% Yes, definitely. There are lots of resources available for families.
- 24% Maybe, but I'd have to be certain that the right help would be offered.
- 15% I'm not in a place to notice child abuse or neglect.
- 0% No way. Child welfare just wants to take kids away.

13 Votes

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



Take a hard look at the commander in chief

In response to Ellis Romero's letter, ("The blame-Trump game," Sept. 24) decrying those who call Trump "a racist," I feel you need a bit of Trump's history before you defend him from that title.

My father worked for Trump's father, and, as a native of New York for 25 years, I had the dubious pleasure of following Donald's career from both my father's accounts and the regular space given Donald Trump's peccadillos in the *Daily News* and *New York Post*... not a pretty picture.

To begin with, Trump's father has been alleged to be a Ku Klux Klan member, was arrested during his youth, and appeared eager to pass down his take on the world to his favorite son, Donald, who with his father, in Donald's adult years, were cited for coding applicants for residence in Trump's buildings to identify those of color, so they would be advised there were no vacancies. Racist? I think so. Also, Trump Jr. would hire undocumented builders through the New York mob and then short change them by taking them to court for doing "unsatisfactory work," knowing they could not appear to defend themselves. Racist? You be the judge. If you remember, as president, he was accused for doing similar things to the undocumented workers hired at Mar-A-Largo, his favorite, and his future, residence.

In sum, whatever you claim he's done as president was not done out of concern for the "have-nots" in our country... it was done to affect his reelection chances, as is everything he does today. The man is a mean-mouthed, lying provocateur who has no real concern for others. As a relevant aside? Have you, in almost four years of his presidency, ever seen a picture of him with his grandchildren by Ivanka, Donald Jr., or Eric? Or a picture of him golfing or spending any time with his teenage son, Baron? They don't even share living quarters, from what I've read.

Remember this picture of our commander in chief when you vote and ask yourself why members of the upper echelon of the military are discussing how to remove him if he loses the vote and refuses to leave office, or why those who know him best are

worried he might start a war to stay in power.

It's time we elect a president who has character and compassion as well as experience, will read the briefs given him, and will listen to his advisers. Do the research, get out and vote for Joe Biden, and save our democracy from wannabe tyrants.

Istar Holliday
Arroyo Grande

We need a moratorium on dunes vehicle operations

California Coastal Commission and State Parks were supposed to review the final draft of the public works plan for Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) on Oct. 15. Unsurprisingly, the public works plan is not ready, and the meeting has been canceled. The public works plan has been an excuse for State Parks to gain time and keep running the ODSVRA as always.

There is only one reasonable, equitable way to proceed: Let State Parks delay as long as it wants while ODSVRA remains closed until State Parks presents a new management plan in compliance with the Coastal Commission's requirements.

The Coastal Commission would never have tolerated any other business's defiance of the law as it has tolerated State Parks'. In a similar situation, the Coastal Commission would have imposed a moratorium until compliance had been achieved.

Coastal Commission staff's intended recommendations for the October hearing were to phase out off-highway vehicle use over the next five years, close Pier Avenue to beach vehicle access, and forbid driving south of Pier Avenue. This proposal would meet the Coastal Commission's requirements and solve air quality and environmental-justice issues. An immediate moratorium on ODSVRA operations would certainly prompt State Parks to work more actively on complying with the Coastal Commission's requirements.

Climate change is causing wildfires, heat waves, sea level rise, and bad air quality. The activities at the ODSVRA produce carbon dioxide emissions and destroy the beach and foredunes, exposing Oceano to inundation. Phasing out off-highway vehicle

use is a step toward alleviating climate change. We request a moratorium on ODSVRA's activities.

Lucia Casalnuovo
president, Oceano Beach Community Association

Vote against stupid Democratic proposals

California is facing a financial crisis with two idiotic proposals. First is Proposition 15. Small business owners already have difficulty paying workers. Workers who are struggling to put food on their family's table and struggling to pay their bills. Proposition 15 is a deceptively worded bad idea trying to gut Proposition 13's limitation of confiscatory property taxes and will force businesses to pay additional taxes or close for good.

Money from Proposition 15 is touted as going to help schools. It will not. That is the same carrot dangled before voters with lottery money. Remember? Sure, the money went to the schools, but the state in turn diverted equal funds away from the schools to use on pet projects. Don't be fooled. This is an attempt to chisel away at Proposition 13, and if passed the next chisel will be at homeowners.

I am proud that Supervisors Steve Lavagnino and Peter Adam opposed this proposition. The other three, Gregg Hart, Das Williams, and Joan Hartmann, who approved supporting Proposition 15, have no common sense. Remember those three names when you see them on a future ballot. Please vote with your head and not your heart.

I agree we need to help schools, but taxing businesses out of existence will not help them or their employees.

Another stupid idea is that California is setting up a nine-member task force on how to provide reparations for Black Americans. Why? There is not a Black person alive today who was a slave. And what about reparations for Native Americans or Mexicans? After all, this was their land. How much money will that cost an already broke California? Gov. Newsom has no common sense.

Please vote no on Proposition 15, and write to your local representatives about the reparation hoax, another stupid Democratic proposal.

Samantha Romero
Santa Maria

A note on the Electoral College

What could be more un-American than Brits trashing this country. John Oliver recently took to task the Electoral College with how it misrepresented minorities and more irrelevant faldral. John, become a citizen, and then you might have some standing.

The Electoral College is always topical because we stopped teaching the foundations of our government. Headline "The United States of America." As a collection of sovereign states, we unify under a common brand to promote trade and defense. Almost like what the European Union tried to do except for the defense part. Another topic for another day.

Each state under the agreement of our Constitution is an equal partner, and if one state starts to feel underrepresented, there could be repercussions, such as secession from the Union. That was the cause of the Civil War. Forget slavery. That was a side note.

The founders built many checks and balances in the government to assure each state was equally represented. That is the purpose of the Electoral College in the election process.

I could cast aspersions on states whose population majority could swing federal representation to hedonistic, socialist control, but why name names. The important thing to remember is, as a country, we are still sovereign states. You can move freely between them as your politics desire, but you cannot dictate your politics to the union.

That's the rest of the story. Good day.

Jan Lipski
Vanderberg Village

MAYFIELD

I'M IMMUNE

FROM

- COVID-19
- BIDEN-HARRIS
- NANCY PELOSI
- THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- THE GREEN NEW DEAL
- NONE OF THE ABOVE

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Letter or spirit?

The **Second Amendment** to the **Constitution** was ratified in 1791. More than two centuries later, we're still arguing over it. Because, quite frankly, it's written weirdly—and, here's a shocker, people who want it to mean certain things interpret it differently!



“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed,” the amendment states.

There are commas in random places. It's a passive statement with sub-clauses thrown in the middle. And it's vague. Who's infringing on what? What exactly constitute “arms”? What the hell is “a well-regulated militia”? None of these things are defined.

So it's a guessing game based on the politics of the time.

Here we are—nearly 230 years later—still thinking that people will follow the intent of a law if it's not explicitly spelled out in the letter of the law. Let's take **Measure G**, for instance. That pesky **Santa Barbara County** redistricting law voters passed in 2018 that was supposed to take politics out of the extremely political process.

Guess what? It did no such thing! Surprised? Not even a little bit.

Liberal members of the **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** are simply appalled at what's transpired with the measure they wrote! About 200 applicants applied to serve on the 11 member redistricting commission, which will reform after every census for the foreseeable future, as that's when district lines get redrawn. The county elections official, who happens to be **Jim Holland** this year (2020, in case anyone forgot), is in charge of whittling the applicants down to 45—nine for each of the five supervisorial districts—based on qualifications outlined in the measure.

The one Holland seems to have misinterpreted is this one: “Experience that demonstrates an appreciation for the diverse demographics and geography of the county of Santa Barbara.” Whatever “appreciation” means.

It's pretty clear that the spirit of “appreciation” means actual diversity to **1st District Supervisor Das Williams** and **3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann**.

“You've created a skewed pool that is old, white, and male,” Hartmann told Holland during the Oct. 13 meeting where the first five members of the commission were randomly drawn bingo style. When she pressed him for specifics on the exact qualifications he used to narrow the pool of applicants, Holland was pretty peeved.

“It does not request of me to take into account gender, age, or ethnicity,” he said. “So I selected the most qualified.”

Whatever “most qualified” means. He declined to go into specifics and said he wasn't consulted when the measure was crafted at the last minute, he didn't ask for the job of narrowing down commission applicants, and the ordinance doesn't specifically ask him to make public his list of qualifications.

Yeesh. I get it, Holland's pissed that they're accusing him of being biased, but he's not going to give us more than “most qualified”?

Williams said he trusted the elections official—again, this time that's our guy Holland—to narrow down candidates based on the intent behind the measure. So what happens 40 years from now when neither one of you is in county government? ☹

The canary thinks explicit language is the way to go. Send your interpretation to canary@santamariasun.com.

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HOME ON THE RANGE

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents *It's a Watercolor World at the Cypress Gallery through Sunday, Oct. 25. This exhibition showcases a variety of watercolor paintings, including animal portraits like Buffalo Love (pictured), by local artist Claudette Carlton. Visit lompcart.org or cfcarltonart.com to find out more. The Cypress Gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc.*
—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE IMAGE COURTESY OF CLAUDETTE CARLTON

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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.

THE ART OF FACE MASKS: VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

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

A MIGHTY OAK: PERMANENT EXHIBIT ONLINE

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

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.

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, gallerylosolivos.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.

THIRD ANNUAL NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL: VIRTUAL

Nature documentaries carefully curated. All Access pass includes 60 films in ten days. Through Oct. 18 \$100 All Access Pass; \$10 Single Ticket. 805-886-2047. NatureTrackFilmFestival.org. Downtown Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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. lompcart.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. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, 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. 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. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

SMCT DRIVE-UP THEATRE: SPOOKTACULAR Enjoy music, dance, and comedy scenes from the comfort of your own car. **Oct. 25**, 1-4 p.m. \$25. my805tix.com. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

VALLEY ART GALLERY OF SANTA MARIA: FALL

ART SHOW Free parking. Free admission. 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.

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART AT THE CLARK BENEFIT AUCTION (VIRTUAL)

This is your chance to bid on over 60 works from Central Coast artists and help raise funds for the Clark Center. **Oct. 19**, 8 a.m., **Oct. 20**, **Oct. 21**, **Oct. 22**, **Oct. 23** and **Oct. 24** Free to register. 805-489-4196. clarkcenter.org/art-at-the-clark-virtual-artist-auction/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

ART AT THE CLARK BENEFIT AUCTION PREVIEW

Join us at the Clark Center for a free Preview Event of over 60 pieces of art donated by 40 Central Coast artists that will be available during the online ART at the CLARK Benefit Auction. **Oct. 16**, 3-6 p.m. Free. 805-489-4196. clarkcenter.org/art-at-the-clark-virtual-artist-auction/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen 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. Fashions for a Purpose, 665 Sequoia Lane, Nipomo, 805-929-5282.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-6, FOR AGES 7-12, OR FOR ADULTS

Each week we will combine two or more mediums in several pieces. We will work with watercolor, acrylic, ink, pastels, charcoal, as well as various printmaking techniques in the course of a month. Maximum of 5 guests. Pre-registration and masks required. Mondays, Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m. \$25. 805-668-2125. lila.community. LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CALL FOR ARTISTS: ART CENTRAL'S VIRTUAL GALLERY

Central Coast artists to submit artwork to Virtual Gallery Exhibit every Friday. Free to join, all you have to do is email image(s) of artwork created since COVID-19 with name, title, medium, and a positive message. Fridays, 5-11 p.m. through Dec. 18 Varies. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.wordpress.com/blog/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., 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/. 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/. 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 United States. Select portraits along with links to the survivors' stories will be available to view digitally at SLOMA.org through Nov. 1. Through Nov. 1 sloma.org/exhibition/live-through-this/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562.

MOSAICS FOR BEGINNERS

Learn mosaic basics at home with a how-to video and kit of supplies. This class is great for beginners. Choice of snowman, wonky holiday tree, heart, or wine bottle. Register, purchase kit, then instructor will provide video link and kit pickup times. Mondays-Sundays, through Nov. 30 Various. 805-286-5993. creativetime.com. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISING SALES

New Times Media Group (NTMG) is a family-owned business that has been part of the community since 1986. Our mission is to publish great newspapers which are successful and enduring; create a quality work environment that encourages employees to grow; and to have a positive impact on our communities, and make it a better place to live.

We are looking for an individual who cares about building relationships and partnering with local businesses in San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties. If you have the heart, we have the tools to train you to be a successful Ad Consultant. You must be self-motivated, ambitious, and an independent person who also wants to be part of a great team. Successful reps will have a sincere desire to help our clients assess their needs and work together to create marketing campaigns that increase their business.

Talents:

- A curiosity about how different types of businesses work.
- An interest in learning consultative sales skills.
- Excellent time management skills and the ability to work within deadlines.
- The ability to be social and enjoy talking with people.
- The ability to learn how to develop solutions to marketing problems.
- A strong work ethic.
- Superior customer service skills.

Experience:

- Experience in business, customer service or related field
- College degree preferred.

TO APPLY: If this sounds like you, please let us know by e-mailing your résumé and cover letter to Cindy Rucker at crucker@newtimeslo.com.

When you submit your résumé please answer the following questions in the body of your e-mail:

- 1) Why are you interested in working for NTMG?
- 2) Why should we hire you?

Compensation includes a base salary, commission and bonus; excellent benefits package including medical, dental, and paid time off.

NTMG is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.



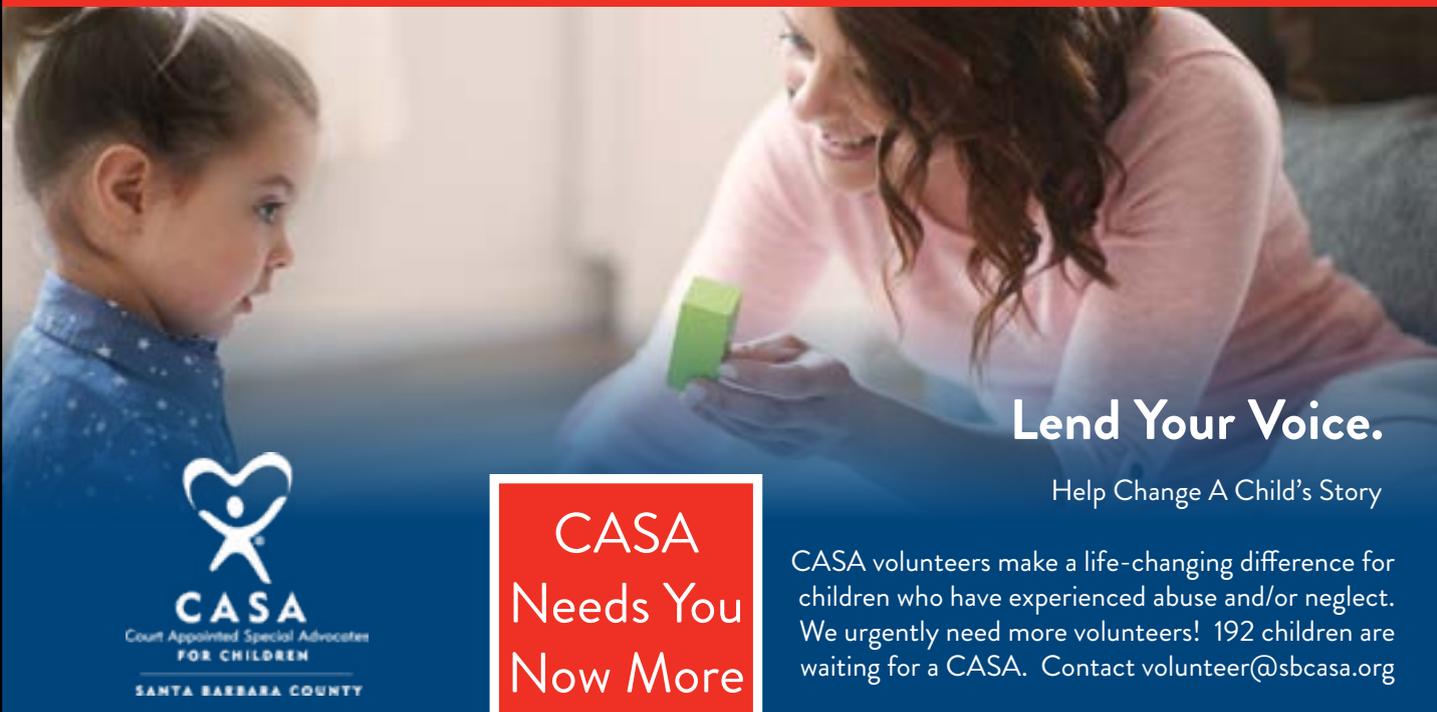
NEW TIMES MEDIA GROUP

NewTimes **NMG** **Sun**

1010 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo
NewTimesSLO.com

2540 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria
SantaMariaSun.com

VOLUNTEER

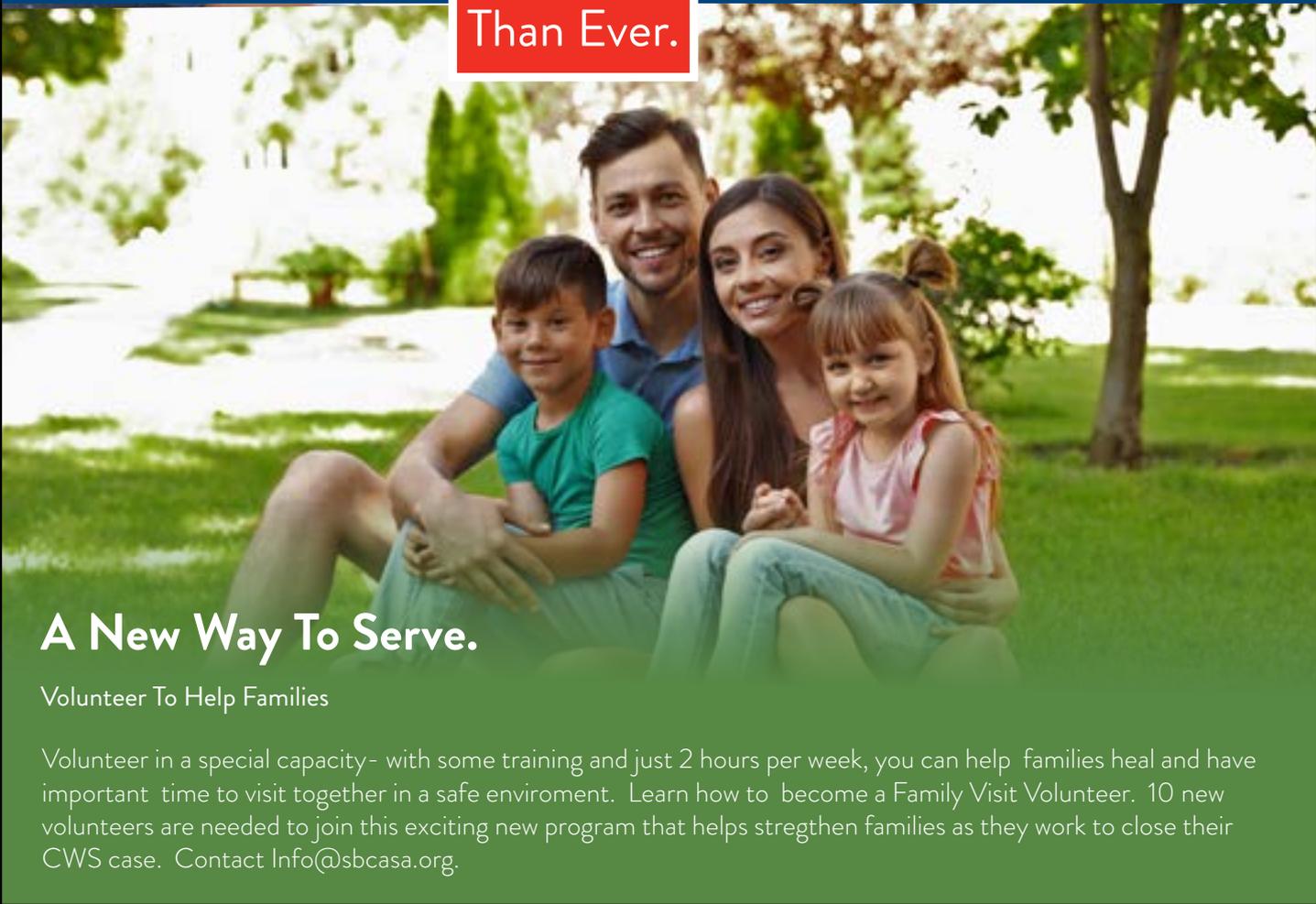


Lend Your Voice.

Help Change A Child's Story

CASA
Needs You
Now More
Than Ever.

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 volunteer@sbcasa.org



A New Way To Serve.

Volunteer To Help Families

Volunteer in a special capacity- with some training and just 2 hours per week, you can help families heal and have important time to visit together in a safe environment. Learn how to become a Family Visit Volunteer. 10 new volunteers are needed to join this exciting new program that helps strengthen families as they work to close their CWS case. Contact Info@sbcasa.org.



The FRIENDS of the SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Present

The 9th ANNUAL

PAINTED CHAIR RAFFLE

Raffle Tickets \$1 each • Six (6) for \$5



Oct. 17 to Oct. 30 (Drawing Oct. 30)

Chairs on Display & Raffle tickets available on the Second level of the Town Center East from noon – 6:00pm
For information, to view chair's and purchase tickets www.fsmpl.org or call the Friends Office (805) 925-7116

Fashions for a Purpose
VIRTUAL FASHION SHOW
Saturday, October 17
9:30 am - 11:15 Live Auction
10:00 am - Fashion Show
Buy tickets at my805tix.com
\$25 - Event Ticket & Auction
\$45 - Event Ticket, Auction & Gift
\$75 - "Luxe Bundle"
(Event Ticket, Auction, Gift, Open Champagne & Desserts)
CASS Winery

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

THE SMCT
DRIVE UP THEATRE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Santa Maria Civic Theatre

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

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

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

KRAV MAGA
360
CENTRAL COAST
Krav Maga Level 2 Weekend
SAT & SUN, OCTOBER 17 & 18
Sleeping Tiger Fitness, San Luis Obispo

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

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

Estate Beef Dinner
2020 Fall Series
featuring Brisket
Friday, November 6th
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

2020 November Wine Seminar: Bubbles
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
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
Rava Wines + Events

Sunset Photo Shoot
FRIDAY, MARCH 19
Point San Luis Lighthouse

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

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

POWERED BY: **NewTimes & Sun** FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

SEA GLASS WIRE WRAP JEWELRY Learn how to wire wrap sea glass to create beautiful earrings and a necklace with step-by-step video instruction. Register, select kit, and instructor will provide video link and kit options. Mondays-Sundays, through Nov. 29. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

VIRTUAL OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR Visit ARTS Obispo's Facebook page to view works from several local artists and artisans. ongoing Free. facebook.com/artsobispo. Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: DRAWING FOR ACCURACY In this workshop, students will work through a couple of different tools that are used to encourage and assist with accuracy when drawing from life. All experience levels welcome (ages 16 and over). **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and **Oct. 18**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$130 members, \$145 general. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/product/drawing-for-accuracy-zoom/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS PLATE CLASS Create your own unique glass skull using pre-cut pieces of fusible glass that can be kept flat or slumped into curved plate. All materials included. Limit 6 people per class. Masks required. **Oct. 24**, 10 a.m.-noon \$45. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero, 805-464-2633.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE



HOT STUFF
OCT. 15 - OCT. 22 2020

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER
The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang hosts its 20th anniversary Virtual Fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 16, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Viewers can look forward to browsing or bidding for a variety of silent- and live-auction items and a video tour of the museum's current art exhibit, 20/20: A Retrospective. Call (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org to find out more.
—C.W.

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

SLOPE PAINTERS AT STUDIOS ON THE PARK Please stop by to see paintings by San Luis Outdoor Painters for the Environment (SLOPE), at Studios on the Park. SLOPE painters have been sheltering at home and are now ready to break out to show paintings and prints at open galleries. Fridays, Saturdays, 12-9 p.m. and Wednesdays, Thursdays, 12-4 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-238-9800. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, studiosonthepark.org.

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

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/. Downtown Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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, Citywide, 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, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

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, unwindstamaria.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. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, suite B, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DANA'S HALLOWEEN BASH Join DANA for a Halloween Bash. Includes a costume march, trunk or treat, and a socially distanced family friendly movie night. **Oct. 23**, 5-10:30 p.m. \$5 parking fee. 805-929-5679. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, danaadobe.org.

HALLOWEEN HORROR MOVIE NIGHT AT DANA Come watch a classic thriller under the stars. Health and safety precautions will be taken. Masks, social distancing, and hand washing will be enforced. Snacks will be for sale. **Oct. 16**, 7-9:30 p.m. \$5 parking fee. 805-929-5679. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 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, 5citysswimschool.com.

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

COMPLIMENTARY OUTDOOR YOGA CLASSES Hotel San Luis Obispo, Piazza Hospitality's first property on California's scenic Central Coast, is now offering complimentary outdoor yoga classes on its rooftop terrace. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-noon \$10-\$15 donation suggested. 805-235-0700. hotel-slo.com. Hotel San Luis Obispo, 877 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

LITERACY FOR LIFE TUTOR TRAINING Literacy For Life has a San Luis Obispo countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. If you are interested in attending the training but need help with using Zoom, please email assistant@literacyforlifelo.org. **Oct. 24**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-4219. literacyforlifelo.org/become-a-tutor.php. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

OCTAGON BARN VIRTUAL TOUR (LIVE) The Land Conservancy is proud to partner with The History Center

of SLO County to host public virtual tours via Zoom of the famous Octagon Barn of San Luis Obispo. Fourth Thursday of every month, 4-4:30 p.m. through Oct. 22 \$5. 805-544-9096. lcslo.org. Zoom, Online, 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, 9-9:45 a.m. through Dec. 18 Free. 805-546-3942. 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.slcsd.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. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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. Woods Humane Society, 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SAN LUIS OBISPO MUSEUM OF ART



VIRTUAL REALITY

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) presents Drawing for Accuracy, a virtual life drawing workshop over Zoom, on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All experience levels, ages 16 and over, are welcome to join this class. Admission is \$145. Call (805) 543-8562 or visit sloma.org to find out more. SLOMA is located at 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.
—C.W.

VOLUNTEER SOLAR INSTALLER TRAINING WEBINAR WITH SUNWORK Learn the basics of installing rooftop solar energy systems by volunteering with SunWork. This 3-hour online event teaches the basics of rooftop solar, electricity, and safety. After completing the training, you are eligible to join us to install residential solar systems in our community. **Oct. 24**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. 805-229-1250. eventbrite.com/e/volunteer-solar-installer-training-webinar-with-sunworkorg-oct-24-registration-116270753955. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

YOGA ON THE TMC PATIO A 60-minute restorative flow yoga class on The Monday Club patio. Pre-registration is required. Please bring a yoga mat. Face masks are required. All proceeds benefit The Monday Clubhouse Conservancy, devoted to restoring and preserving the Julia Morgan designed clubhouse and grounds. **Oct. 19**, 4-5:15 p.m. \$15. themondayclubslo.org. The Monday Club, 1815 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, 805-541-0594.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID Youth Mental Health First Aid is a comprehensive training specifically designed to equip educators, family members, and caregivers (18 years or older) with the skills and knowledge to identify, understand, and respond to the signs or risk factors of mental illness and substance use disorders. **Oct. 24**, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 978-697-0629. bethdifferencesb.org/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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. Paso Robles Airport, 4912 Wink 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/. 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 Chelcy 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.

RACE FOR THE PRINTERY A virtual fun run fundraiser. Complete race anytime between running dates. **Oct. 18-25** racefortheprintery.com. Atascadero Printery Building, 6351 Olmeda Ave., Atascadero.

SECOND ANNUAL LUSSO DELLA TERRA PUMPKIN PATCH The Lusso Della Terra family would like to welcome the public to their second annual pumpkin patch. This year's pumpkins are from Van Groningen and Sons. Tuesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 31 805-239-9463. Lusso Della Terra Cellars, 2850 Ranchita Canyon Rd., San Miguel.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 2201 Lawton Ave., San Luis Obispo.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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. Avila Valley Barn, 560 Avila Beach Drive, Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

12TH ANNUAL NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS: READERS' CHOICE New Times now accepting votes toward its Reader Choice Award from this year's annual New Times Music Awards. Links to samples of the artists' music are also available on the voting page. Through Oct. 19 Free. newtimeslo.com. New Times, 1010 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, 805-546-8208.

WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDRAISER (LIVE STREAM) Features live streamed music from Boostive, a six to nine piece band spearheaded by Chilean/Japanese American music producer Seiji Komo. **Oct. 17**, 6-9 p.m. \$8. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, (805) 543-1843. ☉



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.

Let's partner together and get your messaging out to the Central Coast community.

For any questions, or to apply for a matching funds grant, please call **(805) 347-1968 ext. 111**

The Sun: Helping and supporting the Central Coast since 2000



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Arts Briefs

Healing Justice SB announces Art is Activism campaign

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEALING JUSTICE SB



Healing Justice SB, a Black-led and Black-centered organizing collective based in Santa Barbara County, announces its Art is Activism campaign, which is described as a visual representation of solidarity. As part of the online campaign, Healing Justice SB will showcase a variety of installation photography from several contributors through its website and social media pages.

"Through design, body paint, floral, and photography, we captured powerful images for a diverse demographic of real people. Our models came from different backgrounds, professions, age groups, and orientations," Leticia Forney Resch, creative director of the project, said in a press release.

Healing Justice SB will release different photos from the campaign daily on its Instagram page (@healing_justice_sb) and hopes these images will inspire viewers to participate in local, state, and federal political actions, according to the release.

"All communities who have the privilege of voting must show up for each other," Resch said. "We must act with urgency and intention, to uplift the most marginalized voices and demand change in our systems."

Participating artists in the campaign include Terra Cobian Photography, Emily Ritter with Anna Delores Photography, and Michelle Ramirez Photography. Painters Chante Glover with Copper Raven Studios and Chelsea Willett with Chelsea Willett Designs created illustrations of key voting issues for the project.

Healing SB was formed in response to the destabilizing impacts of racism and "aspires to build resilient communities for the African diaspora and other marginalized people along the Central Coast."

Visit hjsb.org for more info.

Readers Choice voting open for New Times Music Awards

New Times will accept votes toward its Readers Choice Award from this year's annual New Times Music Awards through Monday, Oct. 19. Visit newtimeslo.com to view the list of different artists to vote for and submit your picks for first, second, and third place.

Links to samples of the artists' music are also available on the voting page. This year's competition marks *New Times*' 12th annual celebration of locally produced music. Call *New Times* at (805) 546-8208 for more details.

The Wildling Museum will reopen to the public in November

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang announced it will reopen to the public on Saturday, Nov. 7, with new walk-in hours on Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prior to the public reopening, the museum will reopen to members only, starting on Wednesday, Oct. 28 (appointments required).

According to museum officials, the Wildling will be following public health guidelines as advised by the CDC and Santa Barbara County to ensure the safety of visitors and staff. Visit wildlingmuseum.org for more info. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang. ○

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

Nurture in nature

Santa Ynez Botanic Garden welcomes artists to meet monthly for a social-distance-friendly, outdoor art group

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Painters, photographers, poets, and other practitioners of the arts gather once a month on the grounds of the Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden for a free, self-directed happening described by art therapist Stacey Thompson as "an outlet for people during this difficult time."

"There is no format or directive. No structure. Artists who wish to work alone find a spot away from people who are gathered. Artists working closer together wear masks while keeping at least 6 feet apart," Thompson, co-host of Art in the Garden, told the *Sun*.

On the last Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., attendees of the group are welcome to bring their own art supplies, along with a chair or blanket to sit on, and enjoy the company of fellow artists in the garden, while still maintaining a safe distance from one another. Thompson and co-host Mac Duncan extend "an invitation to all people to nurture themselves through art," as newcomers are always welcome to join.

The next Art in the Garden meeting takes place on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31. While the group began in June, the idea for a monthly, community art gathering in the Santa Ynez Valley had been on the duo's minds since last fall, Thompson said.

"We had kicked around the idea for a long time, probably since the Day of Dead workshops that I organized at the garden last October around the topic of death, loss, and grief," Thompson said. "The garden turned out to be the perfect location and a resource for people as they moved through the feelings associated with the grief process. Everyone expressed feeling safe, nurtured, relaxed, and peaceful there."

Thompson and Duncan have worked on several art therapy workshops in the past, including the Day of the Dead series last year, and are close friends as well. Both artists also share a passion for environmental awareness.

"She's [Duncan's] game to do just about anything, but she's always trying to steer things in the direction of least impact on the planet, steering away from toxic supplies and moving forward reusing materials," Thompson said. "It's nice to work with someone who stands by her convictions and walks the walk. We often make art together, talk about art, and share images of what we're working on. It can be a wordless conversation sometimes."

Art in the Garden didn't come to fruition until the COVID-19 pandemic hit, however, Thompson said, after "the need for some kind of creative outlet and a safe community connection became apparent."

Like Thompson and Duncan's previous workshops at the outdoor venue, the concept of using art to alleviate grief is explored.

"People are definitely grieving now, whether from the loss of a loved one, a job, or a routine, and we are going through it mostly in isolation. So I guess it's come full circle, back to grief work in the garden," Thompson said. "This has not been a widely publicized group so the gatherings have been fairly small and intimate thus far."

The group has attracted musicians, basket



DYNAMIC DUO: Artists, friends, and frequent collaborators Stacey Thompson (left) and Mac Duncan (right) co-host Art in the Garden meetings once a month at the Santa Ynez Botanic Garden. The duo previously hosted Day of the Dead art therapy workshops at the garden last year.

Monthly magic

Art in the Garden takes place on the last Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Botanic Garden, located at 151 Sycamore Drive, Buellton. Visit syvbotanicgarden.org for more details, or email your questions to co-hosts Stacey Thompson (thompsonarttherapy@gmail.com) or Mac Duncan (marymacduncan@gmail.com).

weavers, crocheters, and several other types of artisans besides painters, Thompson said. While social distancing is pivotal during the gathering, one of Thompson's favorite things she has observed so far from month to month is the communication between attendees.

"I hear a lot of talk about how people are coping, and I see kind, supportive listening. I hear folks sharing tips and tricks related to supplies and techniques and resources," Thompson said. "But I also see authentic connection, even amongst passersby who stop for a chat."

While all levels of experience are welcome, Thompson hopes the group will attract non-artists, or those who don't consider themselves to be artistic.

"My whole jam is about creating opportunities for people to play with art materials and engage with their creative impulses," Thompson said. "Building trust with yourself and accepting that you might not make a perfect mark is all part of the process." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is already planning a day trip to the garden. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



YOU CAN GO YOUR OWN WAY: "There is no format or directive. No structure. Artists who wish to work alone find a spot away from people who are gathered. Artists working closer together wear masks while keeping at least 6 feet apart," Stacey Thompson, co-host of Art in the Garden, said of the group.



THE MUSIC NEVER STOPPED: The Santa Ynez Botanic Garden's monthly Art in the Garden series has attracted musicians, basket weavers, crocheters, and several other types of artisans besides painters.

Spectral spectacle

Elks Recreation teams up with Santa Maria Recreation and Parks for drive-through horror event, Haunted Hills

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Thrills and chills await the daring souls brave enough to venture to the Elks Unocal Event Center this Halloween season. The outdoor rodeo venue was recently transformed into Haunted Hills—the inaugural horror-themed drive-through event co-hosted by Elks Recreation and the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department.

The three-week festivity begins on Friday, Oct. 16, and will remain open every Friday and Saturday through Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31.

“The large open space available at the Unocal Event Center makes a drive-through event completely achievable, and the fact that it gets really dark there when the sun goes down doesn’t hurt,” Dennis Smitherman, recreation services manager of the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, told the *Sun*. “Being the first of its kind in our area, the Haunted Hills drive-through will not be for the faint of heart.”

While drive-in and drive-through styled events are becoming increasingly popular in lieu of in-person gatherings either canceled or postponed due to COVID-19, it was fitting for the two local organizations to team up for “a fun and safe alternative to the traditional haunted house attractions that are usually provided in our community,” Smitherman said.

“This year, due to the pandemic, it just made sense for different agencies with like missions to provide activities for our community while utilizing shared resources,” Smitherman said. “While the city has been hosting ‘drive-in’ events

during the pandemic—bingo, movies, stargazing—this will be our first project that will require participants to ‘drive-through.’”

Attendees of Haunted Hills won’t ever need to leave their vehicles during their stay—although they may certainly be tempted to evacuate at any given rush of adrenaline. The ride itself extends nearly 3 miles, which encompasses more than 20 different horror-themed scenes. Each scene consists of its own unique, horrifying collection of creepy costumed actors, atmospheric set designs, and spooky soundtracks.

“Vignettes, lighting, costumes, and scary music—played over your radio, similar to a drive-in theater—promise to give you at least a little chill, if not a full-on fright,” Smitherman said. “There is a very robust team of people from both organizations planning and preparing for this event.

“The Elks Recreation and Lodge staff and volunteers have been working hard to create vignettes that are appropriate for our area,” he added, commenting on some of the scenes’ rural aesthetic. “Dilapidated tractors, cars, and even a freezer truck will be part of the spectacle, all in order to scare people by the carloads.”

Admission to the Haunted Hills drive-through event is only available in advance, as no tickets will be available at the front entrance (visit elksrec.com to reserve your spot). Limited tickets will be



WRITING'S ON THE WALL: The Haunted Hills ride itself stretches nearly 3 miles, which encompasses more than 20 different horror-themed scenes.



SET THE SCENE: “Dilapidated tractors, cars, and even a freezer truck will be part of the spectacle, all in order to scare people by the carloads,” Dennis Smitherman said, commenting on some of the horror scenes’ rural aesthetic.



DOOR TO HORROR: Haunted Hills brings together spooky vignettes, lighting, costumes, and scary music—played over each car’s radio, similar to a drive-in theater—all in the name of Halloween fun.

distributed, based on hourly increments between 7:30 and 10 p.m. during each operating night.

The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is already planning to team up with Elks Recreation for another upcoming holiday drive-through event at the Elks Unocal Event Center, Smitherman said—albeit one much more cheerful

than fearful: Christmas in the Country, which is slated to open sometime after Thanksgiving. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to know which Halloween cereal you prefer (*Count Chocula*, *Frankenberry*, or *Boo Berry*). Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Trick or treat

Haunted Hills will run Fridays and Saturdays, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.—Friday, Oct. 16, through Saturday, Oct. 31—at the Elks Event Center, located at 4040 S. Highway 101, Santa Maria. Call (805) 925-4125 or visit elksrec.com for more info. Limited tickets, scheduled in hourly increments, are \$30 per car and are available in advance only (no tickets will be sold at the front entrance).

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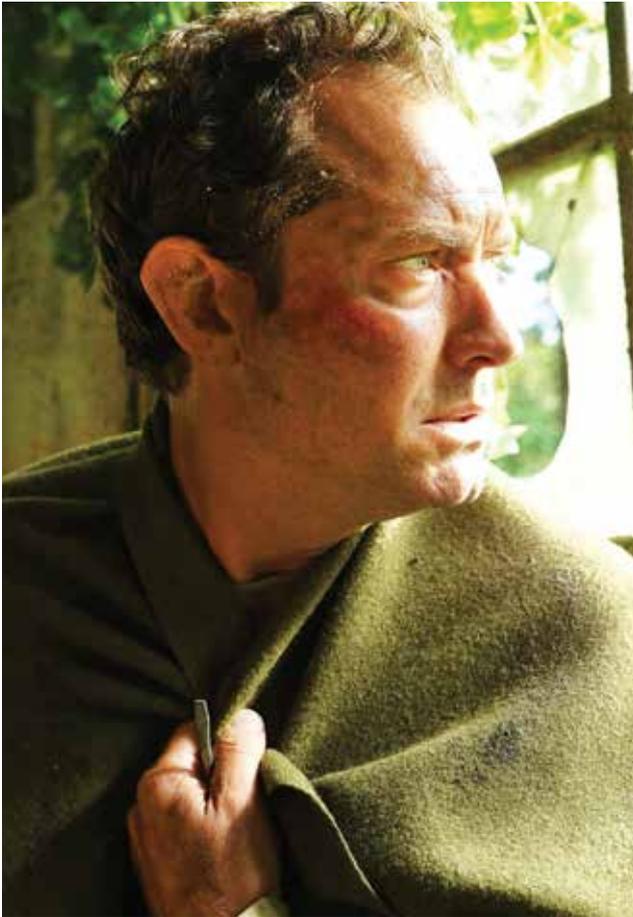
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PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAN B ENTERTAINMENT



TWISTED

Creators Dennis Kelly (*Utopia, Pulling*) and Felix Barrett helm this TV miniseries about a mysterious island inhabited by a cultish group of people. Told in two distinct storylines of three episodes each, the first set follows the journey of Sam (Jude Law), a father grieving over the loss of his murdered son. The second set, of which only the first episode has been released, follows Helen (Naomie Harris) and her two daughters—Ellie (Nico Parker) and Taulah (Charlotte Gaidner-Mihell)—who arrive on the island and find themselves facing hostility from the locals. (six 60-min. episodes)

THE THIRD DAY

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

Glen: We've only seen the first three episodes, and the best way to describe them is *The Wicker Man* (1973) meets *Midsommar* (2019) as directed by Tony Scott. Filmed in surreal hyper-saturated colors, it's visually arresting. And like the two films mentioned, there's a dark mystery at the center, and Sam seems to be integral to some pagan ritual. The island is a character unto itself—it has a causeway that's only accessible from the mainland when the tide is low. Naturally there's no cellphone service, and the only boat on the island is damaged. At first Sam is fascinated by the place. His father was stationed there during the war. As time goes on, and he can't seem to get off the island, things go from weird to worse. His only ally on the island is Jess (Katherine Waterston), another visitor whose motivations are unclear. Some of the islanders seem nice enough, like Mr. and Mrs. Martin (Paddy Considine and Emily Watson), while others are intensely creepy. It's drenched in atmosphere and deeply compelling.

Anna: There is a whole lot of "what the hell is going on?" with this series, but the weird and mysterious atmosphere actually draws us more into the story than pushes us away from it. The first episode opens with Sam releasing a piece of children's clothing into a creek and then coming upon a chilling scene—a young girl in the act of

hanging herself. He manages to save her, and when he drives her home, he is soon stuck on the island he can't seem to escape. The island and the people aren't what they seem; the weird festival they're preparing for is steeped in strangeness, and the drinks and drugs are doing no favors to keep Sam's sanity upright. It's very *Midsommar*—creepy and visually arresting, biblical and horrifying. I'm still not sure I've got everything that is going on worked out, but I'm excited to see how they handle the coming chapters of this fascinating series. **Glen:** Jude Law really digs into the role of Sam. He's broken by the loss of his son, and though we never see his wife, it's clear their relationship has been devastated. When he meets Jess, they end up drunk together. We learn she's also married but estranged from her husband, who has custody of their daughters, which he lords over her. She's got her own secrets, most importantly that she's at her husband's mercy. Nobody is quite who they portray themselves to be, not even Sam, who discovers he has a deep connection to the island. The first three episodes climax in a truly odd finale, and I'm personally excited to see where the next three go and if they're as interesting, bizarre, and well-directed as the first three. There's nothing especially original here—we've seen this type of fantasy-horror before—but if you're a fan of the genre, you're going to enjoy slipping into this oddly compelling pagan/cult series. **Anna:** I'm curious to see if and how the Sam storyline continues, or if perhaps the new storyline with Helen and her daughters takes a whole different turn. Either way, we know that this island and the people on it aren't to be trusted, and people don't just end up there for no reason. There's a mysterious pull to stay on the island, which Sam can't shake, even when it means putting himself back in danger. At first, we're wondering how he's going to get off the island, and that soon becomes a question of if he will even be able to get out alive. It's definitely not for everyone, but I love a bit of island mystery and drama with some cult activity thrown in. I can't wait to see where this series leads. ○

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

DESPERATE TIMES: Sam (Jude Law) finds himself trapped on an island inhabited by some sort of pagan cult as they prepare for an annual festival, in HBO's *The Third Day*.

Film Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUND-OFF FILMS



MAN ON A MISSION: Pro snowboarder Jeremy Jones is the focus of *Purple Mountains*, a documentary about his environmental awakening and his work to tackle climate change, screening Oct. 16 by SLOMotion Films.

PURPLE MOUNTAINS

What's it rated? **Not rated**
 When? **Friday, Oct. 16, at 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.**
 Where's it showing? **Virtually at SLOMotionfilm.com or in person at The Mountain Air**
 Josh Murphy directs this documentary about pro snowboarder Jeremy Jones, whose love of the mountains and winter sports turned him into a reluctant environmentalist. It follows his mission to learn what's driving climate change deniers, but more importantly, to find common ground. Filled with amazing snowboarding footage in some of the world's most beautiful and remote areas, the film's really one man's awakening to the seriousness of the climate change problems as well as his Sisyphean effort to ignite action in Washington, D.C. Star Jeremy Jones will attend the two in-person screenings at The Mountain Air. Seating is very limited. He'll participate in a Q-and-A led by Marissa Miller, student president of Cal Poly Surfrider, after the first screening. SLO City Councilman Aaron Gomez will lead the second Q-and-A. Both Q-and-As will be streamed as part of the virtual screening. *Common Ground*, a stirring get-out-the-vote two-minute short, will be screened before *Purple Mountains*. (53 min. plus Q-and-A)

—Glen

CLASS ACTION PARK

What's it rated? **Not rated**
 When? **2020**
 Where's it showing? **HBO Max**
 Dreaming big never seemed so dangerous as it was in the 1980s when Action Park took over the New Jersey countryside, and teenagers were handed the keys to some very sketchy rides. From a Tarzan swing into freezing spring water to *Miami Vice*-style speedboats and concrete luges, this ill-conceived park is just plain unbelievable. Interviewing park workers and guests, *Class Action Park* takes us on a wild ride exploring both the people behind the madness and the actual rides that not just injured but killed park guests. Proprietor Gene Mulvihill didn't play by the rules, and if that meant overlooking basic engineering as well as safety standards, so be it. There aren't lifeguards on the Colorado River, so why should he have them on his ride that is meant to mimic those rapids? Why not just make your own fake insurance company to cover the park since no actual companies will? That's just the way Uncle Gene worked. The stories told range from just plain hilarious to downright tragic and everywhere in between. This is a fun watch, and you can catch it on HBO Max. (90 min.) ○

—Anna

PHOTO COURTESY OF PERENNIAL MEDIA



DANGEROUS AMUSEMENT: HBO's new documentary, *Class Action Park*, examines the strange tale of a legendarily unsafe amusement park where in the 1980s several people died and scores of others were injured.



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CLOUDSHIP

"Believer"

DANTE MARSH

"Everything Considered"

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"Jealous of South Carolina"

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"Bakersfield Girl"

EZRA HENDERSON

"Game Plan"

HAKEEM SANUSI

"Listen to Me"

JON BARTEL

"Love Her Lonesome"

JULIE LEE

"Green Light"

KACEY FAMILY

"Chaos"

KATHLEEN BRAUER

"Who Are You?"

KATHRYN

CALLARMAN

"What We Can't Obtain"

PETE PIDGEON

"The Wind and the Lover"

RICH SEVERSON'S STUMBLEWEEDZ

"Right at Home"

SACHA CARLSON

"Forever More"

TED WATERHOUSE

"Crazy When You Smile"

THE RUBEN LEE

DALTON BAND

"Shambala Bar"

THE RUBEN LEE

DALTON BAND

"The Healer"

TIGER MUFFIN

"Watch Out!"

YNANA ROSE

"Trouble"

Vote for your favorite song at NewTimesSLO.com



COURTESY PHOTO BY ALI BECK



EAT UP: Bob's Well Bread Bakery and Cafe of Los Alamos opened a second location in Ballard on Oct. 1.

COURTESY PHOTO BY STEVE COLLINS



FRESH DAILY: Baked every morning, Bob's Well Bread has a variety of artisan breads and pastries. Gluten-free options are available.

COURTESY PHOTO BY ALI BECK

Ballard's got bread

Bob's Well Bread Bakery and Cafe opened a second location, which means that yeasted goodness is now baked daily in the Santa Ynez Valley

BY KENNY CRESS

Talk about a fruitful lifestyle move. Bob Oswaks had been in the television industry in Los Angeles for 30 years when he decided it was time for a career change.

"It wasn't anything all of a sudden. I had been working for Norman Lear for years. He talked to me after I had been working at Sony for years, and he told me, 'When you've been working at something for long enough, and you decide it's time ...'" Bob said.

After three decades in the same industry, it was time.

"That was when I got a passion for studying bread," Bob said.

He decided he wanted to start a bakery but had no desire to start one in Los Angeles, so he and his wife, Jane Oswaks, moved to Los Alamos.

"We bought a house there in 2012," Bob said. "We had had a summer house there for 20 years, as an escape from Los Angeles.

"We wanted to start a bakery in a rural location," he continued. "Bread and wine go together, so we wanted to start a bakery in wine country."

His passion drove him to launch Bob's Well Bread Bakery and Cafe in Los Alamos. Bob and Jane opened the bakery, featuring fresh-baked artisan bread and pastries and vintage wines, in 2014.

Following a raft of favorable reviews on the Los Alamos bakery—among other laurels, the business was featured as one of "15 Amazing Small Town Bakeries" in *Travel and Leisure Magazine*—the Oswakses started a second spot in Ballard, 14 miles south of its flagship store.

More fresh bread

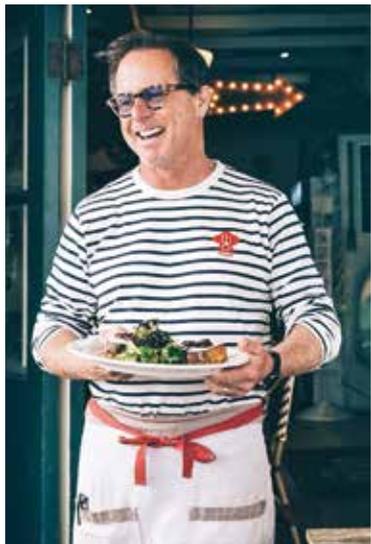
Bob's Well Bread Bakery and Cafe's second location is at 2449 Baseline Drive in Ballard; it's open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Monday. Find out more info by visiting bobswellbread.com, find them on Facebook at [facebook.com/BobsWellBread](https://www.facebook.com/BobsWellBread), or call (310) 200-9194. Hours in Los Alamos, 550 Bell St., are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Monday. Both sites are closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Ballard shop opened on Oct. 1, and the bakery's reputation was such that people were lined up at 7 a.m., an hour before opening time, Bob said. He and Jane had high hopes for the day, but shortly thereafter, they were wondering if all of those potential customers would leave hungry.

"Everything for the Ballard store is driven from the Los Alamos store, and our driver was stuck on the 101 for 2 1/2 hours because of a traffic accident," Bob said. "He was a half-mile from the exit, but there was nothing he could do."

Ultimately, it all worked out. "Everything went very well," Bob said of the grand opening.

The cafe kitchen—dishing up salami, ham, cheese, quiche, seasonal fruit, and more—closes at 3 p.m. And Bob's is also serving a gluten-free option: centennial toast, which comes with house-made butter. Egg lovers can order their favorite orbs in a Benedict; in a frame (like a toad-in-a-hole) with tomatoes and aged goat cheese or bacon béchamel and bacon lardons; or even with prosciutto, pecorino, and arugula. You can also get those eggs served in a jar (poached), with gruyere, bacon lardons, purple potato puree, chives, and creme fraiche. All options come with that famous freshly



BAKED SUCCESS: Bob Oswaks opened Bob's Well Bread Bakery in Los Alamos in 2014 with his wife, Jane Oswaks. Due to their success, the couple recently opened a second bakery in Ballard.

baked bread.

At the moment, outdoor dining is spacious enough for 40. Once the state of California gives the go-ahead and reduces COVID-19 restrictions, indoor dining for 25 will be available.

At the bakery's original Los Alamos location, Bob said the signature, a loaf of pain au levain, is the bakery's best seller.

"All of our croissants and pastries sell extremely well. One of the surprises has been how popular our English muffins have been," he said. Bob would like to sell more of those, but he just can't.

"People want to buy them by the bagful, and we just can't sell them that way," he said, given that the bakery's staff makes the items by hand.

Thus, he said, the bakery has to keep an eye on what sells, when it comes to the bakery's surprise successes.

With some 10 different types of pastries, a wide assortment of sandwiches designed to satisfy the tastes of carnivores and vegetarians alike, and a broad assortment of wines,



A TOAST: Bob's Well Bread serves up more than fresh-baked goods—the cafe also dishes out breakfast, lunch, and local wine.

the bakery is equipped to satisfy a variety of connoisseurs. Featuring wines crafted by winemaker Doug Margerum, including sauvignon blanc, grenache rose, and grenache, wine is sold by the bottle and by the glass.

"The sauvignon blanc, the white wine, and the rose have sold particularly well, because they're daytime wines," Bob said.

Starting a bakery, Bob said, was his idea but, he noted that Jane is instrumental in everything when it comes to both locations.

There had been some planning before the couple established their flagship location. That, Bob said, wasn't exactly the case when it came to the Ballard location.

"We were talked into it by the

owners of the building," Bob said. "They said, 'If we buy the building, we'd like you to start a bakery.'"

Starting another bakery wasn't exactly a high priority for Bob.

"I had a lot on my hands at the Los Alamos store," he said with a chuckle.

But that's just what the Oswakses did, to the delight of the building's main owners, Rob and Jeniene Raisch. Both locations, Bob said, have a rich mix of regulars and tourists.

"There's a magic to making artisan products, and when people see bread and pastries being made by hand, they see that," Bob said. ○

Contributor Kenny Cress is hungry for more bread. Reach him through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.



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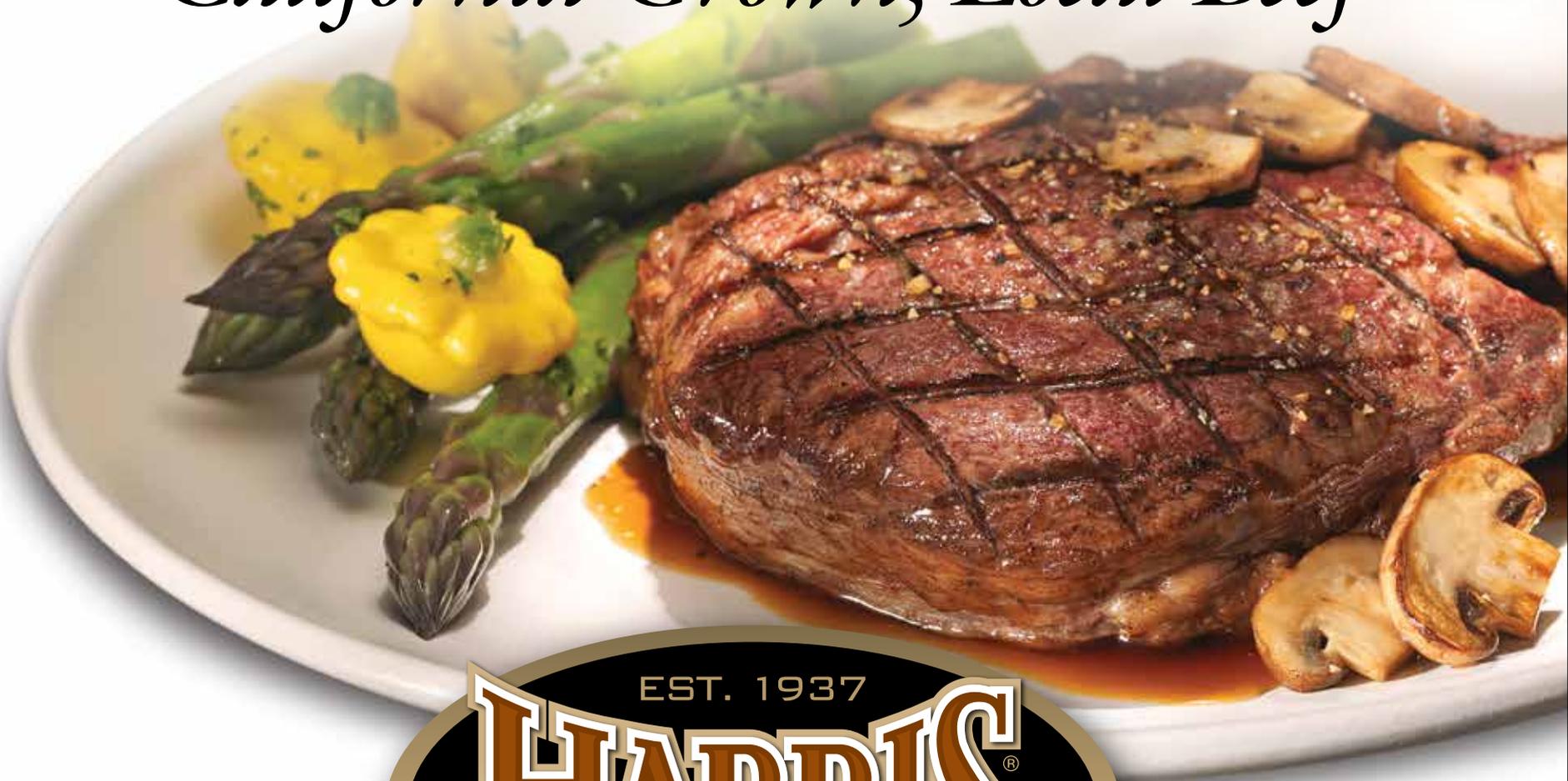
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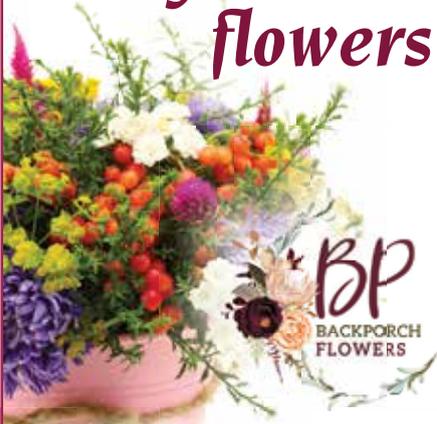
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