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Sun



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Clearing the air

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BY KASEY BUBNASH

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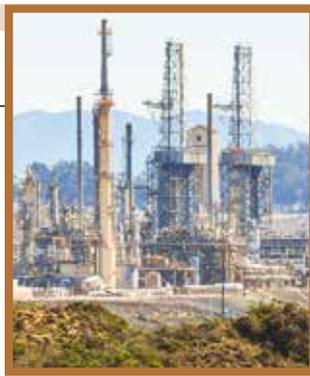
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DUST-UP? The newest member of the SLO County APCD works for the Santa Maria Refinery, raising questions about future conflicts of interest.

The board of directors for the SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) recently appointed a new member to the APCD hearing board, which helps make rulings and navigate air quality issues for the district and the agencies it governs. But, in the name of clearing the air, one local APCD board member called into question the appointment of Jim Anderson, who works as a maintenance superintendent at the Phillips 66-owned Santa Maria Refinery. Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash talked with APCD board members regarding the potential for conflict of interest [7].

This week, you can also read about who's behind support for Proposition 22, which aims to further define rideshare drivers' employment [8]; getting out the vote through artistic awareness [18]; and the legendary menu and strong community spirit at Tom's Burgers in Lompoc [24].

Andrea Rooks
associate editor

Cover file photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced Oct. 16 the release of more funds for the state's fifth round of Homekey awards, a program that allows jurisdictions to purchase and rehabilitate housing and then convert it into permanent housing to address homelessness. According to the governor's office, with the Oct. 16 awards, "the state has now provided all available Homekey funding to local jurisdictions, ahead of schedule. To date, more than \$627 million has been awarded to 45 applicants and 71 projects totaling 4,646 units." The Oct. 16 Homekey allocation gave \$2.2 million to the Yurok Tribe, \$15 million to the city of San Luis Obispo, and \$13.5 million to the city of Los Angeles. The San Luis Obispo funding will be directed toward acquiring 122 units in Paso Robles to provide both emergency shelter and permanent units. The statement from the governor's office added that the administration is working with the Legislature to make an additional \$200 million available for Homekey. "When it comes to homelessness, no community is immune, no person is untouched, and while the issue is widely thought to affect only our urban centers, the truth is that it occurs in rural areas, small towns, and remote parts of our state," Newsom said in the statement. "Through Homekey, we are making historic investments that will have lasting impacts in our big cities, but also our small towns and tribal communities. These investments are helping thousands of Californians vulnerable to COVID-19 exposure get access to permanent, supportive housing."

• On Oct. 13, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) announced that he received an endorsement from Cal Fire Local 2881, an affiliate of the International Association of Firefighters. "This year's fire season has already demonstrated why we need capable firefighters and support systems," Cal Fire Local 2881 President Tim Edwards said in a press release from Cunningham's office. "Jordan understands the importance of appropriate staffing and giving our firefighters the resources they need to protect our state." On Oct. 15, Cunningham announced that he had received an endorsement from the Peace Officers Research Association of California, which represents more than 77,000 public safety professionals. "As a former prosecutor and a leader in the fight against human trafficking, Jordan brings a unique, pro-victims voice to the Legislature," association President Brian Marvel said in a statement. Cunningham, the incumbent, is facing off against **Dawn Addis**, a Morro Bay City Council member, for the state Assembly this November. Addis has received endorsements from the California Nurses Association, the California Labor Federation, and the Tri-County Building and Construction Trades Council, to name a few. According to Cobalt News, California Nurses Association co-President Malinda Markowitz said in her announcement of Addis' endorsement, "As a teacher and City Council member, Dawn Addis is connected to the communities she serves and understands the unique challenges that families are facing right now. We believe that Dawn has the experience and commitment to help navigate through this pandemic and keep Central Coast families safe."

• **State Sen. Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) wrote in an Oct. 15 Facebook post that Santa Barbara County is in the process of planning a countywide Recreation Master Plan, and she encouraged constituents to give their input through quick surveys. "Let them know what you need to play, run, bike, hike, camp, and get outdoors in your community by taking the quick survey," Limón wrote. The survey is available in both English and Spanish, and there's a separate survey available for children. More information and links to the survey can be found at countyofsb.org/parks/recremasterplan.sbc. ○

Congressional candidates Carbajal, Caldwell face off in virtual debate

U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal, the 24th Congressional District incumbent who represents San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, faced off against challenger Andy Caldwell in an Oct. 17 virtual debate, which aired on KEYT Channel 13. The opponents gave their takes on COVID-19 recovery, Diablo Canyon decommissioning, immigration, and police reform.

Debate moderator Scott Hennessee kicked things off by asking about COVID-19 recovery plans. Hennessee quoted Caldwell, who has said he proposes to "isolate, serve, and protect the most vulnerable while pursuing herd immunity for those least susceptible."

However, Hennessee added, "the head of the World Health Organization [WHO] said, 'allowing a dangerous virus that we don't fully understand to run free is simply unethical.'"

"Is that what you're suggesting?" Hennessee asked Caldwell.

Caldwell disputed Hennessee's WHO quote, saying it was from an old report.

"The problem here is we shut down parts of our economy," Caldwell said. "We didn't shut down Target, Costco, or Walmart, but we shut down mom-and-pop shops and stores, and that was a huge problem."

Hennessee clarified that the WHO quote was in fact from Oct. 12, five days before the debate, before turning the same question over to Carbajal.

"We shouldn't have to choose between our public health and our economy," Carbajal said. "We need to listen to our public health professionals and our scientists ... and all the guidance that they've been providing."

Continuing on the topic of the struggling economy, the candidates were asked how they plan to bring high-paying jobs to the Central Coast in the wake of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant closure in 2024 and 2025.

Caldwell didn't suggest any avenues for job creation, instead he emphasized his stance against the planned closure.

"Diablo is not closing because it's inefficient, or it's old, or it's unsafe. It's closing because of rules and regulations that California put in," Caldwell said. "There is no substitute for the base load that Diablo generates 24/7."

Carbajal said he supports offshore wind and other renewable energy options as ways to both make up for the energy losses and create jobs.

"What we need to do is start looking at that facility as a way to be able to help," Carbajal said. "We also need to look at making sure we're investing in more renewable energy to create new employment sectors that will help us produce our energy and at the same time create good jobs that will help those workers that will be displaced."

Candidates also discussed jobs and the labor force in the context of the local agriculture industry. With a White House administration that threatens to increase deportations and 60 percent of California's agricultural workforce estimated to be undocumented, the candidates were asked what they would do for the Central Coast's farmworkers.

Carbajal pointed to his co-sponsorship of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, a bipartisan bill that would "provide a legal path for farmworkers and their families, thereby also creating a sustainable labor force for agriculture."

"I've been working to advocate to move that forward, but with this administration, we've had no success," he said.

Caldwell pointed to his organization, the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB), and campaign contributions from local farming families as "proof positive" that he is supported by the farming community. However,



PROTESTING HORSE RIDES: The Solvang Trolley and Carriage Company blames City Councilmember Chris Djernaes for PETA protesters that organized a protest of the business Oct. 10.

he didn't specify what he would do for the farmworkers employed by these farms.

The candidates were asked to describe the nation's problem with police brutality and how they each propose to address the issue.

Carbajal said that the death of George Floyd and others at the hands of the police "reminds us that we really need to bring about police reforms."

"That's why I supported the Justice in Policing Act that would bring about sensible reforms to law enforcement throughout the country," he continued.

Caldwell said that while he was "shocked at the treatment of George Floyd," he was "equally shocked by cops getting murdered, police stations being firebombed, and the like."

Caldwell asserted that Carbajal supports defunding the police, to which Carbajal responded, "I am not for defunding the police, I am for moving forward reforms."

In his closing statement, Carbajal emphasized his commitment to building on the Affordable Care Act, protecting a woman's right to choose, stopping future oil drilling in the region, and pushing through more federal economic stimulus.

Caldwell closed by saying, "I've been working for the general public and taxpayers and small businesses my entire adult life. I want to continue that in Congress."

—Malea Martin

PETA protests Solvang Trolley, owners blame City Council member

The Solvang Trolley and Carriage Company is again at odds with City Council member Chris Djernaes, as the business's owners claim Djernaes is the reason PETA protested outside their business on Oct. 10.

Protesters stood outside of the Solvang Trolley on Copenhagen Drive, speaking into a megaphone and holding signs that read "Honor Hazel with Ban on Horse-Drawn Carriages!"

The Orona family claims that the protests caused them to cease trolley rides that day. During the Oct. 12 Solvang City Council meeting, Solvang Trolley co-owners Lorena and Hector and their son Sal Jr. Orona alleged that PETA was contacted by the owner of Esko Esko, a local gift apparel and accessory store.

Sal Jr. posted a video recording on YouTube of Djernaes speaking with the PETA protesters that Saturday. Most of the video's audio is muffled by music and other nearby sounds, but it's clear that Djernaes asks protesters who they were contacted by or who supports them. An unidentified protester says they have a contact with a location in Solvang, but they don't have his name.

Djernaes asks if it's Esko, and the protester says "probably."

Esko Esko owner Esko K.T. Lama responded to the allegations during public comment, saying he's a local business owner and it's very normal for him to talk to people who are in town or in front of his store because he wants to know what's happening in town.

"I have no control over PETA. I did not invite PETA people. Yes, I spoke to them but I don't think I need a permit, to speak to PETA people, from others," Lama said.

The Orona family claims Djernaes has ties to the Oct. 10 protest because he is friends with Lama.

"I'm tired of worrying about the harassment instigated by Mr. Djernaes, every time I come to work. You see a business but you don't see all the work behind us," Lorena said.

Community members and Solvang Trolley owners clashed with the council member in July during the business's one-year license renewal. On Oct. 12, several public commenters called for the council to "take action" against Councilmember Djernaes. Solvang resident Linda Palmer said she was appalled that a city official did not recognize the impact the protesters have on businesses.

"The protesters were walking up and down the sidewalk in Copenhagen in front of the businesses and several times blocked access to a business simply by their presence and the large signs," Palmer said. "[Djernaes] can support PETA if he wants, but he cannot do it as an official of this city, so I call upon him to immediately resign if he's going to damage Solvang's image. At the very least I suggest the City Council censure him and disqualify him from all future discussions and votes on horse-drawn carriages."

Djernaes requested to respond to the allegations, saying "it's not true," but the council denied his request and continued with its meeting agenda—the council neither took action nor responded to the community's claims.

The *Sun* reached out to Djernaes for comment, but he did not respond before press time.

PETA said it had planned to gather at the Solvang Visitor Center to continue the work of Hazel Mortensen, a Solvang resident and PETA supporter who recently died. According to a media release from the organization, Mortensen campaigned for years against "the city's archaic" horse-drawn carriage and trolley rides.

"PETA is calling on the city to honor Hazel Mortensen's memory by outlawing an old-fashioned business that broke her heart and that harms horses as well as Solvang's reputation," PETA Senior Vice President of Campaigns Dan Mathews said in the statement.

—Karen Garcia

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NEWS from page 4

County supervisors vote to target large gatherings with administrative fines

After a COVID-19 update on Oct. 20 discussing outbreaks in Isla Vista, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to pass an ordinance allowing the county to levy fines against large gatherings and businesses that don't comply with public health orders.

UC Santa Barbara issued an emergency notification on Oct. 16 stating that the university and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department had identified two separate clusters of positive COVID-19 cases in privately owned fraternity and sorority houses in Isla Vista. At the time of the notification, 13 individuals living in the separate houses had tested positive.

During her Oct. 20 update to supervisors, county Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso didn't state the total number of positive cases in Isla Vista related to the outbreaks, but county COVID-19 status reports indicate that at least 24 more Isla Vista residents tested positive between Oct. 17 and 19.

Do-Reynoso stated that the county and UCSB were collaborating to ramp up testing and education efforts in Isla Vista, as well as coordinating contact tracing in an effort to prevent the outbreaks from spreading.

"It does seem likely that this outbreak is significant enough that it might affect our numbers," 2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart said, referring to the county's red tier status on the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

Although the county is still holding strong in the red tier category with 121 active cases, 12 hospitalized cases, and a positive case rate of 4.3 per 100,000 cases, the Isla Vista outbreaks won't be reflected on the state's Blueprint until Oct. 27.

The college community figured prominently in the ordinance discussion that took place later in the supervisors' meeting, with several UCSB students speaking in support of the proposed ordinance.

"The majority of people here are following the rules, but the majority of people also want to have real consequences, not just more education," said Jonathan Abboud, a Santa Barbara City College trustee and 10-year Isla Vista resident. "Just this month, we've had several reports of large parties, and the general feeling is that there have been no consequences."

Office of Emergency Management Director Kelly Hubbard told supervisors that the county needed a middle ground for enforcement—somewhere between education and what 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann called "the nuclear option," criminal enforcement or fines of at least \$1,000.

Administrative fines, Hubbard said, would be targeted at parties that exceed the number of people or households allowed under the public health order; businesses not complying with reopening guidelines, such as capacity limits or enforcement of protective measures; and large gatherings at beaches or parks. They would not be used for someone walking down the street without a mask on, she said. Penalties would range from \$100 to \$500, but Hubbard stated that education would still be the highest priority when it comes to enforcing public health orders.

Both 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam and 5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino voted against the ordinance, with Adam calling the measure "draconian." He pointed out that the county successfully moved to a more liberal reopening tier, reducing COVID-19 numbers, with the regulations that are already in place.

"COVID-19 has become a pretext for the government health care complex to institute a command-and-control scheme on the people of Santa Barbara County and elsewhere," Adam said. "We are about to take the extreme action of authorizing the fining of citizens for their failure to submit to an unelected health officer's order. In my view, this is an abdication of our sacred duty of elected officials to be guardians of freedom."

Assistant County Executive Officer Barney Melekian told supervisors that enforcement of COVID-19 public health orders has been a balance between maintaining public health and individual liberty. Finding that balance, he said, "is proving to be a real line-walker for law enforcement."

The board majority—Hartmann, 1st District Supervisor Das Williams, and Hart—voted for the ordinance as a way to push the county into a more liberal reopening tier (Santa Barbara County is in the second out of four) safely.

"I share some of the ideals that the supervisor [Adam] is articulating, but it leads me to a different course of action," Williams said. "Freedoms are contingent on reducing transmission. ... Whether we agree with the state framework or are against it, that is the reality."

The first reading of the ordinance passed 3-2, with a second reading slated for the board's Nov. 10 meeting.

—Camillia Lanham

Propositions 20 and 25 would impact sentence lengths, DNA collection, parole, and cash bail system

California voters will have the opportunity to vote on criminal justice reforms through two separate measures on the ballot this November: Propositions 20 and 25.

Proposition 20 would restrict access to parole for some nonviolent offenses, increase penalties for certain theft-related crimes, and add opportunities for DNA collection. The fiscal result would be higher law enforcement costs.

Proponents argue that it closes a loophole allowing some offenders to be released early through parole programs, while opponents call it a prison spending scam that would result in cuts to rehabilitation and mental health funding.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley is in favor of the measure. She said her main reasons for supporting it come down to the increased opportunities for DNA collection and the higher penalties for certain theft-related crimes.

"Because of DNA being taken from somebody when they were arrested for a different offense, we were able to solve one of the worst rape cases we've ever had," Dudley said. "So I'm very supportive of increasing the number of crimes, and therefore the number of people, whose DNA we do retrieve."

Dudley also supports the proposition because it would increase penalties for crimes like repeat shoplifting. She pointed out that if thieves stay under a certain amount of property value stolen, they don't get arrested, "and they can do it day after day after day."

"That needs to be stopped, and I think this is a good way to stop it," Dudley said.

As is often the case with ballot measures, Proposition 20 lumps together these two changes that Dudley supports with another piece that is not directly related: restricting access to parole. While Dudley didn't comment directly on whether or not she supports this part of the proposition, she did express dissatisfaction with the fact that these distinct issues were placed onto the same ballot measure.

"I do wish they were separate, and I would consider each of them separately," Dudley said.

Curtis Child, legislative director at Disability Rights California, said his organization opposes Proposition 20. Disability Rights California is the nonprofit agency that recently brought a class-action lawsuit against the county. The lawsuit represented hundreds of incarcerated people at the Santa Barbara County Jail and sought to address what Disability Rights California called "dangerous and unconstitutional conditions at the jail." A settlement was announced on July 17, 2020.

Child said that the organization takes issue with the measure's proposal to increase certain penalties and restrict parole for certain offenses.

"Persons of color ... are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, and that intersects quite significantly with persons with disabilities," Child said. "So to the extent that [the proposition] would incarcerate additional individuals, we think that ... it would continue that disproportionate effect on persons

of color and persons with disabilities."

He continued that the proposed limitations on parole access would hinder the opportunity for individuals to get mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse treatment.

"They're going to be held longer and not be able to access important community-based services," Child said.

Similar to Dudley, Child said Disability Rights California believes the issue of DNA collection should have been considered separately from the issues of longer sentences and restricted parole opportunities.

"We don't have any particular position on the DNA side, but it does, I think, attempt to taint the other provisions in the initiative," Child said.

Both Dudley and Disability Rights California support Proposition 25—a referendum on the state's bail reform law that passed in 2018—because it would take the financial ability to post bail out of the equation.

"I think it makes the system more fair," Dudley said. "Whenever people of low income are being discriminated against just because they have low income, in my mind that's un-American."

Child concurred with the district attorney's assessment.

"If an individual has no income or very low income, they're left to stand in pretrial in jail for extended periods of time," he said. "Not only are they held longer in jail, but there's significant costs of keeping them in jail that we think can be better redirected into treatment programs outside of the jails."

Some chapters of the NAACP oppose the proposition, as does the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs. They say that the cash bail system would be replaced by a more discriminatory system of risk assessment that could lead to increased racial profiling.

"Prop. 25 uses computer algorithms to determine the fate of people accused of a crime," Joe Coto, former Assembly member and chair of the Latino Caucus, states on stopprop25.com. "These algorithms have been proven to lead to more biased outcomes from Latinos and other people of color."

Child argued that the new risk assessment system would be just one tool that judges use to make their determination, and is not the sole determinant of someone's release.

"From our perspective, it's important that it be understood that the courts make the determination on this, and not algorithms," he said. "But to the extent that you use these tools—they're evidence-based tools and have been proven to be making accurate assessments—there are flaws in those. We have the opportunity to improve and enhance those tools." ○

—Malea Martin

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PHILLIPS 66: At a meeting on Sept. 23, the SLO County Air Pollution Control District board of directors voted 6-5 to appoint Santa Mara Refinery Maintenance Superintendent Jim Anderson to the APCD hearing board. The Phillips 66-owned refinery (pictured) is regulated by the APCD.

Potential for conflict

Phillips 66 refinery employee appointed to APCD hearing board in 6-5 vote, leading to concerns about potential conflict of interest

BY KASEY BUBNASH

For the last two decades, Cal Poly environmental engineering professor Yarrow Nelson has served as a member of the SLO County Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) hearing board, using his background in scientific research to help the district navigate air pollution conflicts and emergencies, including the ongoing dust mitigation efforts at the Oceano Dunes.

But Nelson's most recent three-year term expired at the end of July, and in a move surprising to many community members, the APCD board of directors voted 6-5 to oust Nelson at a meeting on Sept. 23, instead appointing Jim Anderson, a local engineer who works as a maintenance superintendent at the Phillips 66-owned Santa Maria Refinery.

Although Anderson previously served on the hearing board as Nelson's alternate, his recent appointment is stirring up questions and concerns about how he'll handle matters related to Phillips 66, which is regulated by the APCD and contributes to pollution in SLO County.

The APCD board of directors discussed that potential for a conflict of interest at length on Sept. 23, and it's why Arroyo Grande City Councilmember and APCD board member Jimmy Paulding said he couldn't support Anderson's appointment.

"It's kind of a classic case of putting the fox in charge of guarding the henhouse from a perception standpoint," Paulding told the *Sun*.

The APCD hearing board is an independent, quasi-judicial body that decides on matters of conflict between the air district and the industries it regulates. The board consists of five members—an attorney practicing law, a registered professional engineer, a member of the medical profession, and two members of the general public—who help to resolve air pollution emergencies by adopting necessary rules and regulations, issuing variances from those regulations when needed, issuing abatement orders, and resolving permit disputes.

Since Phillips 66 is regulated by the APCD, Paulding said it's obvious that Anderson will have to refrain from voting on any future items involving his employer. But what's more concerning, Paulding

said, is the budding potential for a land acquisition deal between Phillips 66 and State Parks.

At a California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission meeting on Sept. 24, staff and commissioners discussed the state's longtime goal of creating a southern entrance to the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, which staff said would provide direct access to the park's off-highway riding areas while reducing traffic and other issues at the existing entrances.

The idea of a southern entrance has been fairly abstract for years, staff said at the Sept. 24 meeting, but when Phillips 66 announced in August plans to close the Santa Maria Refinery in 2023, staff considered it a "game changer."

Situated on the Nipomo Mesa, the land currently holding the oil refinery could provide the necessary space for a future southern entrance, and staff said on Sept. 24 that State Parks plans to pursue acquisition of the soon-to-be freed-up land.

That, Paulding said, means Anderson's work

'It's kind of a classic case of putting the fox in charge of guarding the henhouse from a perception standpoint.'

—Jimmy Paulding, APCD board of directors member

with Phillips 66, combined with Phillips 66's potential ties to State Parks, could lead to conflicts of interest for Anderson in all APCD hearing board matters related to State Parks. Anderson could recuse himself from all votes related to State Parks, Paulding said, but considering the ongoing hearings regarding State Parks' dust mitigation efforts at the Oceano Dunes, that would leave Anderson with little else to work on.

Paulding also questioned the APCD board of directors' conservative majority and their adamancy toward replacing Nelson with Anderson, who 4th District Supervisor Lynn Compton described as a "stellar individual" she's known for years. Is the overarching goal, Paulding asked, to undermine ongoing dust mitigation efforts at the dunes by appointing "Lynn's friend"?

"We need somebody who can serve in an unbiased, unconflicted capacity," Paulding said.

But Anderson rejected that accusation, and told the *Sun* that it's not his intention to disrupt

the APCD's work reducing dust emissions in the Oceano Dunes. That's a local issue that Anderson said he admittedly hasn't actively followed, even as an alternate for the APCD hearing board.

That's part of the reason Anderson said he was actually shocked when the board voted to appoint him as the hearing board's engineer member instead of Nelson, who had held the position since 2001.

"That was a bit of surprise to me too," Anderson told the *Sun*.

Although Nelson did apply to fill the hearing board position for another term, some members of the board of directors at the Sept. 23 APCD meeting pointed out that the engineer position is, according to state law, supposed to be reserved for a registered professional engineer, unless the board is unable to get the votes to appoint someone with those qualifications.

Nelson is a professor of environmental engineering and has a Ph.D. in that field, but he does not have a professional engineering license. California, he explained at the meeting, is the only state in the U.S. that doesn't have an independent license for environmental engineers. To get licensed, he would have to get a civil engineering license, which Nelson said is not his area of expertise.

Still, 5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold, Supervisor Compton, and the rest of the board majority made it clear they wanted to appoint one of the three other applicants with professional engineering licenses, and eventually landed on Anderson because of his previous experience as the APCD alternate and his residency in SLO County (one application was from a resident of Newport Beach).

"First of all, he's been an alternate for many, many years," Supervisor Compton told the *Sun*. "And nobody has raised any concerns in the past about his activity as an alternate. So he's been trained, he's sat through the meetings, he's done that before."

She added that no members of the public called in to the meeting to comment on Anderson's appointment. Plus, she said, Anderson is a registered engineer with a lot of experience with environmental regulations in SLO County.

"He's eminently qualified for this," Compton said.

And Anderson said he too is confident he can do the job. As a longtime alternate, he's already been through the training required of new hearing board members and knows how the APCD operates. Throughout his lengthy career at the refinery, where he oversees all maintenance activities, he's worked alongside the APCD to acquire various permits and gain compliance with environmental regulations.

Throughout the '90s, Anderson helped develop the county's Clean Air Plan, and made what he said were "great strides in the air quality countywide."

Anderson said he completely understands the concerns about his

work with Phillips 66, and if any matters related to Phillips 66 do come before the hearing board, "I would recuse myself."

He's not, however, convinced that the potential land acquisition between State Parks and Phillips 66 would impede his ability to serve on the hearing board.

The hearing board, he said, likely wouldn't have any hand in land sales of any kind, and APCD Officer Gary Willey confirmed that wouldn't be something the hearing board would be involved in.

Anderson said he's really just interested in serving the community he's lived and worked in for decades now.

"Although I work in South County, I live in North County," he said at the Sept. 23 meeting, "and so I've got, you know, I feel I've got a stake in air quality here." ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at kbubnash@newtimeslo.com.



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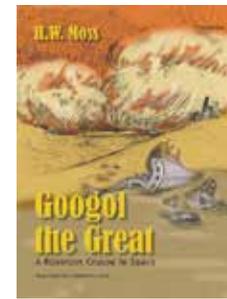
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Driving the vote

Rideshare companies dump \$180 million into Yes on 22 campaign; drivers urge a no vote on the proposition

BY KAREN GARCIA

Proposition 22 on this year's California ballot reexamines whether gig workers for app-based transportation and delivery are independent contractors or if they'll continue to be categorized as employees, which state law currently requires.

The proposed law—created by Uber, Lyft, Instacart, and Doordash—would exempt app-based transportation and delivery companies from providing employee benefits to certain drivers and would reclassify drivers as independent contractors. According to campaign finance reports, as of Sept. 4, Uber, Lyft, Doordash, and Instacart have collectively poured more than \$180 million into their initiative Yes on 22.

Lyft and Uber driver Justin Vitcov, 42, said he believes the proposition also sets a dangerous precedent for the

potential future of the gig economy.

He's against the proposition.

While the proposition is industry-specific and is only going before voters in California, he said that if it's passed, other industries might want to benefit from the exemption. And the rideshare companies could place the initiative on the ballot in other states as well.

"Under Proposition 22, we're still defined as independent contractors, but it takes away our ability to negotiate the terms of that contract," Vitcov said.

Vitcov is a Santa Cruz native who started driving for Uber and Lyft in 2018 on the cusp of a career change. He needed a flexible job to cover his expenses while he returned to school.

He said he focuses on commuter hours in Silicon Valley but takes pickup requests in Santa Cruz as well.

"My goal is always to bring home about \$30 to \$40 an hour range. But of course when you subtract car expenses, gas, and whatnot, you're of course taking home a lot less than that," he said.

On top of driving for the ridesharing apps, Vitcov also has a few independent contracting jobs that he works throughout the year to make ends meet. With the other independent contracting gigs, Vitcov said he meets with his direct employer when the contract is up at the end of the year and discusses its terms, including wages.

"That doesn't happen with Uber and

Lyft. You go online, sign up, and read their fine print contract agreement.

And then as time goes on, you find out that they can change the rates that they're paying you literally overnight," he said. "Sometimes you log in to the app and the rates have changed."

Vitcov is a member of the Rideshare Drivers United, an organization working toward a fair, dignified, and sustainable rideshare industry. It's advocating for voters to vote against the proposition.

Proposition 22 comes a year after California passed Assembly Bill 5, which was designed to determine a worker's status as an independent contractor or as an employee. Under the bill, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020, companies were forced to provide their drivers with health insurance, paid time off, and other benefits.

Under the Assembly bill, a worker is an employee rather than an

entity; whether the person performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business; and whether the person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business of the same nature as that involved in the work performed.

Proponents of Proposition 22 include the Yes on 22 coalition. They say that a vote in favor will keep the job flexible with guaranteed hourly earnings and per-mile compensation, implement new public safety protections that



GIG WORKERS Rideshare companies are pushing for voter approval of Proposition 22 come Nov. 3 but some drivers say the law would take away their contract negotiation rights.

hook for providing their drivers with benefits, which could come at a cost to app users. The analysis, which Lyft shared via its website, found that rideshare service consumers could pay increases ranging from 25.9 percent to 100 percent in some markets—meaning a typical ride across town could cost between \$19 and \$30.

The consulting firm also reported that drivers' average hourly compensation could be reduced from \$19.55 per hour to roughly \$14.60 per hour under the employment model.

The study also concluded that there could be "a reduction of the customer base served to only those persons residing in the most densely populated areas of the state—meaning little or no service to most Californians living in rural or suburban areas of the state." ○

Staff Writer Karen Garcia can be reached at kgarcia@newtimesslo.com.

'Under Proposition 22, we're still defined as independent contractors, but it takes away our ability to negotiate the terms of that contract.'

—Justin Vitcov, Lyft and Uber driver

independent contractor unless the hiring business can prove otherwise through an ABC test.

The test includes determining whether the person is free from the control and direction of the hiring

include background checks, and keep app-based services affordable for users.

According to an independent study by the Berkeley Research Group, if Proposition 22 gets voter approval, rideshare companies will be on the

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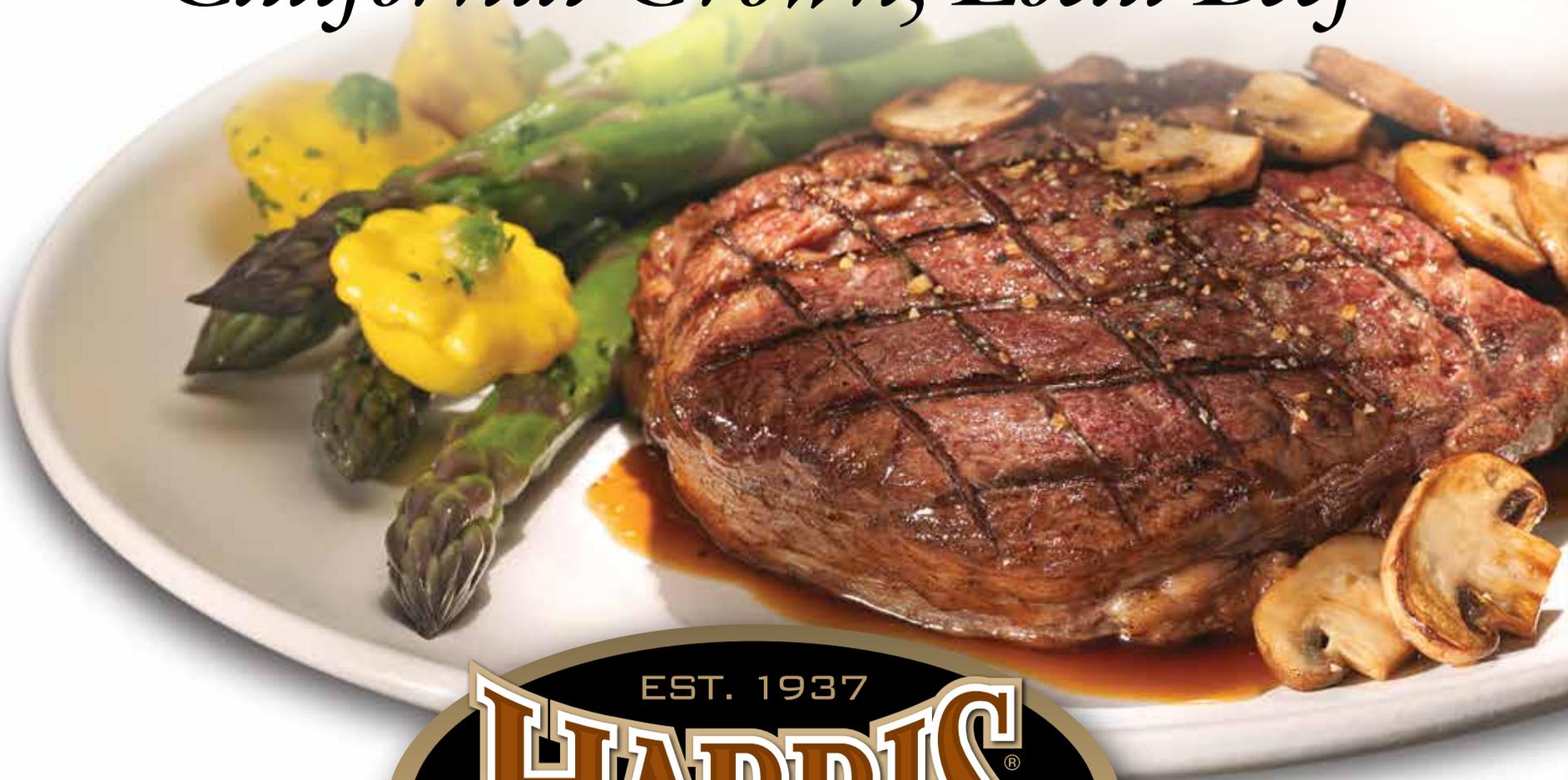
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Get your tan on

Things are looking sunnier for Central Coast tanning salon owners who are finally getting back to business



SUNKISSED SKIN: Sunkissed Tanning Salon owner Cristin Nightingale opened her salon just days before state orders forced personal care services like hers to shut down. Now, she's finally able to open her doors again.

BY MALEA MARTIN

Cristin Nightingale, owner of Sunkissed Tanning Salon in Santa Maria, had always wanted to own her own salon, “even since high school.” In mid 2019, she decided to take the leap.

“It was a long process,” Nightingale recalled. “I had to find the spot, get the [tanning] beds, decorate it, and all that fun stuff.”

But as the salon’s March grand opening date neared, Nightingale started to get nervous: More and more COVID-19 cases were cropping up across the state.

“I already had the flyers made, it was already set in stone,” she said. “We had to open.”

Sunkissed Tanning Salon opened on March 15, the day that Santa Barbara County reported its first case of COVID-19. Nightingale was forced to close her doors just four days later.

Now, more than half a year later, personal care services like tanning salons are allowed to reopen, so long as the county they’re in stays in the red tier in the state’s reopening system.

Santa Barbara County allowed salons to reopen indoors as of Sept. 30, and SLO County’s salons were given the go-ahead at the end of August.

But Nightingale is still recovering from the losses.

“It was kind of a roller coaster,” she said. “But I also feel that everything happens for a reason and what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

On another part of the Central Coast, Haley Murphy—owner of OATS, Organic Airbrush Tanning Salon, with locations in San Luis Obispo and Orcutt—said it was a grueling few months.

“Right before COVID I was just going into my busiest time of the year because wedding season was starting,” Murphy said. “So basically right when I was starting to get busy was right when we had to close down.”

Murphy said the mortgage company for her SLO location gave her a three month deferment for payments, which helped her make it through. But at her Orcutt location, Murphy said she had to pay rent as she normally would.

“Unemployment took almost two months to kick in,” she said. “I’m still dealing with the anxiety and the stress of it, but luckily I don’t need to close either one of my locations down.”

In the face of these hardships, both Nightingale and Murphy are finding ways to stay positive and keep their businesses alive.

“I’ve been the face here. I’ve been working 12-hour days, and I’m the only employee,” Nightingale said. “This is all me: I came up with the logo, the name. ... I want people to know me.”

Murphy said that in order to incorporate required sanitization procedures, she has to space out her appointments more now—but

this change came with a positive side effect.

“At first I was kind of bummed about that,” she said. “But it’s actually kind of a fortunate thing because it allowed me to give a better service. I’m able to talk to my clients more and not take it so fast-paced.”

As she reopens, Nightingale’s Sunkissed Tanning Salon offers both tanning beds and custom airbrushing.

“I have a really cool bed named the Sunboard XTT ... that allows only a small percentage of the UVB rays,” she said.

Murphy said that OATS specializes in airbrushing, and she also offers lash extensions.

“I wanted to offer a healthy, organic alternative to going out into the sun,” Murphy said. “My mom had skin cancer really bad, so I grew up with her telling me, ‘Don’t go in the sun.’ So spray tanning became huge for me.”

As for adapting their business operations to the pandemic, both salon owners said that their services easily accommodate for mask wearing, social distancing, and sanitation.

“I just maintain the cleanliness that I normally do,” Nightingale said. “I’ve always wiped down everything that anybody could touch.”

Sunkissed Tanning Salon is located at 325 E. Betteravia, suite B-11, Santa Maria. Visit sunkissed.com for more info. OATS is located at 630 High St. in SLO and 3558 Skyway Dr., suite A1, in Orcutt. Find them online at oats630high.com and oatsorcutt.com, respectively.

Highlights

- The SLO Food Bank has been selected as a 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year by California Association of Nonprofits and Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo). The SLO Food Bank is one of more than a hundred other nonprofits that will be honored by their state senators and Assembly members for their contributions to the communities they serve. For more information about the organization or to learn how to get involved, visit slofoodbank.org or email info@slofoodbank.org.

- 3C-REN, the Tri-County Regional Energy Network, is transforming building efficiency and developing environmental resilience with new programs and learning opportunities each month. In recognition of October being National Energy Awareness Month, 3C-REN is offering business and industry-focused educational webinars on topics like CALGreen requirements, solar photovoltaics, carbon-free homes, and passive house retrofits. For a full list of educational and training programming, and to register for the events, head to 3c-ren.org/calendar.

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

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REX MATSUNAGA, 59, a resident of Santa Maria, CA passed away on 10/8/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Dudley Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

NORMA NELL SCHOLAR, 85, a resident of Santa Maria, CA passed away on 10/8/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Dudley Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

MARIE GORDON, 79, a resident of Los Osos, CA passed away on 10/8/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Blue Sky Cremation Service.

KELSIA RAY TYLER, 75, a resident of Nipomo, CA passed away on 10/9/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel.

MATTHEW G JEFFERS, 39, passed away on 10/9/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Lady Family Mortuary.

DOROTHY JEAN LAMB, 76, passed away on 10/9/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Kuehl- Nicolay Funeral Home.

RITA FILECCI, 82, a resident of Arroyo Grande, CA passed away on 10/9/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory.

SUSIE J PADUGANAN, 75, a resident of Orcutt, CA passed away on 10/10/2020. Arrangements are in the care of Dudley Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

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Conflicted interest?

Lompoc City Council member receives funds from city homebuyers loan program

BY RON FINK

I have been following Lompoc politics for about 30 years; anytime an elected official had a monetary interest or conducted business with the city, he/she would always recuse themselves from any discussion pertaining to their business interest.

I have also been following City Council meetings closely for the last six years; Councilman Victor Vega hasn't expressed a lot of interest in most items that come before the council. For example, the key issue in the district he represents is public safety; most of the violent crime in the city occurs in the area he represents. But he hasn't been demanding more police patrols, reinstatement of gang/drug units, or even actively supporting recent discussions concerning the purchase of new fire equipment or police body cameras.

People run for office to serve their communities, however some feel that helping themselves is part of the deal. Councilman Vega has expressed continued interest in the Homebuyers Assistance Program since he was elected to the City Council. Most would say that helping first-time low- to medium-income homebuyers is a commendable goal; but there is more to this story.

The Lompoc Homebuyer Assistance Program guidebook explains that the program is designed to "expand homeownership

opportunities in the community of Lompoc. The program helps bridge the homeownership affordability gap for local residents by providing 30-year deferred payment loans of up to \$65,000 per household to assist first-time lower income homebuyers in purchasing a home in the city."

When this program was first discussed, some asked if Vega, who is a real estate agent, should recuse himself from the discussion because he could gain financially when this program was implemented; the city attorney determined that since the program was open to "anyone," he was not getting any benefit that any citizen couldn't get.

This program has had only 22 applications, and of those only 11 loans/grants were funded, according to the city manager's report on Oct. 9, 2020. A total of \$658,395, or about \$60,000

People run for office to serve their communities, however some feel that helping themselves is part of the deal.

per applicant, has been used so far.

Vega is the broker of record for some of those loans, and even though this program is "open to anyone," he has a leg up on the competition. For example, from his chair on the council dais on May 1, 2018, the meeting minutes reflect that "Councilmember Vega requested the funding (of the Homebuyers Assistance Program) be revised to increase the closing cost grants."

Then on May 7, 2019, Vega requested "a report on renewing the funding for the city's first-time homebuyer assistance program." So, he appears to have been protecting his bottom line, something that "anyone" couldn't do unless they were sitting in his council seat.

He has also used his access to City Hall during the current closures due to COVID-19

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to ask staff if specific loans had been approved and/or when they would be approved. Once again, "everyone" doesn't have this in-person access, and it seems that he is using his elected position for his own personal benefit.

When he openly encourages the council to provide additional resources for closing fees from the in-lieu fund, it seems somewhat questionable what his motives really are: Is he trying to help people buy homes, or is he lining his own pockets with program cash?

While this may not be technically "illegal," this sure looks a lot like a conflict of interest on his part.

Victor Vega is running for the mayor's seat; we have to wonder what he will come up with next to line his pockets with public funds. ○

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

LETTERS

Vote yes on Prop. 15 if you care about our future

I am very unsure about the future of my education right now. The only thing I do know is that we will need more funding for our schools and communities as we move past COVID-19.

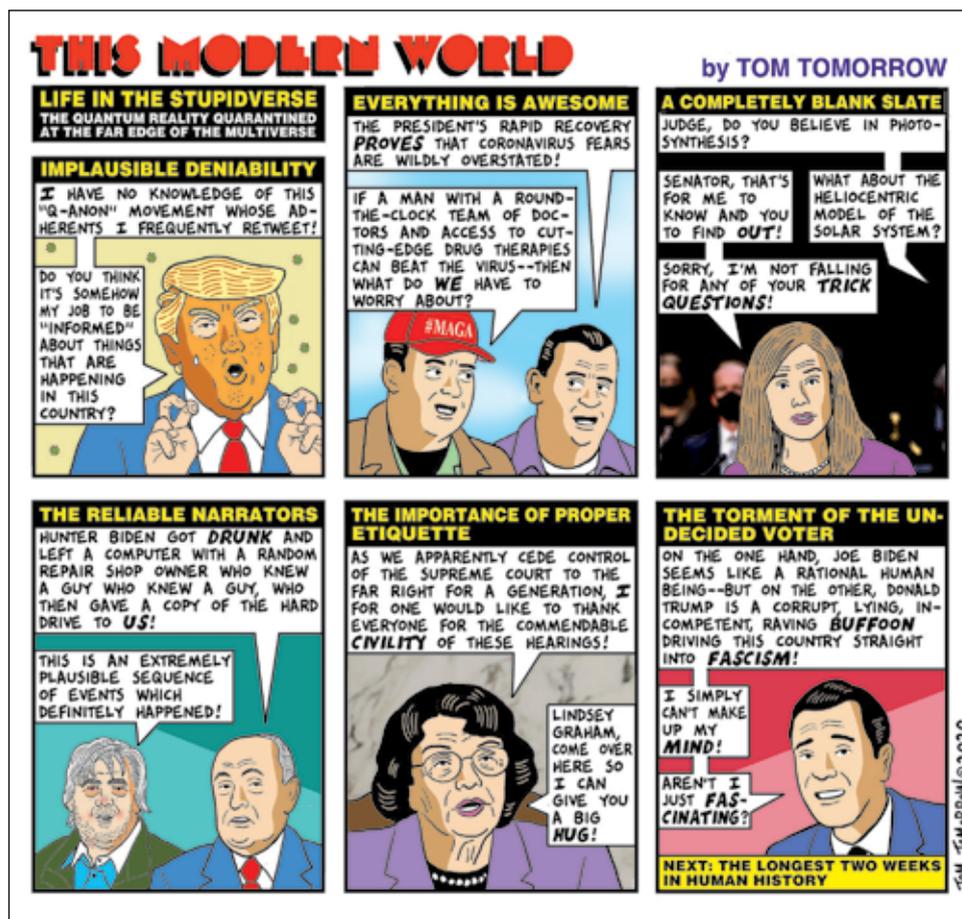
Proposition 15 is one of the only solutions that could help us get funding to get through this crisis. I don't agree with Samantha Romero's letter last week ("Vote against stupid Democratic proposals," Oct. 15). Proposition 15 is a fair and balanced proposition that raises money for schools and vital services in our communities. Proposition 15 would even help our small businesses by getting rid of some taxes on things like equipment and computers.

Personally, as a student at Santa Barbara High School, I see a lack of counselors and after-school programs, and damages around the school like potholes due to underfunding. Our schools need to hire more counselors. Counselors have more students than they can handle and don't have enough time to talk to all of us about important things like grades, college opportunities, and other student support.

As of 2019-20, there were 2,154 students enrolled in Santa Barbara High School, which means one counselor for every 400 students. That is not fair to me, my fellow peers, and school staff. And this is only made worse by the pandemic, virtual learning, and major uncertainty in all of our education systems.

Proposition 15 has the potential to bring the city of Santa Barbara, students, and our community \$1.4 million. I encourage you to support Proposition 15. With Proposition 15 in place, our schools and communities can move past this crisis and build a better future for all of us.

Luis Catalan,
Santa Barbara High School junior



Party hardly

I love nothing more than the drama of a good ol' local government meeting. But what I can't stand is when someone on a dais doesn't get the opportunity to respond to an allegation.

Solvang City Council meetings seem to be a place where the community gathers to pile on **City Councilmember Chris Djernaes**. The guy is already under recall on the November ballot, and now the council of his colleagues won't allow him to respond to his detractors during meetings.



The most recent super Solvang moment is brought to you by a **PETA** protest against the **Solvang Trolley and Carriage Company** due to its use of—gasp—horses! These people marched up and down **Copenhagen Street** with their little signs and a megaphone, causing the trolleys/carriages to shut down operations for the day.

Djernaes was caught on tape asking the PETA people who their Solvang contact was. How dare a City Council member ask this group of protesters why they were protesting and who asked them to protest! Plus he's apparently a friend of the person who allegedly called for them—**Esko Esko owner Esko K.T. Lama**—so it must be Djernaes' fault they were even in town.

That's some proof positive investigative reasoning Solvang's got going there. Wow.

Of course, Djernaes' detractors took the very public opportunity to really rail on him in the waning weeks of an election in which one of the Solvang Trolley owners is actually running for a seat on the council and his ass in on the line with the recall! So naturally, I wanted to hear from him.

All he got to say was, "It's not true." The council didn't allow him to respond. So now we'll never get to hear his side to the story. And I always want to hear the other side to the story! The truth almost inevitably lies somewhere in the middle. Shame on you, Solvang. Again.

And shame on **Isla Vista**. Again. The county's really in a predicament over those Isla Vista college residents and their recklessness. Again. Only this time, it's about **COVID-19**. Apparently, irresponsible students still want to party hardy—and they are indeed partying hard!

A pair of outbreaks that started in sorority and fraternity houses has the county scrambling to figure out how to prevent students from behaving like students. And some **UC Santa Barbara** students and other Isla Vista residents are sick of those renegades!

The **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** is giving them what they asked for: party fines. Under the guise of being an ordinance for all of the county's unincorporated areas that targets large gatherings and non-compliant businesses—let's be honest, it's specifically for Isla Vista's partiers. That was basically the extent of the public discussion over the ordinance. A tool to address pandemic party fouls: Too many people under one roof.

"Why would we not crack down, in this year of all years, on parties?" **1st District Supervisor Das Williams** asked.

So it should specifically be a pandemic party ordinance, and not act like it's something else.

Of course, **4th District Supervisor Peter Adam** didn't want anything to do with it: "People that disagree with this ... should watch this and remember this next time they have to go to the ballot box." ○

The canary is hardly partying. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



GOOD NEWS!

The Sun's Matching Grant Program is available to all nonprofit and arts organizations in Santa Barbara County

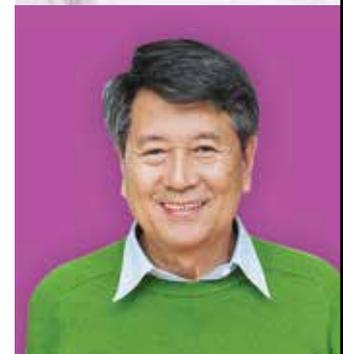
The *Sun* will provide matching funds to local nonprofit and arts organizations for a print and digital marketing campaign in the *Sun* from now until the end of 2020.

Let's partner together and help 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.



HOT STUFF

OCT. 22 – OCT. 29
2020



BOOK SMART
The Grover Beach Community Library hosts its last book sale of the year on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees can expect to browse through or make purchases from a wide selection of fiction, nonfiction, children's books, and more. Admission is free. Call (805) 481-4131 to find out more about the book sale. The library is located at 240 N. 9th St., Grover Beach.
—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GROVER BEACH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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.

PORTRAITS OF SANTA BARBARA BIRDS An exhibit of Emil Morhardt's acrylic paintings. Nov. 1-Dec. 1 Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

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.

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. lompoctart.org. Lompoc Valley Art Association, 119 E. Cypress Avenue.

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, 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, 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: Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

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

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

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.

GROVER BEACH COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK SALE Grover Beach Community Library's last book sale of the year. Includes a wide selection of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and more. Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-481-4131. groverbeachlibrary.org. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-6, AND FOR AGES 7-12, AND 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. LiA 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 (EXHIBIT 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.

CLAY PUMPKIN MAKE AND TAKE CLASS AT HOME This Fall we are offering a Clay Pumpkin Home kit. You will be provided with supplies needed to build a ceramic pumpkin and we will glaze and fire for you. Through Nov. 2 \$45. slomakerspace.com. SLO MakerSpace, 81 Higuera St., Ste. 160 and 180, San Luis Obispo, 242-1285.

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.

LABORATORY SERIES IV: ALLANA CLARKE Join us for our third event in our Laboratory Series, a conversation series with Black-identified artists in collaboration with R.A.C.E. Matters San Luis Obispo. Allana Clarke is an artist an assistant professor at Wayne State University, Detroit. Oct. 29, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. cccconfer.zoom.us. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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. 805-286-5993. creativemtime.com. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.



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.

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North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center



Human Beings are NOT a Commodity

Human trafficking is, unfortunately, happening in our communities. LEARN the warning signs! Exploiters and traffickers develop relationships with their victims either online or in person.

They groom the victim with gifts and promises of love or acceptance and they slowly isolate the victim from family and friends until they have control over them.

Warning signs might consist of unexplained bruising, having multiple phones, being fearful or anxious, having unexplained gifts or cash, tattoos or branding on the face, neck, hands, or feet, controlled movement, and having older male "friends" on social media.

Traffickers may promise that they can provide shelter, financial support, love and even a family. Instead, the victim is isolated and sold for someone else's benefit. Trafficking is real!

If you see something, say something!

KNOW MORE | DO MORE | NO MORE!

24-Hour Support Line (805)736-7273
www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org



Can I crash on your couch for awhile?

Ask us about our Foster Program

FOSTER • SPONSOR • VOLUNTEER • DONATE
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Honey just lost her mum and finds herself living all alone in the house.

Unfortunately there are no relatives willing to take her and this beautiful kitty needs a good home! Honey is an easy-to-love tortoiseshell

kitty who has wonderful house manners and is friendly to everyone.



Honey

ADOPT!

Adoptable Pets of the Week



Gretchen

Age: 6 years, 4 months
Breed: Boxer Mix
Sex: Female
Weight: 58 lbs.

Phoenix
Age: 3 years, 1 months
Breed: Pit Bull mix
Sex: Male
Weight: 72 lbs



All animals are health checked, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.



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Wed-Sun 11am-6pm

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Made a mistake on your ballot?

If you make a mistake on your ballot, cross out the wrong oval and fill in the correct oval, or call (805) 568-2200 for a replacement ballot.



Sign your ballot return envelope

Remember to SIGN your postage paid ballot return envelope. Your ballot will not be counted without your signature.



Return your ballot early!

Return your ballot at any Ballot Drop Box, Polling Place, or mail it back—no stamp needed! Mailing it? Be sure it is postmarked by Election Day. **If at all possible, please vote early. Early ballots are counted first!**

Track the status of your Vote by Mail ballot

A free ballot tracking and alert system is available to voters who wish to track the status of their Vote by Mail ballots—from printed to accepted. Sign up at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov.



Joseph E. Holland
Santa Barbara County
Registrar of Voters

805-568-2200
sbcvote.com

What's Your Take?

We know you've got an opinion.
Everybody's got one!

This week's online poll
10/22 - 10/29

How do you feel about the propositions on this year's ballot?

- It takes a lot of research to understand them.
- There are too many proposed efforts in each.
- I don't vote on them; it's a waste of time.
- I only vote on the props I care about.

Enter your choice online at:
SantaMariaSun.com



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NewTimes Sun

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ARTS from page 14

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 Various. 805-286-5993. creativemetime.com. Cuesta College, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo.

PICKETS FOR PROGRAMS AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN Buy and paint a picket to be displayed on the SLO Botanical Children's Garden fence from 2021 to 2023. Pickets, paint, and brushes supplied on site at SLO Botanical Garden. Your contribution to public art supports the garden and programs. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Tuesdays, 2-4:30 p.m. through Dec. 22 \$150 per picket or \$600 for 5. 805-541-1400. slobg.org/calendar-of-events/pickets. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

SLOMA: WEEKLY ART PROJECTS Kids can enjoy new activities from home (posted online every Monday). Mondays slo.ma.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.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

DAVID SETTINO SCOTT: FEATURED ARTIST Offering personal appointments and tours of Scott's studio in San Miguel. Through March 1, 2021 805-286-4430. Park Street Gallery, 1320 Park Street, Paso Robles, parkstreetgallery.com.

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.

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, pr.yaf.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.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CARLO CHRISTIAN: FEATURED ARTIST A fine art photography exhibit. Nov. 1-Dec. 1 Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

MORRO BAY ART ASSOCIATION: PERSPECTIVES MBAA presents this exhibit, which explores how perspective gives a three-dimensional feeling to

a flat surface, using various artistic strategies in various mediums; textile, encaustic, mixed media, oil, watercolor, acrylic, and photography. Through Nov. 2, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

OUT ON A WHIM Whimsical and unique artwork from Larry Le Brane. Through Nov. 2 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

GOOD MORNING LOMPPOC 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.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF STACEY THOMPSON



GARDEN GATHERING

The Santa Ynez Botanic Garden hosts its next Art in the Garden meeting on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Artists of every medium are welcome to join the group—co-lead by local artists Stacey Thompson and Mac Duncan—to create art together outdoors while staying at least 6 feet apart. Visit sybotanicgarden.org for more info. The garden is located at 151 Sycamore Drive, Buellton.

—C.W.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 17

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 Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, danaadobe.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

DRIVE-IN MOVIE: YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN Make your Halloween a spooky and fun one with this seminal Mel Brooks film. The SLO Jewish Film Festival is excited to offer our first drive-in experience bringing community together in a safe and enjoyable way. Bring your own snacks, chairs, and jumper cables. **Oct. 31**, 8-10 p.m. Free. 805-426-5465. jccslo.com/calendar.html. Temple Ner Shalom, 875 Laureate Lane, San Luis Obispo.

HOMESHARESLO CALL-IN COFFEE CHAT Connect with the folks at HomeShareSLO to talk about homesharing and other housing solutions twice a month during our Call-In Coffee Chat events. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 12-1 p.m. through Nov. 11 Free. 805-215-5474. smartsharehousingolutions.org/events/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

IMAGE COURTESY OF STUDIOS ON THE PARK



TANGLED UP IN BLUE

Studios on the Park in Paso Robles presents its latest fiber art exhibition, True Blue: Sew to Speak, through Monday, Nov. 2. This group show explores women's history, ecology, and personal truths through fiber artworks with a predominant palette of blues. Call (805) 238-9800 or visit studiosonthepark.org to find out more. The gallery is located at 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

—C.W.

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.slcsud.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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. lclslo.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.

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.

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.

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. bethedifferencesb.org/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

ZOOM YOGA AT THE MONDAY CLUB A 60-minute restorative flow yoga class on Zoom. Pre-registration is required. Zoom meeting info will be included in your registration confirmation email. **Oct. 26**, 4-5:15 p.m. \$15. themondayclubslslo.org/Events. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

RACE FOR THE PRINTERY A virtual fun run fundraiser. Complete race anytime between running dates. Through Oct. 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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SBCFAN COMMUNITY FOOD AND FARMING DISCUSSION SERIES: FOOD ACCESS AND FOOD SECURITY How do we (and how can we better) meet the basic food needs of our entire community and ensure fair access to local food resources? **Oct. 29**, 12-1:15 p.m. Free. sbccfoodaction.org/community-food-farming-discussion-series/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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

VIRTUAL JAZZ JUBILEE BY THE SEA Features live shows and some prerecorded videos. **Oct. 24** and **Oct. 25** bigbig5.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach. ☺



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



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



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



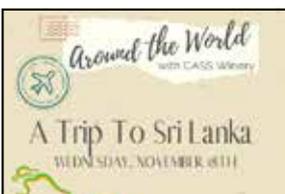
Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour
WED.: OCT. 25, 28
Point San Luis Lighthouse



Barre & Brunch at The Castle
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Tooth & Nail Winery



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



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



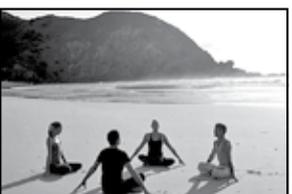
2020 November Wine Seminar: Bubbles
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



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



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



Brew At The Zoo
SATURDAY, APRIL 24
Charles Paddock Zoo, Atascadero



Randall King
SATURDAY, MAY 22
Rava Wines + Events

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Arts Briefs

Ann Foxworthy Gallery showcases artist and photographer Marcos Dorado with first virtual exhibit

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria presents its first virtual exhibition, a showcase of works by artist and photographer Marcos Dorado, which premiered online on Monday, Oct. 19, and is scheduled to run through Friday, Dec. 4. Visit hancockcollege.edu/gallery to access the show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE



"Marcos focuses on the human side of art, delving into his subjects as inspiration but also as outreach helping us find those connections we share, whether it be dreams, family, shared emotions, or more," gallery director Laura-Susan Thomas said of Dorado's art in press materials.

Coalition of Arts Leaders addresses exclusion of performing arts in state, county reopening plans

Thirty-eight leading members of the Central Coast Coalition of Arts Leaders have signed a letter urging state and county elected leaders and health department officials to prioritize the performing arts industry in COVID-19 guidelines and reopening plans.

"It's not like you can order Beethoven's 7th for curbside pickup," Anna James Miller, co-founder of the coalition and executive director of the San Luis Obispo Symphony, said in a statement. "The performing arts industry needs special attention, right now, if we are going to come through this crisis intact."

According to the coalition, research shows the negative economic impact of the arts sector, hard-hit by COVID-19 closures and social-distancing mandates, to be \$13.9 billion nationwide. The coalition also states that while the California Department of Health's Blueprint for a Safer Economy has specific breakdowns for a wide range of industries, the performing arts industry has been excluded.

With no clear guidelines for arts groups or venues, many local arts groups have received contradictory answers after reaching out to state or county officials for help.

"We are all asking similar questions, but the answers seem to depend on who you speak to," Miller said in a statement. "Local officials are left to their own devices to interpret the rules for the performing arts, while other industries have very clear guidelines."

The letter from the coalition notes the discrepancies between the current guidelines for similar industries and oversight for the performing arts industry and also emphasizes the willingness of signing organizations to adapt performances to outdoor venues, pre-recorded events, drive-ins, and other socially distanced options.

The quest for better COVID-19 reopening and recovery guidelines is part of what inspired Miller to co-found the coalition and unite local arts groups, according to the coalition's press materials.

"There's strength in numbers. The performing arts industry has always been a force for good on the Central Coast," Miller said in a statement. "By coming together, we hope to encourage state and local leadership to include us in the conversation." ○

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

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEALING JUSTICE SANTA BARBARA

Cast your ballots

Healing Justice Santa Barbara promotes voter empowerment through new campaign, *Art is Activism*

KEY ISSUES: The photographs featured in *Art is Activism*, a new art campaign from Healing Justice Santa Barbara, highlights a variety of humanitarian issues, including MMIWG (missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls). Pictured: models Manuel Luna (left) and Kiana Cates (right), as captured by Anna Delores Photography.

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Described as a visual representation of solidarity, a new virtual, multimedia campaign from Healing Justice Santa Barbara—a countywide, Black-led and Black-centered organizing collective—urges viewers to act with urgency and intention while voting in upcoming local, state, and federal elections.

The primary goal of the project, like the collective's other initiatives, is to "uplift the most marginalized voices," Leticia Forney Resch, co-organizer of Healing Justice Santa Barbara, told the *Sun*.

"This concept came to me after seeing filters on Instagram with 'vote' on people's faces. I immediately thought we could do more. Voting is of the utmost importance right now," said Forney Resch, who also serves as the creative director behind the new campaign, titled *Art is Activism*.

A group of models, artists, and photographers contributed their talents to the campaign, and their collaborative photographs will be available to view as static content on the Healing Justice Santa Barbara website, as well as the collective's social media platforms.

Two painters—Chante Glover, with Copper Raven Studios, and Chelsea Willett, with Chelsea Willett Designs—illustrated representations of key voting issues onto the participating models' bodies. The installations were documented by Terra Cobian Photography, Michelle Ramirez Photography, and Emily Ritter (with Anna Delores Photography).

"I was lucky enough to have such an outpour of support," said Forney Resch, who reached out to local artists, models, and other potential collaborators through cold calls and video pitches. "As an organization, creating meaningful collaborations is a priority. Meaningful being: working alongside folks that are allies and accomplices in making change."

Healing Justice Santa Barbara will also release the *Art is Activism* photos daily on Instagram and encourage the public to repost them, as part of a grassroots effort to spread awareness of various causes that will be affected by upcoming election results. Key phrases illustrated on models' bodies include Black Lives Matter, Trans Lives Matter, Abolish ICE, LGBTQI+ Equality Rights,

Virtual campaign

To find out more about Healing Justice Santa Barbara and view its ongoing *Art is Activism* campaign, visit hjsb.org or follow the collective on Instagram, @healing_justice_sb.

Coronavirus is Real, and MMIWG (missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls).

"In no way were we able to encompass all the humanitarian issues we face in our world and our nation. It is in the works to continue this project to focus on subjects that we were unable to tackle in this particular series," Forney Resch said.

Her role as co-organizer of Healing Justice Santa Barbara deals mostly with the collective's arts and culture programming, which operates under a framework that "self-care is not sustainable without community care."

"Arts and culture are a gift to humanity, allowing us to express our individuality and love for life," Forney Resch said. "It is a gift to enrich our souls, to embrace the complexity of our history, and welcome old and new neighbors."

As Healing Justice Santa Barbara, founded by Simone Rushkamp and Krystle Farmer Sigheart, aspires to build resilient communities for marginalized people throughout the Central Coast, joining the collective fulfilled a nearly lifelong urge to confront a lack of diversity, Forney Resch said.

"My family has lived in Santa Barbara for generations, and I am proud of my Chumash, Mexican, and African American ancestry, which connects me to the first African Americans in the Santa Barbara region," Forney Resch said. "I cannot tell you how many times I asked myself growing up, 'Where is the diversity in my schooling, my industry, and my community?' I lacked role models that looked like me until I went to college.

"I, in many ways, continue the work of my ancestors who made my work possible," Forney Resch added. "I will look to uplift the youth in this venture so their voices will be heard. After all, we must think the work we do today will be to enrich others in future generations." ○

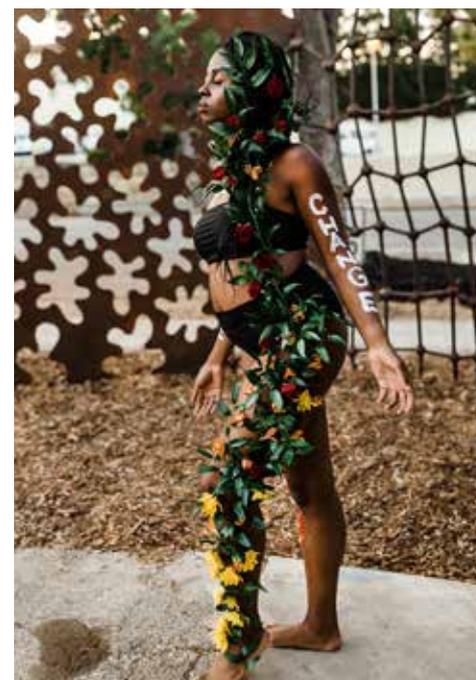
Voice your opinions to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



SPREADING TRUTH: Key phrases illustrated on models' bodies include Coronavirus is Real, Black Lives Matter, Trans Lives Matter, Abolish ICE, LGBTQI+ Equality Rights, and more. Pictured: model Jaime Dufek, as captured by Anna Delores Photography.



VOICE YOUR VOTE: The primary goal of the campaign, like the collective's other initiatives, is to "uplift the most marginalized voices," co-organizer Leticia Forney Resch said. Pictured: model Danica Acosta, as captured by Michelle Ramirez Photography.



ROLE MODEL: The *Art is Activism* campaign, presented by Healing Justice Santa Barbara, is described as a visual representation of solidarity. Pictured: model Bukola Ishola, as captured by Michelle Ramirez Photography.

2020 • 12TH ANNUAL



NEW TIMES
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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF SMCT



RIVETING REVIVAL: "I'm excited to get to *revive* my role of Igor that I played three years ago on the SMCT stage," said actor Kyle Hawkins (pictured, right), who will perform in the *Young Frankenstein* segment of SMCT's Drive Up Theatre Spooktacular.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SMCT



DAYTRIPPER: Like the theater group's inaugural drive-up event held at the end of August (pictured), ticket holders of the Spooktacular will receive a map of five different outdoor destinations to visit throughout Santa Maria where they can enjoy a variety of live performances.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SMCT

Maps to the stars

Visit five different destinations of live performances during SMCT's Drive Up Theatre Spooktacular

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

You may be wondering why I'm sitting in an empty theater. Perhaps it's because I like large, dark, empty spaces," a mysterious, masked vigilante tells viewers during a YouTube promo for Santa Maria Civic Theatre's (SMCT) next production.

"Unfortunately, due to coronavirus, the Santa Maria Civic Theatre is currently empty and dark," the Caped Crusader continues. "Fortunately, there's a beacon of light in the distance, and it is not the Bat-Signal. It's the Santa Maria Civic Theatre's Drive Up Spooktacular!"

Bam! Pow! Wham!

If Batman's endorsement wasn't convincing enough, potential patrons are sure to go batty over the theater's promise of skit reenactments from *Young Frankenstein*, *The Addams Family*, and other pop culture staples—especially ones embraced during Halloween season.

"As there is still a pandemic, we are all trying to find things to do, and now that the holidays are approaching and things aren't going back to how they used to be just yet, there is a small way for us to share some holiday spirit with Santa Maria,"

said Jaime Espinoza, secretary of SMCT's board of directors.

Like the Civic Theatre's inaugural drive-up event held at the end of August, ticket holders of the Spooktacular (Sunday, Oct. 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.) will receive a map that highlights five different outdoor destinations to visit throughout Santa Maria where they can enjoy a variety of live performances. To accommodate social distancing, guests can view the different shows from inside their vehicles or choose to park and sit outside—BYOLC (bring your own lawn chair).

"Turnout for the first drive-up theater was fantastic, way beyond anything we'd hoped for, and the response was amazing," said Sally Buchanan, president of SMCT's board of directors. "People loved to have something to do again on a Sunday afternoon."

Buchanan is especially stoked for SMCT's tribute to *Young Frankenstein*, as she will perform "He Vas My Boyfriend," from the classic film's musical adaptation.

"This show has plenty of acting, singing, and dancing," Buchanan said. "We tried to give every act a Halloween theme."

Other performances in the event's lineup

Show time

Tickets to the Santa Maria Civic Theatre's Drive Up Theatre Spooktacular (Sunday, Oct. 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.) are available in advance for \$25 (per carload) at my805tix.com. The Civic Theatre is also accepting donations through Venmo (@thesmct). Visit smct.org for more info.

include "Voices of the Villains," a compilation of different songs sung by various stage and screen antagonists, a Halloween dance mob, and a live band covering some popular Halloween hits.

"I'm excited to get to *revive* my role of Igor that I played three years ago on the SMCT stage," said actor Kyle Hawkins, who will join Buchanan and others performing in the *Young Frankenstein* segment of the event.

Proceeds from the Spooktacular will benefit some long-needed renovations to the SMCT building, including improved bathrooms and landscaping, as well as a new stage curtain. Admission to the event is \$25 per carload, and the Civic Theatre is also accepting donations through Venmo (@thesmct).

"If anyone out there is a fan of live theater, please consider helping out not just us, but other local theaters in the area and donating anything you can to help us stay afloat," Espinoza said. "Times are hard for so many, but it would make SMCT's future so much brighter if we had the support of local patrons or anyone out there." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood has a *Bat-Signal* nightlight. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



GRIM GRINNING GHOSTS: SMCT's Drive Up Theatre Spooktacular will include skit reenactments from *Young Frankenstein*, *The Addams Family*, and other pop culture staples—especially ones embraced during Halloween season.

FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM



THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER: Proceeds from the Spooktacular will benefit some long-needed renovations to the SMCT building, including improved bathrooms and landscaping, as well as a new stage curtain. Admission to the event is \$25 per carload.



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Super fun

What if superheroes were actually corrupt and arrogant jerks who were owned by a corporation that monetizes them through films and merchandizing while carefully crafting their heroic public personas to appear virtuous and selfless? And what if a group of vigilantes knew the truth about these so-called heroes and worked to take them down? Welcome to *The Boys*, an action crime comedy that pits the titular vigilantes—led by profane and irreverent Billy Butcher (Karl Urban)—against *The Seven*, Vought International's premier tier of superheroes—led by egotistical and increasingly unstable Homelander (Anthony Starr). (16 60-min. episodes)

Glen: We're obviously a little late to this series, which first came out in 2019. Season 2 is now wrapping up with a third scheduled for 2021. Now's the time to jump into this funny, violent, thoroughly entertaining, genre-flipping romp. The series opens with mild-mannered Hughie Campbell, who toils in an electronics store. He's a nerd, but he has one thing going for him—Robin (Jess Salgueiro), a terrific out-of-his-league girlfriend who loves him. Then the unspeakable happens. The fastest man in the world, A-Train (Jessie T. Usher), one of *The Seven*, accidentally runs right through Robin, obliterating her body and leaving Hughie holding her severed arms. Now turned against

superheroes, Hughie is slowly recruited by Billy Butcher into his team of vigilantes, along with Mother's Milk (Laz Alonso) and Frenchie (Tomer Capon), all of whom have their own reasons to hate superheroes. What follows is Hughie's descent into crime in the service of something greater.

Anna: Gotta love a hero-turned-villain tale and vice versa, and *The Boys* is an entertaining journey into both. Hughie is meek and mild mannered, living with his dad, Hugh (Simon Pegg), in a seemingly dull but happy enough existence. His bright, shiny reason for happiness is literally torn from him in the first few minutes of the first episode, and his descent into a deep, dark depression slowly takes a turn upward after meeting the newest member of *The Seven*, Annie—aka Starlight (Erin Moriarty). Raised believing she was chosen by God to be a superhero, Annie is the newest and most naive member of the elite team. Soon she realizes that the heroes she has looked up to her whole life are imperfect and, in some cases, really terrible human beings. The Deep (Chace Crawford) almost immediately forces himself on her, and while she stays quiet for a bit, she soon decides to take a stand against the corruption in her group. Little does she know how

THE BOYS

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

deep it all really goes, and soon she's reluctantly joining Billy's band of vigilantes as their inside spy. Even in binge mode this series doesn't get boring. I'm excited for season 3!

Glen: It's compelling to discover Butcher's reason for hating superheroes and even more compelling to see that side plot unfold. I don't want to spoil anything, but Butcher's soon pitted against Homelander in

a real grudge match. Of course, Homelander is unbeatable and too busy being a shallow, selfish prick to bother taking out Butcher himself, so he sends the redundantly monikered Black Noir (Nathan Mitchell), who's completely silent. He's sort of a weird character. The series is filled with deftly choreographed violence, and though they lack superpowers, the titular Boys led by Butcher are a slippery lot, always managing to escape death. Other important characters are Queen Maeve (Dominique McElligott), Homelander's former paramour, who's at risk of replacement in the second season when Stormfront (Aya Cash) shows up. There's also *The Seven's* handler, Madelyn Stillwell (Elisabeth Shue), who has a delicate relationship with the volatile leader of *The Seven*. Now's a great time to get up to speed before the third season starts next year.

Anna: Watching Homelander's mental unraveling is both infuriating and fun. He knows how much power he wields, and he's not afraid to use it against people. There are moments where he's fantasizing about taking the world out, and it's not that far from what could be reality. The dude is seriously unhinged. He's jealous and haughty and just an



ANTIHERO: Karl Urban stars as Billy Butcher, who leads a group of vigilantes against *The Seven*, a group of corrupt but powerful superheroes run by a corporation that seeks to monetize them, in *The Boys* on Amazon Prime.

all-around manipulative jerk. All these supes have some real need for therapy, and being touted for their greatness their whole lives hasn't led to healthy egos. Butcher's team isn't much better off—they are all wrestling their own demons. It's as close to a big superhero movie as we're going to get in quarantine, and with longer episodes and several storylines happening at once, there's a lot to enjoy in the first couple of seasons. ○

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

TV Reviews

PHOTO COURTESY OF ENTERTAINMENT ONE



RAILROAD MAN: Former Confederate soldier Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount) finds himself swept into the race to complete the transcontinental railroad in the AMC series *Hell on Wheels*, now available for streaming on Netflix.

HELL ON WHEELS

What's it rated? **TV-14** When? **2011-2016**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

If you liked HBO's *Deadwood*, you're going to love *Hell on Wheels*, a sweeping, epic Western rich with interesting characters, superior production values, excellent direction and cinematography, and solid acting by a stellar cast portraying real-life characters that include Colm Meaney as Thomas "Doc" Durant, Tim Guinee as head of the Central Pacific Railroad Collis P. Huntington, Victor Slezak as Union General Ulysses S. Grant, and Gregg Henry as Brigham Young.

Though fictionalized for the series, Confederate soldier Cullen Bohannon is based on Grenville Mellen Dodge, chief engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad, who discovered a pass through the Black Hills of Wyoming and was present for the driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah. It's like a really entertaining fictionalized history lesson!

The Civil War, slavery and freemen, Native American relations, early Irish and Chinese workers, Mormons in Utah, carpetbaggers, political corruption and graft, sex workers, gunfights, you name it, this series covers a lot of ground. I'm almost finished, and I'll be a bit sad when that last episode ends. (57 42-min. episodes)

—Glen

PHOTO COURTESY OF TILTED PRODUCTIONS



THE NEW NORMAL: Oscar Nuñez stars as Miguel Villareal, one of several characters who navigate the isolation brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, in the new series Netflix series *Social Distance*.

SOCIAL DISTANCE

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

Where's it showing? **Netflix**

"Conceived, cast, and executed entirely remotely during quarantine," this new series created by Hilary Weisman

Graham and *Orange is the New Black* creator Jenji Kohan examines the how families, couples, and friends navigate the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From AA meetings and isolation to a family forced to mourn the loss of their patriarch via Zoom, each episode of *Social Distance* features a different scenario with one thing in common—this pandemic. While the premise of the show feels a little predictable, the wide swath of scenarios in each 20-minute slice of life builds on each other and rounds out to be a pretty fun piece of work.

There is poignancy here too—one episode enters the world of Mia (Kylie Liya Page), a teenage gamer and her soul-crushing and incredibly relatable desperation around getting her crush to notice her. She succeeds but quickly learns the guy she's been pining for is actually a racist jerk who thinks calling COVID-19 "the Chinese flu" is hilarious. The past teenager in my soul had her heart broken right along with Mia.

On the lighter side is my favorite episode that centers on boyfriends Marco (Brian Jordan Alvarez) and Shane (Max Jenkins), whose botched attempt to spice things up with a threesome goes hilariously wrong. I suggest you watch *Social Distance* like you would a movie and not a series; the vignettes just work better together. (eight 18- to 23-min. episodes) ○

—Anna

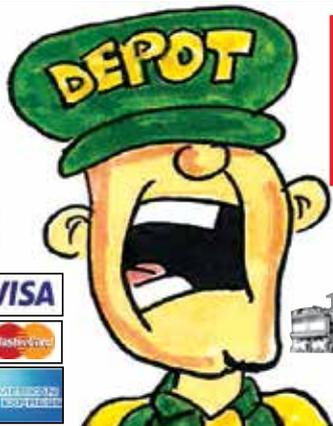
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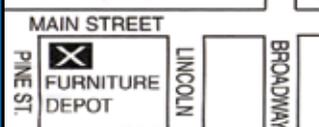
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A TO Z BURGERS: Tom's Burgers offers burgers starting with literally every letter of the alphabet (their lettering system is creative—the C Burger, for example, asks, "Curiosity, courage, or crazy" regarding its burger with peanut butter). Pictured here are the D Burger (left) with mushrooms; the F Burger with bacon, Ortega chiles, and Swiss cheese (center); and the G Burger with jalapeño and pepper jack cheese (right).

A community staple

Since 1979, Tom's Burgers has served meals with an ample helping of community outreach to the Lompoc Valley

BY KENNY CRESS

The words on the window to the left of the Tom's Burgers entrance, and on the window to the right of it, read, "Lompoc Strong." Those words signify a commitment the business has made to the Lompoc Valley since opening its doors in 1979.

On an unseasonably balmy mid-October day, Jenn Villareal, Tom's Burgers manager, spoke of the restaurant's deep connection to the community. Kim Blea, Villareal's mother, owns Tom's Burgers, and Villareal said every family member—she has four siblings—has worked at the eatery at one time or another, though she is the only sibling who works there now.

Tom's Burgers, whose menu includes burger offerings literally from A to Z—there's a different burger for every letter of the alphabet—has a community feel, right down to its location.

The restaurant is located on College Avenue, in the College Center. Central Coast Specialty Foods is on the left of Tom's Burgers. Central Coast Headway is to the right.

Among the sizable menu options—from basket lunches with fried fish, chicken or shrimp, to sandwiches, salads, and breakfast classics—patrons have those 26 burgers to choose from, each boasting colorful descriptions.

For the B Burger, "Beware of the blundering idiots who decided we should have a cheeseburger that is really cheesy, so we pulled the double whammy and now you get both American and Swiss cheese."

For P, "Put some pizzazz into your life. Try the Pizza Burger."

The W Burger stands for the "Wishing Well Special. Cream cheese with chopped olives. This is the one that makes you wish you had gone someplace else."

And for Z, "Zest at its best, the whole pound in one burger, live it up and eat and eat and eat..."

Breakfast offerings include bacon, sausage, or ham and eggs; Eggs Toro, which boasts a patty, onions, and two eggs scrambled together and topped with chili and cheese; the Chopper, which consists of diced ham, Ortega chile, and two eggs scrambled together; plus omelettes, waffles, pancakes, and more—each served with home fries, hash browns, or a fruit cup.

"Before the pandemic hit, our regulars would be lining up for breakfast before we opened the doors at 8 a.m.," Villareal said. "Some of our regulars had regular days when they came here. At times, Tuesdays would be especially busy."

As is the case with many other businesses, the local shutdowns had a huge impact on Tom's Burgers.

Pre-pandemic, the burger joint was open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Then the restaurant made a bid to begin opening on Sundays. The pandemic altered those plans, too.

"We were open one Sunday," before having to reduce hours, Villareal said. "We eventually hope to try again to open on Sundays."

The business—which has been voted Best Lompoc Restaurant in the *Sun's* annual Best of Northern Santa Barbara County readers poll—has been gradually rebounding.

After having to resort to takeout-only orders early in the pandemic, Tom's Burgers has resumed indoor and outdoor dining, with some changes.

"Our indoor dining is 25 percent capacity," Villareal said. "We hope to eventually get up to 50 percent."

After seeing its business hours reduced to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with breakfast Saturday mornings only, Villareal said that as of the week of Oct. 22 Tom's Burgers would be able to resume its 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours, with breakfast available until 11 a.m.

When it comes to community involvement, the restaurant has backed several Lompoc Valley sports teams, among other things.

"We're a spot for Friday night football teams," Villareal said. "We would hold team dinners for both Lompoc and Cabrillo High School football teams before their games."

Tom's Burgers also sponsored a Babe Ruth 13-15 division team, Tom's Burgers, and the team consistently made a good run during the annual district Babe Ruth Tournament.

"A lot of the players and the coaches on the team would eat here regularly," Villareal said.

The pandemic hasn't dampened the business's commitment to serving the community, be it through food or otherwise.

"We've been sponsoring youth sports and community sponsorships in general since we opened," Villareal said. "We hope to continue

Order up!

Located in the College Center at 115 E. College Ave., suite 13, in Lompoc, Tom's Burgers, as of press time, anticipated getting approval from the county to resume opening at 8 a.m. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Tom's Burgers is closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information, visit the business's website, tomburgersa2z.com/menu.

full force with that once the pandemic is over."

Villareal said her business usually donates gift cards for Lompoc Valley high school football programs, as well as supports youth football and Little League. She said Tom's Burgers has also helped locally with Relay for Life and with fundraisers for the Cabrillo High School Madrigals singing group.

"We've helped with the Lompoc Lions Club and also assisted the North County Rape Crisis Center," Villareal said.

The last live high school sports event on the Central Coast took place March 13. And in the meantime, the Little League on the Central Coast never got off the ground in 2020.

"It was so devastating," Villareal said. "I have two boys, 5 and 6 years old, who were about to start their Little League season. It was very disheartening."

Codie Blea—an active area youth sports coach who owns Blea Enterprises in town and is "like a handyman" at Tom's Burgers, Villareal said—was able to do some coaching during the pandemic.

A true-blue Lompoc local herself, Villareal played softball at Lompoc High School. She graduated in 2004 then went on to play at Charleston Southern in Charleston, South Carolina.

"That was a wonderful time, I loved it," she said. "I got to see another part of the country. It was beautiful, and I made a lot of wonderful friends."

Still, she had no intention of staying in South Carolina when her school days were done.



ALL-DAY DINING: Up until the week of Oct. 22, the Tom's Burgers only offered breakfast on Saturdays because of COVID-19 mitigation. Now local morning favorites—including waffles and pancakes—are available till 11 a.m. six days a week.



LOMPOC STRONG: Tom's Burgers has been a Lompoc institution for more than 40 years.

"I always knew I'd come home," she said. But she said she didn't figure she'd come back to working at Tom's Burgers.

"I honestly didn't think that I would," she said. "I just got drawn to it."

And now, she is the manager of the family business, at the helm through in this time of COVID-19.

"I'm looking forward to the time the pandemic is behind us," Villareal said. ○

Contributor Kenny Cress has a soft spot for cheeseburgers. Reach him through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

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