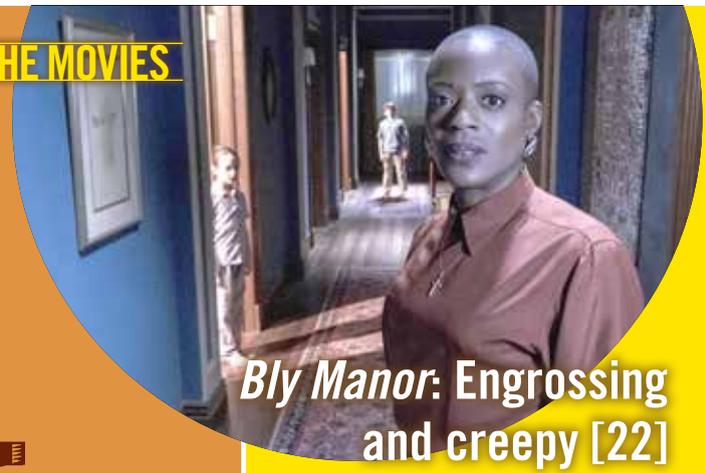


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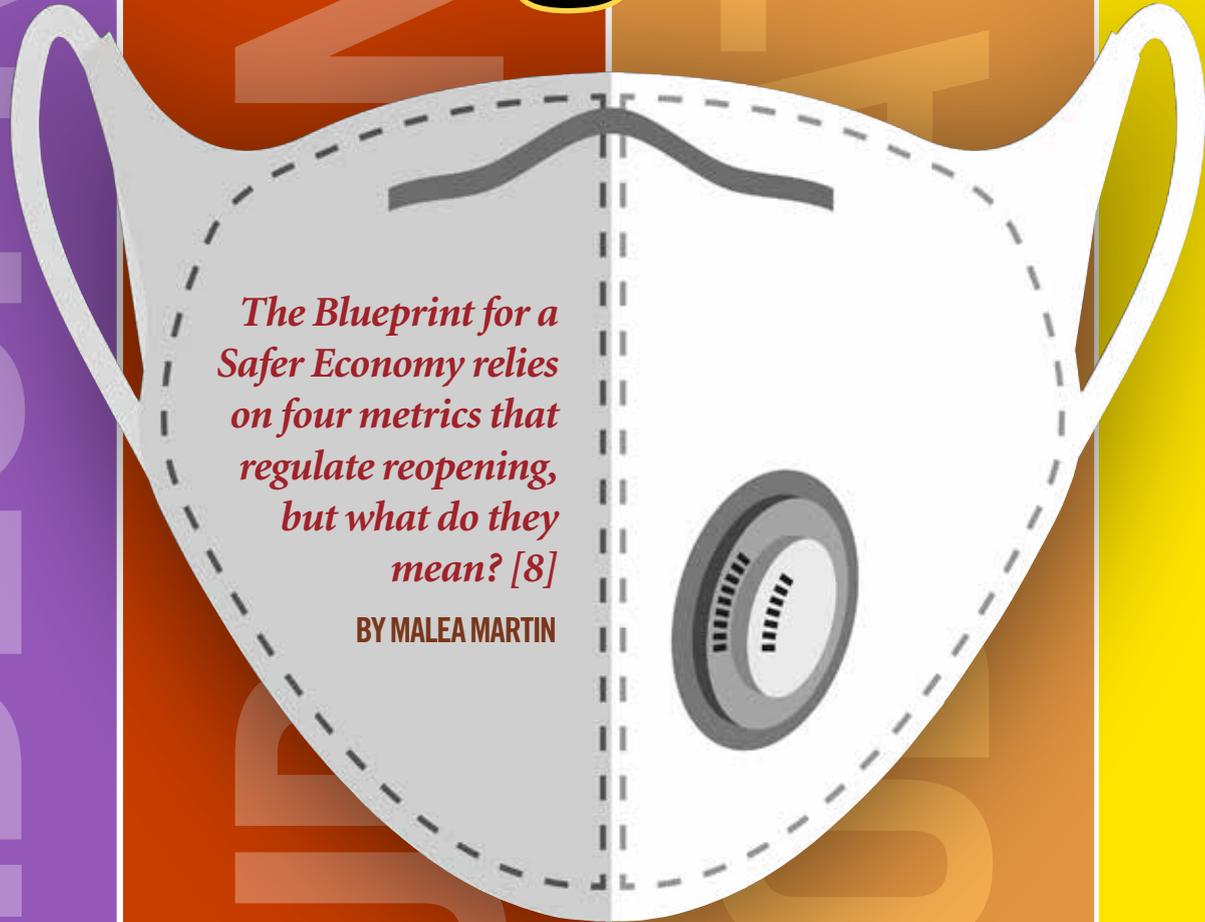
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AT THE MOVIES



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Measuring COVID-19



The Blueprint for a Safer Economy relies on four metrics that regulate reopening, but what do they mean? [8]

BY MALEA MARTIN

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As the Isla Vista COVID-19 outbreak puts Santa Barbara County's movement up or down the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy in question, the *Sun* thought it was time for a closer look at the metrics California uses to determine how open a county can be during the pandemic. Staff Writer Malea Martin talks to health experts about the pros and cons of the numbers that define economic and social restrictions, what they mean, and why the state is using them [8].

This week, you can also read about the photographer headlining the Ann Foxworthy Gallery's first virtual exhibit [18]; see the birds at Gallery Los Olivos [20]; and learn the inspiration behind one of Santa Maria's newest restaurants [23].

Camillia Lanham
editor



COLOR MAP: The state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy categorizes COVID-19 metrics from purple to yellow, determining how open counties can be.

Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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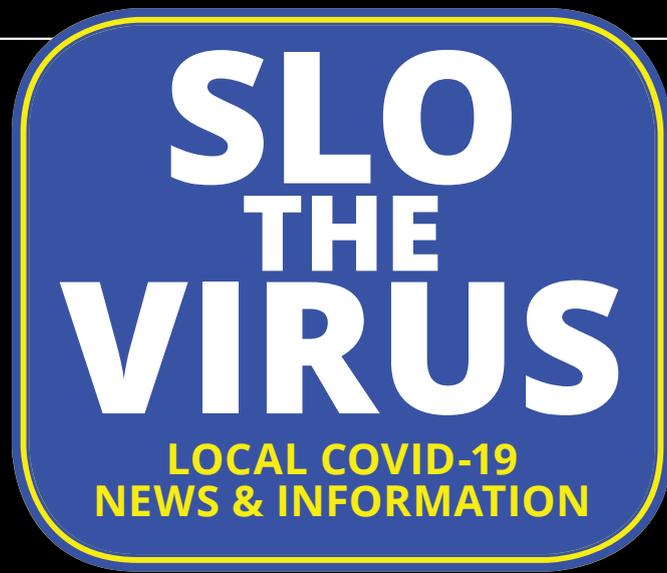
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Political Watch

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced Oct. 22 that he and **U.S. Reps. Harley Rouda** (D-Laguna Beach), **Richard Neal** (D-Mass.), and **Mike Levin** (D-San Juan Capistrano), introduced the Securing America's Nuclear Waste Act, a bill that "seeks to address the large quantities of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste currently stored on-site at decommissioning and decommissioned nuclear reactors across the country," according to a statement from Carbajal's office. Carbajal said the bill would impact the Diablo Canyon Power Plant decommissioning process. "Nuclear fuel waste must be properly disposed of for the health and safety of our communities," Carbajal said in the statement. "The decommissioning of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant is fast approaching on the Central Coast, and it's more important than ever that we ensure an environmentally just, safe, and economical disposal of this waste." According to Carbajal's office, it's been more than 30 years since Congress has significantly revised the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. "Without a permanent geologic repository, communities across the country have had no choice but to continue hosting high-level radioactive waste," according to the statement. "Currently, it is estimated that one in every three Americans live within 50 miles of nuclear waste." The bill calls on the Government Accountability Office to study the risks associated with current storage systems and direct the Office of Management and Budget to study the economic benefits of consolidated insulated storage.

• On Oct. 19, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** named a group of top health experts to the state's COVID-19 Scientific Safety Review Workgroup. The groups of nationally acclaimed physician scientists, who all have expertise in immunization and public health, will "independently review the safety and efficacy of any vaccine that receives FDA approval for distribution," according to Newsom's office. Once a vaccine is finalized and receives federal approval, the group will verify its safety before the state makes it available to those most at risk. The workgroup is part of the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, which was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Oct. 16. "Our response to COVID-19 has and will continue to lead with data and science including when it comes to COVID-19 vaccines," Newsom said in a statement. "Recognizing that supplies will be limited initially and the first doses of vaccines must go to health care workers, first responders, and others who are especially vulnerable to this disease, we are working to ensure that administration and distribution of an approved vaccine is equitable." Acting State Public Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan said in the statement that even if a small number of vaccine doses are released in late 2020, "the reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us well into 2021," with widespread distribution unlikely for many more months. "Across the country, states are seeing increases in COVID-19 transmission, but thanks to Californians' adherence to our public health guidance and our slow and stringent reopening, that hasn't happened yet here in California," Pan said in the statement.

• **State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) encouraged constituents to vote, saying in a Facebook post that voters should use an official county ballot drop box. On Oct. 16 Jackson wrote that voters should make sure the ballot drop box "is clearly recognizable, designed to meet state standards for security, and bears the official county elections logo." She added that county residents can find a list of official drop boxes at sbcvote.com in Santa Barbara County or venturavote.org in Ventura County. "Cast your ballot at an official drop box, and your vote will be counted!" Jackson wrote. "Please share with friends and family to ensure their vote is also counted." ○



THE FIRST FIVE: (left to right) Laura Katz, William McClintock, Norman Bradley, Cary Gray, and Glenn Morris are the first residents named to serve on the Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission.

Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission meets for the first time

The first five members of Santa Barbara County's Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission had their first meeting on Oct. 22, where they briefly introduced themselves to the public and set dates for several upcoming meetings where they'll choose the commission's remaining six members.

At the meeting, all commissioners expressed their dedication to creating a group that will accurately represent the population of Santa Barbara County, a controversial issue that's hung over the redistricting process since the initial applicant pool was narrowed down to a predominantly white and male group in September.

Lindsey Baker, former president of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, said during public comment at the Oct. 22 meeting that the redistricting process should include full disclosure and robust public input.

"The League of Women Voters is concerned that the process to date has not been open or transparent up to this point. We hope your commission will change that," Baker said. "We also hope you will take seriously the obligation to select the next six members of the commission so that the final commission will reflect the county's racial, ethnic, geographic, age diversity and be as proportional as possible to the actual voter registration demographics of the county."

Laura Katz, William McClintock, Norman Bradley, Cary Gray, and Glenn Morris are the first residents named to serve on the Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission, a group of 11 responsible for drawing the lines that will define the county's five supervisorial districts for the next 10 years. The first five—one person from each of the county's supervisorial districts—were chosen randomly at an Oct. 13 Board of Supervisors meeting from a pool of a little more than 40 applicants. They're now tasked with interviewing other candidates and filling the commission's six remaining seats.

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

Katz, the only woman among the first five members and representative of the county's 1st District, said at the Oct. 22 Redistricting Commission meeting that she hopes to help correct the current demographic imbalance.

Katz moved to Santa Barbara with her family as a high schooler in the '70s and graduated from San Marcos High School. She left the area briefly to attend college, returned to live in the

Carpinteria area in 1993, and worked as a nurse practitioner specializing in geriatrics. She's now "semi-retired" and said at the Oct. 22 meeting that she intends to choose the remaining commissioners with Santa Barbara County's demographics in mind.

"I am so pleased to be randomly selected to be on this citizens' commission," Katz said. "And I just want to echo Lindsey Baker in her comment, that that's my hope as well."

Second District Commissioner McClintock is a marine scientist at UC Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. For the past 20 years, McClintock said he's been developing mapping software that's used for ocean zoning in public and participatory processes where diversity and inclusion are key.

"So I'm hoping that some of that experience in the ocean can be transferred to the redistricting process," he said at the meeting. "In any case, I'm super excited to be a part of it, and I would also like to echo on the speaker's comments that I'm very concerned about having a very demographically representative commission."

Bradley, a Lompoc resident and full-time writing lecturer at UC Santa Barbara, is representing the 3rd District. Throughout his time living in Santa Barbara County, Bradley has served on a number of academic and community committees, including the Solvang Unified School District board of trustees, the steering committee for the Santa Ynez Valley Blueprint, and a Solvang task force designed to consider the impacts of outlet stores in the city. He also co-founded the Santa Ynez Valley Alliance, a nonprofit educational and land use study organization.

The 4th District's representative, Cary Gray, is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who's lived in Santa Barbara County since 1986. Self-described as a businessman, at one time Gray taught courses like ethics in business and corporate communications at Chapman University and the University of La Verne. But Gray said he's always also been philanthropic and active in the community, serving as board member for United Way for more than 15 years and co-founding Leadership Santa Maria Valley, a teen program designed to foster and create future community leaders.

Morris, president and CEO of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, will represent the 5th District. With years of experience in economic development, tourism, and community development, Morris brings more than two decades of leadership and collaborative practice to the table.

"Happy to be here and pleased to engage in this activity," he said at the meeting.

The first five members of the Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission are scheduled to meet again on Nov. 12 at 3:30 p.m., where they'll discuss the criteria and process they'll use to select the remaining members.

—Kasey Bubnash

Solvang considers 5G conspiracy theories

A local business owner urged the Solvang City Council to place a moratorium on telecommunications companies during its Oct. 26 meeting, due to concerns associated with 5G cell towers.

Michael Mendizza, a writer and owner of Zfolio and Solvang Olive Press, spoke to the council for more than 30 minutes during an agenda item "informational discussion" on 5G technology. His presentation conflicted with information from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and included his opinion and research on potential health and surveillance issues that come with 5G. Those concerns include an increased risk of cancer due to "multiple types of radio-frequency radiation" and the likelihood of "mandatory surveillance" via implanted chips made possible by 5G.

"The idea is they want your brain to be connected to the web," he said. "That's the essential image of what's being proposed. ... Masks serve no function to reduce infection. Mandatory masks are a prelude to mandatory vaccines, mandatory RF chipping, mandatory surveillance passports, and tracking, and 5G, again, being the piece of the puzzle that makes that happen."

City Council candidate Chris Bowyer spoke against the presentation during public comment, stating that he received an email from Mendizza that was "rife with disinformation, mistakes, and outright lies."

Bowyer, a contract security adviser and consultant, said he's advocated for a long time that people in leadership need to listen to the experts. He told the council that he would be addressing them as someone who has consulted "numerous times on the topic of information security and concerted disinformation campaigns."

"In the late 1970s and the early 1980s, it was a fear of high voltage power lines. In the '90s and beyond it was the advent of cellular technology, and now we have the latest iteration of this fear that is 5G is going to cook us like we're in a microwave or it's going to enable universal tracking," Bowyer said. "What you were presented with is meant to galvanize our community into coming here with an outlandish conspiracy theory that has no scientific basis."

According to the World Health Organization, no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies.

The Food and Drug Administration states that while the specifics of 5G remain ill-defined, it is known that 5G cellphones will use frequencies covered by current FCC exposure guidelines and the conclusions reached based on the current body of scientific evidence covers these frequencies.

"The claim that 5G technology is going to be used to monitor and control by tiny biometric computer chips in our body through the

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NEWS from page 4

proposed towers, connecting to thousands of low-Earth orbit satellites. I can't believe those words just came out of my mouth," Bowyer said.

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke said he used to believe the technology was "all about faster cellphone service and faster Wi-Fi," but then he started doing his own homework and changed his mind.

"The gentleman who just called [Bowyer] reminds me of a person who is really into trusting your master because that's what some of the things that I've learned about this has been," he said.

Councilmember Daniel Johnson said he sided with Clarke in wanting to slow down the process of potential 5G towers in the area because "we have not shown any data at all to counter what we've been presented as far as health and surveillance overreach." According to a city staff report, Verizon has one 5G test site in the city with no plans to install any additional 5G technology in the city.

The council agreed to possibly conduct a community workshop where both sides on the issue can present their research. Mayor Ryan Toussaint said he was unsure about what, if any, power the city had to regulate the technology, but he said he did want the Branding and Design Committee to come up with design guidelines for potential 5G towers. And the rest of the council agreed.

—Karen Garcia

Unemployment rates stagnate after months of improvement

Since joblessness spiked in April, the unemployment rate has seen month-to-month improvements. But September's numbers indicate that those gains may be stagnating.

Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Glenn Morris said that unemployment rates could be tied to what reopening tier on the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy that a county is in. Santa Barbara County's currently in the red tier, the second most restrictive.

"When the county moved into the red from the purple, that allowed restaurants a few more seats and a couple of other businesses to try to open up," Morris said. "That probably resulted in people being called back to work. We've been at that same level now for a while, so there's not a lot of additional activity yet."

Santa Barbara County's September unemployment rate was 7.4 percent, virtually unchanged from August's 7.6 percent. August's unemployment rate was the largest improvement since the onset of the pandemic: a nearly 3 percent decrease from July. San Luis Obispo



MODERNIZATION: Local business owner, writer, and filmmaker Michael Mendizza urges the Solvang City Council to place a moratorium on potential 5G testing in the area.

County saw a similarly small improvement at 7.2 percent in September, compared with 7.6 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was the best improvement the county had seen since April, whereas September's numbers represented the smallest improvement thus far.

Alma Janababab, business services strategist with the Workforce Development Board of Santa Barbara County, said that, according to the state, about 48 percent of previously unemployed people have returned to work.

"Unless there are any major movement in re-openings, the numbers will continue to remain stagnant, especially with the recent spike again in COVID-19 numbers," Janababab said.

The bigger picture, Morris added, is that many businesses are timid to return to pre-pandemic staffing levels in a still uncertain economy.

"We're still seeing a lot of caution on the part of the businesses as they're waiting to see how the fall economy plays out and whether or not Congress comes up with another economic relief bill," Morris said. "I think there's a lot of folks that are holding off on bringing back additional staff until they get a better sense of how this is going to play out in the longer term."

After confirming Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court Oct. 26, U.S. senators left Capitol Hill for their October recess, removing any chance of passing another coronavirus relief bill before the election.

"Depending on what happens with Congress and them doing another relief bill, I think that we'll see a kind of slow and steady rebuild over the next year," Morris said.

He added that while the local retail, restaurant, and hospitality sectors continue to

struggle, the agricultural industry is operating more or less business-as-usual. This may be why local unemployment rates are faring better than those statewide.

California's unemployment rate has remained consistently higher than local rates, and the state is seeing similar stagnancy. After a 13.5 percent unemployment rate in July dropped down to 11.2 percent in August, September saw a more modest improvement at 11 percent.

"Our ag sector in particular, they're still in the middle of their high employment season, so that holds up some of the numbers," Morris said. "I think we have a fairly diversified economy, where you may have some regions of the state that are really dependent on one industry of another."

As the economy inches toward recovery, Janababab from the Workforce Development Board said her organization is running multiple initiatives to provide assistance to struggling employers and employees. Visit sbcwdb.org/job-seekers-special.wdb for more information.

—Malea Martin

Coalition launches COVID-19 education campaign

A coalition of Santa Barbara County education and health care leaders recently announced a campaign to "save lives, reduce the transmission of COVID-19, reopen more businesses and schools, and maintain access to vital health care."

County Deputy Health Officer and Masked and Mighty coalition leader Dr. Peggy Dodds said the group is made up of educators and health care providers from across the county.

"It reaches into all our communities in Santa Barbara County, including local people, local imagery, and locally developed communications on why we wear masks and take safety precautions to reduce the COVID-19 infection rate," Dodds said during an Oct. 27 press conference. "We're really focused on the power of following the recommendations that will decrease the spread of this virus."

Dr. Dan Brennan, a Sansum Clinic pediatrician and one of the project's initiators, said the campaign will "reinforce three easy things that we can do every single day that will help to get our COVID infection rates even lower than they are."

Consistent with the county Public Health Department's messaging, those actions are staying home as much as possible, avoiding large gatherings, and wearing a face mask as well as physical distancing. But what's new about the Masked and Mighty campaign is its marketing and educational outreach elements.

First, the coalition is launching a "robust positive messaging campaign," Brennan said, including brightly colored, bilingual advertising that features images of local people doing fun activities in a safe manner and with masks on.

The second element is "powering up Santa Barbara County," a symbolic action from Oct. 27 to Nov. 7 where "superpowers" from across the county will light up landmark buildings with bright, multicolored lights "to highlight our community's commitment to reduce the transmission of COVID-19," Brennan said.

"Rather than use a single color, our coalition decided to power up using multiple colors because we are a diverse community and we're looking forward to a bright future together," Brennan added.

The coalition is encouraging all businesses to join in, and it already has "powering up" commitments from Cottage Health, the Sansum Clinic, CenCal Health, and Orcutt schools, among others. The coalition encourages residents to swap out their front porch lights for colorful bulbs for a chance to be featured on the initiative's social media channels.

While this portion of the campaign is slated to last until Nov. 7, the Masked and Mighty initiative is set to continue well into the new year as the county continues to regain control of the virus's spread.

"Not only will these efforts prevent COVID-19 from regaining a strong foothold in our community again, but it will help us prevent influenza and other respiratory viruses from causing illness, missed school and work, and time spent in the doctor's office and hospitals," Cottage Health's Dr. Lynn Fitzgibbons said at the press conference. "Now is the time to commit, and stay Masked and Mighty." ○

—Malea Martin



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Breaking it down

Health officials say restrictions are still necessary to maintain public health, despite major improvement in hospitalization rates

BY MALEA MARTIN

In both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, COVID-19 hospitalization numbers are at their lowest since early in the pandemic. But this metric, widely regarded as one of the most accurate for measuring COVID-19 impact in a community, is no longer considered in the state's reopening system.

Some public officials, such as Santa Barbara County 4th District Supervisor Peter Adam, have lamented the system. During a Oct. 6 Board of Supervisors meeting, Adam said that low hospitalization rates are "a great representation of why we should open up."

But according to local public health officials and infectious disease experts, tracking the community's COVID-19 spread is more complicated than one good metric. Each COVID-19 metric that local and state authorities track serves a distinct purpose, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso told the *Sun*.

"Hospitalization rate is just one of the metrics that we need to use to gauge COVID-19 spread in the community," Do-Reynoso said. "All the metrics work jointly together. Each metric gives us a dimension, or a perspective, of this disease."

But what distinguishes hospitalization data from metrics like testing positivity and case rate is that it's generally not affected by how many people are tested in a community. Whether 100 people are tested or 100,000, those who are sick enough to be hospitalized will be in the hospital.

"We often look to hospitalization rates as one of the most accurate ways to measure the impact of COVID-19 on a community or county," Dr. Lynn Fitzgibbons, Cottage Health's infectious disease specialist, told the *Sun* in an email. "There is fairly consistent agreement amongst doctors across our state and our nation regarding the criteria that indicate when a patient

with COVID-19 symptoms should be admitted to the hospital."

Testing positivity and case rates—which the state uses to determine a county's reopening restrictions—are influenced by how many people get tested.

"If one county has unlimited testing capacity—and people with and without symptoms are tested frequently—that county may find and record more cases, but a lower percent of all the tests would be positive," Fitzgibbons explained. "On the other hand, a county with limited testing capacity may choose to test only those who are most sick, so that county may not find and record every case. In this second example, the number of cases may be falsely low in recorded data and the percent positive [may be] falsely high."

These data variables are what Supervisor Adam took issue with during the Oct. 6 board meeting. Adam argued that the county's shifting messaging on testing—going from a "need to be tested" to a "want to be tested" model—accounts for the peaks and troughs in cases over time.

"You're cherry-picking your test subjects if you're only testing symptomatic people," Adam said.

Do-Reynoso acknowledged that testing capacity was limited at the start of the pandemic. However, she emphasized that the county is now "testing everyone who needs to be tested and wants to be tested, whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic," and that the majority of people who are tested at community-based testing sites do not report any symptoms.

Fitzgibbons said that hospitalization rates aren't a foolproof measure either. "Although accurate . . . hospitalization rates often give a delayed view of the state of COVID-19 in a community," Fitzgibbons wrote. "This is because most patients who are admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 were exposed one to three weeks previously."

This, she said, may have played into the state's decision to stop considering hospitalization as one of the reopening metrics.

A California Department of Public Health (CDPH) representative affirmed Fitzgibbons' conclusion.

"Hospitalization rates and hospital capacity data are considered lagging metrics," the CDPH wrote. "Case rate and testing positivity metrics were included in the Blueprint [for A Safer Economy] to signal early on the behavior of disease transmission."

Where we're at now

Both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties are in the red tier of the state's reopening system—the Blueprint—as of Oct. 20. This means that the counties are considered to have substantial spread of COVID-19 in the community. Both counties started in the purple or "widespread" tier, the worst tier to be placed in, before moving up to the red.

Fitzgibbons said that, from a medical perspective, the county's tier assignment is on par with the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

"I think the categorization of COVID-19 activity in our county can reasonably be described as having ongoing substantial spread," Fitzgibbons said.

If the counties' numbers continue to improve, they'll eventually move into the orange (moderate spread) tier and finally the yellow (minimal spread). Only nine out of the 58 counties in California have made it to the yellow tier as of Oct. 20. The majority are still in the red and purple tiers.

Though Santa Barbara County's hospitalization numbers as of Oct. 23 remained considerably higher than SLO County—17 hospitalized versus four—Santa Barbara County is currently faring better in the state's reopening system.

Santa Barbara County's adjusted case rate on Oct. 20 was 4.3 percent, and the positivity rate was 1.9 percent, and the health equity positivity rate—a new metric that ensures disadvantaged communities aren't getting left behind—was 3.2 percent.

This means that the only thing holding the county back from an orange tier status is its adjusted case rate, which needs to be under 4 percent. Once it brings all metrics into the orange tier threshold, the county would need to keep its numbers

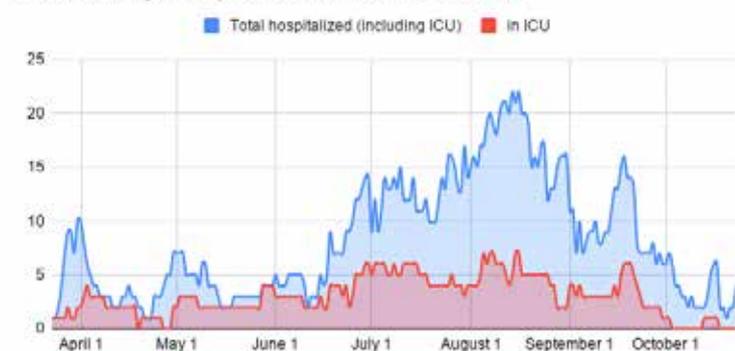
GRAPHS BY MALEA MARTIN/DATA FROM SLO AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Santa Barbara County: Hospitalization from COVID-19



TRENDING DOWN: The number of people hospitalized from COVID-19 in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties has consistently decreased. But health experts say neither county's ready to reopen.

SLO County: Hospitalization from COVID-19



there for two consecutive weeks to officially achieve orange tier status.

But an ongoing outbreak in Isla Vista—resulting in multiple fraternities and sororities being monitored by officials—is contributing to increased cases, Do-Reynoso said at an Oct. 23 press conference. As a result, the case rate is expected to be "solidly in the red still" on the county's next Blueprint report card, which is released weekly on Tuesdays.

SLO County is not nearly as close to reaching the less restrictive orange tier. If it weren't for the state's case rate adjustment, the county would have regressed back to the purple tier with the Oct. 20 weekly tier assignment.

"The California Department of Public Health made the decision to update the adjustment scale to better reflect variations in case rates relevant to testing volume across counties and refined this after local health department feedback," a CDPH representative told the *Sun* in an email.

Without the adjustment, SLO County's new cases per day per 100,000 population was 7.5, a number that would have sent the county back to the purple

tier. But the adjusted rate was 5.1 percent, which allowed it to stay in the red tier.

SLO County Public Health Department spokesperson Michelle Shoresman said the adjustment allows counties like SLO, which have high levels of testing, to get credit for it.

"If the case rate were not being adjusted by our high testing rate, we would *not* have met the red tier criteria for the last data period," Shoresman wrote via email, adding that SLO County must remain vigilant "with taking all the protective measures we can."

Santa Barbara County's Do-Reynoso stated at the Oct. 23 press conference that 14 states recently set records for hospitalized cases, while California's rates have declined—but that still doesn't mean it's time to reopen.

"It is really good that our hospitalization rates are going down, but we need to be mindful of the increasing cases," Do-Reynoso said. "We are not ready to throw open the gates just based on one metric." ○

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

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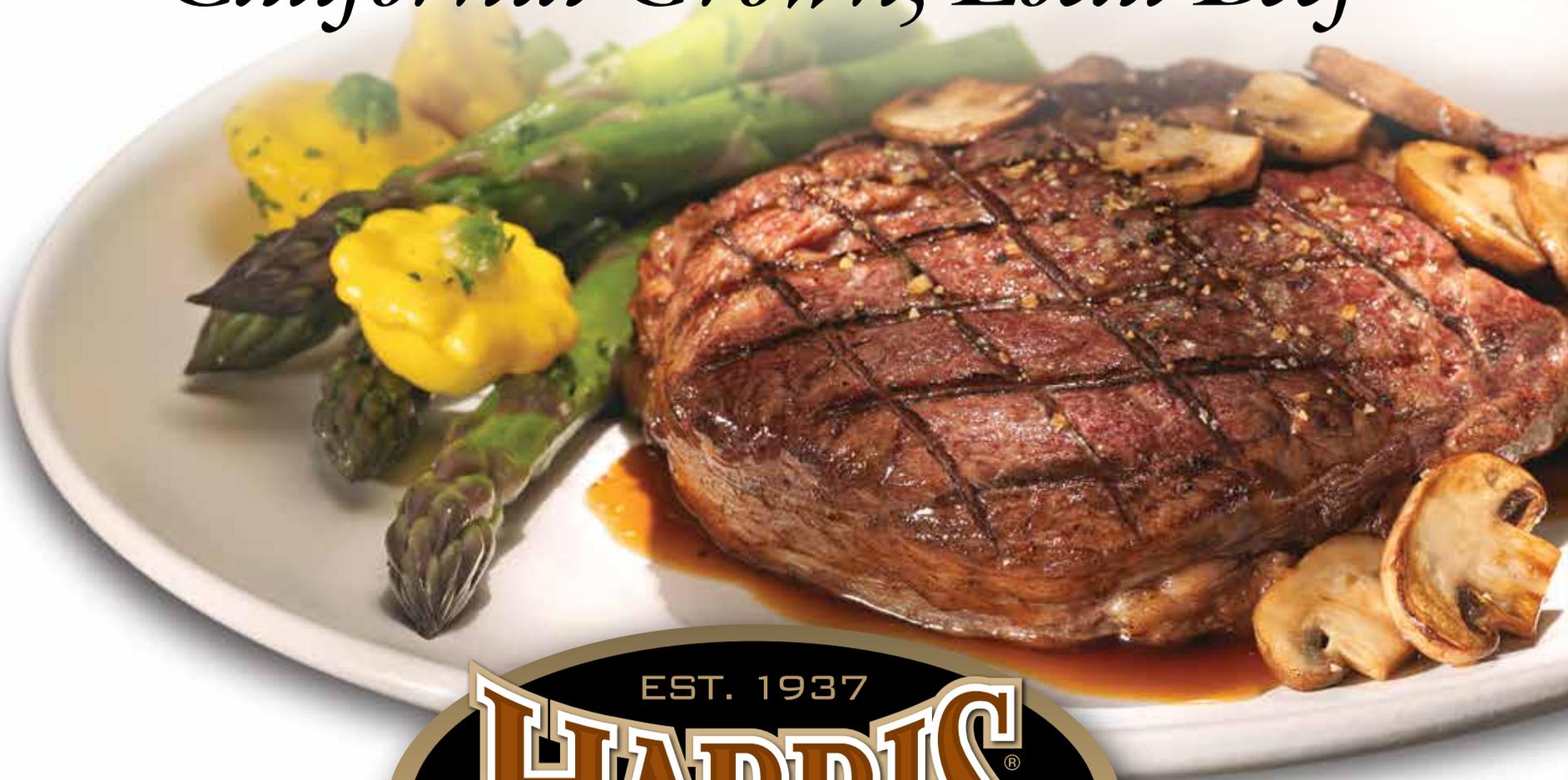


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GARDEN TRANSFORMATION: Faculty and students involved with the Delta High School Garden gather for a group photo after a day of working together. The garden is undergoing a major transformation thanks to the support and expertise of local business owner Armando Gonzalez.

Growing stronger

The Delta High School Garden is getting a major upgrade thanks to a partnership with Armando's Autobody

BY MALEA MARTIN

The Delta High School garden has been teaching students how to grow their own nutritious produce since it was first constructed in 2017, but thanks to a recent community partnership, the high school is now taking its agricultural endeavors up a notch.

"Over the last year or so, I had just been wishing that we could expand our garden," said Jeff Cooper, a social sciences teacher at Delta and one of the faculty members involved with maintaining the garden. "I've always had this vision of being more sustainable, but sustainable isn't free. ... I wanted to take it next level, but I just didn't know how."

In a twist of serendipity, Cooper found exactly who he was looking for: Armando Gonzalez, owner of Armando's Autobody in Santa Maria.

"I just happened to run into Armando while getting my car fixed this summer," Cooper recalled. "I started telling him about how I was doing gardening at Delta, and he was kind of blown away and said, 'I'd like to help you.'"

As it turned out, Gonzalez has more than one trick up his sleeve: In addition to owning his shop, Gonzalez has a background in sustainable and soilless farm production, he told the *Sun*.

"During our conversation, he started picking my brain as far as trying to do some soilless gardening and taking the garden to the 21st century," Gonzalez said. "I decided to stop by and take a look at his garden. ... I took it to heart from there."

Since partnering in July, Gonzalez has helped Cooper, the other involved faculty members, and their students make state-of-the-art updates to the garden. He's also supplied much of the materials needed to bring it all to life.

"He's completely provided all the piping and everything else to change the way we're running the drip to the plants, so we've got a system that feeds the roots of the entire plant, not just in one part of the soil," Cooper said.

Gonzalez said the new vertical garden is not only more efficient, but also allows for more students to take the process home with them.

"You don't have to have a lot of square footage to actually grow, and you don't have to use a lot of water because you're recirculating, so you actually save 90 percent of your water consumption," he said. "It's a faster growth process, which gives you the opportunity to do more cycles per year and you get a higher yield. ... We want to teach them that you don't need to have a big backyard or you

don't need to have soil in your backyard. You could actually just have a balcony and be able to produce food."

Biology teacher Juan Sanchez and crisis intervention counselor Tami Contreras also help with the garden. Cooper said between his discipline as a social sciences teacher, Sanchez in the science department, and Contreras helping students who may be struggling, the garden has provided a unique space for each of them.

"It's been part therapy space, part laboratory for science classes," Cooper said. "I started teaching indigenous, pre-Columbian agricultural practices in my world history classes."

Cooper also teaches psychology, and he said he's witnessed the impact that healthy, sustainably grown food can have on someone's physical and mental health, especially young people.

"I've noticed over the last couple of decades that students' nutritional health has been in decline," he said. "Food we're getting isn't as nutrient-rich as it used to be. One of the major causes [of mental health issues] is our nutritional habits."

While COVID-19 has presented some challenges to the garden's typical operations—before the days of social distancing, the garden would sometimes occupy 35 students at once—Cooper said the garden has continued to help his students' well-being during a trying time.

"Having students come and work outdoors, being able to interact, be in the sunlight, having their hands working in the soil, growing something—all those things are very beneficial for mental as well as physical health," he said. "We're taking advantage of the time we have to actually make this transformation."

Highlight

• The Santa Barbara Foundation is partnering with the city of Santa Maria to help businesses impacted by COVID-19 related hardships with a second round of funding from the Santa Barbara Better Together Fund Small Business Grant Program. Up to \$7,500 will be awarded per grant to small businesses in the city that are reopening and following COVID-19 guidelines—the application is open until Nov. 2. For more information in English and in Spanish, visit sbfoundation.org.

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

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JAMES HARVEY BAILEY, 80, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/16/2020, arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

STEVEN MANUEL LOPEZ, 38, passed away 10/16/2020, arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

ELEANOR LEONE HEATH, 88, of Lompoc, passed away 10/17/2020, arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary.

SALLY JEAN BARRY, 89, of Paso Robles, passed away 10/17/2020, arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home.

MARTIN W. STEYER, 92, of Solvang, passed away 10/17/2020, arrangements with Loper Funeral Chapel.

RIGOBERTO BARAJAS, 57, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/17/2020, arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

NANITA ROSE GREENE, 83, of Paso Robles, passed away 10/17/2020, arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home.

MARILYN LARSON, 96, of Cambria, passed away 10/18/2020, arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service.

GERARDO GUERRERO, JR., 36, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/19/2020, arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory.

JOYCE ROBERTA SOMMERS, 91, of

Paso Robles, passed away 10/19/2020, arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home.

DONALD FRANK BLOHM, 86, of Paso Robles, passed away 10/19/2020, arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home.

MADGE LOPEZ, 96, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/20/2020, "arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens.

WILLIAM LAURENCE BATES, 83, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/20/2020, arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel.

LAUREN NICHOLE DUNBAR, 31, of Paso Robles, passed away 10/20/2020, arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home.

DONALD FOGO, 44, of Paso Robles, passed away 10/21/2020, arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service.

CATHY J. ESPINOSA, 67, of Santa Maria, passed away 10/21/2020, arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory.

WARREN SCOTT GAUDINEER, 90, of Arroyo Grande, passed away 10/21/2020, arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel.

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- 10%** There are too many proposed efforts in each.
- 0%** I only vote on the props I care about.
- 0%** I don't vote on them; it's a waste of time.

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Lompoc rejects Vintners' BID

At its Tuesday, Oct. 20, meeting, the Lompoc City Council passed a resolution stating: "The City Council does not consent to the inclusion of the city of Lompoc in the BID." This was in response to a petition from 32 Lompoc wineries opposing the Santa Barbara Vintners' Wine Business Improvement District (BID). The petition signers are a number of Lompoc's and Santa Barbara wine country wine pioneers and well-known wineries.

The Santa Barbara Vintners has been working on a BID for more than two years. Their fourth wine BID proposes to tax 1 percent of all California direct to consumer Santa Barbara wine sales. According to the Vintners' website, this would raise \$1 million, of which \$465,000 would be spent on "salaries, overhead, and reserves." The Vintners' website states BID No. 4 will be brought to the Board of Supervisors in November/December to be effective in January. The Vintners contends the wine BID will promote "the entire wine region."

If the Board of Supervisors approves the wine BID, each incorporated city in the county must affirmatively vote to be included in the wine BID for it to be effective in each city. At a meeting of the Lompoc wineries in February, in response to being asked what the Vintners would do if a city voted not to opt in to the wine BID, the Vintners' executive director replied the Vintners would "cut out" that city's wineries and tasting rooms from the wine BID's marketing programs. Cutting out the Lompoc wineries and their tasting rooms is antithetical to the justification and purpose of the wine BID—to promote the "entire" Santa Barbara wine country and its wines.

We anticipate that after the elections, the city councils of Buellton, Solvang, and Santa Barbara will have the opportunity to express their views on this important issue.

Stephen Pepe
Lompoc

Look at short- and long-term health

More than 5,500 medical and public health scientists and 11,000 medical practitioners have signed the Barrington Declaration.

According to the declaration, "current lockdown policies are producing devastating effects on short- and long-term public health." It concludes that "keeping these measures in place until a vaccine is available will cause irreparable damage, with the underprivileged disproportionately harmed." Going forward, "the most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk." The authors call this approach "focused protection."

So everyone agrees to "listen to science"—17,500 versus Fauci and the scarf lady, end the nonsense. You won't see this reported by the mainstream media.

Now WHO agrees that lockdowns are bad. "We in the World Health Organization do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus," Dr. David Nabarro said to *The Spectator's* Andrew Neil. "The only time we believe a lockdown is justified is to buy you time to reorganize, regroup, rebalance your resources; protect your health workers who are exhausted. But by and large, we'd rather not do it."

Somebody please tell the governor and all the county health people. Stop approaching this backwards.

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village

Stop fueling the fires

Late the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 16, the Newsom administration quietly issued six new fracking permits to Aera Energy (owned by Shell and Exxon), bringing the total of approvals since April to 54.

As a candidate, Gov. Gavin Newsom promised to oppose fracking. During our recent wildfires, he took to the national stage to declare that climate change is real. Yet he continues to allow free rein to fossil fuel companies—who have spread climate denial for decades and whose product is fueling the fires—by issuing more than 1,700 new oil permits and dozens of fracking permits in 2020 alone.

California is one of the largest oil-producing states in the nation. More than 5 million of us live less than a mile from an active oil well. Evidence links exposure to toxins from drilling to asthma, lung and heart disease, birth defects, cancer, and more. We are the only major oil-producing state that has no regulations regarding the proximity of oil and gas infrastructure to communities.

In Santa Barbara County, as elsewhere, this affects mostly people of color and low-income groups, many of whom live within 2,500 feet of oil drilling and who are already at higher risk from COVID-19. Permitting drilling in these communities upholds the racist systems Newsom claims to oppose. Moreover, Newsom could save us another battle with Big Oil locally if he simply stopped approving permits.

Tell Newsom: It's time to stop issuing fossil fuel permits, drop existing oil production through a just transition, and roll out 2,500-foot health and safety buffer zones between oil drilling and the places where we live, work, and play.

Sign the petition at: actionnetwork.org/petitions/governor-newsom-stop-fuelingtheflames-of-californias-climate-crisis?source=LCA_website.

Rachel Altman
Santa Barbara

Richard Fulton brings experience to county board of education

In the midst of a year that has brought challenges to all of us, one bright spot is our ability to make our voices heard this election on a topic valued by everyone—quality education. Dr. Richard Fulton, who is running for reelection to represent District 3 on the Santa Barbara County Education Board of Trustees, has consistently provided exemplary leadership on behalf of our children and schools.

He has brought integrity, decency, and passion to the job and has been integral to the success of the game-changing Computers for Families program as well as Partners for Education, a model of public/private partnership where local businesses and committed community volunteers support our kids. He played a key role in the county's internship program, which has provided more than 650 students with internships in local businesses over the last six years.

The Santa Barbara County education board is nonpartisan and has had a track record of putting children first. Its board doesn't seek the limelight or have a political agenda—it just works tremendously hard to make sure the children of Santa Barbara County succeed. The board has been innovative and has championed creative thinking and learning. If you have ever been to the countywide science fair, you have seen how well our children have been nurtured and taught.

Dr. Fulton is a physician who comes from a family of teachers. He has spent years volunteering his time to improve education because he truly cares about our children and their futures. Richard has been our neighbor for more than 20 years, and I have seen firsthand his commitment to our community. If you live in Goleta north of the 101, or Lompoc, or portions of the Santa Ynez Valley, you live in District 3. Please join us in voting for Dr. Richard Fulton on Nov. 3.

Jim Deacon
Susan Christol Deacon, former trustee,
Santa Barbara Unified School District



What the what?

How mainstream are internet conspiracy theories, you ask? Well, OK, you didn't ask, but if you're a member of the Solvang City Council, one such conspiracy theory was an agendized part of your Oct. 27 meeting.

A 36-page presentation put together by Solvang resident, avid internet researcher, and anti-5G activist Michael Mendizza was included in the official agenda packet for the meeting. It's part of the official city staff report. Mendizza, who believes mandatory masks are a step away from mandatory vaccines, tracking chips, and around-the-clock surveillance that 5G technology will make possible, received a 30-minute-plus slot of time.

"The idea is that they want your brain to be connected to the web," he said without a trace of irony or sarcasm as I choked on the popcorn I usually enjoy during these drama-filled Tuesday night sessions. Whoever "they" is.

As an FYI, everyday citizens can't just jump in on agendized presentations given to elected government bodies. Somebody such as the city manager or the mayor has to put them there. Most government bodies rely on experts so they can make informed decisions about important city policies and business. But apparently not the city of Solvang.

In the sweetest little Danish tourist berg on the Central Coast—where the Branding and Design Committee is likely going to require COVID-19 affected businesses to put matching furniture out on the street—you just have to do some internet research and bang. Expert!

If the presentation itself wasn't shocking enough, turns out some members of the Solvang City Council are actually into Mendizza's theory. Are the only sane people in Solvang politics the ones

currently running for seats on the dais? Because the one's currently making the decisions are iffy.

City Council candidate Chris Bowyer spoke during public comment on the item. He happens to be a consultant for things like "information security and concerted disinformation campaigns." He said Mendizza's info was full of "disinformation, mistakes, and outright lies."

And he couldn't believe the words that were coming out of his own mouth: "The claim that 5G technology is going to be used to monitor and control tiny biometric computer chips in our body through the proposed towers, connecting to thousands of low-Earth orbit satellites."



Yep. I can't believe it either. But you know who can?

Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke, who's sitting comfortably in his council seat until 2022. He accused

Bowyer of being somebody who's really into "trusting your master." Whoever his "master" is.

Not to worry though, Clarke said he did his own homework. That's when he realized that 5G was more nefarious than simply faster cellphone service and Wi-Fi. And Clarke's buddy, Councilmember Daniel Johnson, whose conspiracy-believing ass won't be sitting in a council seat past 2020, definitely thinks it's wise to put the brakes on 5G.

Because we just don't have enough info to counter all the crazy talk that internet-researching "experts" presented to the City Council, "as far as health and surveillance overreach."

Oh yeah, I forgot to mention that Mendizza is also convinced 5G is going to give us all cancer. Which is a much more believable proposition than brain chips. *But still!* ☹️

The canary wonders if this is a Twilight Zone episode. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

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—Caleb Wiseblood

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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

JOELLEN CHRONES AND TONI ZYBELL: LVAA FEATURED ARTISTS A collection of items, including fused glass hanging pieces, bowls, trays, and plates, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, felted hats, purses, and wood burned and painted items. Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Nov. 29 Free. 805-737-1129. lompocart.org. Lompoc Valley Art Association, 119 E. Cypress, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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. coelhohomusic.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.

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: BOOK CLUB OVER THE PHONE A teleconference book discussion group, meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information email jgaytan@cityofsantamaria.org First Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St.

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

VALLEY ART GALLERY OF SANTA MARIA: FALL ART SHOW 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.

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

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.

MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-6, 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

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.

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.

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. sломakerspace.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 slooma.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. 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 slooma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562.

VIRTUAL ART AFTER DARK Tune into Facebook to see what local artists are up to. First Friday of every month Free. facebook.com/artsobispo. Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

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. Free. facebook.com/artsobispo. Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: ARTFUL QUILTING Inspired by Picasso's etchings and Matisse's cutouts, create a series of drawings with fabric and thread. Instructor Gina Gilbert will teach you how to transfer drawings to quilted projects using appliqué, traditional quilting, trapunto, and



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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2020 • 12TH ANNUAL



NEW TIMES
MUSIC AWARDS

**DON'T MISS
THIS YEAR'S
SPECIAL**

NTMA
PUBLICATION

NOV. 12!

The issue will contain interviews with and photos of the first place winners; the second and third place winners will be announced; and this year's Readers' Choice and Local Legend award recipients will be revealed, as well!

Don't miss this special publication that will shine a spotlight on some of the best musicians on the Central Coast.

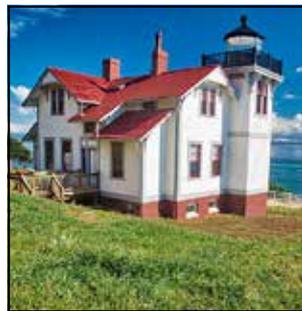
NewTimesSLO.com

**Winning songs will
be featured on our
NTMA 2020
playlist on Spotify.**

**Follow us
on Spotify!**

@NewTimesMusic





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



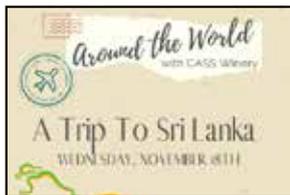
2020 Estate Beef Dinner Series: Brisket
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Open Air Vineyard Yoga
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
 CASS Winery, Paso Robles



Point San Luis Lighthouse Virtual Tour
WED: OCTOBER 28
 Point San Luis Lighthouse



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



2020 Friendsciving at Cass
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
 Cass Winery



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



2020 Holiday Market at Cass
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
 Cass Winery



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



Devin Dawson
SATURDAY, MARCH 6
 Rava Wines + Events



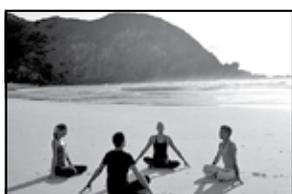
Sunset Photo Shoot
FRIDAY, MARCH 19
 Point San Luis Lighthouse



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



Randall King
SATURDAY, MAY 22
 Rava Wines + Events



Yoga at the Lighthouse
SATURDAY, MAY 29
 Point San Luis Lighthouse



Paint n Sip at Point SLO
SATURDAY, JUNE 19
 Point San Luis Lighthouse

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

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

POWERED BY: **NewTimes & Sun**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

hand and machine stitching. Tuesdays, Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m. through Nov. 21 \$160 members, \$175 general. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/product/quilting-zoom/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT WORKSHOP Create a whimsical fused glass hanging ornament using various pieces of pre-cut glass. We are limiting the class size of this popular workshop to 6 people per time slot. All materials included. Must pre-register via email and masks are required. **Nov. 7**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$50 for 3 ornaments. 408-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

OUTDOOR STUDIO SALE AND POP-UP ART FAIR Consider supporting your local artists by purchasing original art, and/or a gift certificate for art classes. This outdoor "pop-up" event will feature a diverse group of artists from the North County working in glass, embroidery, painting, and carved cardboard. Social distancing and masks required. **Nov. 1**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF ELKS RECREATION



DEAD INSIDE

Elks Recreation and the Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department co-host Haunted Hills, a drive-through Halloween attraction at the Elks Event Center through Saturday, Oct. 31. Limited tickets, scheduled in hourly increments between 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, are \$30 per car (available in advance only). Call (805) 925-4125 or visit elksrec.com for more info. The venue is located at 4040 S. Highway 101, Santa Maria.

—C.W.

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

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

LOMPOC/VANDBERG

GOOD MORNING LOMPOC The show is hosted by Lompoc locals Michelle and Jeremy Ball, who aim to keep

the community connected while staying home at the same time. Episodes are also available to watch on YouTube after they're streamed live. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Online, Inquire for Facebook address.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. partnersincaring.org. 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.

SANTA MARIA LIBRARY: WHAT'S COOKIN' SANTA MARIA? A video conference cookbook club. Join the discussion on *The Nightmare Before Dinner* by Zach Neil. Choose a recipe to make from the book and share the results with the group. **Oct. 31**, 3-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION WITH GRAND RE-OPENING SPECIALS Enjoy a free barbecue, an American flag exchange, giveaways, kids activities, store discounts, vendor demos, raffles, and more. All proceeds go to the ECHO Group and Band of Brothers to support local veterans. **Nov. 7**, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 805-937-3536. Oak Knolls Hardware, 1155 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt, oakknollshardware.com.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. ongoing Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwindstamaria.com.

YOGA FOR MANKIND: ZOOM CLASSES Offering a variety of virtual yoga and pilates classes over the summer. Check site for class schedule. ongoing Starts at \$10. yoga4mankind.org. Yoga for Mankind, 130 N Broadway, suite B, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DANA'S PUNKIN CHUNKIN Don't know what to do with your Halloween Pumpkins after the holiday is over? Get rid of your Halloween pumpkins the fun way at DANA Adobe and Cultural Center. Come see your pumpkin fly at DANA. **Nov. 7**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$8 or 3 for \$20. 805-929-5679. danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

HALCYON PSYCHIC WEEKEND Offering a variety of techniques to provide guidance of love, travel, relationships, finance, and more. By appointment only. First Saturday, Sunday of every month, 9 p.m. through Jan. 3 805-489-2424. Halcyon Store Post Office, 936 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ACORN ADVENTURES Kids are invited to discover the natural world with Environmental Management and Protection major, Danika. Explore and get hands-on with nature to better understand the plants, animals and natural processes found around us. Parents welcome. Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m. through Dec. 2 Free. 805-541-1400. slobg.org/calendar-of-events/acorn-adventures. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY 5K Life Steps Foundation invites you to its first Every Day is Earth Day 5K virtual benefit event. This virtual event is open to everyone. You can walk, run, bike, or hike to complete the event. Through Oct. 31, 12-11:45 p.m. \$25-\$125. 562-699-4991. ed5k.org/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

LITERACY FOR LIFE TUTOR TRAINING Literacy For Life has a San Luis Obispo countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. If you are interested in attending the training but need help with using Zoom, please email assistant@literacyforlifeso.org. **Nov. 7**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. 805-541-4219. literacyforlifeso.org/become-a-tutor.php. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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

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. sbcfoodaction.org/community-food-farming-discussion-series/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

WIN-WIN: 20-20 SITEWIDE SALE Get 20% off 6 or bottles. 20% of proceeds to COVID-19 Community

FILE IMAGE COURTESY OF LENA RUSHING



DISMAL DYSTOPIA

Linnaea's Cafe in Downtown SLO presents its latest exhibition, The Art of Dissent, through Sunday, Nov. 8. This group show features political art from Lena Rushing, Colleen Marlow, Robbie Conal, Elizabeth Chaney, and Mark Bryan. The cafe is located at 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo. Call (805) 541-5888 or visit linnaeas.com to find out more.

—C.W.

Response Project. Club members get double the discount, 40% off. Free curbside pickup, \$10 flat rate shipping within California, regular rates apply to addresses in other states. Through Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. vinarobles.com/. Vina Robles Winery, 3700 Mill Rd., Paso Robles, 805-227-4812.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SOLDIERS, SWEETHEARTS, AND SONGS FROM THE LAST PANDEMIC AND WWI Bring history to life. Local singer/actor Diana Diaz Boadella reads love letters between soldiers and sweethearts, and serenades with pop songs of the era. For all ages. **Nov. 7**, 6-7 p.m. Free. clarkcenter.org/event/diana-diaz-pop-songs-of-ww1/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444. ○

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.

PLAN TO AGE BETTER: LIFE CHOICES TO MAKE NOW

SLO Village presents Angie King to share information about decisions you can make now to create a better future as you age: powers of attorney, health care directives, and other tools. SLO Village is a vibrant community working together to create a better aging experience. **Oct. 29**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. 805-242-6440. slovillage.org. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

PUBLIC TALK: A NEW VIEW OF GOD

Phil Hockley will share his life-transforming experience after finding a new view of God as Love itself. This new perspective of God and reality that Christian Science opens up is one that offers freedom from whatever in our lives seems painful, debilitating. **Nov. 7**, 2-3 p.m. Free. 805-543-5853. cstalks.org/slo-hockley/. 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.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Youth Mental Health First Aid is a comprehensive training designed to equip educators, family members, and caregivers (18 years or older) with the skills to identify, understand, and respond to the signs or risk factors of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. **Nov. 2**, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free. 978-697-0629. bethedifferencesb.org/. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BARRE AND BRUNCH Includes 60-minute barre class from the Bar Method in SLO, 1 glass of wine, and 1 brunch item. **Nov. 1**, 9-11 a.m. \$55. my805tix.com. Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles, 805-369-6100.

LEARN TO FLY INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR

The Paso Robles Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 465 is organizing a "Flying Start Seminar" with the goal of providing interested adults 18 and older a pathway to flight training and possible involvement with our local EAA chapter. **Nov. 7**, 9-11:45 a.m. Free. 805-586-0550. chapters.eaa.org/ea465/eagle-flights. Paso Robles Airport, 4912 Wing Way, Paso Robles.

PASO, HERE WE COME

Redwings Horse Sanctuary is making their permanent home on Union Road in Paso Robles. Donate to its \$1 million fundraising campaign. Redwings offers public tours, volunteering with the horses, and a foster to adopt program. ongoing Redwings Horse Sanctuary, Union Road, Paso Robles, 831-386-0135, RedwingsHorseSanctuary.org.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S AND PROMISE FLOWER GARDEN

Participants are invited to watch a virtual Opening Ceremony before walking as individuals or in small groups across the county, in lieu of a large gathering. After walking, they can experience the view-only Promise Flower Garden at Creston Village. **Oct. 31**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-547-3830. act.alz.org/slo. Creston Village, 1919 Creston Rd, Paso Robles.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

STANDING SUN: PURCHASES AND DELIVERIES

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Arts Briefs

Santa Maria Public Library's virtual cookbook club highlights *The Nightmare Before Dinner*

IMAGE COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM



The Santa Maria Public Library holds its next virtual cookbook meeting, What's Cookin' Santa Maria?, on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 4 p.m. Participants will discuss author Zach Neil's *The Nightmare Before Dinner: Recipes to Die For*. This book includes more than 60 recipes from Beetle House, a restaurant and bar inspired by the films of Tim Burton.

Prior to the meeting, attendees are also encouraged to choose a recipe from the book to make and share their results with the group. Library card holders can access the book through Hoopla (email ssstarnaud@cityofsantamaria.org for details). For more info on the club, call (805) 925-0994 or visit cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library.

Harold J. Miozzi Art Gallery's new Zoom series features Hancock and Cuesta graduates

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAROLD J. MIOZZI ART GALLERY



In collaboration with the Cuesta College Student Art Circle, the Harold J. Miozzi Art Gallery is launching its Alumni Series, a new bi-monthly Zoom webinar series that will feature graduates of both Allan Hancock College's and Cuesta College's art programs. The first entry of the series, slated to take place over Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 12, from noon to 1 p.m., will feature two guest speakers—photographer Crista Tappan and sculptor Joshua Solis.

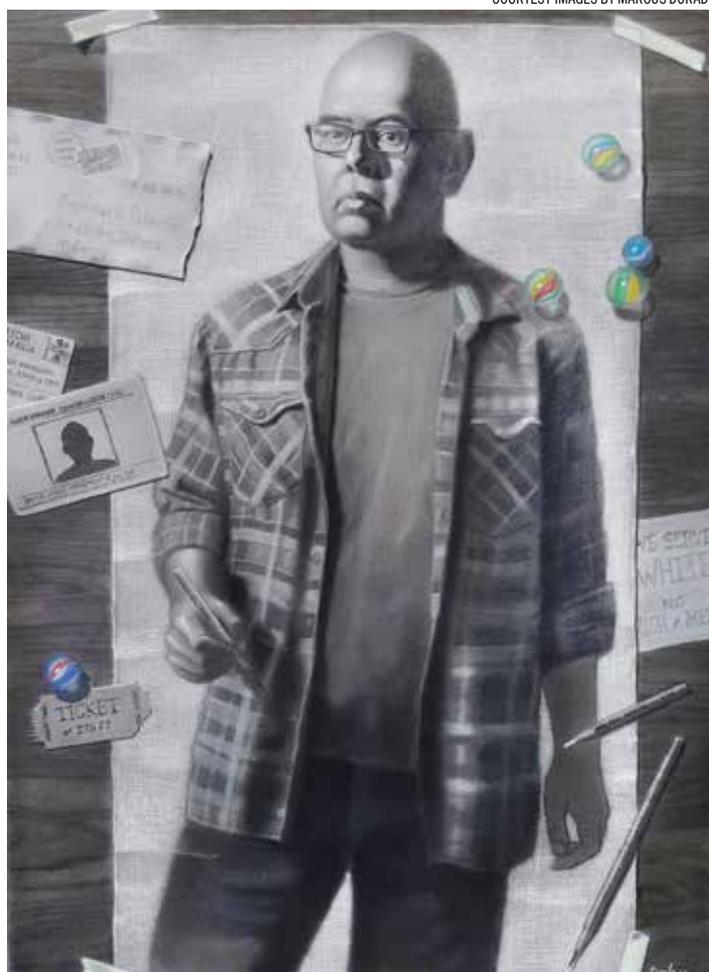
Tappan grew up in San Luis Obispo and currently resides in Portland, Oregon, where she received her BFA in photography from the Pacific Northwest College of Art earlier this year. Among her local exhibitions was Cowardice, an art show at Wicked Step Gallery in SLO. Solis grew up in Santa Maria and received an MFA in sculpture from San Francisco State University in 2017.

"My parents imparted their cultural values to me," Solis, a Hispanic second-generation American, said in an artist statement. "I can now say with pride, I embrace my past, which has guided me, step by step, into the artist I am today."

According to press materials, the intent of the Alumni Series is to celebrate the work of Hancock and Cuesta graduates and inspire and inform current students on various career paths and practices. The program will be moderated by two hosts, Brittany Mojo, ceramics lead at Cuesta College, and Emma Saperstein, curator at Harold J. Miozzi Art Gallery.

For more info on the Alumni Series and the Zoom link to join the program's first meeting, call (805) 546-3202 or email haroldjmiozziartgallery@gmail.com.

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



COURTESY IMAGES BY MARCOS DORADO

MAN IN THE MIRROR: One of Marcos Dorado's featured pieces in his new virtual exhibit is a self-portrait titled *Me, The Mexican Boy, The American Artist*, which he created with charcoal, white chalk, and pastel on toned paper.

Pensive portraits

Artist and photographer Marcos Dorado headlines the Ann Foxworthy Gallery's first virtual exhibition

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

When the Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria originally penciled in artist and photographer Marcos Dorado for a solo exhibit, it was a year in advance of its opening, gallery director Laura-Susan Thomas told the *Sun*.

"We try to plan a year or so out, so Marcos Dorado was scheduled to be our first exhibiting artist this fall in person before we had any idea of what was to transpire in 2020," Thomas said. "I am grateful that Marcos was willing to pivot to the virtual aspect and was up for the challenge in trying a new format in this virtual art space."

Dorado's new show, which is now online to view through Friday, Dec. 4, marks the first virtual exhibition presented by the Ann Foxworthy Gallery. Attendees can access the exhibit for free through the Hancock website (hancockcollege.edu/gallery).

"I'm quite happy with exploring the potential of a virtual exhibit. Certainly it offers new possibilities that a traditional exhibit does not," Dorado said. "I'd describe my show as a mini retrospective of my work given that I included drawings from over 10 years ago, recent drawings,

and current photography."

Through both of Dorado's chosen media, Thomas said that her first impression of the artist was a powerful sense of individualism.

"There is empathy and insight in the way that Marcos Dorado thoughtfully captures each individual through his drawings or photography," Thomas said. "I feel Marcos is connected to his subjects on an insightful level and, through his art, finds a way to depict them with respect and honor each person's individualism."

One of Dorado's featured pieces is a self-portrait titled *Me, The Mexican Boy, The American Artist*, which he created with charcoal, white chalk, and pastel on toned paper. He described the drawing as "a sort of autobiography" in an artist statement.

"At its core, it's a self-portrait. It's also a document sharing what an immigrant and family go through," Dorado said in his statement featured with the piece.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Dorado immigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1974. Dorado illustrated his family's struggles within the self-portrait by including items from his memories—"a Mexican bus ticket,



MOTHER AND SON: "The pandemic has led us all to reexamine many of our relationships. I've always been close to my mother, who's now 72," artist Marcos Dorado said. "I often wonder how lonely and fearful it would be for her to be hospitalized on a ventilator."

Art with heart

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Allan Hancock College hosts a virtual exhibition of Marcos Dorado's art and photography online at hancockcollege.edu/gallery. The exhibit will remain online through Friday, Dec. 4.

a racist sign common in Fresno up until the late '60s, a work permit which my dad wanted but had no legal way of obtaining," he listed.

Aside from drawing, Dorado also aims to use his photography to explore more than 20 other immigrants' stories in an ongoing project titled *Immigrant Me*, which began as an exhibit at the Fresno Art Museum in 2018.

"I'm quite passionate about *Immigrant Me* because at the heart of my work, I'm fascinated with telling stories. During the current presidential administration, a stronger negative rhetoric has developed against immigrants," Dorado told the *Sun*. "I aim to help counterbalance this disfavorable perspective. We had to work hard physically, academically, and legally to become Americans as we were not American simply by being born here."

While Dorado's new virtual showcase includes both old and recent works, including several selections from *Immigrant Me*, the artist reexamined each of his older featured pieces, adding new context from his current perspective—especially in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. He completed one featured portrait of his mother, for example, in 2017, but decided to include the piece in his new show, as it has recently taken on a whole new meaning for him.

"The pandemic has led us all to

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARCOS DORADO

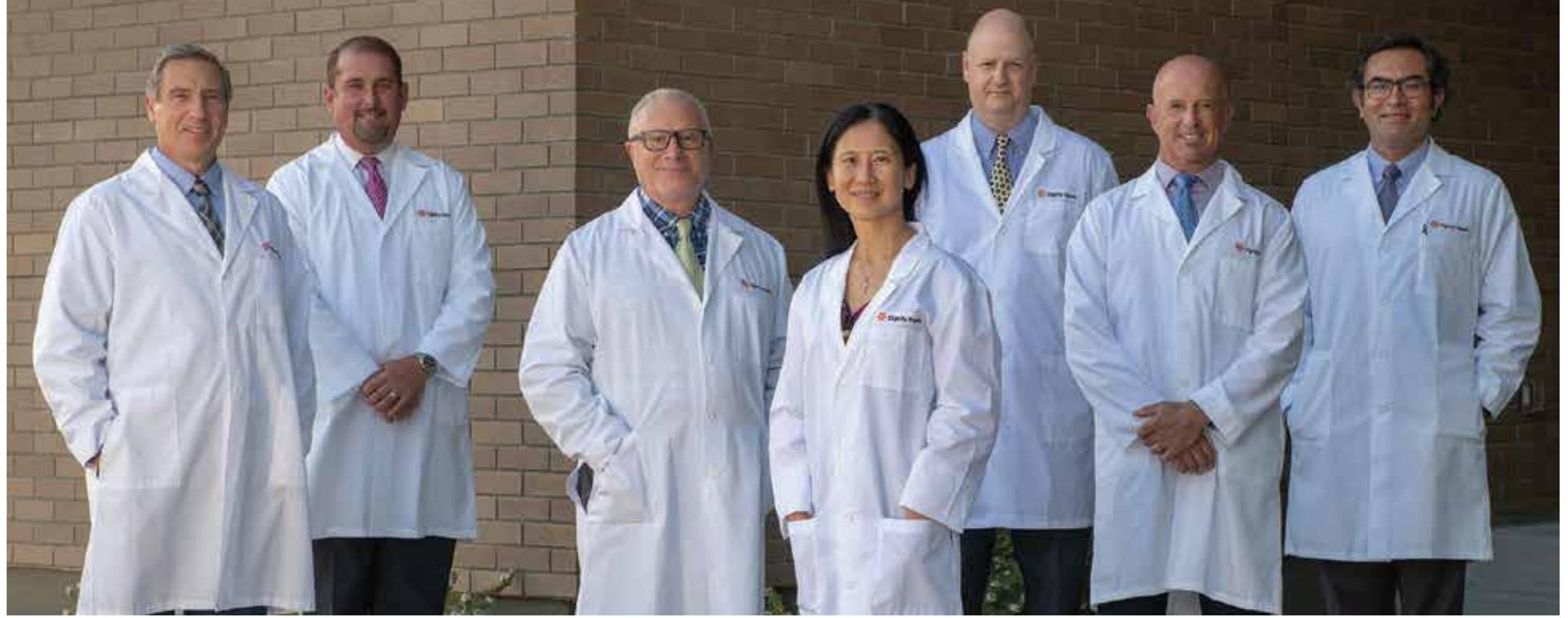


SHOOT FIRST, DRAW LATER: "This image represents me as an artist, this fall. It's certainly safer to shoot outside than to draw with a model in my studio," said Marcos Dorado, while discussing a photograph of his fiancée, Lupe, he took during the ongoing pandemic.

reexamine many of our relationships. I've always been close to my mother, who's now 72. She lives 30 minutes away and I visit her once a week," Dorado said. "I keep my mask on at all times when I go over. I don't stay long. I often wonder how lonely and fearful it would be for her to be hospitalized on a ventilator."

"I'm thankful that nearly four years ago, she finally agreed to pose for me," Dorado added while recalling his mother's initial reluctance. "For three hours, she knitted and we talked away as I drew her. Afterwards, I worked on the portrait for another 30 hours." ○

Send Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood back to the drawing board at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



Robert Dichmann MD, Dustin Stevenson DO, Mission Hope Cancer Center; Keith Ayrans MD, Mission Hope Cancer Center - Arroyo Grande; Wei Bai MD, Mission Hope Cancer Center; JT Link MD, Thomas Spillane MD, and Gorgun Akpek MD, SLO Oncology & Hematology.

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TWO BIRDS WITH ONE BRUSH: For the show, Portraits of Santa Barbara Birds, Emil Morhardt painted 12 different species that can be found on the Central Coast, including marbled godwits, great blue herons, great egrets, great horned owls, barn owls, California scrub jays, and roadrunners.

Flock together

Acrylic artist Emil Morhardt presents *Portraits of Santa Barbara Birds* at Gallery Los Olivos

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Probably best known locally for painting pelicans, seagulls, and other coastal birds, acrylic artist Emil Morhardt embraced a new approach for his latest exhibit at Gallery Los Olivos, which is scheduled to run through November.

"Most of my previous work was painted on white backgrounds. But in this show, I have many images on black and gray backgrounds—which are very dramatic," Morhardt said. "I have also included more inland birds, whereas the previous exhibits have been focused on shorebirds."

The artist's new showcase, *Portraits of Santa Barbara Birds*, will include 28 paintings, all previously unexhibited. Morhardt started working on the paintings in April, shortly after COVID-19 mitigation measures began. Prior to the pandemic, Morhardt had planned trips to Greenland and other destinations this year, options he called "out the window" for a while.

"But at least I have got a lot of guitar and piano playing in," said Morhardt, who found ample time at home for music and painting during voluntary quarantine.

Portraits of Santa Barbara Birds marks the third in-person exhibit Gallery Los Olivos has hosted since its reopening in September. Morhardt will be on-site working at the gallery himself on Nov. 1 and Nov. 13 through 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. all four days.

A Santa Barbara-based artist and retired biology professor, Morhardt has been painting nearly all of his life, as he learned to paint at an early age from his father, a watercolorist and art teacher. One theme that combines Morhardt's love for birds and career as a biologist is his passion for the environment. Morhardt worked as an operations director for an environmental consulting firm before teaching environmental biology at Claremont McKenna College. He retired in 2017.

Morhardt is also a seasoned photographer

Take flight

Portraits of Santa Barbara Birds, a new show featuring paintings by Emil Morhardt, opens at Gallery Los Olivos on Sunday, Nov. 1, and will run through the end of the month. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or gallerylosolivos.com to find out more.



HERON HERO: "My paintings are about ... how different individuals of the same species vary from one another in appearance and behavior over the year and throughout their lifetimes," said Emil Morhardt.

and always uses his own photographic references of birds to paint from. For *Portraits of Santa Barbara Birds*, Morhardt painted 12 different species that can be found on the Central Coast, including marbled godwits, great blue herons, great egrets, great horned owls, barn owls, California scrub jays, and roadrunners.

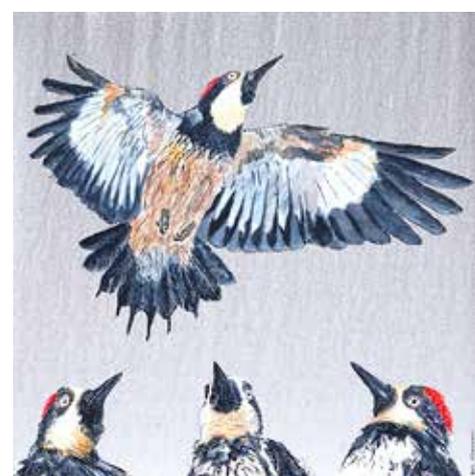
"I've also been experimenting with gray transparent acrylic washes as backgrounds on a series of 24-by-24-inch canvases of groups of crows, ravens, and acorn woodpeckers," said Morhardt, who painted from photographs he had taken of birds at Lake Cachuma, Mission Canyon, Hendry's Beach, the Carrizo Plain, and other areas.

Morhardt's goal as a painter is "to capture the freedom, inquisitiveness, and social interactions that birds show in the natural world," he explained.

Using a high level of detail, Morhardt is able to illustrate a unique, individual personality



THAT'S SO RAVEN: Emil Morhardt used gray transparent acrylic washes as backgrounds on a series of 24-by-24-inch canvases of groups of crows, ravens, and acorn woodpeckers.



LEARNING TO FLY: Emil Morhardt's goal as a painter is to capture the freedom, inquisitiveness, and social interactions that birds show in the natural world.

within each bird he paints.

"It's easy to think of 'birds of a feather' as being nearly identical, but when you start watching them carefully you quickly see it isn't so. It's particularly obvious when I examine the high-resolution photos that I take as reference materials for my paintings," the artist said.

"My paintings are about understanding what individual birds are doing and how different individuals of the same species vary from one another in appearance and behavior over the year and throughout their lifetimes." ☉

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is feeling peckish. Send wings to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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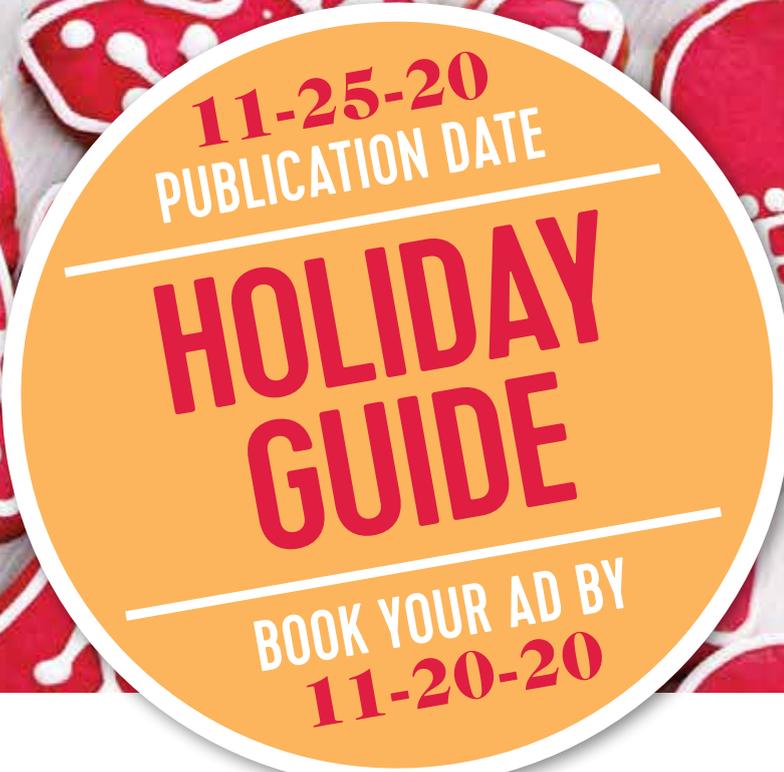
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PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBLIN TELEVISION

Get your Halloween on!

Set mainly in 1980s England, this supernatural horror thriller created by Mike Flanagan and loosely based on Henry James' novella *The Turn of the Screw* follows Dani Clayton, an American au pair who takes a job overseeing young Flora (Amelie Bea Smith) and Miles (Benjamin Evan Ainsworth), recently orphaned and under the care of their uncle, Henry Wingrave (Henry Thomas). In addition to the children and Dani, the household staff includes groundskeeper Jamie (Amelia Eve), housekeeper Mrs. Grose (T'Nia Miller), and cook Owen (Rahul Kohli). Soon after starting her job, Dani discovers she's taken the place of former governess, Miss Jessel (Tahirah Sharif), who drowned in the estate's lake. Meanwhile, former valet Peter Quint (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), who absconded with some of the estate's wealth, may have returned to stalk the grounds. (nine episodes totaling eight hours and 14 min.)

Glen: This is second in the Haunting series after *The Haunting of Hill House* (2018), which I never saw, but after watching this atmospheric and genuinely creepy miniseries, I'm ready to take a look at the first. *The Turn of the Screw* is really the jumping-off point for this series, which soon moves beyond Dani's story to explore the other main characters, each of

whom has secrets to hide and demons in pursuit. This isn't a modern-day horror flick but more of a slow burn. Yes, there are jump scares and some violence, but the episodes rely more on an unsettling atmosphere. Instead of believing in ghosts, the characters are questioning their own sanity. The house itself is a character, its sprawling design re-created in Flora's dollhouse, which she's filled with handmade talisman representing the story's various characters. The grounds, too, have their own creepiness, with the aforementioned lake, often awash in a layer of fog, and an old stone chapel dating back to the early 1600s. As the story proceeds, we discover Bly has a long history of paranormal goings-on.

Anna: Slow burn is right, but the payoff is worth it. It definitely relies more on the storyline staying intriguing than it does on jump scares, though they did manage to get me plenty of times. Dani is a former teacher and clearly trying to escape some memories. When Henry hires her on, he tells her in no uncertain terms that if she wishes to keep the position, she won't bother him with anything less than life-or-death emergencies out at Bly. As it turns out, Henry isn't just a blustering and busy jerk, he's hiding from his own demons lurking out at his brother's estate. Mrs. Grose is increasingly lost in her own world; Owen is struggling to care for his mother who's lost in her own world of dementia; and Dani can't shake the past that seems to find her in every reflection. The children are increasingly strange, Miles especially. It's a spooky setup, and while horror can sometimes struggle to end satisfactorily, *The Haunting of Bly Manor* manages to keep it creepy right to the end.

Glen: Each episode is its own little storyline, and I thought one of the most effective was episode five, "The Altar of the Dead," which focuses on Mrs. Grose. In it, she flashes back and forth between time. She opens a door, steps through, and she's in a new outfit in a different moment of her own history. She repeatedly returns to the first day she met and interviewed Owen for the cook position. "Haven't we done this before?" she asked Owen. She's meant to learn something from this revolving memory, and when she does, it's oh so satisfying. Another really effective episode is eight, "The Romance of Certain Old Clothes," where we discover the origin of the Lady in the Lake, a ghostly figure that walks the mansion and its ground. It's a period piece going back centuries. It's also worth noting that the entire story is bookended. It opens in 2007 at a wedding, and a woman (Carla Gugino, the story's narrator), agrees to share a ghost story with the guests. We return to the wedding at the end, giving this old fashioned ghost story a satisfying resolution. I really enjoyed it!

Anna: Those two episodes definitely stand out, and while Dani may be presented as the focus of the narrator's tale, we soon see that this is a story much larger than one person or even time period. It gives the manor its own life and breadth, almost making it another character in the web being built. Dani is haunted by a shadowed figure whose eyes shine in big, rounded lights who follows her from mirror to mirror, always reminding her of the dread and guilt sitting on her chest. We get to learn about these characters' pasts, and that in itself is much more satisfying than if the series tried to keep it all a mystery. We have enough to figure out with some trips through memories and uncertainty about what is actual reality vs. not. I'd totally check out *The Haunting of Hill House*; if *Bly Manor* is any indication, it should be a good one to add to our Halloween list! ○



BUMP IN THE NIGHT: Housekeeper Mrs. Grose (T'Nia Miller, foreground) and the Wingrave orphans—Flora (Amelie Bea Smith) and Miles (Benjamin Evan Ainsworth)—share their house with strange apparitions, in the Netflix miniseries *The Haunting of Bly Manor*.

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

THE HAUNTING OF BLY MANOR

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

TV & Film Reviews

GET ORGANIZED WITH THE HOME EDIT

What's it rated? **Not rated**
 When? **2020**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin bring their special brand of organization onto your screen to inspire viewers to unpack their lives and reinvent their spaces. Big fans of sorting by color and use of containers, these two bright and bubbly ladies transform everything from celebrity spaces to family kitchens that need some help. Each episode features two different edits, from Eva Longoria's new room for her growing son to an after-school program whose drab surroundings need a big boost.

This program may not be everyone's cup of tea; its ratings on imdb.com and audience score on Rotten Tomatoes are both pretty dire, but for someone like me who eats up home renovation and organization shows, it totally hit the spot.

Clea and Joanna present a user-friendly way to keep your space in order while also providing function and making even the dull stuff like medical records bright and pretty.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOME EDIT

MAKING RAINBOWS: Two organization specialists—Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin—travel to make the home dreams of both everyday Americans and celebrities a reality, available on Netflix.

Producer Reese Witherspoon and her movie wardrobe closet are featured in the first episode, and we get to gush right along with the hosts as they pull her most iconic outfits into the spotlight and sort them ever so carefully. It's a joy. Check this out if you like a show about inspiration for the home. (eight 30-min. episodes).

—Anna

POLTERGEIST

What's it rated? **PG**
 When? **1982**

Where's it showing? **Netflix and Amazon Prime**

"They're here." Tobe Hooper (*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*) directs this 1982 horror classic about a family's home that's haunted by paranormal activities. Co-written by Steven Spielberg and Michael Grais, it follows Steven and Diane Freeling (Craig T. Nelson and JoBeth Williams), who've moved their family to Cuesta Verde, a quiet California planned community.

When their youngest of three children, Carol Anne (Heather O'Rourke), begins conversing with the television as it transmits static, things quickly get weird. Furniture rearranges itself, silverware bends, and then Carol Anne is sucked into a supernatural vortex, leading to a call to parapsychologists to examine the house. Eventually spiritual medium Tangina Barrons (Zelda Rubinstein) is called in, Carol Anne is recovered, and Tangina declares, "This house is clean." Not by a long shot!

What makes the film so potent, besides being pretty darn scary, is the family dynamic. This is really about a family coming together to save one of their own, and the tale is told



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

ECTOPLASMIC SOUP: Diane Freeling (JoBeth Williams) learns the horrible truth that their dream home is built over a haunted graveyard, in the 1982 horror classic, *Poltergeist*, currently screening on Netflix and Amazon Prime.

through their eyes, hence the fear is palpable. This one's always worth revisiting. (114 min.) ○

—Glen



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNIE GREENE



HEFTY BURGER: 101 Grill's Cult Classic features a healthy amount of cheddar atop a 1/3-pound patty, plus lettuce and tomato.



BASKET OF YUM: The 101 Grill in Santa Maria serves up pork katsu, which comes with rice and a choice of salad—macaroni, kimchi, or potato.



ORDER UP: Comfort food dished out quickly is the name of 101 Grill's game, as Santa Maria's newest restaurant aims to please with upscale fast food items such as teriyaki chicken.

Shop and eat

Hungry shoppers in the Crossroads shopping center can find 101 Grill at 2214 S. Bradley Road, No. D-2, in Santa Maria. Find out more info by calling (805) 631-5609 or visiting the 101 Grill Monday through Sunday between 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Greene said that business has started out fairly slowly, but she's hoping that as more people learn that 101 Grill is open, the number of customers will pick up.

"We'll do a promotion Nov. 1," she said. "We hope to send a poster in the mail to every residential address in Santa Maria. Customers can get a two-for-one deal with any two combos, with one at 40 percent off if the other is purchased at full price."

Though 101 Grill's business isn't as brisk as Greene would like, she said there are already some popular menu items.

"The short ribs, (Cult Classic) burger, garlic chicken, teriyaki chicken, and pork katsu are the best sellers," Greene said.

The 101 Grill is fairly new, but Greene is no newbie to the restaurant business.

She's part owner of Cha 101 in Santa Maria, which features a variety of boba teas in addition to Taiwanese snacks—pot stickers are popular—near Ross and the 99 Cents Only Store on Betteravia. Cha 101 has been open since 2016, and although she likes their teas very much, Greene said some of their menu items aren't an all-day drink for her.

"I can't drink the caffeine in the afternoon or evening, or I cannot sleep. The young people don't seem to worry about that. Cha 101 is very popular with Hancock College students," she said.

With Cha 101 humming along, Greene decided she could go with another restaurant passion of hers: helping create an upscale fast food establishment in Santa Maria.

"I had been in the restaurant business for 20 years, and I was ready to go with my passion," Greene said.

Greene said Xiaoqian Liu, Michael's wife and a close friend, helps run Cha 101.

"Since Cha 101 is stable, I can spend most of my time [at 101 Grill]," said Greene. "I'm



PROTEIN WITH A TWIST: Fast food with Asian flair is coming out of 101 Grill's kitchen with proteins such as the Kalbi barbecue short-ribs.

always working."

Though she's often busy with work, Greene said she does get to see her siblings and her mother, who live in the area.

"My mom is 81 years old, but she looks younger," Greene said. "She looks great."

Greene moved to Santa Maria in 2012, and has been enthralled with the area ever since.

"Santa Maria is not a big city, and I like that. The people here are very friendly. The weather is nice, although [the first half of October] was really hot."

Eventually, Greene would like to open another business in Santa Maria, though that will be sometime down the road.

"Once [101 Grill's] business settles down, I can consider the next step. The people here are really nice," she said. "That's why I opened another restaurant in Santa Maria." ○

Contributor Kenny Cress is a carnivore who's open to pretty much any meat dish. Reach him through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

Upscale fast food

The 101 Grill offers a different take on a typical burgers and sandwiches menu

BY KENNY CRESS

Annie Greene saw what she figured was a culinary need in Santa Maria. So she decided to fill it.

"There isn't much upscale fast food here, and most of what there is is pretty expensive," she said.

So she and friends Michael Xu and Claire Reyes decided to open a new restaurant that features what Greene bills as upscale fast food.

"We had been thinking of opening a restaurant for quite some time," Greene said.

Their spot, the 101 Grill, opened in the The Crossroads shopping center in Santa Maria on Sept. 26, offering a variety of proteins, sandwiches, and salads.

Burger fans should check out the Cult Classic Burger, with a hearty slice of cheddar atop a 1/3-pound patty, lettuce, and tomato. It comes with a choice of fries, julienne or

curly. Meat lovers can also salivate over the beef fajitas, barbecued short ribs, or teriyaki chicken.

Salads at 101 Grill are about more than lettuce, with options like macaroni salad, potato salad, and a Korean favorite—kimchi salad, which features cabbage soaked in garlic, ginger, soy sauce, vinegar, and chili flakes.

Of course, it wouldn't be fast food without a fryer, so 101 Grill's Out of the Basket offerings include delicately fried shrimp dishes—crispy torpedo shrimp and honey golden shrimp—panko-crusting pork or chicken katsu and garlic fried chicken, which come with rice, mixed greens, and your choice of one of the aforementioned salads.

Although there isn't indoor dining available just yet, customers can order takeout or can dine outside in the complex's common dining area. Vogue Nails is on the immediate left of 101 Grill, and Blenders is on the right.

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1650 E Clark #231, Santa Maria

Sunny Hills Delight! This 2 bedroom 1 and 3/4 bathroom mobile home has been tastefully updated throughout. The remodeled kitchen is very spacious with a breakfast bar, pantry, and utility closet. The living room and dining area have an open feel. Both bathrooms have been beautifully updated. The cozy master bedroom with large master bathroom provides great storage for all of your linens and more! Freshly painted inside & out within the last year. There are two entrances to this home. One up the front steps on to a lovely front porch, the other from the carport with a handicap wheelchair lift. The yard is very peaceful & beautifully landscaped. A true pride of ownership in this well maintained mobile home! Also the bonus of all the parks amenities for you to enjoy! It is a must see! **\$79,990.00 (CL165)**



4978 Harmony Ln, Santa Maria

Great family home on spacious corner lot near Orcutt schools. House features 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms as well as large family and living rooms. Both bathrooms and kitchen were updated in 2013. Dual pane windows and gas oven with broiler drawer. There is also ample space on the right side of the house for a buyer to create RV or boat parking. Huge backyard for creating a great entertaining area! Loads of potential! **\$474,990 (HA479)**

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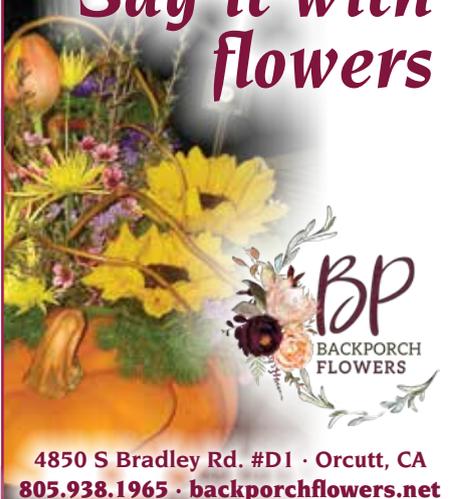
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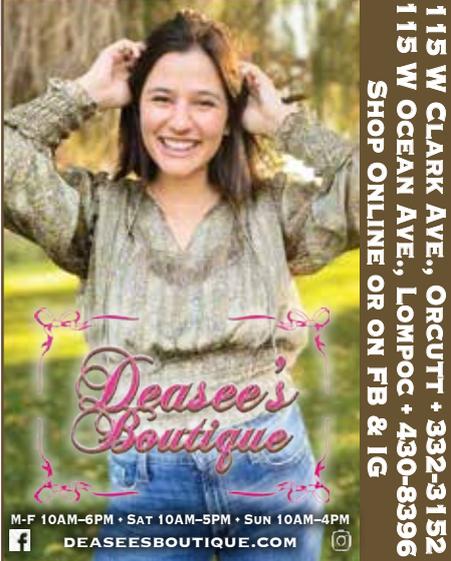
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