

VISIT US ONLINE  
@santamariasun.com.  
SIGN UP for E-Newsletter(s)  
LIKE US on Facebook  
FOLLOW US on Instagram  
FOLLOW US on Twitter

AT THE MOVIES



*The Santa Clause:*  
Holiday happiness [19]

# Sun



# Mobile books

*Santa Maria Library's new bookmobile is on the move, bringing books and resources all around the city [6]*

BY MALEA MARTIN

**NEWS** County gives its first COVID-19 vaccines [4]

**ARTS** Los Olivos gallery brings peace in artwork [18]

**EATS** Wahly's Sweet Treats bakes works of art [20]

12-31-20  
PUBLICATION DATE  
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
BOOK YOUR AD BY  
12-23-20

Don't miss your chance to be in this fun and uplifting pull-out issue! Call to sponsor an ad today.

1-14-21  
PUBLICATION DATE  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
BOOK YOUR AD BY  
1-8-21

Showcase how your business lends a helping hand to the community in the annual Volunteers special issue.

1-28-21  
PUBLICATION DATE  
**HEALTH & WELLNESS**  
BOOK YOUR AD BY  
1-21-21

Promote your beauty, health, and nutritional offerings in this year's Health & Wellness special issue.

Contact us for more info!

*New Times*  
805.546.8208  
advertising@NewTimesSL0.com

**Sun**  
805.347.1968  
advertising@SantaMariaSun.com

# Contents

DECEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 31, 2020 VOL. 21 NO. 43

This is not your grandparents' library. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit locally in March, the Santa Maria Library has adapted to the needs of residents, offering Wi-Fi to community members and, most recently, bringing books to residents throughout the city. Elsewhere on the Central Coast, other libraries have increased access by distributing library cards to students. And local libraries have taken to YouTube to provide programming. Staff Writers Malea Martin and Karen Garcia hit the books for this story [6].

This week, you can also read about vaccine distribution in the county [4]; what shelter agencies are doing for adoption events [7]; peaceful nature at Gallery Los Olivos' Winter Salon in person and online [18]; and Wahly's Sweet Treats' delicious and creative bakes [20].

Andrea Rooks  
associate editor

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



**ON THE MOVE:** The Santa Maria Library's new bookmobile brings books and resources to eight stops around the city, keeping people connected amid the pandemic.

**NEWS**  
News Briefs .....4  
Political Watch .....4  
Spotlight.....7

**ARTS**  
Arts Briefs .....18

**OPINION**  
Web Poll .....8  
Modern World .....8  
Canary.....10

**MOVIES**  
Reviews.....19

**EVENTS CALENDAR**  
Hot Stuff .....15

**CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE** .....21

**DONATE DONATE**  
HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION



Informative, accurate, and independent journalism takes time and costs money. Help us keep our community aware and connected by donating today.

[www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com)

*We Have Everything Under The Sun!*

Introducing Your Locally Owned

**JDX PHARMACY**  
**HealthMart**  
PHARMACY

Caring for you and about you

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are always here to assist your medical supply needs.

Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm | Sat 9am-1pm  
1504 S. Broadway, Santa Maria • (805)922-1747 • [www.healthmart.com](http://www.healthmart.com)

**Stay Healthy**

*We'll be back, Stronger than ever!*

**Exercise is Essential!**

2015 S Broadway B, Santa Maria • 805-348-1888  
Email: [wvhealthclub23@gmail.com](mailto:wvhealthclub23@gmail.com)

**WV Health-Club**

# Cottage quality. Urgent care.

## Now Open in Buellton

Crossroads at Buellton Village  
328 McMurray Road, Suite 102

and

Santa Maria  
1846 N. Broadway, Suite A  
Santa Maria

[cottagehealth.org/urgentcare](http://cottagehealth.org/urgentcare)

 Open 8 a.m.–8 p.m., 365 days a year

 Goal of complete care in 45 minutes

 Walk-ins and online appointments

 X-ray and lab service

 Cottage clinical providers



# Christmas Tree Collection

CITY OF SANTA MARIA RESIDENTS

■ Discarded Christmas trees will be collected at no charge from the curb on your scheduled trash collection day during the week of **JANUARY 4, 2021–JANUARY 8, 2021**, on residential trash collection routes. (Charges apply after January 8.)

■ Place your Christmas tree on the curb, at least **three feet away from your trash container**, on your scheduled collection day.

Trees must be free of all stands, tinsel, and ornaments. **Flocked trees or artificial trees are not accepted.** Collected trees will be composted.

■ Cut-up trees can be placed in green waste containers.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA [www.cityofsantamaria.org](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org)

 **Utilities**     
**Department**

QUESTIONS? CALL (805) 925-0951 EXT. 7270

# ORCUTT

PROVIDING FUEL & SERVICE TO ORCUTT FOR OVER 60 YEARS

## SMOG CHECKS

★ PASS OR DON'T PAY ★

## Old & New Vehicles

★ DRIVE-UPS WELCOME ★

## OIL CHANGES

★ ASK FOR DETAILS ★

**\$10<sup>00</sup> OFF**  
SMOG CHECK  
Pass or Don't Pay!

Drive Ups Welcome!



**\$34<sup>00</sup>**

Regular Price \$44.00  
Appointments  
937-5340

Plus \$8.25 Certificate + \$1.50 Transfer fee + \$1.00 OPUS fee. '99 & Older \$15 extra, Vans & Motor Homes \$20 extra. Coupons may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 12/31/20



**805-937-5340**  
100 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt  
**WWW.ORCUTT76.COM**

## Political Watch

• The House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Report for the 2021 fiscal year with a veto-proof majority on Dec. 8, according to a statement from **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal's** office. Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) served as a conferee and played a role in drafting the final product, which prioritizes the Central Coast in multiple arenas. "Every year, Congress sets aside our differences and passes a bipartisan NDAA that delivers for our military, our veterans, and our communities," Carbajal said. "As a conferee, I worked hard to make sure the Central Coast had a voice in the negotiations, and I'm proud of the wins we've secured for our community and our country." The Small Passenger Vessel Safety Act passed as a part of the NDAA, and is written in response to the *Conception* boat fire tragedy that took 34 lives. "It was a preventable tragedy, and I'm glad Congress has acted quickly to pass this bill and save lives," Carbajal said. The congressman also pushed for Central Coast priorities, such as offshore wind, military-university partnerships, and Vandenberg Air Force Base to be included in the NDAA. The final product "directs the secretary of the Navy to report to Congress on their progress working with the Offshore Wind Working Group," "authorizes \$18 million in research funding for military-university partnerships with our local universities," and "includes a \$5 million increase in funding for space launch range services and capabilities, including for Vandenberg Air Force Base," the statement said.

• **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) announced Dec. 17 that he and a bipartisan group of state lawmakers sent a letter to Congress members asking them to pass a COVID-19 relief package. "It's the federal government—not the state of California—that has the resources to help our local small businesses, workers and cities get through this crisis," Cunningham said in a statement. "Congress must come together over the next week to hammer out a deal that extends federal unemployment benefits, expands the PPP small business loan program, and provides critical relief to smaller municipal governments like those in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. Folks need the financial support, and we have to avert economic and social collapse while we wait for vaccine distribution." The statement added that on Dec. 26, the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which provided funds to independent contractors who don't normally qualify for unemployment insurance, is set to expire. The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program is also expiring Dec. 26. It provides people on unemployment a 13-week extension of benefits. "With an estimated 750,000 Californians impacted by these program expirations, it is critical that Congress act immediately to extend them," the statement said.

• The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup on Dec. 19 "completed its review of the federal process and has concluded that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is safe and efficacious for use in the Western States," a statement from **Gov. Gavin Newsom's** office said. The confirmation of Moderna's safety makes it the second COVID-19 vaccine supported for use in these states. "The workgroup, made up of nationally acclaimed scientists with expertise in immunization and public health, has concurrently and independently reviewed the FDA's actions related to COVID-19 vaccinations. It will continue to evaluate other COVID-19 vaccines as they go through the federal process," the statement said. Newsom added that, while California continues to struggle through its current surges in cases and hospitalizations, there is light at the end of the tunnel with two vaccines now approved for use. "This major step forward is welcome news to all who have experienced loss and hardship during this pandemic—those we hold in our thoughts this holiday season," Newsom said. "Until vaccines are available more widely across the state, it's critical that all Californians do their part to stop the surge by staying at home and wearing a mask when leaving home for essential work and needs." ○

## Area hospitals receive, administer first round of COVID-19 vaccines

Hospital workers across Northern Santa Barbara County got their first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine during the week of Dec. 14 after receiving allotments from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department.

Marian Regional Medical Center vaccinated its first workers on Dec. 17, a moment that was met with applause and cheers from the hospital staff who have worked day and night throughout the pandemic to keep community members alive.

Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Trees Ritter was the first to receive it. "Physically it doesn't feel like anything, but emotionally it's amazing," Ritter said.

The 1,950 doses that Marian received will be used to vaccinate as many people as possible, and the hospital isn't holding back any of the doses for the second round that the vaccine requires.

"Everyone requires two doses, but it will be resupplied enough that we want to get as many people the first dose as possible," Ritter explained. "The data suggests that most people have about a 90 percent effectiveness after 10 days of their first dose, and the second dose is to supplement that ... up to that high effectiveness of about 94, 95 percent."

Ritter said that the hospital is prioritizing anyone who has contact with COVID-19 patients in the first round of vaccination, which includes emergency room workers, COVID-19 unit health care workers, and those who are involved with other aspects of the care process such as dietary, cleaning, and environmental services.

"Doctors and nurses are not more important than other people who work in our hospital," Ritter said. "This is a team effort."

Ritter said that once more doses become available for the general public to begin receiving vaccinations, Marian Regional Medical Center will likely assist with that effort.

"We try to partner with the county Public Health Department wherever we can, so we will continue to act as though we are all in this together, because we know that we are, and will do whatever it takes to help our community," Ritter said.

Marian's Dr. Scott Robertson said that while having enough manpower to administer the vaccine will be a challenge, he is confident that Santa Barbara County can get it done.

"There's never been a mass vaccination effort quite like this in the United States," he said. "The CDC is also working with other community partners such as Walgreens and CVS to be major distribution hubs for the COVID-19 vaccine. We also expect to use the Pacific Central Coast Health Centers and our urgent care locations ... to also be major community partners in ensuring the public has access."

Cottage Health also began vaccinating health care workers Dec. 17 with the same number of allotted first-round doses.

Cottage infectious disease specialist Dr. David Fisk told the *Sun* that the hospital is prioritizing

PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM



**AMONG THE FIRST:** Dr. Trees Ritter, infectious disease specialist with Dignity Health, was among the first health care workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Santa Barbara County on Dec. 17. He said after, "I honestly didn't even feel it."

emergency room workers since they have the highest chance of contact with an undiagnosed COVID-19 patient. Such potential contact is particularly dangerous because emergency room workers are not able to wear the same amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) that COVID-19 unit workers wear.

"It's not practical to be wearing full PPE in the emergency department, nor is there enough availability," he explained. "The highest risk cases and settings aren't only based on national data, but also based on local experience over the last 10 months."

Fisk said that within Cottage Health there have been zero confirmed staff acquisitions from working with patients in COVID-19 cohort units, whereas they have seen acquisition in other areas like the emergency room.

A statement from Lompoc Valley Medical Center (LVMC) CEO Steve Popkin said that the hospital also began vaccinating its staff on Dec. 17.

"I have been impressed with the efficiency and effectiveness of the logistics plan for the vaccine distribution," Popkin wrote in the statement. "I have also been very impressed with, and very thankful for, our LVMC team who put together a very complex vaccination plan, on very short notice, and executed it flawlessly."

Dignity Health's Ritter said that as happy as he was to finally be vaccinated, Santa Barbara County is nowhere near out of the woods with the pandemic.

"The vaccine is good news, but I don't want that to be stressed too much ... we're still in the midst of the worst of this for the vast majority of people," he said.

—Malea Martin

## Santa Barbara County Redistricting Commission completes selection process

The 11 members of Santa Barbara County's Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission have officially been chosen, and although the commission isn't perfectly representative of the population that inhabits this county, it's more diverse than when the selection process started.

At a meeting on Dec. 14, the first five commissioners, who were randomly selected for their positions in October through a lottery system, announced the applicants chosen to fill the commission's six remaining seats, the conclusion of a months-long and controversial selection process.

Santa Barbara County residents Karen Twibell, Megan Turley, James Hudley, Lata Murti, Jannet Rios, and Benjamin Olmedo were selected out of hundreds of applicants to serve on the commission, which will be responsible for using data collected during the 2020 U.S. census to adjust the boundaries of the county's supervisorial districts.

"Folks, I think we've tried to untie a Gordian knot," Commission Chair Glenn Morris said. "I'm not sure that we'll have done it to everyone's satisfaction, but I think we've got a team here of highly qualified, well-committed folks that I think we can all look forward to joining these Brady Bunch squares in the near future."

The use of a redistricting commission is an attempt to create districts that will better represent the county's current population independently from elected and county officials, but the Redistricting Commission selection process has been under fire since mid-October, when Registrar of Voters Joseph Holland released his list of the 45 most qualified candidates chosen from about 200 applicants. Community members from across the county immediately complained that the group chosen by Holland consisted predominantly of white men and did not accurately represent Santa Barbara County's demographics.

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

After the first five commissioners—Laura Katz, William McClintock, Norman Bradley, Cary Gray, and Morris—were randomly chosen from Holland's pool of 45, they vowed to ensure that those chosen to fill the six remaining seats on the Redistricting Commission would be representative of the county's residents.

The final 11-member commission now consists of six registered Democrats, one Republican, and four no-party-preference members; five women and six men; six white people, four people of color, and one member who declined to state her ethnicity; and two members under the age of 30 and nine who are over 40.

Commissioner Gray said that considering the first five random picks—who are all white and mostly men—and the remaining applicants, it would be impossible to create a completely representative commission.

To accurately parallel the county's demographics, the first five members would have had to choose five women and one man to fill the remaining six seats, including five Latino members, one Asian, Black, or Native American member; three members under the age of 45, and two over 75.

"So we have to try to balance with our final six along with our first five commissioners," Gray said at the Dec. 14 meeting. "But I feel certain that we'll be able to pick a dream team this morning that will make the citizens of Santa Barbara proud of the difficult task we have successfully completed."

—Kasey Bubnash

NEWS from page 4

## County holds winter preparedness meeting to discuss debris flow prevention

Nearly three years after the Montecito mudslide tragedy that claimed 23 lives, Santa Barbara County continues to keep a close eye on vegetation recovery, debris basins, flood control systems, and winter weather to ensure that a similar incident isn't repeated.

On Dec. 17, community members from across the county were invited to join a winter preparedness virtual meeting during which experts and county officials provided updates on how the area has recovered and how conditions have improved since the Jan. 9, 2018, incident.

"We've been working very hard to create the right kind of resiliency projects, the right kind of flood control projects, in order to increase our safety as a community," 1st District Supervisor Das Williams said in a pre-recorded message at the meeting. "I'm proud to say that the first of those projects is online: the expansion of the Cold Springs debris basin to be able to take more large material."

Williams said the Cold Springs project will be followed by the Romera Canyon expansion project next year, and San Ysidro debris basin in 2022.

"Most excitingly, we've received FEMA grant funding, and we'll be building the Randall Road debris basin next year in 2021," Williams added.

These basins play a key role in flood control as they help direct and divert excessive water and debris flows.

The community also heard from Kevin Cooper, a biologist who has been monitoring

vegetation and soil recovery since the Thomas Fire, which occurred shortly before and contributed to the Montecito mudslides.

Tracking the vegetation growth in the burned area from the Thomas Fire helps to determine the risk of future debris flows in the area, Cooper said.

"We're entering our fourth rainy season, and we've had three good growing seasons up to now," he said. "We're on track to hit that five- or seven-year full recovery to pre-fire conditions of the watershed here."

Cooper explained that when vegetation burns as it did during the Thomas Fire, it creates "totally unprotected soils," which when hit with intense rainfall can become "the precursor to our debris flows."

"So we can see how important it is for this vegetation to recover," Cooper said.

County Flood Control Engineering Manager Jon Frye followed Cooper's presentation, highlighting six debris basins in the area of the 2018 incident—four of which already exist and two of which are proposed but not yet built—that will aid in preventing another debris flow.

However, Frye also emphasized that such flows don't only occur immediately following fires, and the risk is always present. He gave the example of the Santa Barbara Coyote Fire of 1964: A debris flow event occurred the first winter after the fire, but then another occurred about 4 1/2 years after the initial fire.

"So I think it's important that we all remain vigilant and understand that we're entering into winter after the Thomas Fire as well," Frye said. "So recognize that these are high hazard areas and that we all need to remain alert."

—Malea Martin

## Boys and Girls Club gets OK to use the Solvang's Vets Memorial Hall

The United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County received the city's permission to use the Veterans Memorial Hall to provide after-school programming to students of the Solvang School District after it lost its space at the Solvang Elementary School campus.

Solvang City Manager Xenia Bradford said during the Dec. 14 City Council meeting that the nonprofit first began working with the Solvang Elementary School in the 2019-20 school year and became a popular program providing after-school child care at a reasonable cost.

According to a staff report, while the elementary school was on a remote-only schedule due to COVID-19, United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County provided on-campus care from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and its programming included assistance with online learning.

"It's a program that's proved very effective and gained membership rather quickly. It reached nearly 100 kids and is an alternative to other after-school programs that were on campus," Bradford said.

But on Aug. 13, the school shifted to a modified schedule where students attend school part time to allow for social distancing. Due to the shift, Solvang Elementary needed more space for classrooms, and that left the United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara in need of a facility to run the program for the rest of the school year.

Michael Baker, chief executive officer of the nonprofit, said during the meeting that the program has been tremendously successful and felt the school's superintendent could attest to that.

"The last thing [Solvang School District Superintendent Steve Seaford] wanted to do is pull the program off-campus but they needed the space to social distance the kids," he said.

Baker worked with the city to identify a location for the after-school program and agreed on the Veterans Memorial Hall but said the nonprofit could not afford the city's rental fees.

The city's rental fee for the hall is \$200 a day for nonprofits and would equal more than \$20,000 if United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara used the space for the rest of the school year.

In order to keep the program's cost low and to afford cleaning supplies to keep the Veterans Memorial hall clean after a day's use, Baker asked if the council would waive the rental fee.

He said many of the parents of the children participating in the program are essential workers and rely on the program.

Mayor Charlie Uhrig told the meeting's virtual and in-person attendees that he understood the importance of the program and if the city could "hold the cost down it would be very helpful."

The council voted to unanimously approve United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County's request to use the Veterans Memorial Hall for its after-school program for six months—the remainder of the school year—and waive the rental fee. ○

—Karen Garcia

## Sips & Sombreros: Living Room Edition Virtual Auction and Raffle 2020



## The Rotary Club, Santa Maria Congratulates the Event Non Profit Beneficiaries!

**THANK YOU to our wonderful local sponsors for their generous part in helping the event achieve its goals!**

**Over \$50,000 raised!**

**Best wishes to ALL for a peaceful Christmas and wonderful New Year!**

**Silver Sponsor:** Dignity Health

**Bronze Sponsor:** Allan Hancock College, Morgan Stanley/Jennifer Murray & Cliff Cook, Engel & Gray Inc. Virginia Perry Souza, Ron Nanning, Tom Martinez & Associates, Pacific Premier Bank, Fred Donati

**V.I.P. Sponsors:** Country Oaks Care, Superstar Realty, State Farm/Bob Frias, Pan American/Scott Dunn, Lynda M. Gantt LMFT, Karen and Ken Dally, Ross Realty, Bay Shores Peninsula Hotel, Jo Grande, FAMCO Development Inc./R&E Concrete, Community Bank of Santa Maria, Diana Harb, Susie Q., your locally owned McDonalds

**Logo Sponsors:** Image Factory, Valley Fresh Produce Distributing, Morris, Garritano Insurance, Bob Curry, Century 21 Hometown Realty/Lorrie Stahl, Erin Krier, Searchlight Properties, Firestone Walker, Dudley Hoffman Mortuary, Santa Maria Inn/Judy Hearne & Blanch Hollingshead

**Listing Sponsors:** James and Jeannine Stoddard, The Law Office of Heather Weare, Terri Lee Coleman, Laura Mohajer, Santa Maria Tool, Oliphant Plastering, Coast Well Drilling, Tom Allen Esq., Bella Cleaning Service, Joe Freitas, Cynthia Schur



YMCA



OPEN SPACE



ECHO Band of Brothers



CASA of HOPE



C.A.S.A.



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY HOUSEL

## 'We can adapt'

*Libraries up and down the Central Coast are learning how to meet the community where they're at during the pandemic*

**BY MALEA MARTIN & KAREN GARCIA**

Libraries have always been about more than the books. A library is a community gathering space, a place to access the internet, and a creative learning environment. So when the pandemic not only forced the city of Santa Maria Main Library's physical doors to close, but also threatened its funding, the stakes were high for community members who rely on these resources.

When cuts to the library were initially proposed, the community quickly sprung into action to oppose such a measure, and City Council members found a way to move some money around and make it work.

"COVID-19 had really highlighted the inequities that exist, especially with education," City Councilmember Gloria Soto told the *Sun*. "Library services, whether that be on a virtual platform or through their bookmobile or curbside pickup, being able to keep our community members and our young people engaged, have never been more important."

As it turns out, there's a lot that these institutions can do outside the confines of brick-and-mortar buildings, and libraries up and down the Central Coast are learning how to adapt.

Prior to the pandemic, "our public here in Santa Maria did enjoy using our physical space for a variety of reasons," said Santa Maria librarian Dawn Jackson. "However, under our current restrictions ... people have come to realize that libraries can adapt, and can do so much more than what patrons, or perhaps even librarians, thought that we could do."

For the Santa Maria Main Library, this looked like shifting programming to "a combination of virtual and take-home format."

Children can pick up an art pack from the library that contains everything they need to make a craft, and then head to the library's YouTube channel for an instructional video. Families can log on for a live Zoom story time every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Writing Club to-go packs are designed for students up to the 12th grade and include a journal and prompts.

These options and more can be found on the city of Santa Maria Engaged Patrons webpage.

"We're still doing everything we did before, just in a new way so we can continue to serve our patrons," Jackson said.

Another key function of library spaces is providing computer and

internet access to people who need it. Santa Maria library found a way to still make it work.

"We have extended the Wi-Fi signal at our main library, and currently there's not a password for that," Jackson said. "We are also offering checkout of our laptops and Chromebooks that come with a hotspot."

The library also brings books, Wi-Fi, and laptops for checkout directly to residents through its bookmobile, which was unveiled earlier this year.

"That is going to eight locations around the city with regular stops," Jackson said. "They have a grab-and-go service, and they've been able to reach patrons that haven't been able, even prior to the pandemic, to visit the library."

Ana Libbon, administrator of programs and services for Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast, told the *Sun* that the library's bookmobile has made a big difference for the kids they serve.

"Every Wednesday from 3:30 to about 5:30, they park in our parking lot, and kids are allowed to go through their bookmobile and check out books," Libbon said of the organization's Santa Maria location. "They help them all obtain library cards and answer their questions. ... They've been absolutely amazing."

The success is evident in the numbers: Jackson said the library has had 1,278 views of their programs on YouTube since March, and circulation went up 20 percent over the past two months with its grab-and-go services.

Up in a different part of the Central Coast, the Paso Robles city library was also quick to adapt.

The Paso library temporarily closed its doors for several months,

## 'Library services, ... being able to keep our community members and our young people engaged, have never been more important.'

—Gloria Soto, Santa Maira City Council member

but similar to Santa Maria it never stopped providing services to the community digitally, according to librarian Angelica Fortin.

Since March, the library has provided 370 virtual programs and has given away more than 3,000 grab-and-go craft kits for children and adults.

One of the immediate actions the library took during the first stay-at-home order in March was offering reference services



**ON THE GO:** The Santa Maria library's bookmobile allows library services to meet people where they're at, something especially needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

via telephone. Patrons could access e-books, e-magazines, and homework resources virtually by using their library cards.

The library also worked hard to get library cards for ninth, 10th, and 11th graders at the Paso Robles Unified School District, Fortin said.

The partnership was made possible by Melissa Bailey, the Paso City children's librarian; school district librarian Stephanie Lowe; and educational technology TOSA Ronalee Andersen, who collaborated to safely and efficiently provide the students with a card, said Jennifer Gaviola, deputy superintendent of Paso Unified.

Even pre-pandemic, the partnership had been in the works for several months. The team,

Another successful program the library facilitated, similar to the Santa Maria library, was access to internet hotspots.

"There are people in our community that still don't have access to the internet at home," Fortin said. "At the end of April we extended our Wi-Fi network not only here at the library, but at our study center."

Since March, the city library has had 4,475 connections to its Wi-Fi network.

Library volunteer Tammy Bourne, who has lent her time to the facility for six years, pulls book holds for the curbside and pickup service. She said it's been amazing to see the library staff work hard to evolve and respond to new safety requirements to keep serving the Paso Robles community.

"The saddest thing about this new environment is not seeing people really enjoy the library," Bourne said. "But I know the public is using the library because I get the list of books that people have put on hold and they want us to pull for them."

The perception of libraries is changing, Fortin said. In the past, people viewed the library as "shushing environments."

"We do have a lot of rules, I get that, but a lot of that is just organization and making sure that we have the resources people need," she said. "It really comes from wanting to provide access." ○

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

**Al Pho**  
1201 E. Main St,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 332-3378

**Bello Forno**  
119 East Clark,  
Orcutt  
(805) 623-7111

**Bill's Take Out**  
523 N. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 922-6116

**Casa Mañana**  
1640 S. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 925-8519

**Cielito Lindo**  
1130 E. Clark,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 938-7958

**Cool Hand Luke's**  
1321 S. Nicholson  
Ave, Santa Maria  
(805) 928-6196

**Cugini's Pizzeria & Trattoria**  
230 E. Betteravia,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 346-1777

**Cups & Crumbs**  
156 Broadway,  
Orcutt  
(805) 623-5973

**Gina's Piece of Cake**  
307 Town Center E.,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 922-7866

**Jack's in Old Orcutt**  
156 S. Broadway,  
Orcutt  
(805) 937-1871

**Jade's Filipino Food**  
2025 S. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 287-9442

**Jaffa Café**  
2530 S. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 354-7229

**Klondike Pizza**  
2059 S. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 348-3667

**La Perla**  
1138 W. Church St,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 922-9001

**Las Cazuelas**  
131 W. Dana St,  
Nipomo  
(805) 929-9030

**Let's Wing It**  
1301 W. Grand Ave,  
Grover Beach  
(805) 474-1000

**Maya Mexican Restaurant**  
110 S. Lincoln,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 287-9920

**Naughty Oak Brewing Company**  
165 S. Broadway  
#102, Orcutt  
(805) 314-2368

**Old Town Mexican Café**  
140 E. Clark Ave,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 937-5000

**Paradise Juice**  
2041 S. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 623-8876

**Patricio's Pizzeria**  
100-152 Union Ave,  
Orcutt  
(805) 937-8976

**Rancho Nipomo BBQ**  
108 Cuyama Ln,  
Nipomo  
(805) 925-3500

**Sake Sushi**  
194 Town Center E.,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 922-9900

**Sake Sushi & Korean BBQ**  
1325 N. H St.,  
Lompoc  
(805) 736-8899

**Swiss Restaurant**  
516 N. Broadway,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 347-7800

**The Boys Restaurant**  
117 N. College Dr,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 922-1515

**The Garden Mediterranean Restaurant**  
122 E. Boone St,  
Santa Maria  
(805) 347-1112

**The Habit Burger**  
985 E. Betteravia  
Rd, Santa Maria  
(805) 623-8542

**Trattoria Uliveto**  
285 Broadway,  
Orcutt  
(805) 934-4546

**Vino et Amicis**  
165 S. Broadway,  
Orcutt  
(805) 631-0496

**Curbside • Delivery • Gift Certificates**  
Varies by location. Call for details.

# Winter whiskers

Wintertime promotions run by local animal shelters make it the perfect time of year to bring home a furry member of the family

BY MALEA MARTIN

Feeling lonely after canceling your holiday plans? Need something to fill the void of social interaction in 2020? Searching for a new companion for the New Year?

Look no further than your local animal shelters! 'Tis the season to bring home a furry friend, and Santa Barbara County shelters are putting on some special holidays initiatives to encourage residents to foster or adopt an animal this winter.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services, ASAP Cats, and Bunnies Urgently Needing Shelter came together to offer a reduced \$12 adoption fee through Christmas Eve for the 12 Days of Winter Whiskers event.

"The 12 Days of Christmas is always in our hearts, but not everybody celebrates Christmas," Animal Services Director Angela Walters Yates said. "We thought, well, everybody can celebrate Winter Whiskers."

And it's not just furry pets that fall under the promotion.

"We are highlighting some animals on social media over the 12 days," Walters Yates said. "We've got a rooster featured today. His name is Kamalo. He's a really cute black rooster with a beautiful red comb."

On another day of Winter Whiskers, the county featured a bunny named Petey, who has spent more than a year in the shelter environment. A different day, black cat siblings Jack and Jill stole the spotlight. There's even an iguana up for adoption, and though he lacks whiskers, Walters Yates said he's still included in the promotion.

If you're not ready to commit to becoming a full-time pet owner, the county's Foster Express is back this year.

"It's our big push to get as many animals out of the shelter system as possible and into homes for the holiday and New Year season," Walters Yates said. "Last year, it was an incredible success. We only had a handful of animals left in the shelter system. And that was before COVID, before we had this nationwide phenomenon of people craving and getting so much benefit out of the companionship of animals."

Walters Yates expects the annual fostering initiative to see even greater success this year with more people home for the holidays and able to care for an animal temporarily. Those interested only have to commit to a minimum two weeks of fostering. For renters, this might be a more suitable option than adopting.

"That's one of the things that we really discovered during COVID, is that a lot of property owners and landlords were more open to their tenants fostering, and that opened up a whole bunch of opportunities for animals that didn't previously exist," Walters Yates said.

The goal of Foster Express is to make the process simple and easy. The county will provide anything a foster parent could need to make the pets as comfortable as possible, from bedding to cat litter. Animals Services is also committed to reducing as many barriers as they can in the fostering and adoption process.

"The animal welfare world has gone through a lot of different cycles," Walters Yates said. "There were times that a member of the public would want to adopt an animal, and the industry made them jump through so many hoops, including home checks and follow-ups."

Now, that mentality is shifting.



**SEARCHING FOR HOME:** Petey the bunny is just one of the animals featured in the 12 Days of Winter Whiskers, an adoption event put on by Santa Barbara County Animal Services, ASAP Cats, and Bunnies Urgently Needing Shelter. If you're not ready to adopt, hop on the Foster Express instead and care for a pet temporarily while it searches for its forever home.

"We're revisiting all of that and really asking ourselves what's important. Not every home is the same," Walters Yates said. "We are challenging ourselves as employees of a shelter system to remove unconscious barriers and judgements that we might have about people in the community that are stepping forward and taking a leap of faith. Let's support them and try to match them with an animal that fits their lifestyle, their home environment, their family's needs."

If you're not ready to bring an animal into your life but still want to support the cause, CARE4Paws is putting on a holiday matching gift campaign so you can help twice as many animals in need. All donations are matched dollar for dollar through December, up to \$25,000 total.

CARE4Paws Executive Director Isabelle Gullo said the organization is already halfway to its goal, and that every donation goes to providing critically needed supplies and services in the immediate community.

As the pandemic rages on, "the need has not diminished whatsoever," Gullo said. "We're still spending \$10,000 a month on pet food so we can continue distributing countywide."

CARE4Paws is rounding out the year with 2,000 spays and neuters, 600 more than the organization had planned for. Gullo additionally expects that CARE4Paws will have also given free and low-cost veterinary services to 1,800 pets by the end of 2020.

## Highlight

• Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced Dec. 14 that its annual scholarship opportunities are now open for applications. Both college-bound high schoolers and current college students with a primary residence that's a PG&E customer in Northern and Central California are eligible to apply. "More than 120 awards totaling nearly \$300,000 are being made available through PG&E's employee resource group (ERG) and engineering network group (ENG) scholarships," according to PG&E. "These scholarships are awarded annually to help offset the cost of higher education." Information about the scholarships including criteria and applications can be found at [pge.onlineapplications.net/applications](http://pge.onlineapplications.net/applications), and applications are due by Feb. 12, 2021. "Many of our ERG scholarship recipients are the first in their families to attend college. They will be tomorrow's leaders and innovators," Mary King, PG&E vice president of human resources and chief diversity officer, said in a statement. "Our ERG scholarships take on even more importance this year because some of our applicants could've experienced financial challenges due to COVID-19. We're proud to invest in these promising young people." ○

Staff Writer Malea Martin wrote this week's Spotlight. Send hot tips about businesses, nonprofits, and good samaritans to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

# Happy Holidays!



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

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

- We provide Rapid Covid-19 Tests (15 Min results) Flu tests, and Flu vaccines.
- All individuals entering the building are pre-screened and temperature is taken.
  - Face masks are required to be worn
  - Only well-patient visits are seen inside the building
  - All sick visits are seen either outside in a tent or via telehealth
- Strict sanitation practices are in place including disinfecting exam rooms after each visit.

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

**Call to schedule your child's well exam today.**



**Pediatric Medical Group**  
OF SANTA MARIA, INC.



David Ikola, M.D.



Shane Rostermundt, D.O.



Joseph Nunez, M.D.



Dr. Michele Kielty, D.O.



Lynn Peltier, C.P.N.P.



Geronna Leonards, N.P.



Jessica Prather, C.N.P.

1430 E. Main St.  
Santa Maria, CA

[www.pmgsm.com](http://www.pmgsm.com)  
805-922-3548

Monday – Friday

## Online Poll

### Do you trust the vaccine and the county's ability to get it distributed?

- 34% Clinical trials show it's safe, but I'm not getting my hopes up that I'll get it anytime soon.
- 34% I will be first in line to be vaccinated as soon as I can.
- 26% It was developed way too fast for comfort—I'm going to wait to see how it plays out before getting it myself.
- 6% I'm not coming within 100 feet of it, and the government can't make me!

15 Votes

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com).

Northern Santa Barbara County's  
News & Entertainment Weekly  
2540 Skyway Drive, suite A  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING | 805-347-1968 FAX | 805-347-9889  
E-MAIL | [mail@santamariasun.com](mailto:mail@santamariasun.com) WEB | [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com)

FOUNDER | Steve Moss 1948-2005

#### EDITORIAL

EDITOR | Camillia Lanham  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR | Andrea Rooks  
STAFF WRITERS | Malea Martin, Karen Garcia, Kasey Bubnash  
ARTS EDITOR | Caleb Wiseblood  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER | Jayson Mellom  
ART DIRECTOR | Alex Zuniga  
EDITORIAL DESIGNERS | Leni Litonjua, Taylor Saugstad  
CONTRIBUTORS | Glen Starkey, Ross Mayfield, Anna Starkey

#### ADVERTISING

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE | Kimberly Rosa  
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES | Katy Gray, Jennifer Herbaugh,  
Lee Ann Vermeulen, Danny Vasquez  
MARKETING & SALES COORDINATOR | Hannah Pugh  
CLASSIFIEDS REPRESENTATIVE | Jenni Schroeder

#### PRODUCTION

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER | Eva Lipson  
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS | Eva Lipson, Ellen Fukumoto, Sapphire Williams

#### BUSINESS

Cindy Rucker  
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR | Jim Parsons  
CIRCULATION | Michael Ferrell, Margo Baldives, Simon Lopez  
PUBLISHERS | Bob Rucker, Alex Zuniga  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS | Patricia Horton, Marissa Galvan-Cota

#### SUBMITTING LETTERS

WRITE | Mail your letter to Sun Letters, 2540 Skyway Drive, Suite A,  
Santa Maria, CA 93455. Include your name, address, and phone number.  
FAX | (805) 347-9889  
E-MAIL | [mail@santamariasun.com](mailto:mail@santamariasun.com), [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com)

#### TO ADVERTISE

DISPLAY ADS | Rates and special discounts are available.  
Call our ad department at (805) 347-1968.  
CLASSIFIEDS | Call (805) 546-8208, Ext. 211.  
Or fax your ad to (805) 546-8641.  
Visa and MasterCard accepted.

#### ONLINE

Visit the Sun web site at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com).  
Our site was developed and designed by Liftoff Digital, a Central Coast  
web site development company ([www.gainliftoff.com](http://www.gainliftoff.com)).

The Sun is published every Thursday for your enjoyment. One copy of each  
issue is available free to Northern Santa Barbara County residents and  
visitors. Subscriptions to the Sun are \$156 per year. The entire contents  
of the Sun are copyrighted by the Sun and cannot be reproduced without  
specific written permission from the publisher.

Because a product or service is advertised in the Sun does not mean  
that we endorse its use. We hope readers will use their own good  
judgement in choosing products most beneficial to their well-being.

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

© 2020 Sun



## Regarding 'Reflections on the "New World"'

Very well said! Thank you for publishing it (Dec. 10)!

The vast majority of us are immigrants, mostly back decades. My family arrived here about 1700 so I'm an Irish American like those those that arrived here from Africa. We call them African Americans, even though 99 percent have never been there or speak any of the languages. Why don't they call me an Irish American like them—I speak English and have been there. Maybe things would go smoother if we called *all of us* Americans, as far as the different races—there is *only one*: We all are Homo sapiens.

Michael D. Rogers  
Arroyo Grande,

## A coming flood in Oceano

In the debate about whether ATVs should be allowed to tear up environmentally sensitive habitat and run over endangered birds in the Oceano dunes, or whether a moneyed Central Valley tradition should trump the rights of disadvantaged locals to a safe beach and clean air, there's one significant point that's largely overlooked. Operation of the Pier Avenue vehicle ramp to Pismo State Beach, the gateway to the Oceano Dunes SVRA miles south, puts Oceano's homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure at increased risk from sea level rise and tsunamis. The recent Local Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared for the Oceano Community Services District highlighted this risk. Over decades of use, countless tons of sand have been removed from the beach on vehicle tires and hauled to the landfill, creating a funnel for the sea where protective dunes used to stand tall. King tides hint at the danger, as the sea rushes up the beach nearly to the gate at the park's entrance. How can it be that the state continues to put a town at risk for a recreational purpose already fraught with negative impacts? Why does the SLO County Board of Supervisors stand idly by? Will anyone step up to prevent the coming flood?

Cynthia Replogle  
Oceano

## A community question

If cases of COVID-19 are traced to a business that has openly operated in violation of local, state, and Centers for Disease Control guidelines for COVID-19 safety, can the patrons of those businesses who contract COVID-19 or the families of those who die from COVID-19 sue those businesses for pain, suffering, loss, or wrongful death?

Wayne Montgomery  
Grover Beach

## Close the dunes again

Never in our lifetime have we faced a health crisis as we are in now. Getting back to "normal" clearly will not be happening for a long time. Since the county has reverted to purple, concrete action is being taken to limit the number and sizes of gatherings. Given all of the closure mandates in other parts of the county, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area must be re-closed to vehicles.

Allowing visitors from outside of SLO County lines by keeping the beach open to 1,000 vehicles daily is an invitation to continued high levels of COVID-19 cases.

Protecting our public health must be the first priority. This is a plea to our SLO County public health officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein, and the director of California State Parks, Armando Quintero, to close the park to vehicular access for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dorothy Hines  
Nipomo

## Pick up that ear trumpet

I think one of the greatest shortfalls in the upbringing of the current generation is the lack of education regarding critical thinking and manners. When did we become content to accept what we're told from just *anybody*, and start clinging to the belief that if it makes us feel good, it *must* be fact? When did our curiosity and resourcefulness die? When did we start allowing a difference of opinion to negate a person's worth? When did we lose sight of the fact that

without discourse, there can be no cooperation, and without cooperation, we are a house divided, set to fall prey to the wolves of the world?

No matter who is finally president at the end of the process, we still have a country to run. Let's get to it together. Be OK talking to people who express different opinions than yours. Be OK expressing your opinion when it's different than someone else's. But do it respectfully, thoughtfully, and with an ear for understanding.

People need to feel heard before they can listen. Because we all have different needs, experiences, and priorities, the only way everybody gets taken care of is if we are a choir, not a group of soloists. So who's going to put the megaphone down first and pick up the ear trumpet?

Micha'elah Malmen  
San Luis Obispo

## A response to 'Woke on the Warpath'

I've been trying to fill my head with happy thoughts these past few months, and "Woke on the Warpath" (Nov. 26) put a dent in that. I'm not sure how John Donegan derives his pronouncements if not from breathtaking naiveté. The now-scrubbed material from Cuesta College trustee Pete Sysak's social media went *way* beyond calling distant protesters "thugs," it was vile, hateful, and I will not honor it with a description. Someone who hatefully denigrates so many of the same populations that the college is designed to serve has zero business serving in any capacity there. I won't comment on John's description of "nontraditional shopping" beyond saying that there are protesters, looters, and rioters. Specific actors in the summer's protests, educate yourself. Look at the role white supremacists played, if you dare.

Is there systemic racism in our happy place? Yes. Can I load you up with local statistics? I looked for 45 minutes; I'm not giving any more of my life to this rebuke. I will say that you can look no further than the treatments by SLO's District Attorney, Pastor Dan Dow, of a young black woman, Tianna Arata, charged with 13 crimes, while Dow "couldn't find anything to prosecute" in his examination of Chris McGuire, an alleged white sexual predator and former Paso Robles police sergeant.

Nationally, a Black man is more likely to die in police custody than a white man. He is more likely to be pulled over, suffer violence at that time, be arrested, more likely to be tried and convicted, and with demonstrably stiffer sentences. Blacks have higher unemployment rates, lack access to financing, are offered poorer educations. Tellingly, people of color have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. If not for systemic discrimination, how would that be explained?

I'm not going to chase John down his wormhole of Chinese or Russian upheavals, and how that macabre history foretells what awaits our hapless youth. I will say that I am proud of our youngsters, of how they speak up and instigate needed change. There is injustice in our world, inequality is rampant. I'm not sure that any of us on the left want to banish the Pete Sysaks, the Chris Arends, or the John Donegans, we just want you to be respectful. To realize that there are those who have been beleaguered in the nation for 400 years, and to know that the work to be done is to be done by the oppressors, white people. Our society needs conflicting viewpoints to function, to maintain a balance. We just can't allow you to be dickish about it.

Allen Root  
San Luis Obispo



# DEATH NOTICES

**DRUSCILLA L. WATSON**, 85, of Solvang passed away 11/27/2020 arrangements with Lori Family Mortuary

**BENSON WEINBERG**, 91, of Arroyo Grande passed away 12/7/2020 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**TERRY HUNT**, 80, of Cayucos passed away 12/9/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**CARLTON ALLEN PICKENS JR.**, 56, of Paso Robles passed away 12/9/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**KATHERINE SAMS**, 76, of Paso Robles passed away 12/9/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**MATHEU ROYDEN**, 46, of Grover Beach passed away 12/10/2020 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**CINDY L. SANDMAN**, 76, of Paso Robles passed away 12/10/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**KIMBERLY ANN SARTAIN**, 50, of Arroyo Grande passed away 12/10/2020 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**RUBEN GONZALES**, 68, of San Luis Obispo passed away 12/10/2020 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**SUZANNE HONEY STOUGHTON**, 80, of San Luis Obispo passed away 12/10/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**BARBARA BOETTCHER**, 71, of Paso Robles passed away 12/11/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**BETTY MAY MCDONALD**, 100, of Paso Robles passed away 12/11/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**MARTIN RICKARD**, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 12/11/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**WILLIAM OSTRANDER**, 70, of Brad passed away 12/11/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**DONALD ROSA**, 87, of Los Osos passed away 12/11/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**ROY HENRY BOYCE**, 88, of Paso Robles passed away 12/11/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**HENRY RUSHING**, 77, of Templeton passed away 12/12/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**FRANCHOT "FRANK" CARSWELL JR.**, 62, of Santa Maria passed away 12/12/2020 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**CRUZ IBARRA**, 80, of Guadalupe passed away 12/13/2020 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**STEPHANIE SILL**, 59, of Arroyo Grande passed away 12/13/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**MARTHA ALVAREZ PONCE**, 57, of Santa Maria passed away 12/13/2020 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**CAROLYN SUE CRAWFORD**, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 12/14/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**JEAN MAE KIKUCHI**, 72, of Grover Beach passed away 12/14/2020 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**RONNIE JOSEPH APARICIO**, 63, of Santa Maria passed away 12/14/2020 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**CLARISSA MOENCH**, 80, of Paso Robles passed away 12/14/2020 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation

**JAMES CONRAD WINGER**, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 12/14/2020 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**ERIKA COOPER**, 91, of Nipomo passed away 12/15/2020 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**EVELYN PATINO GANDARA**, 84, of Paso Robles passed away 12/15/2020 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**LORRAINE BERG**, 68, of San Luis Obispo passed away 12/15/2020 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**DOLORES KELSEY**, 82, of San Luis Obispo passed away 12/16/2020 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary



# SURVEY

HELP MAKE THE SUN BETTER

# SURVEY

The world we live in is a very different place than it was at the beginning of 2020. How we do everyday things has changed, including the way we get information about our community. Like most businesses, we've had to adjust and adapt to keep our companies alive. As we look ahead we'd like to learn more about our most valuable assets, our readers. Please visit our website and take this short survey to contribute to the future of local journalism and support our efforts to keep our community informed and connected.

[www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com)

## OBITUARIES

Want to memorialize a loved one?

We're here to help. Our obituary and in memoriam services are affordable, accessible, and handled with personal care.

Share your loved one's story with the local community in your local newspaper.

**Sun**  
**OBITUARIES**

Mark your family's memories

Contact Jennifer at (805) 347-1968, ext. 121 or [obituaries@santamariasun.com](mailto:obituaries@santamariasun.com)

**SLO THE VIRUS**  
LOCAL COVID-19 NEWS & INFORMATION

Get your latest local news and information regarding the COVID-19 health crisis from our award-winning journalists.

We're also here for you to tell the stories from our community. Please feel free to share any local notable news, ideas, stories, events, images, or positive actions deriving from the current nationwide crisis. You can send them to [slothevirus@newtimeslo.com](mailto:slothevirus@newtimeslo.com).



[www.newtimeslo.com/blogs/SLOthevirus/](http://www.newtimeslo.com/blogs/SLOthevirus/)

# Not nice

**B**y now Santa's long finished with making and double-checking his naughty and nice list, and though the Big Guy and I go way back, I don't have access to those confidential papers. So, I'm making my own list. The not-nice list. Complete with North County's naughtiest naysayers and nincompoops.



This biggest bad boy isn't confined to Santa Barbara County, but it's sure wreaked havoc in these parts, and not just physical havoc. That's right, the **COVID-19 pandemic** gets the county's top spot—more like the top 14,817 and counting spots.

While COVID-19 has been the naughtiest of viruses, and it's brought out some serious nastiness in too many people in too many positions of power, some of those naughty ones have been on Santa's, um, *guano* list for a long time. I'm talking about **President Donald Trump**. I know this is an understatement, but he's made a mess of our politics on every level, doing nothing to bring the country together in this unprecedented time.

A little closer to home, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** has been rather naughty this year as well. All you Newsom recallers out there, don't get too excited. Our governor's only getting a mention on my not-nice list because the state's **shutdown orders** and colored tiers and restaurant-salons-bars-gyms-closed lists have been confusing and contradictory at times.

Locally and across the state, the people who don't believe the pandemic is real, aren't wearing masks for the good of their fellow community members, and are hating on the people who do mask up, they're definitely on the not-nice list.

Elected officials who have used their positions to ridicule and demean health experts urging caution and sharing statistics: They're extra naughty. County **Supervisor Peter Adam**, I'm talking about you. You got enough of my energy last week ("Ridiculous ridicule," Dec. 17), so nuff said.

Rounding out the list is our favorite little Danish drama capital of the Central Coast: **Solvang**. Well, not everyone and everything in Solvang was naughty, but it had more than its fair share of shenanigans, right up to the end of the year. Just last week, the incoming City Council publicly reversed course over the outgoing elected majority. Solvang was all but revolting against the **Southern California region's** shutdown orders from the governor, asserting it would only enforce the previous purple tier restrictions. But the new council said no freakin' way and asserted that the city was going to stay above board.

That move right there was enough to keep the city from being on the not-nice list wholesale. But both now-recalled City Councilmember **Chris Djernaes** and the people who recalled him are on the naughty list, with **Lammy Johnstone** as a special mention. You got what you wanted, recallers, but you continued to threaten the other City Council members to keep the city open in defiance of the state's orders. If the city didn't get itself out of the SoCal region, "your legacy will have a black spot on our history," Johnstone told the council on Dec. 7. Definitely a naughty thing to say.

The new year is around the corner; let's start it off on a nice foot. ☺

*The Canary needs more guano paper. Send sheets to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).*



## Give A Child The Gift Of Hope.

Volunteers are needed to advocate for our communities most vulnerable youth.

Apply today at [SBCASA.org](http://SBCASA.org)



Fall Special:

\$25 off any service



Smith

MECHANICAL - ELECTRICAL - PLUMBING

LIC. NO. 420418

(805) 621-5000

1340 W. Betteravia Rd, Santa Maria

se habla español  
805-868-0954

smith-electric.com



## What's Your Take?

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

**This week's online poll 12/24-12/31**

**What are you hoping for this holiday season?**

- To see a small circle of my loved ones and stay safe.
- That people start taking the pandemic more seriously.
- More vaccine doses on the Central Coast, ASAP.
- For the state to stop shutting down businesses.

Enter your choice online at: [SantaMariaSun.com](http://SantaMariaSun.com)





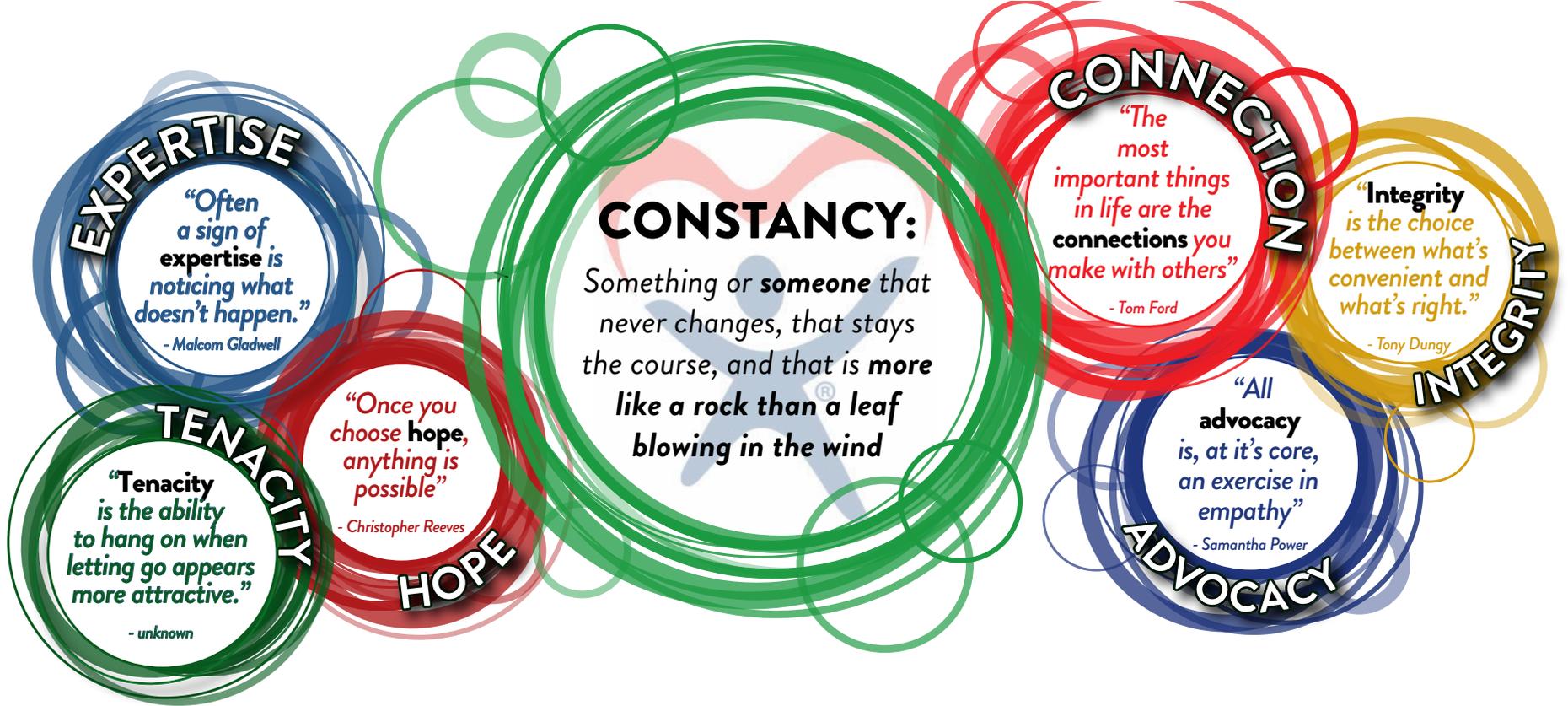
*A lot has changed in 2020, but*  
**CASA of Santa Barbara County**  
continues to make a difference.

**CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™**



**THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING!  
SANTA MARIA SUN &  
HUTTON PARKER FOUNDATION**





**Constancy isn’t a word you hear very often.** Still, it correctly describes the unique dedication a CASA volunteer has to advocate for the most vulnerable children in Santa Barbara County - children who have experienced the trauma of abuse and neglect. We needed volunteers with this quality more this year than we could have possibly imagined.

These six stories are just a small sample of the **457 children** who have had the much-needed constancy of a CASA volunteer this year. These stories focus on six key attributes related to the concept of constancy and are typical in a CASA volunteer: *Expertise, Hope, Integrity, Connection, Advocacy, and Tenacity.* **These stories are only possible because the community supports CASA of Santa Barbara County.**



**Jeff knows where he can make the most difference.** Since becoming a CASA volunteer, he has fiercely advocated for three children who otherwise might not have had a CASA due to their severe developmental disabilities. These cases can be more demanding, needing a specific skill set beyond that required of a CASA volunteer. Jeff’s expertise has proven valuable on all of his assignments, but **it was life saving for 8-year-old Elijah.**

Jeff took Elijah out to the park for their weekly visit on a sunny afternoon, something he had done almost every week since accepting Elijah’s case. Fairly quickly, Jeff noticed Elijah wasn’t acting normal. **He was tired, disengaged, and quiet** – he wasn’t interested in playing their usual games. Jeff knew the child was on various medications, so after their visit, he mentioned to Elijah’s foster mom that he might need to be reevaluated by a doctor. Jeff then immediately alerted the social worker, sharing his observations. **To the social worker’s dismay, she learned that Elijah arrived at his new foster home with his medication in a Tupperware container—no labels, directions, or warnings. That situation could have been fatal for Elijah.**

Jeff followed up to ensure Elijah’s caretakers knew the proper dosages of each medication he was taking. He worked with the social workers, teachers, and doctors to make sure the medicines worked the way they were supposed to. **His diligent work, expertise, and attention to detail helped keep Elijah safe.**

**Long-time CASA volunteer Susan accepted a case in which the child behaved like a wild animal—no speech, no manners, and not toilet trained at five years old.** Her mom had died, and her father had severe mental health issues. **Labeled a problematic child,** Destiny moved from foster home to foster home, displaying behavioral problems in each, as well as at school. While advocating for Destiny to get every possible service to help her, **Susan never gave up on the idea of this little one finding a family.** While studying the details of Destiny’s case, Susan identified a distant relative in Northern California as a possible placement. Destiny moved in with the relative, and **Susan even made the drive once a month to visit and ensure this home was the best fit.** Susan rallied for this family even when the potential adoptive mother had to go through cancer treatment. Holding onto **hope** that Destiny would have a forever home, Susan stayed on the case while the adoptive mother recovered her health. Not long after, **Destiny was adopted and is thriving.** She is excelling in school, has learned to swim, and has a secure **family of her own.**





## Integrity

Kathy has been Lauren's CASA for five years, standing by her through placements in several foster homes. Last year she stood up for Lauren when a certain foster home mom had given up and proclaimed, "I am just a hotel. She comes, and she goes, but we don't speak anymore." With very few options for foster homes, it seemed that Lauren would have no choice but to remain where she was, but Kathy voiced her concern that Lauren deserved more care and attention than she was getting. At the time, Lauren desperately wanted to stay in Lompoc so she could finish high school there, but when Kathy found space in a foster home in Santa Barbara, Lauren agreed to take it. She has been struggling with school for the last few years, and her new challenge is to navigate remote learning. Kathy has again spoken up to ensure that Lauren has a unique plan to meet her specific educational needs. Through so many challenges in Lauren's life, Kathy has had the integrity to voice her concerns and advocate for Lauren's best interests.

Eleven-year-old Christian came into the court's care after disclosing physical abuse by his father. When he first met CASA Kenny, we could tell he just needed someone to talk to and interact with. Christian was very excited to share with us his first experience at Chick-fil-A on an outing with "Mr. Kenny". He also shared that his CASA had entered him into a contest, and when they came through the CASA Halloween drive-thru (another visit with Mr. Kenny that he was excited about, coming in full costume!), he was eager to share that he had won! Although Mr. Kenny has only been in his life for a short time, we can see the strong connection has positively impacted Christian.



## Connection



## Advocacy

CASA Katy was a committed advocate for Jessica, who came in to care when she tried to commit suicide by setting her house on fire. Jessica lived with her aunt after her father passed away. It was safer than living with her mother, who used Jessica to steal for her. Several volunteers had passed on the challenge of advocating for Jessica, but Katy, with no hesitation, said "Yes, that is my kiddo." It was a roller coaster journey, considering Jessica's many struggles with mental health treatments and challenges at school. Katy also built a supportive relationship with the aunt, advocating for support for them as a family. The case was closed when Jessica was legally adopted by her aunt, and the two now share a safe and loving home. Advocacy works.

Lisa is a seasoned CASA volunteer who accepted one of the most severe child abuse and neglect cases. At the hospital, doctors treated a two-year-old boy for multiple fractures and a broken leg and suspected he was a child abuse victim. When child welfare services went out to the home to investigate the family, they found four more children suffering from chronic head lice and learned the children were locked in their rooms with padlocks on the outside of the doors. The children were immediately removed but sadly separated and placed into different foster homes.

Lisa has been fearless and determined. From the moment she accepted the case, Lisa has gone above and beyond, visiting the children together and separately to get to know their unique personalities and individual needs. After two-year-old Logan's release from the hospital, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and required a high-level of medical advocacy. She learned that Jackson, who is six, was bullied by his peers when he attended school in soiled clothing. Eight-year-old Mitch has special needs, requires extra care and attention, and needs an Individualized education plan. The girls, Jasmine and Kylie, are having a difficult time getting used to their new home and miss their siblings terribly.

Despite the current circumstances of COVID-19 and the children moving to new foster homes in separate cities, Lisa continues to visit weekly. She helped get the school-aged children adjusted to their online studies, encouraging them to participate in their classes and complete their homework assignments.

It's too soon to know the outcome of the case, but one thing is for sure, Lisa puts the needs and best interests of her assigned CASA children first. While under her watch, she will advocate for educational, medical, and behavioral health resources.



## Tenacity

# GET INVOLVED WITH CASA!



## *Volunteer*

You do not have to be a lawyer, social worker, or professional in the field to be a CASA volunteer! We are simply looking for people who care about children and will be able to speak up for their best interest in court. As a volunteer, you will be thoroughly trained and well supported by professional staff to help you through your case.

You must pass a background check, participate in a 30-hour pre-service training course and agree to stay on a case until it is closed (a year and a half on average).

**Learn more at [SBCASA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.sbcasa.org/volunteer)**

## *Donate*

Give the gift of advocacy!

When you donate to CASA of Santa Barbara County, you are assuring that a victim of child abuse has a dedicated volunteer advocate. Having a CASA volunteer can change the trajectory of a child's life, leading to more positive outcomes for our community's most vulnerable children.

**Donate now at [SBCASA.ORG/DONATE](https://www.sbcasa.org/donate)**



CHANGE A  
CHILD'S STORY.™



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

[SBCASA.ORG](https://www.sbcasa.org) - 805-739-9102 - [info@sbcasa.org](mailto:info@sbcasa.org)

# HOT STUFF

DEC. 24 – DEC. 31  
2020

**NOTE: Most venues are canceling or postponing events due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Please check with venues to make sure that scheduled events are still, in fact, happening, and most of all, stay safe!**

## GIVE A HOOT

Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay presents *Feathered Friends*, an upcoming fine art and photography show in celebration of January as Bird Month, which is scheduled to debut on Jan. 1 and remain on display through Jan. 29, 2021. Featured artists in this group exhibit include Alice Cahill, Beth Sargent, Jack McNeal, Greg Siragusa, Ardella Swanberg, Virginia Mack, and Terry Garvin. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com) for more info. The gallery is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE CAHILL/ GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**THE ART OF FACE MASKS: VIRTUAL EXHIBIT** This group show reunites several artists from the museum's 2019 exhibit, *The Art of Dress*, including Georganne Alex, Carole Coduti, Gwen Samuels, and others. ongoing Free. [artoffacemasks.com](http://artoffacemasks.com). Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

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

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

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

**WINTER SALON: ANNUAL GROUP SHOW** Over 50 artists display all fine art mediums hung floor to ceiling, "salon style". Features all sizes, all subjects, framed, unframed, etc. Through Jan. 31, 2021 [GalleryLosOlivos.com](http://GalleryLosOlivos.com). Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**KATHY BADRAK: LVAA FEATURED GOURD ARTIST** Kathy Badrak will be showcasing her gourd art in many different ways; from gourd bowls and vases to wall hangings and lamps. Giftable items from Badrak will be on display at the show. Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m. through Dec. 27 Free. 805-737-1129. [lompocart.org](http://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. [coelhomusic.com](http://coelhomusic.com). Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

**PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK** Streams live on PCPA's Instagram every Thursday and spotlights a different

thespian guest each week. Hosted by Erik Stein. Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. Free. [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org). PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 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](http://pcpa.org).

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

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

**WRITING CLUB TO GO: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** The writing club is designed for students up through grade 12. The writing packs include a journal, and a variety of activities to both ease the pressure of writing and to inspire young authors. Registration required. Dec. 28, Dec. 29, Dec. 30, Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR AGES 5-6, FOR AGES 7-12, FOR ADULTS** Each week we will combine two or more

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

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. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**ART IN THE GARDEN: GALLERY AND FUNDRAISER AT SLOBG** Local artists will display and sell handmade items to benefit the SLO Botanical Garden. Get your holiday shopping done in one spot. Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Dec. 27 805-541-1400. [slobg.org/calendar-of-events/gallery](http://slobg.org/calendar-of-events/gallery). San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**JORDAN QUINTERO: COAST RANGES** An exhibition of recent work by Central Coast artist and designer Jordan Quintero. In this evocative new series, he explores the California landscape in oil paint, transparent varnish, and pyrography on hand built wood panels. Mondays-Sundays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-545-5401. [jordanquintero.com](http://jordanquintero.com). Big Sky Cafe, 1121 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo.

**THE LINK BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE** An art show benefiting NatureTrack, whose mission is to instill young students with leadership skills, attitudes, and habits for lifelong learning, and to inspire them to be respectful stewards of our natural world. Through Jan. 1, 2021 Free. 805-252-1100. [oakgroup.org/](http://oakgroup.org/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

## INDEX

Arts .....	[15]
Culture & Lifestyle.....	[16]
Food & Drink.....	[17]
Music .....	[17]

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS**



## SOUND ON

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents *Fridays at Four*, a monthly virtual concert series on YouTube, which premieres its next video on Jan. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. Each prerecorded concert in the free program features performances from different members of the orchestra. A new concert is uploaded on the first Friday of each month. Call (805) 925-0412 or visit [santamariaphilharmonic.org](http://santamariaphilharmonic.org) to find out more.

—C.W.

ARTS from page 15

talents together in depicting the evening skies of our seaside beaches and sanctuaries on the Central Coast. Through Dec. 29, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: FEATURED ARTIST DON DOUBLEDEE** Doubledee has been drawing all his life. As well as being a Cal Poly architecture grad, he has been a resident of Morro Bay since 1970. Through Dec. 29, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**SOLVANG JULEFEST 2020** The 2020 holiday season event, which has been modified as per Santa Barbara County COVID guidelines, will entail multiple holiday happenings all located within the town. Through Jan. 1, 2021 [SolvangJulefest.org](http://SolvangJulefest.org). Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.



**SOLVANG TREE DECORATING CONTEST** More than 100 Christmas trees will line Solvang's lanes as the town's businesses hold a tree decorating contest, similar to Solvang's fall season Scarecrow Fest. Solvang's shops, Danish bakeries, restaurants, wine tasting rooms, wine and beer bars, and hotels will join the friendly competition. Through Jan. 1, 2021 [SolvangJulefest.org](http://SolvangJulefest.org). Downtown Solvang, Mission Dr., Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT** Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. ongoing [partnersincaring.org](http://partnersincaring.org). Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY: DRIVE-THRU EVENT** A holiday light display to bring you all the warmth of the holidays. Drive through the gleaming light displays created by local organizations and families. Through Jan. 3, 2021, 7-10 a.m. \$40. 805-925-4125. [elksrec.com](http://elksrec.com). Elks Unocal Event Center, 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

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

**STORY TIME LIVE FOR FAMILIES: VIRTUAL EVENT FROM SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Join us for a live story time for families; bilingual on

alternating weeks. Includes songs, finger plays, and a few stories. Tune in for a fun story time the whole family will enjoy. Registration is required for a Zoom link. Wednesdays, 4-4:30 p.m. through Feb. 24 Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Includes activities to do with your best stuffy as well as a booklist of fun bedtime reads and more. Dec. 24 Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN ANIME CLUB PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Register to pick up a Teen Anime Pack from the Santa Maria Public Library which will include something bookish, crafty, and of course, something yummy. When you register you will also be invited to a Zoom meeting on Monday, Dec. 28, from 4 to 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and Jan. 3 Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**DANA ADOBE ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER** A great gift idea and a way to support the DANA Adobe and Cultural Center. Each ornament is custom made by staff members. Visit site for more info. ongoing [danaadobe.org](http://danaadobe.org). DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, 805-929-5679.

**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 HOLIDAY TOUR** Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse. All online virtual tours are enhanced with traditional holiday

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 17

**THE ROOTS DISPENSARY**

ALL DECEMBER  
**25% OFF**  
Entire Store

BEST OF  
20 **wm** 20  
WEEDMAPS

SUBSCRIBE

ORDER NOW

**LAST MINUTE GIFTS**

**TEXT "TRDSUN" TO 411669 TO SIGN UP FOR TEXT CLUB**

**LOCATED AT:**  
805 W Laurel Ave.  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
(805) 322 - 8032

ADULTS 21+  
for Recreational Use  
ADULTS 18+  
with Medical Recommendation

*We Deliver*

[www.visittheroots.com](http://www.visittheroots.com)

**HOURS:**  
Monday - Saturday  
9AM - 9PM  
Sundays  
9AM - 6PM  
C10-0000335-LIC

"LOCALLY OWNED"

"LOCALLY OPERATED"

Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.

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

**Holiday Lighthouse Virtual Tours**  
WEDNESDAYS THRU DEC 30  
Point San Luis Lighthouse

**Wednesdays Around The World: China**  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

**Estate Beef Dinner Series: Short Ribs**  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

**January Wine Seminar: Taste Like A Pro**  
SUNDAY JANUARY 24  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

**Wednesdays Around The World: India**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

**Pecho Coast Trail Plant Life**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21  
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](mailto:info@My805Tix.com)

POWERED BY: *NewTimes* & *Sun*

decorations for the month of December. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. \$10. [pointsanluislighthouse.org/](http://pointsanluislighthouse.org/). Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**CENTRAL COAST CONJURERS (SLO COUNTY MAGIC CLUB)** Monthly meeting of magicians of all levels. Please call or email for more info. Meet like-minded folks with an interest in magic, from close-up to stage performances. Last Wednesday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-440-0116. IHOP, 212 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY STROLL** Walk through Downtown San Luis Obispo to see businesses, windows and parklets lit up for the Holidays. Visit site to get your Merry map and itinerary to see bright and cheery decorated windows and other surprises and visual delights. Through Jan. 1, 2021 [SLOHolidays.com](http://SLOHolidays.com). Mission Plaza, 751 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**GIVE JOY HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN** Family Care Network's Give Joy Campaign matches families' needs with our community's heart to give. Help raise awareness, funds, and resources to make sure our families have everything they need for this holiday season and beyond. Participate and donate today. Through Dec. 31 [fcmi.org/givejoy](http://fcmi.org/givejoy). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**GRIEF RECOVERY AND SUPPORT PROGRAM** People say you have to let go and move on in your life, but they don't tell you how to accomplish that. This Grief Recovery Program will make that possible while providing guidance. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. through Jan. 19 Total: \$49 plus \$12 book. 714-273-9014. [cccsf.org/classes/](http://cccsf.org/classes/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN SLO 2020** Visit Mission Plaza, which will include Santa's House and the traditional Holiday Tree, which will be surrounded by creative and colorful light installations, a 20-foot rainbow light tunnel, a glammed-up Dine Out Downtown outdoor dining area, a lighted tree forest, and five interactive themed Memory Moment Pods. Through Jan. 1, 2021 [sloholidays.com](http://sloholidays.com). Mission Plaza, 751 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**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](http://ae.slcsud.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SCAVENGER HUNT: SEARCH FOR SANTA'S MOUSE** This free activity book, available at Santa's House and at shops around downtown features a charming story, and a scavenger hunt with eight clues for kids and families to find together as they stroll downtown. Through Jan. 1, 2021 [sloholidays.com](http://sloholidays.com). Mission Plaza, 751 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

**VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE JACK HOUSE** Public virtual tours via Zoom of the famous Jack House of San Luis Obispo. Access to the house is extremely limited and this is your best opportunity to get the inside view. Thursdays, 2 p.m. \$5 suggested. 805-543-0638. [historycenterslo.org/jack-tour.html](http://historycenterslo.org/jack-tour.html). Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.



**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

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

**TRAIL OF LIGHTS** A new holiday lighting trail map offering city residents the chance to showcase their holiday lights. Deadline to enter address to map is Nov. 30. Maps available through Christmas. Through Dec. 25 [visitatascadero.com/holidaylights](http://visitatascadero.com/holidaylights). Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

**SEASON OF RANGE**

Local artist and designer Jordan Quintero presents *Coast Ranges*, an exhibition of recent works, at Big Sky Cafe in San Luis Obispo through Dec. 31. This exhibit features a collection of California-based landscapes Quintero painted with oil on wooden panels. Admission is free. Call (805) 545-5401 or visit [jordanquintero.com](http://jordanquintero.com) for more info. The cafe is located at 1121 Broad St., San Luis Obispo. —C.W.



COURTESY IMAGE BY JORDAN QUINTERO

**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](http://kalyrawinery.com). Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez.

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

**LOMPOC/VANDENBERG**

**FLYING GOAT CELLARS: APPOINTMENT AND PICK-UPS** This winery specializes in Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. Call or check site for pick-up and appointment info. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-

4 p.m. 805-736-9032. [flyinggoatcellars.com](http://flyinggoatcellars.com). Flying Goat Cellars, 1520 Chestnut Court, Lompoc.

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

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

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

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

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**MAKE YOUR OWN HOLIDAY CERAMIC CUP AT HOME** Offering a coco cup home kit. You will be provided with supplies needed, instructional video; we will glaze and fire your work for you. No experience needed; designed with the beginner maker in mind. Through Jan. 1, 2021 \$45. [sломakerspace.com/](http://sломakerspace.com/). SLOMakerSpace, 81 Higuera, suite 160, San Luis Obispo, 805-225-4783.

**MUSIC**

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS**

**SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FIRST FRIDAYS AT FOUR** Featuring musicians from the Santa Maria Philharmonic, this monthly series of musical adventures are recorded in local settings and offered free to the public. First Friday of every month Free. [smphilharmonic.org](http://smphilharmonic.org). Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

**SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY: JAMES WAY BAND (VIRTUAL)** All donations are shared equally between James Way Band, Santa Maria Elks, and the Clark Center. Concert will be available online through Jan. 4. Dec. 26, 6-7 p.m. Donations accepted. [bigbigislo.com](http://bigbigislo.com). Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

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

PCPA  
PACIFIC CONSERVATORY THEATRE  
PRESENTS

**ESTRELLA SCROOGE**  
A Christmas Carol with a Twist

From the TONY and OLIVIER Award-Winning Director of *Les Misérables* and *Nicholas Nickleby* and the TONY Nominated Composer of *Jane Eyre*

PCPA  
PACIFIC CONSERVATORY THEATRE

**ESTRELLA SCROOGE**  
A Christmas Carol with a Twist

STREAMING THROUGH JANUARY 3RD

FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS:  
[PCPA.ORG](http://PCPA.ORG)

**Whale Watching**  
Half Day Trips / All-Day Trips with Landing on Anacapa or Santa Cruz Island

Safe & Open

©2016 Jolli Keenan for islandpackers.com

Island Day Hikes – Camp – Kayak – Whale Watch  
**805-642-1393 ISLANDPACKERS.COM**

THE HISTORIC  
**Santa Maria Inn**  
SINCE 1917

A beautiful, full-service property located in the heart of Santa Maria

- Banquet Facilities for groups of up to 350
- The Century Room Restaurant offering a champagne Sunday Brunch
- English Pub with Happy Hour
- Wine Cellar offering complimentary appetizers

801 S. Broadway  
805-928-7777

[www.santamariainn.com](http://www.santamariainn.com)

**Radisson**

Vintner's Dining is NOW OPEN!

Mon-Fri Dinner 5-9pm  
Sat-Sun Lunch & Dinner Noon-9pm

Great NEW Menu Items!

928-8000 · 3455 Skyway Drive, SM  
[www.radisson.com/santamariaca](http://www.radisson.com/santamariaca)

## Arts Briefs

### Santa Maria's Lights, Sights, and Holiday Nights Decorating Contest announces winners

The city of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department has announced the winners of its annual Lights, Sights, and Holiday Nights Decorating Contest. A map of the city that highlights the winning residences is now available online for the community to view or print at [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org).

The department announced the following winners in their respective categories: Elizabeth Houser (622 E. Fesler) for Best Decorated Rookie Residence (for first-time entries); The Price family (526 Boscoe Court) for Country Christmas (for Western or ranch-themed decorations); Alex and Gloria Nanalis (314 W. Harding) for Homespun Holiday ("holidays at home"-themed decorations); and Christian Cortez (436 Roble) for California Dreamin' (best light display, motion lights, music, and/or animatronics).

Six additional residences were recognized by the department in its Holiday Hall of Fame (awarded to previous winners who have won three or more times in past contests): Michael Clayton (400 E. Orange); the Melena family (515 N. Lucas); the Bernard family (228 S. Linda); the Hindle family (1030 Cortez); the Cardona family (2040 Lassen); and the Dickerson family (104 Palm Court).

Call the city of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department directly for more info on the competition at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260.

### Pioneer Valley High School students raise donations for families in need during special drive-through event

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNY KLEIN



Student leaders at Pioneer Valley High School (PVHS) in Santa Maria organized Holiday Lights, a special drive-through event held on campus on Dec. 12. The event was designed to "give our community a place for the family to see holiday lights and celebrate the season with our PVHS family," said Lisa Walters, the school's Panther Activity director, in a press release.

More than 300 vehicles drove through the program, according to the release, and many visitors made donations to benefit local families of students enrolled at PVHS in need.

"There were so many donations to help out our PVHS families who have had a difficult 2020. I am touched by and so appreciative of our community," Principal Shanda Herrera said in the release. "Seeing all of the lights and decorated trees brought smiles to so many people."

The school's student council and other volunteers helped decorate a large area of the PVHS campus with holiday lights, candy canes, and other festive items. There were also displays themed around classic Christmas movies, including *Home Alone*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

"Our community really came together to help make the holidays better for those who have had a difficult time," Rachel Ramos, leader of the Student Council Outreach Team, said.

For more updates from PVHS and the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, visit [smjhsd.org](http://smjhsd.org). ○

Arts Briefs is compiled by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood. Send information to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

IMAGES COURTESY OF GALLERY LOS OLIVOS



**COLORS OF THE WIND:** Winter Salon featured artist Kris Buck depicted Windy Cove in Morro Bay in her pastel seascape, *All is Calm*.

## Winter wonderland

Gallery Los Olivos closes 2020 with its annual Winter Salon exhibit, both in person and online

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

With paintings hung from floor to ceiling, Gallery Los Olivos has enough space to showcase more than 50 different local artists during Winter Salon, the gallery's annual salon-style exhibition. And for those unable to make it to the gallery in person this year, the exhibit is available online to view for free.

While the show's paintings vary in size and subject matter, many of its featured landscapes share a running theme of finding peace through nature.

"I think we need some 'calm' right now, after this crazy year, and I hope the viewer finds some peace and calm while viewing," pastel artist Kris Buck said, discussing her contribution to Winter Salon, *All is Calm*, which depicts Windy Cove in Morro Bay.

"The waters were so calm, the reflections

were wonderful, and the boats looked so peaceful," Buck recalled of the morning the piece is based on. "I asked the artist I was painting with why they called it 'Windy Cove,' when it was so peaceful. She

laughed and said to wait for the winds to come up around noon, and they did!"

Winter Salon also showcases Terri Taber's pastel piece, *Golden Hour*, which she painted from a reference photo she took while on one of her usual walks near the San Marcos Foothills Preserve.

"I have been walking this area for well over 10 years. This land has shown me peace and serenity and solidifies my love for the landscape," Taber said. "At certain times of the year, and during that hour before sunset, the grasses can become this warm, burnt orange color. It becomes magical. It is hard to capture that in a painting, but I try."

Featured artist Linda Mutti also chose to submit one of her pastel landscapes, titled *Gaviota Glory*, into Winter Salon. Mutti was inspired to paint this piece after admiring the spot from afar for so long, always noticing it from the 101 freeway before

finally pulling over one day to capture it.

"Every time I passed by, I would think, 'I've got to paint that scene,'" Mutti said. "I have always loved the trees and trestle."

Other featured pastel artists include Deborah Breedon, who is showcasing two of her paintings in this year's group show.

"Both of them were painted during the first few months of the pandemic," Breedon said of her entries. "Nature's promise of spring bloom arrived and I went for it. It was pure joy to be plein air painting again after weeks of being sequestered."

For Breedon, seeing the blooming flowers along the Jalama Beach hillsides was a "welcome inspiration" urging her to paint one of her two featured pieces, *Jalama Coreopsis*, she said.

"A painter friend took me out to see the coreopsis as I'd never seen it before," Breedon said. "Not only is the drive to the beach gorgeous, but Jalama Beach itself also has so much to encourage you to paint. Plus you can't ignore the burgers."

Oil painter Neil Andersson submitted two of his landscapes into Winter Salon, both of which depict Santa Barbara County parks. Based on a scenic pathway in Lompoc's Beatty Park, Andersson completed one of his featured pieces, *Eucalyptus Tree and Pathway*, in his studio rather than on location.

"I think this painting creates the mood of both serenity and curiosity that one can experience in nature," Andersson said. "I like the way the focus goes back and forth between the tree in the foreground and the line of trees in the middle ground."

Stepping out of the studio, Andersson painted *Sunlit Hill* plein air, near a peaceful hillside in Buellton's River View Park. He described the piece as nontraditional and nonscenic, citing its simplicity.

"Sometimes going on location to paint, you can spend hours walking around trying to find the 'perfect view.' This painting tries to show that a painting can be about the simplest and most mundane objects," Andersson said. "Beauty is one of the simplest things."

One silver lining Andersson has embraced during the ongoing pandemic is taking more time to paint, especially outdoors, he said.

"I used to paint outdoors from nature a lot, but a few years ago, I started doing larger studio paintings," Andersson said. "Painting from nature again has been really good for the never-ending goal of just being a better painter." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood needs more art on his ceiling. Send recommendations to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

### Gallery greetings

Gallery Los Olivos presents Winter Salon, a salon-style group exhibition, through Jan. 31, 2021. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com) for more info. The exhibit is available to view online at [gallerylosolivosonline.faso.com](http://gallerylosolivosonline.faso.com).



**FLOWER POWER:** For Deborah Breedon, seeing the blooming flowers along the Jalama Beach hillsides was a "welcome inspiration" urging her to paint one of her two featured pieces in Winter Salon, *Jalama Coreopsis*.



**LESS IS MORE:** "Sometimes going on location to paint, you can spend hours walking around trying to find the 'perfect view.' This painting tries to show that a painting can be about the simplest and most mundane objects," artist Neil Andersson said of his plein air piece, *Sunlit Hill*. "Beauty is one of the simplest things."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES OR DISNEY PLUS?

## Becoming Santa

**Editor's note: Staff Writer Karen Garcia and Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood took over Sun Screen while the Starkeys enjoy their holidays off.**

There's always been an age-old question of how St. Nicholas becomes Santa Claus and delivers toys to boys and girls around the world in one night. Not to mention how he can eat so many cookies and wash them down with so much milk—does he take bathroom breaks? Director John Pasquin (*Home Improvement, Miss Congeniality 2: Armed & Fabulous, Roseanne, Last Man Standing*) takes a whack at answering those questions by telling the unconventional story of how Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) becomes Santa Claus and restores adults' faith in the magic of Christmas in this 1994 classic. (113 min.)

**Caleb:** He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. On paper, the premise of Disney's *The Santa Clause* sounds like a draconian nightmare. One fateful Christmas Eve, divorced father Scott Calvin (Tim Allen, *Jungle 2 Jungle, Toy Story, Galaxy Quest*) is forced to serve a lifetime of penance after an old man in a Santa suit drops dead from his rooftop. Under contractual obligations, enforced by supernatural forces beyond his control, Calvin's body gradually transforms into the bearded man he's blamed for killing (even though it technically isn't his fault, he just yelled, "Excuse me!" at a strange man on top of his house in the middle of the night, and the guy slipped and fell to his death). An onslaught of Kafkaesque body horror ensues as Calvin grows thicker and wider, gaining excessive weight and

white facial hair within days of the manslaughter. Once a slim and successful advertising executive, Calvin is forced to throw out his suits and start wearing sweats at the office. His boss (Peter Boyle) pulls him aside at one point during a lunch meeting just to fat-shame him for ordering a hot fudge sundae with his mainstay Caesar salad. Calvin even loses custody of his child by the middle of the film, but we'll get to that later. I'm gravely misleading anyone who hasn't seen this masterpiece, which is a lot more gleeful than I'm letting on, and, inarguably, one of the best Christmas movies ever made.

**Karen:** I have to chuckle at your remark, Caleb. The fat-shaming scene is only the tip of the iceberg in laughs you'll have watching this movie. Disclaimer: This film also happens to be one of my top holiday favorites as well. Calvin's story is heartwarming, as you might have already guessed, which is a must in order to be a Disney classic. He's a successful advertising executive but isn't as successful in the parenting department. Actually his son, Charlie (Eric Lloyd), reluctantly stays with his dad on Christmas Eve, the typical divorced-parent-holiday-visiting-rights situation. Influenced by the bedtime story *The Night Before Christmas*, Charlie encourages his father to climb a ladder that magically appears near the deceased St. Nicholas, and inspect the roof for possible reindeer. Calvin, being the logical adult he is, doubts such an animal even exists, until he follows Charlie up the ladder. And so begins the adventure of literally filling in Santa's red suit to deliver toys to sleeping children. You'll definitely get a kick out of Calvin earning the ability to squeeze down any-size fireplace with the magic of Santa's red bag. It's hard to miss the growing connection between Calvin and his

### THE SANTA CLAUSE

What's it rated? **PG**  
 What's it worth, Karen? **Full Price**  
 What's it worth, Caleb? **Full Price**  
 Where's it showing? **Disney Plus**

son; the connection between Calvin and his empathy for others. I mean Santa's round tummy isn't just filled with sweets, he's plump with kindness, compassion, and the magic of Christmas.

**Caleb:** It's no surprise *The Santa Clause* ended up getting two sequels (nowhere near as great but they exist), because who wouldn't want to revisit this world and these characters? And I'm not just talking about the major players. The supporting cast includes Bernard the no-nonsense "Head Elf" (David Krumholtz), who helps Calvin get situated into his new role as Father Christmas, and Charlie's mother and stepfather (Wendy Crewson and Judge Reinhold, respectively), who share a very touching monologue about the moments they stopped believing in Santa Claus as children. My only quibble with this classic is something that confused me as a kid. I never understood why Charlie seemed so bummed out during that Christmas Eve dinner (Calvin takes the boy to Denny's after burning the turkey at home). What inherently makes Denny's such a negative alternative? Am I the only person who loved Denny's growing up? I was always stoked to go to Denny's. Cheer up, Charlie!



**SANTA'S SLAYER:** Scott Calvin (Tim Allen, right) takes his son, Charlie (Eric Lloyd, left), out for a sleigh ride, roughly one year after they witnessed Santa Claus die in front of them, in Disney's *The Santa Clause*.

**Karen:** Something that always puzzled me about the film was what would happen to Calvin if he fell off a roof. Would that person go through the trials of being a jolly man in a red suit. It's not an easy feat, as we learn through this film, but it has its benefits, such as getting hot chocolate that's been perfected by an elf named Judy (Paige Tamada) who worked on her recipe for 500 years. Yes, you read that correctly—that little lady is more than 500 years old. The magic of Christmas is happiness, so maybe it also equals the fountain of youth? Either way, whatever age you are and whether you decide to watch *The Santa Clause* for the millionth time or for the first time, you'll definitely feel the childlike magic of the holidays. ○

*Sun Screen* was written by Staff Writer Karen Garcia and Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood this week. Comment at [gstarkey@newtimeslo.com](mailto:gstarkey@newtimeslo.com).

## Film Reviews

### HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK

What's it rated? **PG**  
 When? **1992**  
 Where's it showing? **Disney Plus**

A John Hughes masterpiece, and, dare I say, better than the first, *Home Alone 2: Lost In New York* starts exactly as the first did. Buzz (Devin Ratray) is a jerk, Kevin (Macaulay Culkin) is misunderstood, and his entire family loses him in the frenzy of rushing through the Chicago airport to catch their flight to Florida.

Kevin is adamant about getting new batteries from his dad's bag for his voice recorder as the family is running through the airport. He stops for mere seconds to replace the batteries with fresh ones and resumes the mad dash.

But it turns out that many white males wear khaki-colored coats in the Chicago airport, so Kevin, unfortunately, follows a stranger on a flight to New York. Of course his clueless, too-large, family doesn't realize Kevin is missing until they're picking up their luggage at their destination—then his mom, Kate (Catherine O'Hara), screams his name and faints at the reality that she might be a terrible parent.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS



**MERRY CHRISTMAS, YA FILTHY ANIMAL:** Kevin (Macaulay Culkin) has found himself lost once again, except it's in New York, and his burglar nemeses are ready for revenge.

Meanwhile, Kevin is enjoying being the Big Apple's newest tourist and has somehow charmed the staff at The Plaza Hotel to allow him to stay in one of its finest rooms by using his dad's credit card. He's at the height of kid luxury with a room complete with junk food room service and limousine rides to toy stores, which all comes to an utter halt when the hotel concierge (Tim Curry) finds out the credit card has been reported stolen. Not to mention the Wet Bandits, now

the Sticky Bandits, Harry (Joe Pesci) and Marv (Daniel Stern) have escaped from prison, are planning to rob a toy store in New York, and want to kill Kevin—for throwing them in the slammer.

Hilarity ensues when Kevin once again MacGyvers his way out of the grasp of the Sticky Bandits. (121 min.)  
 —Karen Garcia

### HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

What's it rated? **PG**  
 When? **2000**  
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Grinch me, I must be dreaming. I'll never understand why the live-action adaptation of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* got so much flack from critics back in the day (with a score of 49 percent on Rotten Tomatoes). What is there not to love? Whoville, as realized by director Ron Howard (*A Beautiful Mind, Apollo 13*) and production designer Michael Corenblith (*Cool World, Saving Mr. Banks*) is a visual marvel, and Jim Carrey (*The Mask, Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*) is flawless as Dr. Seuss' beloved green grump.

It's honestly hard to tell what's scripted versus improvised,

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



**A STAR IS BORN:** There are few creatures more adorable than baby Grinch, as seen in director Ron Howard's 2000 adaptation of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

but either way, Carrey's dialogue is masterful ("If you so much as utter one syllable, I'll hunt you down and gut you like a fish! If you'd like to fax me, press the star key."). Don't let the haters and critics fool you, their hearts are probably two sizes too small. It's a sin to let any December roll by without at least one *Grinch* viewing. (105 min.) ○

—Caleb Wiseblood

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS:

**Billy Burger & Deep Fried Burrito** | **Regular Burger, small order of**  
 small order of fries & small soft drink of choice | fries & small soft drink of choice

**\$5.98+tax**

Exp. 12/31/20

**WE ARE OPEN**

**\$5.06+tax**

Exp. 12/31/20



## Bill's Take Out

**Santa Maria's Original Fast Food Place!**

Sorry, debit or credit cards not accepted

523 North Broadway, Santa Maria • 922-6116



**LET'S WING IT**

**FEATURING 40 YEARS  
 AWARD-WINNING  
 PATRICIO'S PIZZA**



**Same Great Pizza! • Same Great Taste! Dine In • Take Out • Deliver**

1301 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach • 805.474.1000 • [www.letswingit.com](http://www.letswingit.com)

## Let them eat cake

Lifelong Santa Maria resident Terri Wahlberg is baking up a storm from home through Wahly's Sweet Treats

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Whether it whets your appetite or not, there's something objectively pure and life-fulfilling about seeing a tiny taco on top of a cupcake. It's like crossing something off a bucket list you never thought was there to begin with.

But this particular taco was made of fondant icing, like many of home baker Terri Wahlberg's themed creations, as part of a unique dessert selection she designed for a taco night dinner gathering. From Christmas trees to mermaid tails, Wahlberg jumps at the chance to customize cookies, cake pops, brownies, and other sweet treats based on whatever framework a client has in mind.

"Oh, she's really into Betty Boop? I'm like, 'Done!'" Wahlberg said, referring to one of her recent custom orders, a multilayered birthday cake topped off with an intricate, edible figure of everyone's favorite animated flapper.

A full-time operations manager at Santa Maria Tire by day, Wahlberg's part-time baking venture started on Instagram, with Wahly's Sweet Treats (@wahlyssweettreats), as a way to share her homemade goodies with friends and loved ones, but her endeavor quickly evolved into getting orders from strangers through direct messaging.

"The last couple of years, it just kind of blew up," said Wahlberg, a self-described night owl when it comes to baking.

"It's late at night. I usually don't start baking until 9 p.m.," Wahlberg told the Sun, as she usually only has time for dessert crafting in the evenings after each work day.

The time Wahlberg spends baking is a part-time workload in its own right, but overall it feels more like catharsis than a second job, she explained.

"Baking on the side is fun, it's actually a stress reliever for me—which is really odd because it's pretty stressful making those things.

"Especially cakes; cakes scare me structurally, especially when I start to add more layers. If it falls, it's gonna be a real bummer," Wahlberg said. "Lately, I've been doing a lot more wedding cakes and birthday cakes, which is really a little out of my comfort zone. But it's allowing me to get better at it."

The comfort food she ranks highest in her comfort zone is cupcakes, Wahlberg's all-time favorite thing to bake. The self-taught baker became obsessed with *Cupcake Wars*—a reality



**FONDANT FLAPPER:** From Betty Boop to other pop culture icons, baker Terri Wahlberg jumps at the chance to customize cakes, cupcakes, cake pops, cookies, brownies, and other sweet treats based on whatever framework a client has in mind.

show in which several bakers compete in a differently themed cupcake-baking competition each episode—about five years ago, she said.

"I got addicted to it. I just thought it was really cool watching these home bakers or professional bakers come in and on the fly just challenge themselves with oddball ingredients," Wahlberg said of the show.

Wahlberg also found Pinterest to be a consistent source of inspiration when it comes to discovering unique dessert designs.

"In all honesty, I am not artistic. I cannot draw to save my life," said Wahlberg, who usually works from a reference image but likes to add her own twists and turns. "I'll just see something and try to emulate it or tweak it to what I think it should be."

When asked if she enjoyed baking as a child, Wahlberg said it wasn't until adulthood that she became interested, almost more out of necessity than anything, she explained.

"I bake because it's what I can do. Cooking, I cannot," she laughed.

Prior to Wahlberg's *Cupcake Wars* obsession, she had already dipped her toes into dessert baking in order to have something homemade to offer at dinner parties, potlucks, and barbecues. The biggest irony is Wahlberg doesn't have much of a sweet tooth herself, except when it comes to chocolate chip cookies, she admitted, calling it her one weakness.

"It's really weird because I'm not a sweet eater at all. I don't taste any of

my own stuff," Wahlberg said. "My husband is the one who has benefitted from all of this because he's the taste tester."

Wahlberg even named her Wahly's Instagram handle after her husband's childhood nickname, and as a nod to their last name of course.

"Some people are like, 'Why did you pick that?' And I'm like, 'Do you know what my last name is?'" Wahlberg laughed. "It's been my husband's nickname. As a kid, they always called him Wally."

Wahlberg was born and raised in Santa Maria, where she continues to live with her husband. And although they're not thinking of leaving the area anytime soon, Wahlberg has one request if the couple ever decides to move from their home of 20-plus years.

"We were just talking the other night, and I said, 'You know when we move to our next house, I really want a kitchen with big counter space, a big island, lots of storage,'" she listed.

While stay-at-home orders and COVID-19 closures have freed up time for Wahlberg to bake more often than usual, it also freed up space, she explained. After the first wave of the pandemic precautions began in March, Wahlberg decided it might be a good time to renovate a specific room in the house.

"Back in the day, scrapbooking was really popular, and I was into that heavily," Wahlberg said, explaining her old craft room, which recently got a makeover. "But I thought to myself,



**DOG DAYS AREN'T OVER:** Wahly's Sweet Treats (@wahlyssweettreats) began on Instagram as a way to share Terri Wahlberg's homemade goodies with friends and loved ones, but the page quickly evolved thanks to word of mouth, leading locals to place custom orders through direct messaging.



**FROSTING THE SNOWMAN:** Terri Wahlberg posts many of her custom orders to her Instagram page, including this special holiday package of winter-themed cupcakes.

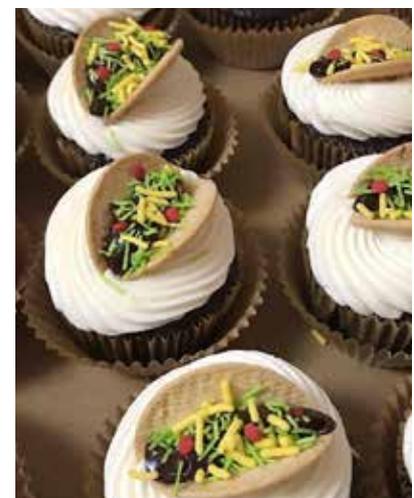
### A game of give and bake

Find out more about Wahly's Sweet Treats on Instagram (@wahlyssweettreats).

"Out with the old and in with the new." So I just bought some storage shelves and really organized the room for baking supplies.

"I didn't really have enough space for everything before that, so things were sitting in bags everywhere," Wahlberg added. "It's kind of a challenge having four different things going on in my small little kitchen at the same time. But I love getting creative." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is craving a homemade cupcake. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**LET'S TACO 'BOUT IT:** What better way to conclude a taco night dinner party than with some of Terri Wahlberg's taco-themed cupcakes?

# CLASSIES

Reach over 150,000 readers weekly from Santa Ynez to San Miguel

**Get your classified ad—for Free!**

Private parties may run FREE classified ads in the FOR SALE and AUTOS/BOATS sections.

Contact us today! (805) 546-8208 or classifieds@santamariasun.com

## Real Estate

Be sure to check out this week's updated weekend OPEN HOUSE directory

### FOR RENT



### SANTA MARIA

\*327 Mary Dr

Studio

\$1175 Rent

\$1175 Security

Deposit

Available January

1st. 2021

**PLEASE DO NOT  
DISTURB TENANTS!**

**Greco Realty Inc.**  
**805-922-0599**  
118 W. Fesler, Santa Maria  
Lic. #00892126

#### WANTED TO BUY

KC BUYS HOUSES - FASTEST CASH - Any Condition. Family owned & Operated. Same day offer! (951) 777-2518  
WWW.KCBUYSHOUSES.COM (Cal-SCAN)

Follow us on  
Facebook



SantaMariaSun

#### Marketplace

### Home & Garden

santamariasun.com

#### HAULING & CLEAN-UP

JT's Hauling  
Trees, Debris, Garage Clean Up, Moving and Recycling. Call Jon 805-440-4207

### Marketplace

#### Marketplace

### Business Services

santamariasun.com

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES

Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-888-508-6305. (CalSCAN)

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

#### HOME SERVICES

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (cal-SCAN)

@SantaMariaSun

### RETIRED COUPLE

**Has \$\$\$\$ to lend on  
California Real Estate\***

### V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

WWW.VIPLoan.COM \*Sufficient equity required-no consumer loans

CA Department of Real Estate, DRE #01041073

Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional loans

# WHY USA

WE HEAR YOU AMERICA!

## PREFERRED PROPERTIES

NEW LISTING



### 502 Crescent, Santa Maria

Beautiful Orcutt area home with RV parking and huge backyard perfect for entertaining! This home boasts living and family rooms as well as a formal dining room. Home has three bedrooms and 2 bathrooms but formal dining room could potentially be converted to a 4th bedroom. Kitchen has upgraded granite countertops and bathroom has upgraded counters and shower. Great location near shopping, Orcutt schools and highways. Make an appointment to see this beautiful home! It won't last long! \$510,000 (CR502)



### 921 N Ridgeview, Santa Maria

Senior Living at its Finest! Desirable Quail Meadows East Park. This 2 bedroom and 2 full bathroom is warm and inviting with beautiful throughout. The newer front porch provides sturdy railings to enter into the spacious living room with hardwood floors through your newer front door. The kitchen has tile counter tops and flooring, newer dishwasher. The open dining area parallels the kitchen and has a sliding glass door to the backyard. This space could also be used as a family room/den. Master bedroom has newer laminate flooring and a huge closet. The master bathroom features a separate shower, garden tub, and double sinks. New furnace and A/C units. Low maintenance backyard with covered patio and beautiful fruit trees. \$189,990 (CR921)



### 874 Comanche, Santa Maria

Beautiful two story home in a quiet Orcutt area neighborhood! This home boasts pride of ownership throughout its 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, family and living room. The backyard is HUGE and is perfect for family gatherings or a large garden! Home also has electric heating with individual thermostats in every room. Shopping, restaurants and multiple schools all within walking distance. This beautiful home won't last long! Call your agent and make an appointment to view!! \$589,000 (C0874)

**(805) 922-0660** BRE #01275631

5400 Telephone Road, Santa Maria

[www.WhyUSAProperties.net](http://www.WhyUSAProperties.net)

**Tired of being a landlord  
collecting rents trying  
to understand new  
state laws?**

**Hire a professional  
that will take away  
those headaches.**



#### SERVING ...

#### ARROYO GRANDE

1176 E. Grand Ave  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93429  
**805-473-6565**

#### LOMPOC

511 N. H Street Suite A  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
**805-735-2492**

#### SANTA MARIA

421 E. Betteravia St. Ste 102  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
**805-928-4320**

#### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

436 Alisal Road Unit G  
Solvang, CA 93463  
**805-688-7747**

**We can make owning investment  
property hassle free.**

Call us today for a free consultation!

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
**plusmanagement.net**

CA Broker # 00347608

**PLUS**

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
an investment in your future

Powerful • Intellectual • Effective

# Autos Boats

santamariasun.com

### AUTO PARTS

2011 Buick Regal CXL  
Selling for parts or take the whole car. Price negotiable. Call 317-682-7227

### VEHICLES WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR, BOAT OR RV to receive a major tax deduction. Help homeless pets. Local, IRS Recognized. Top Value Guaranteed. Free Estimate and Pickup. LAPETSALIVE.ORG 1-833-772-2632 (Cal-SCAN)

WANTED! Old Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1973 Only. Any condition, top \$ paid! PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE 1-707-339-5994. Email: porsche restoration@yahoo.com (CalSCAN)

Follow us on Instagram



@SantaMariaSun

### APPLIANCES

GE SIDE BY SIDE FRIDGE, Large, \$300. Can text photo. 805-441-4166

HOTPOINT ELECTRIC RANGE \$40. Can text photo. 805-441-4166

HUNTINGTON BEACH MICROWAVE \$30. Can text photo. 805-441-4166

MAYTAG Over-the-stove Microwave, \$40. Can text photo. 805-441-4166

## Miscellaneous

DIRECTV - Every live football game, every Sunday - anywhere - on your favorite device. Restrictions apply. Call IVS - 1-888-641-5762. (Cal-SCAN)

Stay in your home longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-844-252-0740 (Cal-SCAN)

Water Damage to Your Home? Call for a quote for professional cleanup & maintain the value of your home! Set an appt. today! Call 1-855-401-7069 (Cal-SCAN)

ENJOY 100% guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! Get 4 FREE Burgers. Order The Griller's Bundle - ONLY \$79.99. 1-877-882-4248, Use Code 63281PAM or www.OmahaSteaks.com/family06 (Cal-SCAN)

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-877-538-9554 or visit dorranceinfo.com/Cal (Cal-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)

Lowest Prices on Health Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 1-888-989-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

SAVE BIG ON HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. Mark Twain said, "Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising". So why spend your hard-earned dollars on social media where you already have an audience? For more info call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or cecelia@cnpa.com

ATTENTION DIABETICS! Save money on your diabetic supplies! Convenient home shipping for monitors, test strips, insulin pumps, catheters and more! To learn more, call now! 1-855-702-3408. (Cal-SCAN)

Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-844-653-7402 (Cal-SCAN)

ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! The NEW Inogen One G5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24 hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a Free Info kit today: 1-844-359-3976 (CalSCAN)

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

## JANUARY 1ST 30% OFF

**ELEVATE LOMPOC**

Hours:  
8am-10pm  
Everyday

C10-0000080-LIC

We Deliver  
**(805) 866 - WEED**  
elevatelompoc.com

Located at:  
118 South H St.  
Lompoc, Ca  
93436

# CASH ON THE SPOT

## CLASSIC CARS WANTED

Newer makes & models too!

**\$ We come to you! \$**  
**(702) 210-7725**

# SELL YOUR RV!

- CASH ON THE SPOT
- All RVs
- We come to you!

**\$ CALL TODAY \$**  
**(702) 210-7725**

@SantaMariaSun

NATURAL HEALING CENTER

# SLO COUNTY'S #1 CANNABIS RETAILER

(805)-201-1498

WINNER

Open 7am-9pm daily!

## 998 HUSTON ST GROVER BEACH

C10-0000388-LIC

www.nhcdispensaries.com

## 20% OFF YOUR FIRST PURCHASE

# CANNABIS DELIVERY

Order  
coastaldispensary.com

or by calling  
**805.420.4000**

Quick. Safe. Professional.

Find our menu on our website or on weedmaps

COASTAL  
18+ Medical, 21+ with valid ID  
No medical card required  
C10-0000664-LIC

# Pets & Livestock

santamariasun.com

### PETS

SLO County Animal Services

Are you looking to adopt a cat? Or to adopt a dog? Or perhaps even a rabbit or chicken? Stray animals that have not been reclaimed by their owners and those that have been surrendered to the shelter are available for adoption to the general public. Individuals looking to add a new family member are encouraged to visit the shelter during normal kennel hours.

For more information, check out our Shelter Services page for a listing of adoptable animals currently at our shelter. Or call us at 805-781-4400

# For Sale

santamariasun.com

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. CNPA's Advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or cecelia@cnpa.com

### HOUSEHOLD

Kenmore Crossover Max Bagless Vacuum Cleaner. Excellent Condition Like New \$50 Santa Maria 805 925-2195.

# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

## CENTRAL COAST FUN-DRAISER

**On December 31st, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast will run a special insert in the *Sun* and *New Times***

The insert will include their quarterly newsletter and information about the Boys & Girls Clubs, with ads designed especially for you by the kids at the Clubs.

*Please sponsor a child in these Boys & Girls Clubs pull-out sections.*

The *Sun* and *New Times* underwrites the cost of this publication and gives back to the organization.



***NEXT WEEK!***

***Call to sponsor an ad!***

**Sun**

**805-347-1968**

***New Times***

**805-546-8208**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF MID CENTRAL COAST**

Atascadero | Guadalupe | Paso Robles  
Santa Maria | Shandon

**Happy Holidays**



**SURF CONNECTION**  
LOMPOC, CA

**Your one-stop full-service surf and skate shop!**

1307 North H Street · Lompoc  
805-736-1730  
[www.surfconnection.net](http://www.surfconnection.net)

Sign up for our monthly email coupons or follow us on



**FREE DRINK with Service**



**CEASER'S BARBER SHOP**

**TWO LOCATIONS**

(805) 878-1556  
325 E. Betteravia, Ste B10  
107 W. Park, Ste 105  
Santa Maria

IN OLD TOWN ORCUTT



**CARE HOMES FOR SENIORS WITH MEMORY LOSS**

Margie Halsell, Administrator/Owner  
4620 & 4630 Song Lane  
(805) 310-6996 [magnoliacare.net](http://magnoliacare.net)  
LIC# 425801520 & 425801723

**SKILLED NURSING CARE**  
Country Oaks Care Center  
- A name you can trust

NOW Accepting New patients




**Country Oaks CARE CENTER**

John Henning, Ph. D. and Sharon Henning, Owners & Administrators

830 East Chapel Street  
Santa Maria  
805-922-6657




**SAKE**



**PATIO DINING AT ALL LOCATIONS**

**SAKE SUSHI #1**  
194 Town Center East, Santa Maria (805)922-9900  
GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE - AT ALL LOCATIONS!



**MELBY'S JEWELERS**

**Sun's Best of Winner, 13 years!**

1140 E. Clark Avenue · Suite 190  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
(805) 925-1678

**OUR STORE HOURS**  
Tues - Fri: 9:30-5:30  
Saturday: 10-3

[www.melbys.com](http://www.melbys.com)



Mention this ad for a Military discount

**We are open!**

just bring your masks and social distancing

**Still offering free local delivery and curbside pick-up too**

call or e-mail for details

stay safe everyone!



**GAVIN'S BOOKS**

230 E Betteravia Rd ste K 805.922.4282  
[gavinsbooks.com](http://gavinsbooks.com) info@gavinsbooks.com

**SAKE SUSHI #2**

ALL YOU CAN EAT SUSHI & BBQ

460 W. Grand Ave.  
Grover Beach  
(805)489-3839

**Sake Sushi #2**

KOREAN BBQ & SUSHI

1325 N. "H" St. #C,  
Lompoc  
(805)736-8899



**BP BACK PORCH**  
fresh flowers & gifts

4850 S Bradley Rd. #D1 | Orcutt, CA  
805.938.1965 | [backporchflowers.net](http://backporchflowers.net)

**STRAIGHTEN YOUR SMILE**



**Central Coast Orthodontics**  
Creating Exceptional Smiles!

Voted BEST Orthodontist in Northern Santa Barbara County 5 years in a row!  
Visit us on Facebook & Instagram.

\*Diamond Plus Provider



Central Coast Orthodontics  
1311 South Miller St, Ste. 201, SM  
(805) 347-4444



**Deecee's Boutique**

115 W CLARK AVE., ORCUTT + 332-3152  
115 W OCEAN AVE., LOMPOC + 430-8396  
SHOP ONLINE OR ON FB & IG

M-F 10AM-6PM • SAT 10AM-5PM • SUN 10AM-4PM  
[DEESESBOUTIQUE.COM](http://DEESESBOUTIQUE.COM)

805-925-8711 • 734-4355  
[www.oconnorcentralcoast.com](http://www.oconnorcentralcoast.com)

**Got Gophers? Call Us**



**O'Connor Pest Control**  
"Family Owned and Operated Since 1952"

**SPECIAL \$59 Monthly Service**  
General Pest Service Only. Gophers & Rodents Excluded.  
One Year Term Minimum. Homes up to 3,000 sq. ft.

Look for the ANT on the Door  
**Free Gopher & Rodent Estimates**  
Same Day Service M-F

[www.oconnorcentralcoast.com](http://www.oconnorcentralcoast.com)  
805-925-8711 • 734-4355  
[www.oconnorcentralcoast.com](http://www.oconnorcentralcoast.com)

**LUNCH SPECIALS**

**MONDAY**  
Chili Verde or Chili Rojo Combo \$6.49 + tax

**TUESDAY**  
5 Enchiladas (Cheese or Chicken) \$6.49 + tax

**WEDNESDAY**  
Asada Burrito \$5.99 + tax

**THURSDAY**  
Chicken Flautas \$6.49 + tax

**FRIDAY**  
Asada Quesdilla Combo \$6.49 + tax

**SATURDAY**  
Torta Asada \$5.99 + tax

**ALL SERVED WITH A 16 OZ SODA**  
11am to 2pm



**La Perla Market & Deli**  
Serving Breakfast & Lunch  
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK  
1138 W. Church St., SM  
805-922-9001

**READER SURVEY**

Sun SINCE 2000

**We want to know YOUR thoughts!**  
Please visit our website and take our short Reader Survey!

[www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com)

805.347.1968 WWW.SANTAMARIASUN.COM

Shop Local RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY