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Sun



AT THE MOVIES

Palmer: A path to redemption [18]

Get outside

OUTDOORS 2021

The Sun talks about trout fishing at Lake Cachuma [6] and the ease of finding a local Hipcamp [8] for our first Outdoors issue

BY SUN STAFF

NEWS The new jail's completion timeline [4]

ARTS A virtual celebration of Black history [17]

EATS Pop culture Cakes By Jayde [19]



PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity for a Public Hearing

Solomon Canyon Rumble Strip/Shoulder Widening on State Route 1 in Santa Barbara County

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted until March 19, 2021. The public comment period has been extended two weeks beyond the original date based on recent availability of supporting documentation. If there are no major comments or requests for a public hearing, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to reduce the number and severity of roadway departure collisions in Santa Barbara County on State Route 1 from Solomon Road near the town of Orcutt to its intersection with State Route 166 in the city of Guadalupe. The proposed project would widen shoulders, install edge-line rumble strips, raise the profile of the road at two critical points, extend the existing culverts, and relocate utility poles and other fixed objects to outside the clear recovery zone. The project will require right-of-way acquisition, utility easements, and construction easements.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains why is called an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. This notice is to tell you that the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is now available for you to read and comment on. This notice also offers you the opportunity to request a public hearing.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and other project information are available for review at the Caltrans District 5 Office at 50 South Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401 on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The document can be viewed on the web at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d5/> and is also available at the following locations:

- Guadalupe Branch Library at 4719 W. Main Street, Suite D, Guadalupe, CA 93434
- Orcutt Branch Library at 175 S. Broadway, Orcutt, CA 93455
- Santa Maria Public Library at 421 McClelland Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454

WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

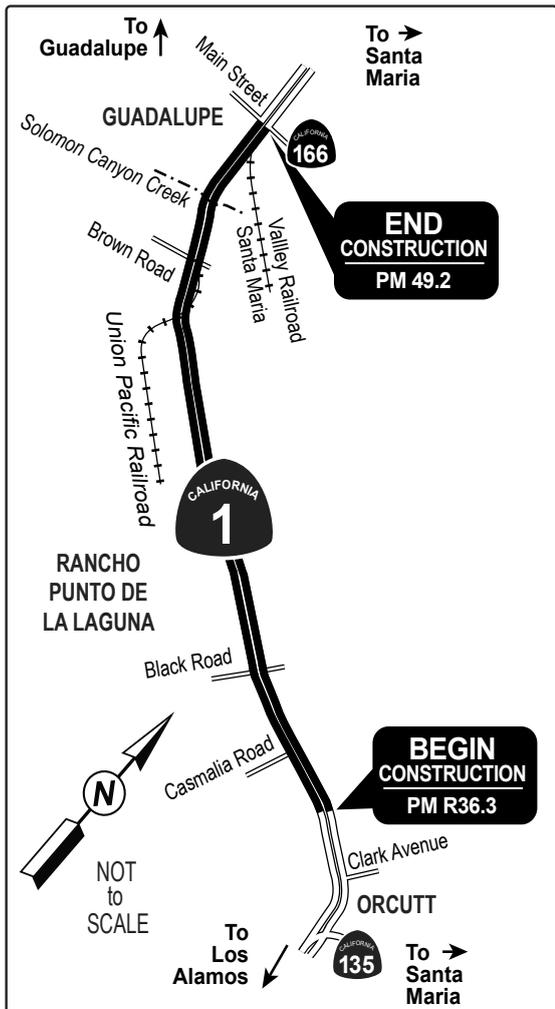
Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Would you like to request a public hearing? Please submit your comments or request for a public hearing in writing no later than March 19, 2021 to Caltrans, Attn: Jason Wilkinson, District 5 Office at 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. If there are no major comments or requests for a public hearing, Caltrans will proceed with the project design.

CONTACT

For more information about this study or to request a copy of the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, please contact Jason Wilkinson, Senior Environmental Planner, at (805) 540-9165 or jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov. For other transportation matters, call the District 5 Public Affairs Office at (805) 549-3318.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language, interpreter, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact the District 5 Public Affairs Office at (805) 549-3318. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929.



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We decided to try something new this year with the *Sun's* first Outdoors issue. In it Staff Writer Malea Martin covers the 12,000 pounds of trout planted in Cachuma Lake at the end of 2020 and the uptick in fishers and boaters using the recreational spot during the COVID-19 pandemic [6], while Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash talks about Hipcamp, an alternative way to find local campsites amid state and regional park closures [8].

This week, you can also read about the Northern Branch Jail's timeline to open [4]; what Healing Justice Santa Barbara has planned for Black History Month [17]; and a Lompoc cake baker whose pop-inspired creations are pretty sweet [19].

Camillia Lanham
editor



HERE FISHY, FISHY: Calico Smith shows off a trout she caught at Lake Cachuma.

Cover photo courtesy of Rosey Bishop > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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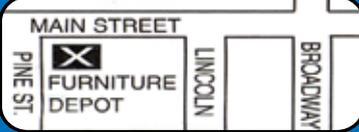
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Political Watch

- **Assemblyman Rob Bonta** (D-Oakland) and cosponsors **Social Compassion in Legislation** and the **Center for Biological Diversity** introduced Assembly Bill 534, the Whale Entanglement Prevention Act, on Feb. 10. If approved, the bill would require the California Dungeness crabbing community and other trap fisheries to use ropeless gear by Nov. 1, 2025. Supporters of the bill say crabbing operations deploy antiquated pots or traps with vertical lines that often entangle endangered whales, needlessly killing or harming them. “California is a global leader in technology and innovation, yet we continue to crab with archaic technology that puts our cherished marine wildlife at risk,” Bonta said in a press release. “As we move into the future, we can have both productive crabbing operations and oceans that are safe for whales and sea turtles. Whale-safe ropeless crabbing gear is already available; now we’re just implementing a deadline that crabbers can work with to make the necessary transition.”

- The **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** voted on Feb. 9 to put \$13.3 million in allocated federal Consolidated Appropriations Act funds toward direct assistance to renter households. It will be provided to eligible Santa Barbara County community members who have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of rent, overdue rent, utilities, and overdue utility payments. The program will provide three-month rental subsidies of up to \$6,000 to qualified renters, and renters can reapply for a total of 15 months of rental assistance. All county residents at or below 80 percent of the area median income will be eligible, but those at or below 50 percent of the area median income will be prioritized. The county has contracted with **United Way of Santa Barbara** to administer the application process, which began the week of Feb. 15.

- On Feb. 10, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo), along with state assembly colleagues **Laura Friedman** (D-Glendale) and **David Chiu** (D-San Francisco), introduced Assembly Bill 525, which would promote offshore wind development off the California coast. “This bill would require the Energy Commission, in coordination with specified agencies, to develop a strategic plan to achieve a goal of at least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast by 2040, with an interim target of 3,000 megawatts installed by 2030,” the bill reads. It would further “require the Energy Commission to submit the strategic plan to the Natural Resources Agency and the Legislature on or before June 1, 2022.” Cunningham spoke about his support of the bill in a Feb. 13 Facebook post. “The Central Coast has a unique opportunity to be the West Coast hub for the offshore wind industry,” the legislator wrote. “Studies show that this new industry would create not just a sizable amount of clean, emission-free energy, but also tens of thousands of high-paying jobs across the state. Proud to introduce AB525 to formalize the state’s commitment to this emerging technology and job creator. We have the wind at our backs—let’s get it done!”

- **Gov. Gavin Newsom** recently announced the launch of the Safe Schools Reopening Map, “an online tool providing a statewide snapshot of the status of school reopenings across California.” The map is viewable to the public at maps.schools.covid19.ca.gov/public.html and displays data on school districts’ reopening status, safety planning, and COVID-19 supports. “As COVID-19 conditions continue to improve and vaccinations ramp up throughout the state, this map will provide local communities with accessible, up-to-date information on how districts in their communities and beyond are adapting to the pandemic, including safety planning and implementation,” Newsom said in a statement. “This map is one of many resources we have made available that will help school staff and families make informed decisions as we safely reopen our schools.”



ALMOST READY: The long-anticipated Northern Branch Jail Project is nearly complete and slated to open for occupancy in June.

North County jail to open later this year

The long-awaited Northern Branch Jail Project is close to completion and is expected to open in mid-2021—nearly two years after the original target date for occupancy.

John Green, senior project manager for the new jail, told the *Sun* via email that the jail is estimated to reach substantial completion by April 2021 and be ready for occupancy by June 2021. He said the project is about 99 percent complete.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department Public Information Officer Raquel Zick told the *Sun* that substantial completion means “all the equipment, systems, and programs are finished,” and only minor tasks remain, whereas final completion is when the facility is formally turned over to the owner.

Occupancy can begin after final completion, she continued, and according to the county’s agreement with the state, it must occur within 90 days of final completion.

The approved project budget is nearly \$119 million, and the county has spent about \$114 million to date, according to Green. In an agreement with the state under the Assembly Bill 900 Jail Financing Program, the county was allowed up to \$80 million in state financing. So far, the county has received 95 percent of that funding, Green said.

According to the project’s webpage, the original timeline would have had the jail constructed by November 2018 and ready for occupants in spring of 2019.

“The project has experienced numerous delays to the construction,” Green said, including “a subcontractor refusing to execute a subcontract with the prime contractor, ... inclement weather impacting critical path construction sequencing, contractor’s coordination of the work, material procurement delays, and design changes.”

On top of these challenges, COVID-19 impacted staffing and disrupted supply chains for materials, Green said.

But with completion now just around the corner, the Sheriff’s Office will soon have to decide how to distribute the county’s inmate population between the new jail and the Main Jail.

“The Northern Branch Jail can house 330 or so inmates,” Zick told the *Sun*. “So whatever’s left over from our population would be housed at the Main Jail. Our population over the last couple

of months has been between 630 and 650, which would mean that somewhere around 300 and 320 people would be housed south.”

However, those numbers could change significantly after COVID-19, Zick said. Before the pandemic, the jail consistently held around 1,000 inmates. Whether the Sheriff’s Office will commit to maintaining the current, lower population for the long run is still a question mark.

“We’re focused on COVID operations right now, and maintaining our population given our current circumstances,” Zick said. “Those conversations are being had, but I don’t think that there’s been any final decisions in that regard.”

Zick said crime statistics from 2020 are still under review.

“I think that’d be probably a focal interest point in that conversation,” she said.

—Malea Martin

Carbajal reintroduces Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) reintroduced the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act on Feb. 11, a bill that would prohibit development and oil drilling on 250,000 acres of land in Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

If approved, the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act would designate hundreds of thousands of acres of Central Coast land as wilderness, which Carbajal’s office said in a Feb. 11 press release is the “highest form of federal protection” for public lands. The bill would create four new wilderness areas in the Carrizo Plain National Monument and expand nine existing wilderness areas in Los Padres National Forest, preventing any future development in those areas, including new roads, structures, and oil and gas drilling. It would also establish a 400-mile long Condor National Recreation Trail stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County and designate Condor Ridge and Black Mountain as new scenic areas.

“Nature is priceless, but it is too often taken for granted,” Carbajal wrote in a statement to the *Sun*. “Pragmatic policies like the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act make a real difference in the fight against climate change and preserves

the plant and animal life that call these public lands home. The bill will help to sustain the ecological future of 468 species of wildlife and more than 1,200 plant species and is crucial in the fight against climate change.”

The Heritage Protection Act has been in the works for years and has taken many forms, according to Rebecca August, director of advocacy for Los Padres ForestWatch, an organization dedicated to protecting wildlife and promoting sustainable access throughout Los Padres National Forest.

“We’d be delighted if this passes,” August told the *Sun*. “There’s always more protection that can happen. But we’ve been working on these wilderness protections for 12 years now, this same bill.”

August said that ForestWatch is one of many environmental organizations and bipartisan business owners, elected officials, landowners, farmers, ranchers, wineries, and recreationalists on the Central Coast that have been pushing for the protections outlined in the Heritage Protection Act for more than a decade.

The bill was originally introduced in 2012 by one of Carbajal’s predecessors, U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Santa Barbara), as the Los Padres Conservation and Recreation Act, August said. Over the years it was reworked into something closer to its current form and reintroduced by former U.S. Rep. Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara), and then by Carbajal and former California Sen. Kamala Harris in 2017.

While it passed the House during the last session of Congress, the Senate never considered the bill and it died as a result at the beginning of 2021, when a new session started. August said she has high hopes that it will make its way back through the House quickly and onto the Senate floor for further consideration.

There aren’t many truly wild places left in California, August said, and areas near and in the Carrizo Plain National Monument and Los Padres have been under threat of further development and oil drilling in the recent past. This would protect these areas and habitats from those activities, she said, while also still allowing many forms of recreational activities.

“So bringing more recreation and more of that tourism to the area will be nothing but good for the economy,” she said.

—Kasey Bubnash

NEWS from page 4

Santa Barbara County opens up vaccine to those 65 and older

Santa Barbara County is now in phase 1B of its COVID-19 vaccine rollout, meaning those aged 65 and older can register to get their shots. But others included in that phase—agricultural workers, teachers, child care providers, and emergency services personnel—will have to keep waiting.

“This expanded eligibility means that the local health providers, pharmacies, hospitals, and public vaccination sites can open appointments to those 65 and above once the vaccines become available to them,” county Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso said at a Feb. 12 press conference.

But despite this progression, Do-Reynoso said the county’s vaccine allocation is still limited to 6,000 first doses a week.

The move to open vaccinations to those 65 and older, but not the rest of phase 1B, is a departure from what county officials indicated earlier this month. At a Feb. 5 press conference, Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg said the county would open up this tier simultaneously. But without a larger weekly allocation, this is not yet possible, Do-Reynoso said Feb. 12.

“I know that there are community members in the child care and education field, and there are food and agricultural workers, and there are community members in the emergency services, who are also anxious to get the vaccines,” Do-Reynoso said.

Ansorg told the *Sun* that the hope to vaccinate phase 1B concurrently “was the plan

considering everything we knew at the time.” But now, given current circumstances, the county must take a staggered approach.

“The reason is that just the 65-plus are a cohort of 41,000 individuals,” he said via email. “As our local allocation continues to stagger around 6,000 vaccines per week, we simply do not have capacity for everyone in phase 1B, tier 1 to access vaccines at this time.”

Public health departments across California continue to serve as the vaccine intermediary between the state and community providers, but Blue Shield of California will become the state’s third party administrator in mid-March. And starting March 15, California officials recently announced, “people between the age of 16 and 64 who are disabled or at high risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 will be eligible to be vaccinated ... as vaccines become available,” according to Do-Reynoso. Once Blue Shield of California takes over, vaccine prioritization will no longer be in the county’s hands.

Do-Reynoso said after eligibility is opened to the at-risk 16 to 64 group, vaccine appointments will then open to the rest of phase 1B. However, this can change depending on availability and allocations.

“For entities who are receiving direct allocations from the state, or the federal government ... here in our county, it is Marian Regional Medical Center and UCSB, they currently receive separate allocations from the state, they may move towards a pilot basis to vaccinate those in phase 1B, such as the emergency services, the food and ag workers, and education and child care,” Do-Reynoso said.

Health care providers must also balance the need to administer second doses, Do-Reynoso said.

Though doses continue to be limited, the county has no trouble distributing and administering the vaccines it does receive.

“We, as of today, have received 61,000 doses,” Do-Reynoso said Feb. 12. “We have administered 99 percent of the doses that we have received, and that is a huge celebration for our community.”

—Malea Martin

Renovations on the Solvang Festival Theater could begin in September

Solvang Theaterfest has plans to update seating, lighting, and sound at the Solvang Festival Theater in time for a shorter 2022 season.

The restoration includes new lighting poles, a remodeled ticket booth, a sound/lighting booth, new stairways and ADA access, and a higher sound wall.

According to a staff report presented at the Feb. 1 Solvang Planning Commission meeting, the benefit of the project is the increased potential for Solvang Theaterfest, the nonprofit which runs the theater, to encourage visits to the community and provide services for tourists.

During the meeting, Solvang Theaterfest board chair Chris Nielsen said construction on the theater would begin the second week of September.

“Our desire is that it would complete in time so that the [Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA)] could come in for 2022 in July and have an abbreviated season. Typically their season

runs from late May until early September,” Nielsen said.

The board is confident that the 10-month construction period will be completed in time for whatever activities are possible next summer along with an abbreviated PCPA season, he said. In a Feb. 12 Facebook post, the Solvang Festival Theater said that the facility has been enjoyed by the community and visitors for five decades but is in need of repairs in order to sustain its legacy as a cultural and community anchor for decades to come.

“The project will strengthen and modernize the theater, address aging infrastructure, improve accessibility, technical capability, and audience amenities. It includes a complete replacement of the rear wall, increasing the height by 8 feet with cantilevered panels to help deflect wind, capture more warmth, and buffer external noise. Acoustically engineered paneling on the new wall will also enhance internal sound for audience and performers,” the post read.

The current capital campaign, IMAGINE! Building the Future, has reached 61 percent of its \$4.7 million goal.

At the Feb. 1 meeting, Planning Commissioner Scott Gold said that he felt the project is appropriate and will be beautiful for tourists and locals alike.

“It has a lot of history and brings a lot of joy to a lot of people,” Gold said.

With the Planning Commission’s unanimous approval, the project goes to Solvang’s Planning Department for review in March, and it’s subject to review by the Branding and Design Committee before land use and building permits are issued. ○

—Karen Garcia

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Fin-tastic fun

More people than usual are hitting the lakes to fish during the pandemic—locals say Cachuma is a great place to start

BY MALEA MARTIN

Ross Godlis has lived in Santa Barbara County since the '70s, and before that he attended UC Santa Barbara in the late '60s. When he wasn't "living with a nose in a book," Godlis remembers spending his college years exploring the county's outdoor attractions. Fishing, Godlis recalled, "was a big deal."

"In Lake Cachuma—back in the day, in the '60s—most of the time we just went up and hiked along the edge of the lake and fished," Godlis said. "We were happy to just catch the bluegills and stuff."

All these years later, Godlis is still fishing at Cachuma—but now, he gets to bring his family along for the fun.

"These days when we go out fishing, I'm usually either with my son-in-law or grandkids," Godlis said. "It's still a great place to go."

Just 100 yards away from the parking area is an accessible and often-fruitle spot to cast a line, Godlis said.

"About a month and a half ago we caught a nice-sized trout that we had for dinner," he said. "You don't really need to be that equipped other than having a pole, a lure or worm, and throw it in."

A love for the outdoors runs in the family: Godlis's daughter, Rosey Bishop, is the county's park naturalist at the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area. She told the *Sun* that the lake has seen "a huge increase in visitation" during the pandemic.

"In 2019, I think we had about 4,000 boats launch on the lake throughout the year," Bishop said. "Then in 2020, we had 8,000 and something."

Luckily, there are enough fish to go around. The county made three, 4,000-pound rainbow trout releases in October, November, and December of 2020. Planting fish for recreational purposes isn't a new practice by any means, but last year's releases came at the right time to meet the increased demand for fishing.

"It's a nice draw to the lake, for people to be able to come, fish, and then actually catch something," Bishop said. "It does also help out birds of prey. We have wintering bald eagle and osprey populations that definitely benefit from having more fish in the lake."

Once the county gets cleared for a fish release, the process for transporting the trout to the lake is remarkably straightforward—and a bit comical.

"There is a hatchery that we use in Northern California. They fill a semi-type truck with these chambers that the fish are in, and they drive the fish in water. When they get to the lake, we drive them right down to the water's edge. They attach a tube to it, and basically the fish just get shot into the water," Bishop said with a laugh.

One challenge of releasing fish is ensuring that they don't breed with natural populations, such as the steelhead trout, which are under a conservation effort.

"The fish that we do get are sterile, so there's no risk of them interbreeding with the natural population that's in the lower river," Bishop said.

And the rainbow trout, Bishop added, aren't just for catch and release: "People actually catch them and take them home and cook them."

Cachuma isn't the only lake that saw more folks fishing this year: The uptick is consistent with a statewide trend. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued nearly 2 million sport fishing licenses in 2020, an 11 percent increase from 2019,

OUTDOORS 2021



Go fish!

Check out the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Learn to Fish" series on YouTube to learn the basics, and then head out to Lake Cachuma to see what all the fun is about. Learn more about the lake at countyofsb.org/parks/cachuma.sbc.

FAMILY OUTING: Ross Godlis and his grandson, Quinn, enjoy a day of fishing. Godlis has been fishing in Santa Barbara County since he attended UCSB in the '60s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSEY BISHOP

according to CDFW officials. More than 1.2 million of those were annual resident sport fishing licenses, which is a 19 percent increase from 2019. Hunting licenses also saw a big uptick with nearly 300,000 issued in 2020, a 9 percent increase from the previous year.

The department correlates the rise with people having more time on their hands, as well as "a growing interest in securing their own food, coupled with the needs for physical outlets and mental relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the department. CDFW hadn't issued this many sport fishing licenses since 2008.

"Folks got out there and found a way to do it. Some people were fishing in local neighborhood park ponds and places where they might not otherwise fish," CDFW spokesperson Peter Tira told the *Sun*. "It was one of the few recreational outlets many Californians had available to them."

If fishing isn't your outdoor activity of choice, there's plenty of other COVID-19 safe options at Cachuma and around the county, Bishop said.

"Here at Cachuma and at Jalama [Beach], we have a Junior Ranger program. It used to be more of an in-person activity, but with COVID we modified it to be a self-guided activity," Bishop said. "There's also a rowing company here at Cachuma Lake, so if people are interested in learning how to row, they can do that. There's boat rentals, there's disk golf. We have a restaurant here at Cachuma, and there's the Jalama Burger out at Jalama, so if people even just want to drive, order some food, and sit in the park, that's a neat thing to do."

And even if you've never picked up a fishing pole before, Godlis said Santa Barbara County is the perfect place to give it a go.

"Just go and do it," he said. "Especially at Cachuma, it's pretty user friendly. Or fishing off Goleta Pier, Santa Barbara Pier, Gaviota. Just get out there and do it." ☪

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

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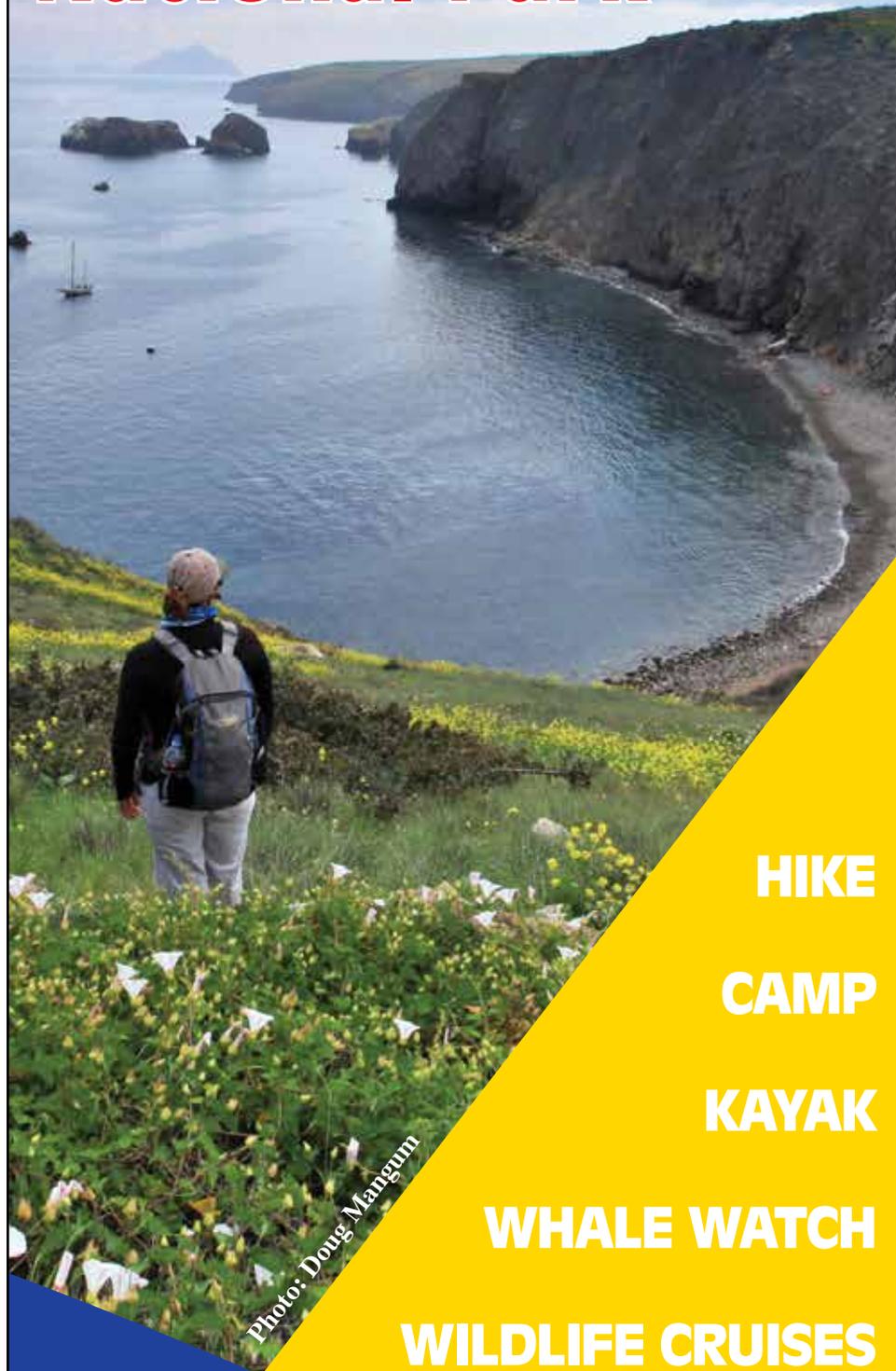


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Monday – Friday



GLAMPING HEAVEN: Branch Mill Organic Farms outside Arroyo Grande offers two tarp tent campsites, complete with beds, bathrooms, showers, and an outdoor kitchen.

PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

A better kind of isolation

Amid closures at regional and state parks, local Hipcamps offer respite to those looking to get out and get away

BY KASEY BUBNASH

Driving just a few miles out of Arroyo Grande and up to Branch Mill Organic Farm feels like entering a better, calmer world. A little produce stand greets you at the entry of the farm, where the midday sun peaks through the branches of lush oak and fruit trees, burning away the few remaining drops of morning dew. The smell of fresh-cut herbs and blooming flowers fills the air.

A friendly black cat meows as he makes his way leisurely over to a nearby deck, where he effortlessly hops up onto the platform to rub his cheek against a post. Maybe, if you're lucky, he'll eventually meander over to you.

It's quiet and still and secluded here. It feels more than just 3 miles outside of Arroyo Grande and much, much farther from the screens and stressors that have come to define pandemic life.

Owner Ruth Madocks knows her land is special, and, fortunately for us, she's willing to share it. With Madocks at the helm, Branch Mill has become more than just a local organic

Happy campers

Hipcamp is an app and website that allows property owners to rent out their land to campers. Check it out at hipcamp.com.

Other camping options include SLO County facilities, which opened to all campers on Feb. 4. Check out the available sites at slocountyparks.com/camp. And Santa Barbara County parks camping information is available at countyofsb.org/parks/campingparks.sbc.

farm, operating simultaneously as a community event venue, educational space, and, most recently, a private campground.

About two years ago Madocks signed up for Hipcamp, an app and website that allows property owners to rent out their land to campers. It's a similar concept to that of Airbnb: Landowners can make a little extra money on the side, and campers can experience a place that wouldn't otherwise be available to the general public. There are thousands of campsites nationwide listed on the app, ranging from cabins and glampsites that go for hundreds of dollars a night, to primal tent sites that don't even have bathrooms.

Hipcamp has been around since 2013, but it's gained popularity locally during the pandemic as repeated closures of state and county campgrounds left Central Coast residents without anywhere else to camp.

"It's really providing a service for people that's not available in other places," Madocks told the *Sun*. "Even as we open up with COVID, still a lot of people would rather be here than be camping out at a place with a bunch of people they don't know."

Madocks has two sites on her farm that she rents out for \$90 a night. With large canvas tents, beds, showers, bathrooms, and an outdoor kitchen all provided in the package, the Branch Mill Hipcamping experience definitely leans toward glamping. Visitors can tour the farm, feed the

animals, and order boxes of fresh produce and eggs.

Recently her clientele has largely been made up of health care workers and families from San Francisco and Los Angeles looking to get outside. Kids in particular love the farm, and Madocks said that's true especially now, when they've spent so much of the last year cooped up staring at screens.

"The main thing is people love to bring their kids and get a tour and learn about organic farming," she said. "And so our goal is to make this an educational place. I feel like the Hipcamp fits in with that vision that we had."

Darin Fiechter sees Hipcamp as helping fulfill his vision for his property too. Fiechter and his wife, Sierra, own a 43-acre ranch near Buellton and Jump On The School Bus, a Santa Barbara-based wedding and wine tour transportation service. The couple just happened to sign up for Hipcamp about a month before COVID-19 hit and decimated their transportation business.

"Hipcamp is seriously how we stayed alive," Darin said.

At Freedog Farms, Darin and Sierra offer 10 campsites, where visitors can put up tents, RVs, buses, or cars. They have propane fire pits at each site and a big community fire pit, bathrooms, an art studio, and mineral tubs, and they offer tours, hikes, and fresh eggs.

The sites are all well spaced out and private, he said, and it's been busy through the pandemic. He's had visitors cry upon arrival because they could let their dogs off leash, or because they finally got their kids out of a tiny apartment somewhere in a nearby city. COVID-19 is serious and important, Darin said, but so is mental health.

"I think what's cool is that it allowed us to feel sane through all this," he said, "because people were coming and they were happy."

SLO County's campgrounds are open to everyone now, but SLO County Parks and Recreation Director Nick Franco said the pandemic made for a roller coaster of a year.

The county operates five campgrounds: the Oceano County Campground, Coastal Dunes RV Park, Santa Margarita Lake, Lopez Lake, and El Chorro Regional Park and Campground.

All five, Franco said, closed for the first time due to COVID-19 on April 2, 2020. They reopened on May 18 to SLO County residents on a first come, first served basis, an effort to prevent nonessential travel. Then the campgrounds opened to everyone on Sept. 17 only to close completely a few months later at the beginning of December. On Feb. 4 of this year, SLO County's campgrounds once again opened to everyone.

Franco said closures had a serious financial impact. SLO County's regional parks are self-funded, meaning Parks and Rec doesn't get tax or general fund revenue to support staff or maintenance costs. With the campgrounds closed to tourists for much of 2020, Franco said SLO County Parks and Rec took about a \$2 million hit.

That projected shortfall evened out a little bit when the county's campgrounds fully reopened in September and October of 2020, when Franco said they saw a 78 percent increase in camping compared to the same months in 2019. Now his department is looking at something closer to a \$1 million budget shortfall.

With SLO County's sites fully reopened, Franco said Parks and Rec is doing some extra bathroom cleanings and trash pickups. Not much else needs to be done to keep things coronavirus safe, he said. The campsites are spread out, they're limited to small groups, and it's all outdoors.

"Camping in and of itself is pretty consistent with COVID restrictions," he said. ○

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

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Follow your heart

Cardiologist Dr. Alex Harrison encourages community members to stay on top of their heart health—even during the pandemic

BY MALEA MARTIN

Valentine's Day may be over, but Dignity Health is celebrating hearts for the entire month of February in recognition of American Heart Month. The health care company wants to empower people to take preventive heart care seriously, as heart disease is the No. 1 killer of men and women in the U.S. and worldwide, according to Marian Regional Medical Center cardiologist Dr. Alex Harrison. The *Sun* spoke with Harrison about the importance of catching heart issues early.

Sun: COVID-19 is, of course, the main medical story that's dominating headlines. But cardiac health is still so important, since heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death in America. Tell me about the importance of keeping up one's heart health during COVID.

Harrison: Early in the pandemic there was a tremendous fear of going to the hospital to catch COVID potentially. So the numbers of heart attacks that we were seeing in the hospital fell dramatically, not just here but around the country. The number of heart attacks did not decrease... they were just not coming into the hospital and basically suffering through them. We've seen that where people present a week or two weeks after having had a chest pain episode, and now they're in significant heart failure from permanent heart muscle damage that was largely treatable if they would have presented when they had symptoms and got the emergent care they desperately needed. The same is true for routine medical care: A lot of visits have been delayed or postponed... The trickle-down effect of that isn't something we're necessarily identifying right now, but it is a definite concern for the future.

Sun: I think a lot of people are under the misconception that if they're healthy looking and live a healthy lifestyle, they can't have heart issues. But it doesn't mean that they're excluded from potential heart problems, right?

Harrison: Exactly. Many of the heart disease risk factors are so-called silent killers, because high blood pressure and high cholesterol and high blood sugar are all things that don't make you feel poorly. You can live for years and years feeling fine until they've caused serious damage. Many times, the first presentation of heart disease is a cardiac arrest, which you don't always get a second chance from.

Sun: Are you concerned at all about how COVID as a disease might affect the heart long term?



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA SAN JUAN

EXPERT'S PERSPECTIVE: Marian Regional Medical Center cardiologist Dr. Alex Harrison said part of good preventative care is knowing your blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol numbers.

Harrison: Definitely that is a concern. How much of an impact is still very much unknown. A lot of the data coming out early in the pandemic from other countries was that it [heart complications from COVID] was a significant cause of death in China and elsewhere, and we really have not seen that to the degree at all that was reported from other countries. But this is such a new disease and affects people differently.

Sun: What are some common myths about heart disease that you would like to dispel, and what can my readers do to have a better understanding of how they should care for their heart health?

Harrison: It's never too late to get involved and take ownership for your heart health. There was a big push by the American Heart Association years ago called "Know Your Numbers": just trying to empower people to know what their blood pressure is, know what their cholesterol is, know what their blood sugar is—and be involved in their care. Those things are so easily tested, inexpensively, and so easily treated, and are so powerful to minimizing the risk of long-term health damage. The way I describe it to my patients is, why do you change the oil in your car, change your tires, and check your brakes? Because you don't want your car to break down or get in an accident. The same is true with your body. You've got to look underneath the hood every once in a while and see what's going on, because you never know when something's going to potentially go wrong.

Highlight:

• Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) announced a new incentive for Californians looking to buy an electric vehicle. PG&E and other electric utilities are partnering with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to offer the California Clean Fuel Reward, "a point-of-sale price reduction of up to \$1,500 off the purchase or lease of any eligible, new electric vehicle," according to PG&E. "The instant point-of-sale price reduction of up to \$1,500 will help make these ultra-clean cars more affordable, especially for low-income families or those living in disadvantaged communities," CARB Vice-Chair Sandy Berg said in a statement. For more information about the program, visit cleanfuelreward.com. ○

Staff Writer Malea Martin wrote this week's Spotlight. Send business or nonprofit news tips to spotlight@newtimeslo.com.

LOURDES AGUILAR, 73, passed away 1/27/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

RANDY WHINERY, 68, of Lompoc, passed away 1/30/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RONALD BLACKWELL, 59, of Paso Robles passed away 1/30/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

MICHAEL SMITH, 52, of Atascadero passed away 1/30/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

GLORIA ECK, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 1/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARCIA KIMBRELL, 73, of Cayucos passed away 2/1/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

DOROTHY G. HOLDEN, 102, passed away 2/1/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

DENNIS RUSCKI, 70, of Paso Robles passed away 2/2/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

FRANK HIRSCH, 81, passed away 2/2/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

FRANK GIUFFREDA, 71, of Morro Bay passed away 2/2/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

KAREN FRICKEL, 76, of San Luis Obispo passed away 2/4/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

HENRY BRUGGENKAMP, 86, passed away 2/4/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

TOSHIKO IRIYAMA, 106, of Santa Maria passed away 2/4/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RAFAEL ARIAS, 74, passed away 2/4/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

SANDRA ALVERSON, 74, of Cayucos passed away 2/4/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

DARLENE MARY JULIAN, 72, passed away 2/5/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

EUGENE "GENE" SHAMBURGER, 43, of Santa Maria passed away 2/5/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

WILLIAM HENRY BRINKMEYER, 95, passed away 2/5/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

CORA HILTON, 82, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/5/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

BHAGWATIBEN PANCHAL, 84, of Morro Bay passed away 2/6/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CHARLES LEROY USSERY, 90, of Arroyo Grande passed away 2/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ROBERT VANDEGRIFT, 89, of Atascadero passed away 2/7/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

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GEORGE FERNANDEZ, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 2/9/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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TERESA RAMIREZ, 51, of Santa Maria passed away 2/12/21 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TERRY A. FORST, 76, of Santa Maria passed away 2/13/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

ROBERT BERNARD HEDGET, 71, of Paso Robles passed away 2/13/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

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Good, evil, and Jan. 22

On that day this year, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force at the United Nations

BY TENSIE HERNANDEZ AND DENNIS APEL

Who wouldn't appreciate a family physician whose name is Dr. Good? He was of the "old school," arriving at our home or our hospital bed, his stethoscope around his neck and his black medical bag in his hand. He treated our entire family for everything from colds to flus to broken bones to meningitis. We were a widowed mother with five children, and he never asked us for more than my mom could afford. His presence matched his name.

During World War II while the United States was researching and developing the first nuclear weapons, Wowa Zev Gdud was being hunted by the Nazis in what is now Lithuania. Miraculously he escaped execution for being Jewish three times, once even falling into a mass grave and feigning death after being missed by the firing squad. At one point, as he was hiding out in the forest, he came across two Nazi soldiers from the same battalion that had killed his mother and brother. Gun in hand, he had the two men kneel down in a swamp and pointed his gun at their heads, but he couldn't pull the trigger, not wanting to add to the cycle of death.

After the war and having completed his physician studies in Italy, he immigrated to the United States and changed his name to Dr. William Z. Good. He spent the rest of his life compassionately caring for the sick while charming everyone he met with his wit.

Toward the end of World War II, the United States introduced the world to nuclear weapons by dropping one on Hiroshima, Japan, and a second on Nagasaki, Japan. Predictably, it has been an arms race ever since, with trillions of dollars spent on research, development, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons by nine countries with a couple more determined to acquire them. With more than 13,000 nuclear weapons now held by nuclear

powers, the threat of nuclear conflict also holds the threat of the annihilation of all life on the planet.

The consensus is in. The majority of nonnuclear power states as well as the vast majority of people on the planet have come together to declare nuclear weapons illegal under international law. On Jan. 22, 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force at the United Nations, the organization set up after World War II to try to bring countries together and prevent another world war.

As of this writing, 86 nations have signed the treaty and 51 have ratified it. After more than 75 years of nuclear proliferation, the citizens of planet Earth have come together to say enough is enough, and we can create a world where the extermination of humanity is not possible by pressing a button or turning a key.

All of the nuclear powers, including the United States, have chosen to ignore international law, ignore the will of the people, ignore the existential threat posed by the very existence of indiscriminate omnicidal weapons of mass destruction. In a nuclear conflict we all go together—the Democrats, the Republicans, the hawks, the doves, the conservatives, the liberals, the rich, the poor, the women, the children, all of us and likely most of the life on the planet.

What does this have to do with Dr. Good?

Dr. Good had every reason to take the lives of two Nazi soldiers when he had the chance, but he chose not to for the sake of not participating in the violence.

We, as people, as a nation, and as a world community can make the same choice. ○

Tensie Hernandez and her husband, Dennis Apel, are both longtime residents of Santa Maria. Send a response for publication to letters@santamariasun.com.

WRITE NOW! We want to know what you think about everything. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2450 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (1-805-347-9889) or e-mail it (letters@santamariasun.com). All letters must include a name, address, and phone number for verification purposes; may be edited for space or clarity; and will be posted to santamariasun.com.

Carbajal has acted in businesses' favor

I was surprised to read Keri McMillan's recent condemnation of Congressman Salud Carbajal over his votes regarding the pandemic ("Dear Congressman Carbajal, now is your chance," Feb. 4). McMillan is rightly upset that she has lost business revenue because of shutdowns, but I believe she is pointing her finger in the wrong direction.

First, Carbajal voted for the CARES Act way back in May, which to date, has sent more than \$800 billion to small businesses. Luckily, this legislation found bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, the HEROES Act, also voted for by Carbajal, which would have sent more funding to small businesses, was stonewalled by Republicans in both the House of Representatives and Senate. It was also never mentioned by President Donald Trump, who was busy campaigning at the time and not engaged in running the nation.

Second, as a member of the federal government, Carbajal was not responsible for the state's response to the pandemic. President Trump made it quite clear at the outset of the pandemic that it was up to the states to make their own policies.

Because of the total lack of a federal response, McMillan's finger should be pointed at state officials including Gov. Gavin Newsom, who will readily admit he made mistakes. Many governors are in the same boat.

In South Dakota, Gov. Kristi Noem kept her state totally open and encouraged people to come to the state for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. She even spent money given to her state through the CARES Act to promote tourism. South Dakota's per capita death rate ranks sixth in the nation and is twice the rate of California.

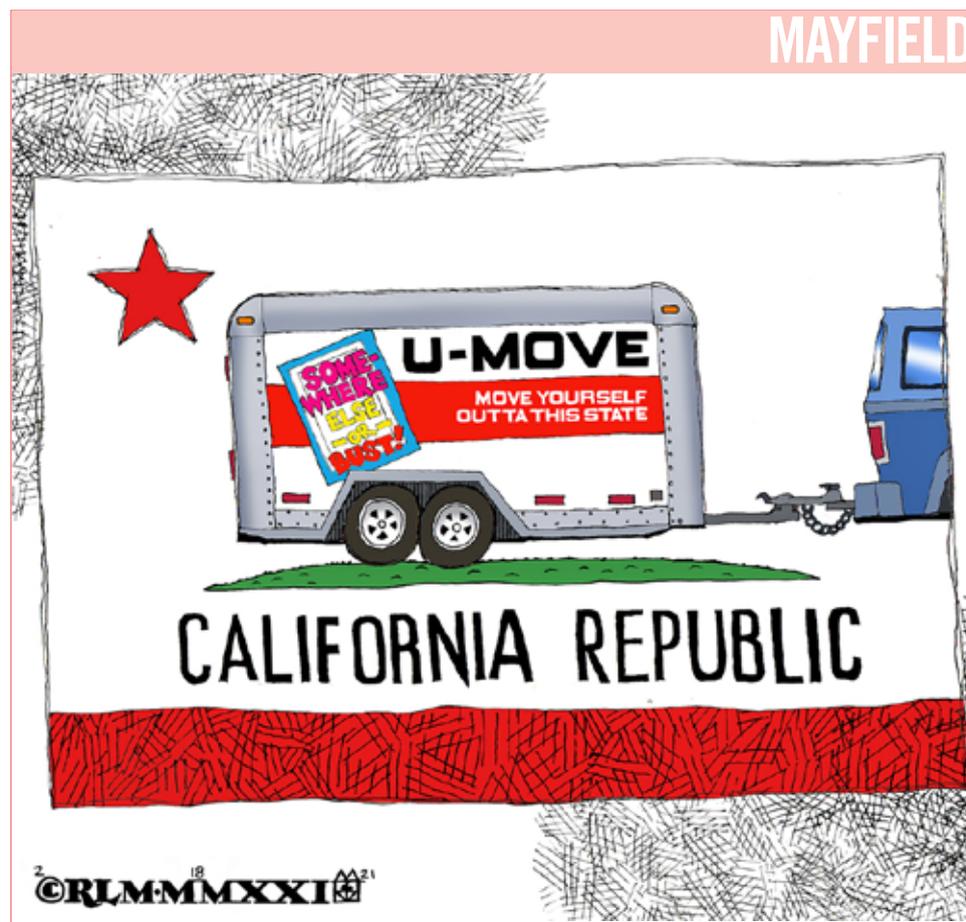
I'm also a bit confused by McMillan's last paragraph. She encourages Carbajal to worry about "all the people" in his district, yet she chastises his willingness to pass the most recent relief bill proposed by President Joe Biden.

This is literally the best way for Carbajal to help his constituents. The new bill would send \$1,400 to all qualifying citizens, maybe even Ms. McMillan; provides more money for small business assistance; and gives the state more funding to administer the vaccine. After all, the vaccine is the key to getting businesses like Ms. McMillan's back on their feet.

Finally, I would say that Carbajal had no choice but to vote for the impeachment of Trump. The former president incited his supporters to attack the U.S. Capitol at a time when Congress was fulfilling its solemn duty to count the electoral votes from the November election, which were overwhelmingly in favor of Biden.

I believe that if McMillan read the thoughts of the Founding Fathers while they drafted the Constitution, she would find this was exactly the type of behavior by a president that they believed merited impeachment. To not hold Trump responsible would be to send a very dangerous message to future presidents.

Michael Smith
Santa Maria



Ever-changing shades

Great news, everyone! California residents eligible for the next phase of vaccines can now make appointments to get vaccinated!

Well, actually, just kidding!

According to the **Santa Barbara County Public Health Department's**

top peeps—**Dr. Van Do-Reynoso** and **Dr. Henning Ansorg**—only part of that phase (aka 1B) is actually eligible for vaccines, and they're only eligible for those vaccines once their local health providers actually receive the vaccines. Got it?

Yeah. Why is this whole rollout so complicated?

To lay it out: Phase 1B was supposed to allow those who are 65 and older to sign up for shots, as well as agricultural workers, teachers, child care providers, and emergency services personnel. But that last set of residents is no longer eligible, for now. And not only that, but Do-Reynoso said that state officials recently announced that residents between the ages of 16 and 64 who are disabled or at-risk for morbidity with COVID-19 will be eligible for vaccines before that second group of phase 1Bers.

So what's the purpose of phases if we're not going to stick to them?

And all of that new stuff, Do-Reynoso said, is subject to change, depending on vaccine availability and allocation, which will be up to Blue Shield of California as of mid-March. And the county will no longer be responsible for vaccine availability and allocation; instead that will be in the hands of a private insurance company!

Yay! Private companies are *so good* at keeping the public informed. Not.

At least we get the convoluted updates on the state's ever-changing COVID-19 vaccine rollout with the county at the helm. Who knows what things will be like in a few weeks.

We need some stability in this COVID-19-charged world, you know? Kind of like the **Central Coast Heritage Protection Act**, which U.S.

Rep. **Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) recently reintroduced to Congress. Since 2012, the bill has been reintroduced consistently by congresspeople whose homes were in Santa Barbara—including former Reps. **Lois Capps** (D-Santa Barbara) and **Elton Gallegly** (R-Santa Barbara). And, consistently, the bill meant to place thousands of acres on the Central Coast under wilderness protection has gone nowhere.

See? This is what I'm talking about! Stability and consistency, people.

Like the North County branch of the **Santa Barbara County Jail**. Consistently behind schedule and over budget. I like that. At least then I know what to poke fun at. Let's talk about what completion of the jail means, shall we?

The jail's senior project manager, **John Green**, said the facility is about 99 percent finished.

By April 2021 (that's in two months, people!), the jail is expected to be substantially completed. And that, dear readers, is different from final completion. Obviously, we can't let people be incarcerated there unless the jail's *finally* completed. The difference between the two phases? "Punch list items," according to Sheriff's Office **Public Information Officer Raquel Zick**. Your guess as to what little details constitute a punch list is as good as mine.

Final completion is expected by June 2021. Once it's final, the county has 90 days to park inmates in the cells. So before the end of the summer, that \$119 million facility could contain about 330 or so inmates. Maybe. ☉

The Canary wants COVID-19 to reach final completion. Send comments to canary@santamarisun.com.



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Sun

HOT STUFF

FEB. 18 – FEB. 25
2021

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!

TIME TO FLOAT

*The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is currently hosting two window installations, **The Nature of Clouds** (pictured) and **Wintering: A Fox Tale**, designed by Nicole Strasburg, is slated to remain on display through the end of spring, while **The Nature of Clouds**, designed by Holli Harmon, is expected to run through fall. Call (805) 688-1082 or visit wildlingmuseum.org to find out more. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang. —Caleb Wiseblood*

FILE COURTESY PHOTO BY MARY INCE

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

NEW PERSPECTIVES A collection of paintings by the gallery's newest artists. Through March 1 Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

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

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.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

MUSIC LESSONS AT COELHO Call or go online for the Academy's current offerings. The Academy offers private lessons by the hour or half hour for all age groups and ability. ongoing 805-925-0464. coelhohomusic.com. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK Streams live on PCPA's Instagram every Thursday and spotlights a different thespian guest each week. Hosted by Erik Stein. Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. Free. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

RAINBOW MACRAME FOR TEENS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Brighten up your space with a neon macramé rainbow wall decoration. Packs include everything they need to make their own macramé project. This program is open to teens in junior high and high school only. Registration is required. **Feb. 20, Feb. 22, Feb. 23, Feb. 24, Feb. 25, Feb. 26 and Feb. 27** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

TEEN ANIME CLUB PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Pick up an Anime Club Pack from the Santa Maria Public Library which will include something bookish, crafty, and of course, something yummy. When you register for your Anime Program Pack, you will also be invited to an Anime Club Zoom meeting. **Feb. 18, Feb. 19 and Feb. 20** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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 inspire amateur authors. Each month the kits will feature new and exciting projects that will

help strengthen writing skills. Registration required. **Feb. 20, Feb. 22, Feb. 23, Feb. 24, Feb. 25, Feb. 26 and Feb. 27** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART CENTRAL ON INSTAGRAM: LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS Follow @artcentralslo on Instagram for free live streamed art demos with talented artists using supplies from the store to celebrate its 10th anniversary. You can also find exclusive sales and deals during the month of February. Mondays-Sundays. through Feb. 28 Free. 805-747-4200. instagram.com/artcentralslo/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

ART CENTRAL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY Enjoy three weeks of special sales, live demos, giveaways, and more. Follow Art Central on social media for updates. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Feb. 27 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.wordpress.com. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: ART CENTRAL'S VIRTUAL GALLERY Most Fridays, Art Central publishes a "Virtual Gallery" and is looking for more artwork to include. Please email us your artwork so we can continue to encourage, support, and inspire the local art community. Attach your image, name, title, medium, size and any inspiring words you would like to share. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through May 28 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.wordpress.com/blog/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS: VIRTUAL EXHIBIT WITH PLEIN AIR PAINTERS A call for artists. Contact the Gallery Director for questions (gallery@cambriacenterforthearts.org). Through Feb. 28 Free; entry fees vary. 805-434-7060. cambriacenterforthearts.org. Online, See website.

LIVE VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB EVENT WITH AUTHOR RYAN LASALA For teens and adults. Register online for Zoom link. **Feb. 23**, 4-5 p.m. Free. slolibrary.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

PANEL DISCUSSION: GREASE, WATER, AND STONE Join SLOMA for a lively panel discussion with printmakers Steve Andrews, Conrad Schwable, and Jeff Sipple to discuss his *Gray Wing* exhibition, "Grease, Water, and Stone: An Ocean Works Retrospective." The exhibition features lithographs created by Ocean Works Press between 1979 and 1983. Through Feb. 28, noon Free. 805-543-8562. slo.ma.org/panel-discussion-ocean-works/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

ROSEY 'N' BARB: STILL AT IT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS Barbara and Robert "Rosey" Rosenthal, award-winning printmakers, have been art partners since 1980. For this unique show, Barbara is showing her rich, landscape paintings and Rosey his colorful, gouache paintings. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralartsupply.com. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FUSED GLASS SUSHI SET Perfect serving set to impress your guests or give as a gift. All materials included. Limited to 6 people. **Feb. 19**, 6-8 p.m. \$150. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

SLOPE PAINTS TO PRESERVE Please stop by to see this exhibit of stunning originals and prints by San Luis Outdoor Painters for the Environment (SLOPE), featuring some of our region's top landscape artists, who use their art to raise awareness, funding, and education for the Central Coast's treasured open spaces. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-8:45 p.m. through Feb. 28 Free. 805-238-9800. slope-painters.com/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

STAINED GLASS SUNCATCHER CLASS Create a unique stained glass suncatcher in this four-hour class. You will learn how to cut glass to a pattern, copper foil the edges, and solder. All materials included. Bring a bag lunch, as we will take a 30-minute break. Limited to 4 people **Feb. 27**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$125. 805-464-2633. glasheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

HOT STUFF continued page 15

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

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. partnersincaring.org. Citywide, Santa Maria.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH YOUTH STEAM PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Celebrate Black History Month with STEAM packs to learn about important figures in STEAM. Activities will help kids learn about George Washington Carver, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Dr. Mae Jemison and their contributions to STEAM. Packs will include supplies, information, and a book list. Registration required. **Feb. 18, Feb. 19** and **Feb. 20** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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. SM 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.



RANCH OUT

The San Luis Outdoor Painters for the Environment (SLOPE) holds its virtual showcase, SLOPE Paints the Serene Magic of Santa Rita Ranch, through Sunday, Feb. 28. This group exhibition features plein air paintings by SLOPE members Rosanne Seitz, Bernie Kurtz, Laurel Sherrie, Jim Tyler, and other participating artists. A portion of the art sale proceeds will benefit the Land Conservancy of SLO. Visit slope-painters.com for more info.

—C.W.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LEARN TO SURF: BEGINNER SURF LESSONS Beginner surf lessons for you, your zoomers, and your homeschoolers. All equipment provided with the \$70 charge. Every other Monday-Sunday, 8:45-11 a.m. through April 30 \$70. 805-489-8823. surfpismo.com. Pismo Beach Pier, West end of Pomeroy, Pismo Beach.

PECHO COAST TRAIL PLANT LIFE Learn about the native plants that thrive along the Pecho Coast Trail and discover their medicinal uses. General admission ticket includes hike, tour and lunch. **Feb. 21**, 9:30 a.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

plants were up to 100 years ago. Explore digital plant collections. **Feb. 20**, 1-2 p.m. \$5-\$10 donations. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

THE ECONOMIC VITALITY CORPORATION: SLO COUNTY BROADBAND SUMMIT Featured speakers, include Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Sunne McPeak, President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund. **Feb. 18**, 10 a.m. and **Feb. 25**, 10 a.m. sloevc.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

THE NONVIOLENT LIFE: A CONVERSATION ABOUT NON-VIOLENT LIVING Join us for a conversation about non-violent living based on "The Nonviolent Life", which explores the powerful journey of nonviolence rooted in the Christian vision of love. The conversation will be led by Rev. Caroline Hall on Zoom. Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.-noon through April 6 Free. 805-528-0654. stbenslosos.org. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. \$10. pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

WEEKLY DROWNING RESCUE COURSES Facility advertised as open and safe. Give the office a call to register over the phone. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Members \$130; Non-members \$160. 805-481-6399. 5 Cities Swim School, 425 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande, 5cityesswimschool.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAPTURING CALIFORNIA'S FLOWERS: NATURAL HISTORY IN THE DIGITAL AGE Dr.

Jan Yost, Cal Poly Biology Professor and Director of the Hoover Herbarium, will discuss how natural history collections allow us to look into the past to see what

PARENT PARTICIPATION AND PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES ONLINE (THROUGH SAN LUIS COASTAL ADULT SCHOOL) Find support and connect with others in weekly online parenting classes. Learn about the developmental stage of your child, participate in teacher-facilitated discussions on parenting topics, explore local resources, and safely enjoy the company of other parents. Mondays-Thursdays. through May 28 \$10-\$30. 805-549-1253. slcusd.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The SLO County Medical Reserve Corps is looking for volunteers to help with vaccine distribution and contact tracing. Apply online. ongoing.emergencyslo.org. SLO County, Countywide.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AND DISCUSSION WITH GEORGE TAKEI Join George Takei and CA libraries for a live discussion of the documentary, *And Then They Came for Us*, detailing the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Register and receive a link to view the documentary. **Feb. 19**, 4-5 p.m. Free. gooddocs.net. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PRESQU'ILE WINERY: RESERVATIONS ONLY Call

FOOD & DRINK continued page 16

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What's Your Take? We know you've got an opinion. Everybody's got one!

This week's online poll 2/18-2/25

What's your outdoor activity of choice in Santa Barbara County?

- Hitting the trails, whether it be running, biking, or hiking.
- The water's where it's at—fishing and boating!
- Beach days all the way.
- Camping—the best way to reconnect with the rugged outdoors

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Aviso de Propósito de adoptar una declaración negativa atenuada y de Oportunidad para una audiencia pública

Bandas sonoras en Solomon Canyon/Ampliación de cunetas en la Ruta Estatal 1 en el condado de Santa Bárbara

PERÍODO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS
 Los comentarios se aceptarán hasta el 19 de marzo de 2021.
 El período de comentarios del público se ha prolongado dos semanas después de la fecha original en base a la disponibilidad reciente de documentación de respaldo. Si no hay comentarios críticos o solicitudes de audiencia pública, Caltrans procederá con el diseño del proyecto.

¿Qué se está planificando?

El Departamento de Transporte de California (California Department of Transportation, Caltrans) propone reducir la cantidad y la gravedad de las colisiones que ocurren en las salidas de las carreteras en el condado de Santa Bárbara, en la State Route 1, desde Solomon Road (cerca de la localidad de Orcutt) hasta la intersección con la State Route 166 en la ciudad de Guadalupe. El proyecto propuesto ensanchará los arcones, instalará bandas sonoras a lo largo de la línea del borde de la carretera, elevará el perfil de la carretera en dos puntos críticos, extenderá las alcantarillas existentes y reubicará los postes telefónicos y otros objetos fijos fuera de la zona de recuperación despejada. Para el proyecto, necesitaremos adquirir servidumbre de paso, de servicios públicos y de construcción.

¿Cuál es el objetivo de este Aviso público?

Caltrans estudió los efectos que este proyecto puede tener en el ambiente. Según nuestros estudios, no se afectará de manera significativa la calidad del medio ambiente. El informe explica por qué se llama "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta". Este Aviso tiene el propósito de hacerle saber que el "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta" está a su disposición para que pueda leerlo y hacer comentarios. Este Aviso también le brinda la oportunidad de solicitar una audiencia pública.

¿Qué está a su disposición?

El "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta" y otra información sobre el proyecto están disponibles para revisión en la oficina del Distrito 5 de Caltrans, en 50 South Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401, de lunes a viernes de 8:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m. También puede consultar el documento en el sitio web <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d5/> y en estos locales:

- Guadalupe Branch Library, en 4719 W. Main Street, Suite D, Guadalupe, CA 93434.
- Orcutt Branch Library, en 175 S. Broadway, Orcutt, CA 93455.
- Santa Maria Public Library, en 421 McClelland Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454.

¿Cuál es su rol en el proyecto?

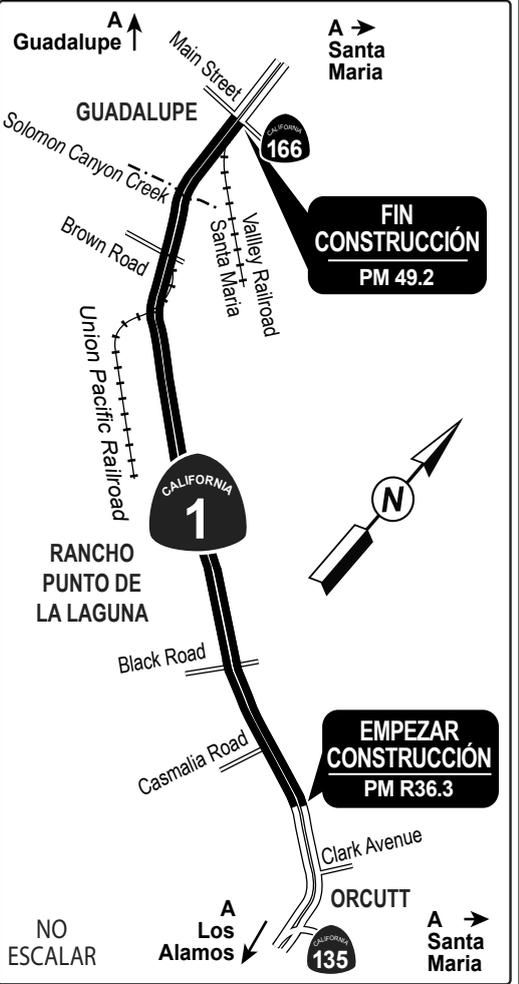
¿Tiene algún comentario sobre el proceso del proyecto con un "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta"? ¿Está en desacuerdo con los resultados de nuestro estudio como se describen en la "Declaración negativa atenuada propuesta"? ¿Podría hacer otros comentarios sobre el proyecto? ¿Quiere solicitar una audiencia pública? Envíe sus comentarios o su solicitud de audiencia pública por escrito antes del 19 de marzo de 2021 a Caltrans, Attn: Jason Wilkinson, District 5 Office, en 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Si no hay comentarios considerables o solicitudes de audiencia pública, Caltrans procederá con el plan del proyecto.

Contacto

Para obtener más información sobre este estudio o para solicitar una copia del "Estudio inicial con declaración negativa atenuada propuesta", comuníquese con Jason Wilkinson, responsable principal de planificación ambiental, llamando al (805) 540-9165 o por correo electrónico a jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov. Por otros asuntos de transporte, comuníquese con la Oficina de Asuntos Públicos del Distrito 5 llamando al (805) 549-3318.

Arreglos especiales

Se solicita a las personas que requieran arreglos especiales (uso de lenguaje de señas americano [American Sign Language], un intérprete, documentación en otros formatos, etc.) que se comuniquen con la Oficina de Asuntos Públicos del Distrito 5, llamando al (805) 549-3318. Los usuarios de dispositivos de telecomunicación para sordos (TDD) pueden comunicarse con la línea TDD del Servicio de Retransmisión de California llamando al 1-800-735-2929



FOOD & DRINK from page 15
 or go online to make a reservation. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FEBRUARY WINE SEMINAR: THE BOLD AND COLORFUL MALBEC Malbec is known for its color and boldness making it unique, delicious, and perfect to blend. Join Katie Gerbauer, Certified Specialist of Wine and Level II Sommelier, as she gives you an in-depth look at the Malbec grape variety. **Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m.** \$32-\$40. 805-239-1730. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

MUSIC

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GINO AND THE LONE GUNMEN: BASIN STREET REGULARS LIVESTREAM Gino and the Lone Gunmen is a three-piece band that performs a rockin' mix of jazz, rockabilly, swing, blues, country, and more. **Feb. 28, 2 p.m.** 805-937-8402. pismojazz.com. Pismo Beach Veterans Memorial Hall, 780 Bello St., Pismo Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY JAZZ CD RELEASE CONCERT: VIRTUAL

This virtual concert will celebrate the recently produced double-album titled *another time, another place*. The album is the result of at-home rehearsals by members of the Cal Poly Jazz Ensemble and Cal Poly Vocal Jazz Ensemble that began in March due to the pandemic. **Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.** \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu. Online. See website, San Luis Obispo.

JILL KNIGHT TRIO (VIRTUAL) Presented by FAR-West.



SEE FOR YOURSELF

Creative Me Time hosts a pickup date for its Sea Glass and Resin Necklaces kit at Centennial Park on Monday, Feb. 22, from 6 to 7 p.m. Participants of this take-home workshop will complete three of their own unique necklaces using local sea glass, metal bezels, resin, and other materials. Each kit is \$40 and includes a step-by-step instructional video. Centennial Park is located at 600 Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles. Call (805) 286-5993 or visit creativemetime.com to find out more.

—C.W.



View online on SLO Brew's Facebook. **Feb. 24** SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, (805) 543-1843.

KRISTEN BLACK BAND: ALBUM DEBUT AND LIVE CONCERT (VIRTUAL) Kristen Black, formerly of SLO, now of Nashville, will be debuting her new album, *The Healing*. **Feb. 27, 6-7 p.m.** Starts at \$5. stageit.com. Online. See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

CELLO BOB JOINS STEVE KEY FOR LIVE SHOW Singer-songwriter Steve Key and multi-instrumentalist "Cello Bob" Liepman will share the sculpture garden stage for an afternoon of live music. Steve Key's latest album includes Bob's cello work on the song "Golden". **Feb. 20, 12:30-3:30 p.m.** Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

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CASS Wine Seminar
 The bold and colorful Malbec
February Wine Seminar: The bold and colorful Malbec
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
 Cass Winery, Paso Robles

Sunset Photo Shoot
FRIDAY, MARCH 19
 Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach

Kiwanis Poppy Poker Rally
 A Benefit for the Children of the Santa Maria Valley
Kiwanis Poppy Poker Rally
FRIDAY, APRIL 25
 Allan Hancock College

Dinner in the Gardens: Gourmet Burger Bar
FRIDAY, MAY 14
 Hartley Farms, San Miguel

Pecho Coast Trail Plant Life
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Arts Briefs

PCPA revives virtual InterPlay program with four new play readings

IMAGE COURTESY OF PCPA



The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) is bringing back its InterPlay program with four upcoming play readings set to stream live through Zoom, over four consecutive weekends. PCPA Literary Associate Emily Trask expressed her excitement for the program's return in recent press materials.

"I'm thrilled that, by popular demand, our InterPlay series will be returning to PCPA this spring. We will be introducing four more 'fresh' plays by four fantastic, diverse, and exciting playwrights to the Central Coast—where we cultivate not just great agriculture but also great art," Trask said.

In celebration of Black History Month, Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* was chosen as the program's first reading, scheduled to stream on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m. This drama, set in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3, 1968, reimagines the final night of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. PCPA Resident Artist Yusef Seevers will read as King.

Other selected plays for the InterPlay program include George Brant's *Into the Breaches!* (March 5 and 6), Tira Palmquist's *Two Degrees* (March 12 and 13), and Tanya Saracho's *Fade* (March 19 and 20). Admission to view each performance is \$10. A special VIP pass for \$100 includes all four play readings, plus admission to a virtual event with the program's featured playwrights on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Visit pcpa.org/interplay for more info.

City of Santa Maria seeks local artists to beautify utility boxes

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT



The city of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is currently accepting applications from local artists who would like to help beautify five different traffic signal control boxes located throughout town. Artists are encouraged to pitch artworks based on themes that tie to Santa Maria's social, cultural, and/or historical identity. Applications (with templates for artists' proposed box designs) are available online at cityofsantamaria.org/recreation and are due no later than 5 p.m. on March 17.

Both Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County residents are eligible to apply. Each artist chosen will receive a stipend of \$500 and up to \$250 as reimbursement for material costs. Once the five utility boxes are beautified, photographs of the boxes will be added to the city's public art tour website (cityofsantamaria.org/art).

This public art program is made possible by contributions from PLAY Inc., Tri-W Enterprises, MBL Landscape Architect, and JD Humann Landscape. For more details on the program and its application process, reach the city of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department directly at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260. ○

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

History in the making

Healing Justice Santa Barbara offers virtual programming to celebrate Black History Month

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Comedy, dance, music, spoken word, and visual arts were among the submission categories open to applicants of an upcoming exhibition, *Black is Beautiful*, hosted by Healing Justice Santa Barbara (HJSB) in celebration of Black History Month. Leticia Resch, a co-organizer of HJSB, took on the role of creative director for this virtual showcase, which is scheduled to premiere online on Feb. 26.

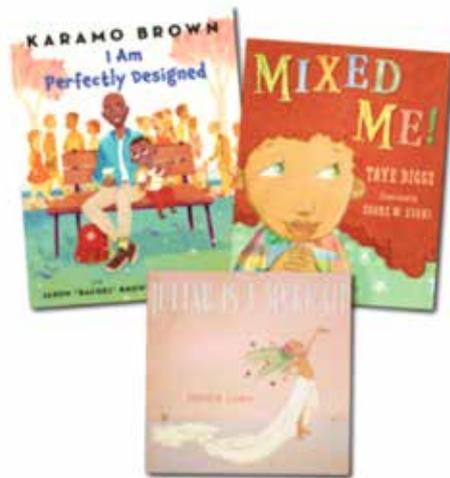
"Once I was asked to take on programming for Black History Month, I knew right away that showcasing Black artists of all mediums would have to be a part of it," Resch told the *Sun*. "Initially, I projected most of these projects as in-person, but of course due to COVID-19, this is not possible. So we pivoted."

Participants who hoped to join the showcase were asked to submit prerecorded videos of their performance pieces in January, which were then juried by the event's organizers. HJSB will provide additional short clips to weave in with the exhibit's selected videos during the virtual showcase, Resch said.

While based in Santa Barbara County, HJSB accepted entries from Black artists throughout the country. Several different factors influenced the local nonprofit's choice to go nationwide, Resch explained.

"By inviting the wider region to join the celebrations, we can create a network and build up connections for artists," Resch said. "We also wanted to take into consideration that people move or are away due to COVID-19, and college students may be doing school remotely."

IMAGE COURTESY OF HEALING JUSTICE SANTA BARBARA



BETWEEN THE LINES: The Chocolate Baby Story Time Series, which holds its next two segments on Feb. 20 and 27, includes live Zoom readings of beloved children's books that celebrate the joy of Blackness, including *Mixed Me* by Taye Diggs, *I Am Perfectly Designed* by Karamo Brown, and *Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love.

This gave current UCSB students residing outside Santa Barbara County, for example, the chance to participate, as well as Black alumni who have since left the Central Coast or even the state, she added.

"Former residents and alumni of our colleges and schools may have moved on, and we wanted to give them a chance to share the love of this area," Resch said. "Extending the invitation to participate nationwide also provided Black Student Unions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities to participate."

By opening the submission threshold to Black artists of all ages across the country, HJSB hopes *Black is Beautiful* will achieve its aim of highlighting "the beauty of the Black/African American community on a large scale."

Resch also described the upcoming showcase as an extension of HJSB's aim to "uplift diverse individuals across the African and Black American diaspora—all ages, incomes, LGBTQIA-plus, multi/biracial identifying, system-impacted, and those with disabilities—through all forms of artistic performance."

Described as a Black-led and Black-centered organizing collective and nonprofit, HJSB was founded in Santa Barbara by Simone Rushkamp and Krystle Farmer Sigheart in response to the destabilizing impacts of racism and anti-blackness in communities along the Central Coast.

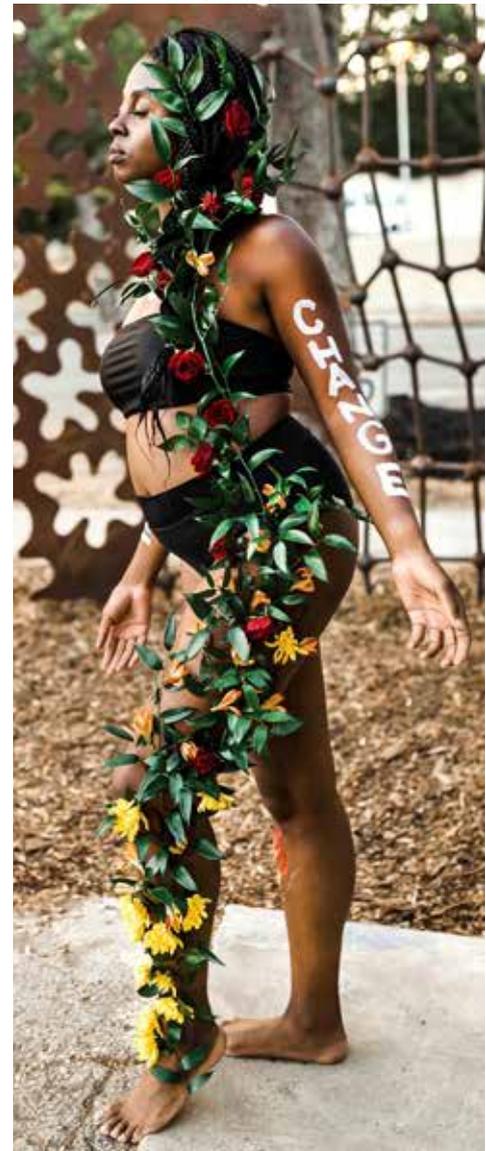
Alongside *Black is Beautiful*, HJSB is also hosting additional virtual programs to celebrate Black History Month. One such program is The Chocolate Baby Story Time Series, which holds its next two segments on Feb. 20 and 27. This program includes live Zoom readings of beloved children's books that celebrate the joy of Blackness, including *Mixed Me* by Taye Diggs, *I Am Perfectly Designed* by Karamo Brown, and *All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles.

Each book in the series is read aloud via Zoom for young viewers and their families to enjoy from the safety and comfort of their own homes. Featured readers include Jordan Killebrew, co-founder of Juneteenth SB; Warren Ritter, president of Santa Barbara Young Black Professionals; and Bukola Joy, a community member who also participated in HJSB's Art is Activism campaign in 2020.

In lieu of the originally planned in-person programming, these virtual Black History Month offerings further HJSB's cause to promote community, especially amid feelings of isolation brought about by the ongoing pandemic.

"Even if it's through Zoom, togetherness and community can be achieved by sharing love of our culture," Resch said. "Connecting with others—showing compassion, empathy, and love—is what helps to change lives." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants to hear from the community at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



FEATURED READER: Santa Barbara community member Bukola Joy (pictured), who also participated in Healing Justice Santa Barbara's Art is Activism campaign last year, serves as one of the organization's Chocolate Baby Story Time Readers.

IMAGE COURTESY OF HEALING JUSTICE SANTA BARBARA



CENTER STAGE: *Black is Beautiful*, hosted by Healing Justice Santa Barbara in celebration of Black History Month, will feature a collection of prerecorded performance pieces that range from music and dance to spoken word and comedy skits.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIDNEY KIMMEL ENTERTAINMENT

Redemption song

Director Fisher Stevens (*Just a Kiss*) brings screenwriter Cheryl Guerriero's drama to Apple TV. After 12 years in prison, Eddie Palmer (Justin Timberlake), makes his way back his Louisiana hometown and to Vivian (June Squibb), the grandmother who raised him after his mother ran off and his father died. Hoping for a fresh start, the former high school quarterback has a hard time finding a job, haunted by his memories and eyed suspiciously by the town's residents. In the trailer next to Vivian's property resides hard-living single mom, Shelly (Juno Temple), and her flamboyant 7-year-old son, Sam (Ryder Allen), who's teased by his male classmates for his girlish affectations. Promiscuous and drugged out, Shelly often leaves Sam with Vivian, and on an especially long bender, Vivian dies, leaving Palmer to deal with Sam. The reluctant new guardian doesn't know what to make of the boy, though soon Palmer and Sam forge a unique friendship, and Palmer begins to see new possibilities for his life, especially after he meets Sam's teacher, Maggie (Alisha Wainwright). Things seem to be looking up for Palmer, but soon his past threatens to destroy his new life. (110 min.)

Glen: I went into this film knowing nothing about it except that it starred Justin Timberlake. I thought maybe it was an action film, but no, this is a redemption story about a young man who made a grave mistake, paid for it, and is now struggling to get his life back. It's also about family—the one we're born with but also the one we create. At its very core, it's about tolerance. Sam is such as

sweet, kind little boy, and newcomer Ryder Allen is amazing in the role. Kids can be mean, and Sam is so different from other kids that they—and sadly some adults—don't know what to make of him, so he's teased mercilessly. This is really about a little boy who manages to find a way into the heart of a broken man, repairing it from the inside out. Aside from his voice work in the Trolls animated films, Timberlake's last film role was in Woody Allen's 2017's drama *Wonder Wheel*, so it's nice to see him back in a live-action film. He has to do a lot of emotional heavy lifting in this film, and he's up for the job. Timberlake manages to exude a sense of decency despite Palmer's violent past, and that violence is still there, barely contained under the surface. The story is on the mawkish side, but if you can set aside your cynicism and open up your heart like Palmer does with Sam, it'll give you all the feels. **Anna:** Seriously, this one is an emotional ride! JT is showing some true dramatic talent here, and while I'm sure the Trolls franchise was a ton of fun, it was nice to get him back up on that screen using more than his voice. You're so right about Ryder Allen—he is such a delight, and what a great role he was given to premiere with. Sam is an "other," loved by his mother but not cared for by her. She's a mess, and her boyfriend is an abusive jerk who thinks any boy who likes princesses and fairies needs to get his ass kicked. Timberlake gives Palmer a lot of depth, and we learn that while he may have gone to prison for his crime, there's more to the story than the attempted murder charge he was

PALMER

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Apple TV Plus**

convicted of. The small town is still what it was before he went away—rural and churchgoing, filled with good ol' boys who are really just backwards idiots and judgmental townsfolk who don't trust the convict. The gold here is found in the moments between the two leads—Sam loves Palmer, and soon Palmer reluctantly realizes he loves Sam too. It's so sweet. **Glen:** I think the real beauty of Sam and Palmer's relationship is they've allowed each other to be themselves. Sam knows Palmer's not perfect, not especially nurturing, and not really equipped to care for a child as unusual as Sam, but Palmer also accepts Sam and all his girlish affectations and doesn't judge him for it. That's beautiful because you know Palmer grew up in the same town with the same influences as his less tolerant townsfolk, and he's somehow able to overcome his prejudices and preconceptions. Like any flavor of bigotry, that hatred of an effeminate little boy is taught, and Sam's future without someone to love, protect, and accept him could be very bleak indeed. Sam will probably grow up to transition to a woman, and if he does, Palmer seems evolved enough to love Sam the young woman as much as Sam the young man. Overly sentimental? Yes, but sometimes a feel-good film is exactly what you need.



THE FAMILY YOU PICK: Reluctant guardian and ex-con, Eddie Palmer (Justin Timberlake), cares for quirky 7-year-old, Sam (Ryder Allen), in the Apple TV drama *Palmer*.

Anna: Watching Sam get bullied is so rough; that poor kid just wants to be himself. At Halloween, Palmer tries to convince Sam to be a prince instead of a princess. He's trying to save Sam from the boys in his class who are bound to make fun of him for it. Yet they still walk out of the store with a princess costume in hand, and while some of the kids in his class are jerks, not all of them are. Palmer seems to be a simmering pool just under the surface, close to boiling over—which could topple the fragile world he's managed to build. Can he really be the good guy that Sam needs, or is he bound to put himself in the position of being in trouble again? It's a lot of sap and sentiment, but I'm here for it. I needed this sweet story of second chances, and I'm so looking forward to seeing more from Ryder Allen. What a delight! ○

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

TV & Film Reviews

HOW TO WITH JOHN WILSON

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
 When? **2020-**
 Where's it showing? **HBO Max**

John Wilson's brand of comedy showcases his anxious, socially awkward self as he attempts to show his audience how to accomplish seemingly mundane tasks like making small talk, splitting a check, or making the perfect risotto. Our view is what John sees, his handheld camera capturing normal New York moments—you know, a mouse eating cigarette butts or costumed youths scootering down the sidewalks.

Behind the idea of exploring these "how to" topics with his audience, Wilson has a running commentary on New York, relationships, and life in general. I've read there is a season two in the works and I am stoked—six short episodes just wasn't enough for me.

The last episode is especially endearing as he tries to make his elderly landlady her favorite dish, the always finicky risotto. Soon quarantine hits and his usual nights of watching *Jeopardy* with her are halted, and he gazes out at her as she works in the garden, missing her company and wishing he



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLOW OUT PRODUCTIONS

ODDBALL: Anxious New Yorker John Wilson gives advice on various topics, such as how to make small talk and how to cover your furniture, while sorting through his own issues, in the quirky series *How To With John Wilson*, screening on HBO Max.

would have been less picky about his cooking and just fed her before the world shut down. It's a fun, quirky, and sometimes sentimental show. If you have HBO Max, this one is absolutely worth checking out. (six 25- to 30-min. episodes)

—Anna

THE DIG

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Simon Stone (*The Daughter*) directs this historical biographical drama about an important 1939 archaeological excavation of Sutton Hoo, written for the screen by Moira Buffini from John Preston's novel. If you're looking for a history lesson, this one plays a little fast and loose with facts to accommodate a romantic side plot, but most of the basic elements are there.

It's the eve of World War II, and widowed landowner Edith Pretty (Carey Mulligan) hires self-described excavator Basil Brown (Ralph Fiennes) to dig up what appear to be Viking era burial mounds on her property, which Brown believes might be much earlier and of Anglo-Saxon origin. Since Brown left school at 12 and is considered an amateur, he's not given much credibility by the archaeological community, but Pretty believes in him.

As the dig proceeds and its importance becomes clear, Cambridge archaeologist Charles Phillips (Ken Scott) arrives, declares the site to be of national interest, and a struggle over control ensues. It's ultimately the story about how an



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA MAE FILMS

PARTNERS: Suffolk landowner Edith Pretty (Carey Mulligan) hires self-described excavator Basil Brown (Ralph Fiennes) for an archaeological dig of what appears to be burial mounds on her property, leading to a remarkable discovery, in Netflix's *The Dig*, based on real events.

unknown and disrespected digger discovered an amazing historical treasure and only recently was acknowledged for it. Great performances make it highly watchable. (112 min.) ○

—Glen

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Dessert hideaway

Lompoc local Jayde Stamm offers unique cakes, cookies, and other baked goods through CBJ Studios



JUMP THE SHARK: “I do get quite a few pop culture requests, which are my favorite as traditional requests can get boring for me,” said Lompoc baker Jayde Stamm, founder of CBJ Studios. Many of Stamm’s desserts tackle pop culture, from films like *Jaws* to television shows like *The Office* and *Friends*.

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

“I’ve seen every episode at least 10 times,” said Lompoc baker and entrepreneur Jayde Stamm, professing his fandom for the subject of one of his themed cookie sets, based on *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. Many of Stamm’s desserts tackle pop culture, from film, television, and literature—*Jaws*, *The Office*, *Friends*, Harry Potter—to music—Beyoncé, Drake, and other artists.

Whether it’s cakes, cookies, or other baked specialties, each themed package either originates with Stamm, which he’ll offer on his website for patrons to pre-order, or comes from a customer’s direct commission.

“I do get quite a few pop culture requests, which are my favorite, as traditional requests can get boring for me,” Stamm told the *Sun*.

Stamm is the founder of CBJ Studios, which originated simply as Cakes By Jayde, hence the abbreviation. The name change came about when Stamm’s label, described as a creative suites company, evolved into more than just a local bakery. On cbjstudios.com, guests can peruse both edible and inedible commodities—including original clothing and other merchandise (with a fun motto: “Have your cake and wear it too”).

At the beginning of last year, CBJ Studios was preparing to host its first set of hands-on, pop-up baking workshops, including Advanced Cake Decorating and a Sugar Cookie Master Class, before the pandemic put those plans to a screeching halt.

“In March, we had about three large workshops set up before they got canceled,” said Stamm, who hopes to offer a special to-go workshop kit later this spring for participants to complete from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

During the first few months of the

pandemic, CBJ Studios barely received any orders, Stamm explained, which brought about an introspective outlook for both the company and himself.

“Quarantine gave me a chance to sit with my thoughts and think of ways to better my company. Since quarantine, I have struggled with the idea of doing nothing,” Stamm said. “It’s that Protestant work ethic that’s been ingrained into society, working hard for a reward at the end, especially as a young Black millennial—I don’t feel like I have the privilege to not do anything.”

“It was a very weird time,” the 25-year-old continued. “It took a lot of self-reflection to come to grasps on why I was tying my self-worth into how much I worked.”

At the moment, a typical day-in-the-life for Stamm consists of nearly nonstop work with few gaps in between—from taking virtual college classes via Zoom (he’s currently pursuing a degree in marketing from CSU Northridge) to fulfilling CBJ orders.

“Typically I do all my schoolwork in the day and save CBJ work for the nighttime, when I’m the most productive and creative,” Stamm said. “I’m typically working until 12 or 1 a.m., listening to podcasts and music while I work.”

The origin of CBJ Studios traces back to 2014, when Stamm graduated from Lompoc High School. A baker by hobby at the time, Stamm started baking cakes for friends willing to buy them, in order to make some income.

“I wasn’t able to get a part-time job because I had no papers or documents that would aid in moving forward, like an SSN [Social Security number] or birth certificate,” said Stamm, who was born in Germany.

He was 7 years old when his family moved to the U.S., but he didn’t become a citizen until after high school.

“I would do cakes for my friends to make



INTROSPECTION: “Since quarantine, I have struggled with the idea of doing nothing,” Jayde Stamm said, discussing the drastic decrease in CBJ orders during the first months of the pandemic. “It’s that Protestant work ethic that’s been ingrained into society, working hard for a reward at the end, especially as a young Black millennial—I don’t feel like I have the privilege to not do anything.”



BE MINE: One of Jayde Stamm’s most recent baking projects was a collaboration with Kings Carey Wines. The two companies combined their efforts into a special Valentine’s Day package, which included a five-pack of Conversation Heart cookies, paired with a bottle of rosé.



IN THE AIR TONIGHT: “I’ve seen every episode at least 10 times,” said Jayde Stamm, professing his fandom for the subject of one of his themed cookie sets, based on *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (pictured).

enough money to pay my gym membership and phone bill, on top of finding odd jobs on Craigslist here and there,” Stamm said.

Stamm was inspired to turn his casual baking gig to an official business thanks to a thoughtful gift from some of his friends, he explained.

“One day, for my birthday, my friends actually gave me a box of business cards that said ‘Cakes By Jayde,’” Stamm said. “After a while, I had quite a few people looking to book me for their events. As a millennial, I naturally took the company to Facebook and began building a clientele.”

But to begin with, it was Stamm’s mother who originally introduced him to baking in general. She still bakes often, but you probably won’t catch them collaborating in the kitchen anytime soon, Stamm explained.

“We don’t bake together because it would be a hectic mess, as our kitchen styles are very different,” Stamm said. “I work methodically and clean as I go, and my mom is more of the opposite end of the spectrum.”

Sweet tooth

Find out more about CBJ Studios at cbjstudios.com or follow the company on Instagram (@cbjstudios).

But speaking of collaborations, one of Stamm’s most recent baking projects was in conjunction with Kings Carey Wines. The two companies combined their efforts into a special Valentine’s Day package, which included a five-pack of conversation heart cookies, paired with a bottle of rosé.

“Kings Carey’s rosé goes perfect with our cookies; it has such a light sit-in-the-sun-and-tan flavor to it,” said Stamm, whose personal favorite type of pairing is between cake and wine.

“I’m personally a syrah person,” he said. “I think it’s the best thing to ever come out of the Central Coast. I would pair that with our double dark chocolate cake.”

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is shaking and baking at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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» MARKET PLACE
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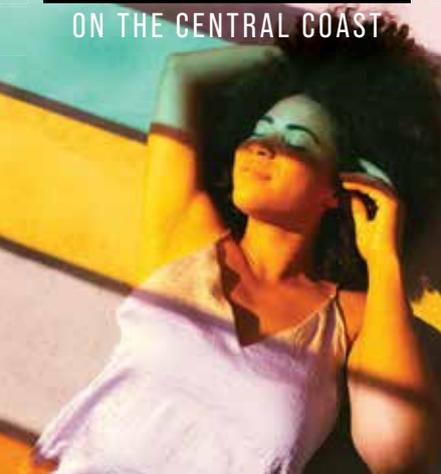
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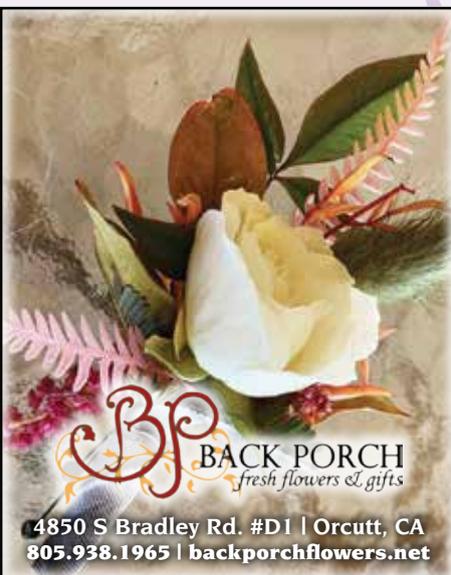
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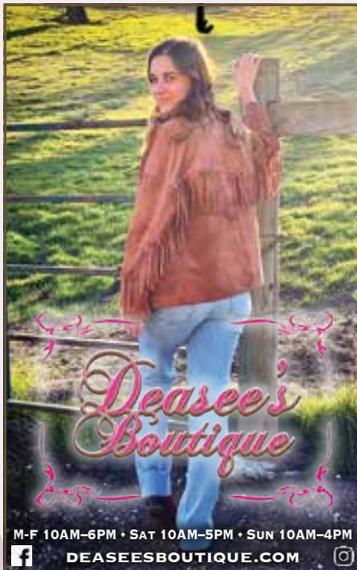
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