

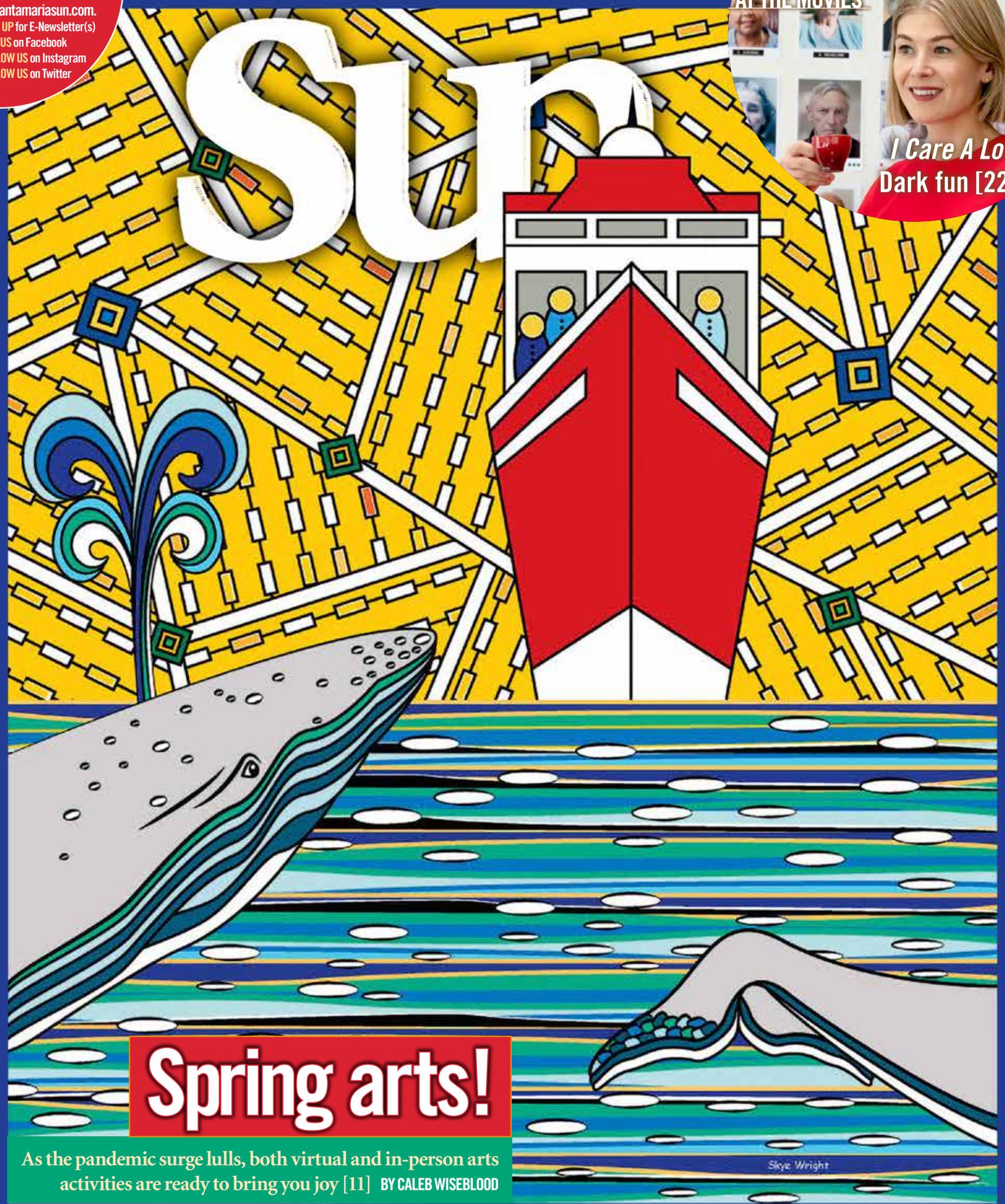
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*I Care A Lot:
Dark fun [22]*

SUN



Spring arts!

As the pandemic surge lulls, both virtual and in-person arts activities are ready to bring you joy [11] BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Skyle Wright

NEWS Trying new things to house the homeless [6]

ARTS A connection to home [20]

EATS Homemade pasta, delivered [23]

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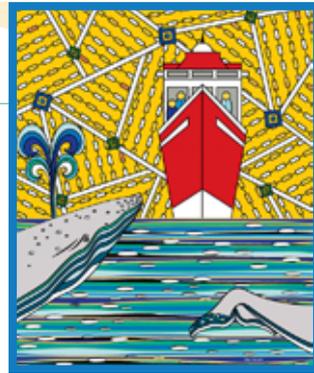
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MARCH 4 - MARCH 11, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 1



WHALE OF A TIME: Fallbrook-based artist Skye Wright is showcasing her fine art digital paintings at the Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay through Monday, March 29. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com for more info.

The Sun's annual Spring Arts issue brings you arts, music, and craft events from across the Central Coast. With the pandemic going but possibly waning, arts events are still mostly virtual, but some in-person events are happening too! Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood compiled all the creativity Northern Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties can muster just so you can say hello to a new spring with style [11].

You can also read about the creative ways Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties have tried to tackle homelessness during the pandemic [6]; Cal Poly's virtual showcases that are close to home [20]; and handmade pastas delivered to your door [23].

Camillia Lanham
editor

Cover courtesy image by Skye Wright > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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3/4–3/11

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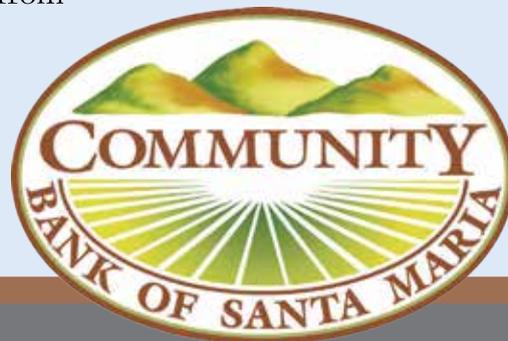


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Political Watch

• On Feb. 27, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) voted with 218 House colleagues to pass the American Rescue Plan Act, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. The funds will “help facilitate students’ safe return to the classroom, distribute more vaccines, support workers and hard-hit small businesses, and deliver another round of direct stimulus payments to assist families and boost our economy,” according to a statement from Carbajal’s office. “The need for another round of COVID-19 relief resources has been apparent for months. Central Coast businesses have shuttered, workers have been laid off, and our children are falling behind in school,” Carbajal said in the statement. “More families face eviction and food insecurity with each passing day. State and local government representatives have told me they need more federal assistance to provide essential services and roll out vaccines. Today, I’m pleased to say more help is on the way.” **Gov. Gavin Newsom** released a statement commending the act’s passage. “I applaud President Biden and Speaker Pelosi on the passage of the American Rescue Plan, ... a measure that complements the state’s immediate stimulus package I signed this week,” Newsom said in the statement. “I urge the Senate to now do its part and quickly approve this measure. ... The path to recovery for all Americans remains uncertain, and now isn’t the time to slow down the support that people need.”

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** recently outlined a plan to dedicate at least 10 percent of the vaccine supply to education workers beginning March 1. “The education professionals who nurture and support our children deserve to be and have been prioritized for vaccines, and I am proud to accelerate those efforts in all 58 counties,” Newsom said in a Feb. 25 statement. “Our top priority is getting students back in the classroom as safely and quickly as possible, and the expanded access to vaccines will build on the momentum and confidence that we can do so with urgency.” While counties have been authorized to vaccinate education workers in California since January, according to the statement, not all counties have had enough vaccine supply to do so. “To ensure communities throughout the state are prioritizing education workers, the state will true-up local efforts to the 10 percent minimum through dedicated access to myturn.ca.gov,” the statement said. My Turn is a website where Californians can find out if they’re eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, schedule appointments, and sign up for notifications. “Vaccines will be directed to counties and school communities weighted by equity, including the proportion of students from low-income families, English learners, and homeless youth,” the statement added. “In turn, education workers will qualify for vaccine prioritization based on occupational health exposure—whether they are currently reporting or will imminently report in person.”

• **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) announced in a Feb. 25 Facebook post that he introduced a new bill package that would allow school district boards to partner with local mental health providers to administer their counseling programs, as well as increase funding for these services. “Too many parents know all too well that COVID-19 lockdowns and school closures have taken a serious toll on our kids’ mental health,” Cunningham wrote. “As we start to transition back to in-person school, we need to make sure that our kids have access to mental health professionals who can help. To help do this, I have introduced two bills that would increase both funding for K-12 mental health services and the pool of accessible mental health professionals available for our kids. The mental health crisis among our children is real and needs to be addressed. Our kids’ futures depend on it.”



STILL VIRTUAL: Santa Maria-Bonita School District isn’t ready to return to in-person instruction yet, school officials say, but may be required to do so by mid-April.

Some North County schools return to in-person, Santa Maria-Bonita isn’t yet

While Orcutt Union School District and Lompoc Unified School District are set to reopen for elementary grade level in-person instruction early next week, Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD) will remain at a distance for the time being.

According to state guidelines, once a county brings its adjusted case rate per 100,000 population to under 25 for five consecutive days, transitional kindergarten (TK) through sixth grades can reopen for in-person instruction. As of March 2, Santa Barbara County’s case rate sat at 13, giving elementary schools the green light to return to in-person.

Before reopening, districts are required to have their school safety plans approved by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, county Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Salcido wrote in a Feb. 18 letter. Both the Lompoc and Orcutt school districts have approved safety plans on file with the department, Salcido wrote.

Orcutt Superintendent Holly Edds wrote a letter to the district community stating that on March 9, “we will move forward with phasing in our TK-6 blended learning program beginning with our transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students and will continue to add additional grades and cohorts over a two-week period.” The district is dividing each grade of students into cohorts A and B, which will alternate between being in person and at a distance.

Lompoc is taking a similar approach: According to a schedule posted to the district’s website, cohort A students will learn in-person in the mornings, and cohort B students in the afternoons. All students will be at a distance on Wednesdays.

But Santa Maria-Bonita won’t yet be taking advantage of the new elementary school allowances afforded by the county’s case rate. At

a Feb. 24 special meeting, school board members and district leadership met virtually to discuss why the district isn’t ready yet.

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Melissa Dutra said that SMBSD is opting to watch and learn from other large districts that are outside of Santa Barbara County.

“We are a big district,” Dutra said. “We can’t look at our local districts and say, ‘Let’s do what they’re doing,’ because we’re different.”

However, new state legislation may force the district to move more quickly on a return to the classroom. Assembly Bill 86 and Senate Bill 86 are companion bills in California that passed in mid-January and require all schools to offer optional in-person instruction to certain vulnerable groups of students across all grade levels by April 15, SMBSD Superintendent Luke Ontiveros said at the meeting. The bills also require all schools in red, orange, and yellow tier counties to reopen K through 6 instruction by April 15.

“It’s likely in another six weeks, we may, if this trend continues, we may be in the red tier,” Ontiveros said. “And at that point, we will be required at a K [through] 6 level to open.”

While public comment at the meeting included those both in support and against the district’s choice to remain at a distance, many teachers were hesitant about returning to the classroom.

Sanchez Elementary sixth-grade teacher Lucia Carmona-Urbe said in a written public comment that adding in-person instruction to the distance model will increase challenges for teachers and may lower the quality of instruction for students.

“We will need to reteach many first week-of-school norms as well as new pandemic-era norms,” Carmona-Urbe wrote. “This will greatly take away time from academic instruction. I also worry that a hybrid schedule will give students less synchronous time with their teachers than our current distance learning schedule allows, further diminishing the academic [instruction] students receive.”

Other teachers expressed concerns about returning to in-person instruction before being

vaccinated. While Santa Barbara County opened up its first vaccine clinics for educators during the week of March 1, availability remains limited.

“I am concerned about going back to school without being vaccinated,” El Camino Junior High teacher Elizabeth Martinez said in a written public comment. “Being of Native American heritage, I’ve had five members of my family lose their battle with COVID over the past year. ... The district needs to take steps to make sure their staff has a fighting chance to survive this virus.”

—Malea Martin

Santa Barbara County successfully vaccinated nearly 500 farmworkers

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department launched its first trilingual, tri-cultural COVID-19 vaccine pilot program on Feb. 28, providing vaccinations to nearly 500 farmworkers in Santa Maria.

Public Health Department spokesperson Jackie Ruiz told the *Sun* that the initial goals of the pilot program are to work through cultural and linguistic barriers and respond to the unique needs of the communities represented—which include Spanish and Mixteco speakers.

During the Feb. 2 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting, Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso said one of the difficulties identified at the event was enrolling the farmworkers for vaccine appointments through PrepMod, California’s registration system. The enrollment process requires an email address to confirm an appointment, and many of the participants didn’t have an email address.

“It was amazing to have community partners who could register and create email accounts within their organization to receive the confirmation as well as call their community members as reminders [of their appointment],” Do-Reynoso said.

NEWS from page 4

The county partnered with Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), Herencia Indígena, Agricultural Commission, and the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, which were instrumental in identifying the barriers these community members face when accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccination site at the Santa Maria Health Care Center was staffed by mostly bilingual English and Spanish speakers. Herencia Indígena volunteered five Mixteco interpreters for the event. The clinic had 30 staff members, which Do-Reynoso described as a “bare-bones” crew. However, staffing the clinic with a bilingual, bicultural staff made the entire vaccination process effective, Do-Reynoso told supervisors.

“So rather than waiting and grabbing one or two bilingual staff members who can run over, everyone was in that space where we could do communication in real time in the preferred language,” she said. “We learned that we can do a 500 clinic with very minimal staff who are bilingual.”

Farmworkers received a vaccine and a bag with information on legal, medical, and wellness support services offered by the county and partnering organizations. The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner donated masks, gloves, and a family-sized bottle of hand sanitizer for the bags.

“Everything was conducted really in a bilingual, trilingual setting, and I walked through the lines and got an opportunity to speak with many of the community members, and the overall sense was really happiness and excitement and relief at being able to receive the vaccination in a very safe and a very culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. It was a roaring success from my standpoint and what I’m hearing from community members as well as community partners,” Do-Reynoso said.

Ruiz said the pilot program will inform the county and its partners on how to better manage county clinics using an equity lens.

“We want to ensure all community members are able to get vaccinated without barriers,” she said.

—Karen Garcia

Sheriff’s Office data shows spike in serious crimes in 2020

Serious crimes in Santa Barbara County jumped by 18 percent between 2019 and 2020, according to crime statistics recently released by the Sheriff’s Office. That means last year’s rates

of serious crime were 3 percent higher than the preceding 10-year average.

Although Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said it’s hard to know what factors might have led to the spike in serious crime in 2020, he said increases in some specific categories of crime are “cause for concern.”

“We have to be aware that there have been some pretty significant changes in the criminal justice system as a result of the COVID pandemic,” Brown told the *Sun*. “And the question arises: Are those changes—particularly the reduction of the number of people that we have in jail—is that translating into some additional crime that’s occurring?”

A report released by the Sheriff’s Office on Feb. 19 shows that reported violent crimes (criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) increased by about 7 percent, from 303 reports in 2019 to 323 in 2020. Despite a 71 percent increase in reported rapes and a 30 percent spike in burglaries compared to 2019, 2020’s serious violent crime rates remained 9 percent lower than the preceding 10-year average. Reports of serious property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) also jumped by 20 percent between 2019 and 2020, from 2,167 reports to 2,591. That’s 5 percent higher than the 10-year average. A 73 percent increase in vehicle thefts and a 138 percent spike in arson stand out as the most significant jumps in local serious property crime.

At the same time, Santa Barbara County experienced a 15 percent decrease in reports of less serious crime between 2019 and 2020. Aside from a 17 percent increase in driving under the influence violations and a 28 percent increase in disorderly conduct, the Sheriff’s Office said reports of almost all lesser crimes decreased or remained about the same in 2020 compared to 2019.

Some of these trends were noticeable even before the pandemic, and Brown said they could be the result of other shifts in the criminal justice system, like the decriminalization of marijuana and longtime efforts to reduce the state’s jail population. Other spikes, Brown said, could be the result of emergency orders aimed at decreasing populations amid the pandemic in an effort to prevent the mass COVID-19 outbreaks among both inmates and staff that have been common throughout the nation since March 2020.

In April, the Judicial Council of California adopted a statewide emergency bail schedule that set bail at \$0 for most people accused—but not yet tried—of misdemeanors and low-level felonies. Though the council rescinded its order in the summer as the state started to reopen, courts in a number of counties, including both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, extended their “zero bail” schedules locally.

But Brown said a significant number of those released on zero bail are caught reoffending. Since March 18, 2020, Santa Barbara County has released 1,263 inmates from jail and 261 of them were rearrested. Depending on the offense, some who reoffend while out on zero bail could still be eligible for zero bail again.

Still, Brown said crime statistics vary from year to year and it can be hard to pin down clear correlations. The Sheriff’s Office is still analyzing 2020’s data.

“We’re looking at this crime data and we’re trying to find ways to balance, like everything else in life, maintaining public safety by targeting certain types of crimes and criminals and making sure that we protect the public to the extent that we can,” Brown said. “But also we recognize that we need to hold offenders accountable through alternative means to putting them in jail.”

—Kasey Bubnash

COVID-19 metrics, vaccine allocation improve in Santa Barbara County

Both COVID-19 metrics and the weekly vaccine allocation are improving in Santa Barbara County, opening up vaccination eligibility to additional community members.

Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso presented COVID-19 data from the last half of February at a March 2 Board of Supervisors meeting. Over the two-week period, active cases decreased by 45 percent, hospitalizations decreased by 50 percent, and ICU rates decreased by 32 percent.

Deaths, however, increased by 17 percent in the two-week period. But Do-Reynoso said that overall, the metrics indicate good news.

“This is what we need to see with regards to the transmission of COVID-19 in our community,” Do-Reynoso said.

All of the metrics considered in the state’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy reopening system additionally improved in Santa Barbara County, according to Do-Reynoso. The adjusted case rate as of March 2 sat at 13 cases per 100,000, the positivity rate at 5.1 percent, and the health equity metric at 8.2 percent. While the adjusted case rate is still solidly in the purple tier, the positivity rate is within the red tier, and the health equity metric is just 0.2 percent away from turning red.

In an effort to move the dial on the case rate, county officials are encouraging community members to get tested for COVID-19, even if they do not display symptoms. Counties that test widely are rewarded by the state with an adjustment in their case rates.

“More testing will mean that we can discover the asymptomatic cases sooner, and prevent the spread,” Do-Reynoso said. “And in addition, more testing will mean more reopening, ultimately.”

The county’s vaccine allocation increased by 22 percent from the last week of February to the first week of March.

“With additional vaccine production from Pfizer and from Moderna with the federal partnerships to CVS and Rite Aid, and the federal partnerships to our community health centers, our own county health care centers ... we are, as a community, getting an infusion, an increase of vaccines across the board,” Do-Reynoso said.

Those in Phase 1A, which includes health care workers and people aged 75-plus, are still eligible for vaccination, but now so is the entirety of phase 1B. Community members who are 65 and older, as well as emergency service, agriculture and food, and education and child care workers, are eligible through the county’s new 70/30 distribution plan.

Do-Reynoso explained that 70 percent of the county’s weekly vaccine allocation will go to hospitals, while 30 percent will go to public health’s community vaccination sites. Hospital partners will cover the continued vaccination of those 65 and older as well as education workers. The county sites will handle food and agriculture workers, child care workers, and emergency services personnel.

This week, Lompoc Valley Medical Center will be vaccinating high priority education workers, who are “staff serving students who are unable to wear masks, who are medically fragile, or require support that does not allow for physical distancing,” Do-Reynoso said. The hospital will also begin to vaccinate the second priority group: staff who have significant in-person contact across multiple groups. Other education workers—such as those in-person but with minimal mixing, and those who work remotely—will not yet be vaccinated this week.

The county also ran a farmworker vaccination clinic over the weekend, (see: “Santa Barbara County successfully vaccinated nearly 500 farmworkers,” page 4) which Do-Reynoso said was a huge success.

With the Johnson & Johnson vaccine recently receiving federal emergency use authorization, Do-Reynoso anticipates that the county will get an allocation in the near future.

“We will await guidance from CDPH [California Department of Public Health] with regard to the population to be served, but nonetheless we are incredibly excited at this new option for a convenient, one-dose, easy-to-store, quick-acting vaccine for our providers as well as our community,” she said. ○

—Malea Martin



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Experimental solutions

COVID-19 relief funding offers Central Coast localities a chance to get creative in addressing homelessness

BY KASEY BUBNASH

A Motel 6 that was turned into emergency homeless shelter space and supportive housing in Paso Robles is one of several fast-paced and unconventional efforts to address homelessness on the Central Coast amid the COVID-19 pandemic. But it's one of the few that will remain when the pandemic is over.

While the coronavirus and resulting economic downturn have led to concerns about a spike in homelessness, it also generated a surge in federal and state dollars aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 among homeless populations.

Much of the funding is one-time and many of the resulting projects are only temporary, but homeless advocates say coronavirus relief funding has offered a unique opportunity to experiment with ideas that wouldn't otherwise be attainable.

"I just hope that there will be a lot of creative approaches to address the needs of our houseless neighbors and that that would be able to trickle into post-COVID," said Sylvia Barnard, executive director of the Good Samaritan Shelter, a Santa Maria-based nonprofit that offers a number of homeless support services.

Throughout the pandemic, the Good Samaritan Shelter has used COVID-19 relief funding to tackle a number of issues. When Santa Maria's existing shelter capacity was reduced by about half for the sake of physical distancing, Barnard said that Good Sam used emergency funding to create pop-up shelters at Santa Maria High School and the Atkinson Community Center. The nonprofit purchased travel trailers to be used as quarantine spaces for people at shelters in Santa Maria and Lompoc and provided hotel rooms to homeless veterans.

In November 2020, Santa Barbara County used \$900,000 in federal Emergency Solutions Grant and Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to purchase 20 tiny pallet houses that were installed in the Isla Vista Community Center parking lot for a non-congregate emergency homeless shelter. The 8-by-8-foot homes cost about \$4,900 each and include two drop-down beds, storage, heat, outlets, and lighting.

Barnard said she'd read about a similar tiny home village in Southern California and loved the concept, which works around many of the main challenges in addressing homelessness amid the pandemic.

"I think specifically the pallet shelter project is one that is really unique," Barnard said, "and it's an interesting response to the growing

encampments that we have across Santa Barbara County and the nation as well."

Gina Fischer is a district representative and scheduler for 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, whose district encompasses Isla Vista. Fischer said the Isla Vista area is home to about 30 or 40 chronically homeless individuals who are pretty well known and established in the community, but COVID-19 led to a noticeable influx in Isla Vista's houseless community and homeless encampments in local parks. Homeless camps and the buildup of waste that often comes with them pose environmental and health and safety threats, including fire hazards.

Fischer said the county had hoped to purchase a motel in the Goleta area to be used for a homeless shelter and affordable housing, but when that fell through, it decided to pursue the pallet houses. They were up and running in Isla Vista just a month after the project was approved in November 2020 and will be there until the funding expires in June.

Operated by the Good Samaritan Shelter, the pallet houses are geared toward getting Isla Vista residents out of homeless encampments and gradually back into healthy routines and eventually permanent housing, Fischer said. Participants are provided a clean space, meals, and showers, and they are connected with various housing, rehabilitation, and medical services on-site.

Of the roughly two dozen pallet-home residents so far, Fischer said 90 percent had no identification when they moved in, documentation necessary to get jobs and housing. Since they moved in, five have obtained jobs, several are attending court dates, five are working through sobriety programs, and some have received needed medical attention.

"So it really has been an opportunity to stabilize their lives so that they are ready to be housing-ready," Fischer said.

But homeless advocates often complain that there isn't enough being done for those who aren't ready to transition into permanent housing or even shelter life—those who live in homeless camps. San Luis Obispo County resident Paul Andreano said little has been done on that front locally even with all the extra pandemic funding. Andreano is a volunteer with Hope's Village of SLO, a nonprofit that advocates for people experiencing homelessness. He said SLO County's biggest problem is the number of "existing unconventional solutions that we aren't trying out."

"Unfortunately I feel like there's all kinds of other options out there that have already been proven out



CAMPED OUT: Homeless encampments in city parks, like Mitchell Park (pictured), are becoming increasingly common on the Central Coast amid the pandemic.

in other localities, and for whatever reason we're not engaging in those at this point," he said.

In early February, SLO County received about \$5.5 million in COVID-19 relief funding geared toward homeless services. It distributed that and an earlier multi-million-dollar allocation almost entirely to nonprofits working with houseless populations. The El Camino Homeless Organization, Peoples' Self-Help Housing, and the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo also partnered to use \$15 million worth of state Project Homekey grant funding to transform a Motel 6 in Paso Robles into an emergency homeless shelter with permanent supportive housing built in.

Although Andreano described Paso's Motel 6 project as "beyond frickin' cool," he said SLO County has the funds to launch smaller-scale efforts that could make a big difference.

He pointed to the county's now defunct safe parking program, which allowed homeless individuals to park and sleep in their cars overnight at several parking lots throughout the county at the beginning of the pandemic. Andreano considered that program to be hugely successful, but it ended as planned in June 2020 when funding ran out. He'd like to see the county launch a new parking program alongside a designated camping area complete with dumpsters and bathrooms.

While Andreano said he agrees that homeless camps are problematic from a sanitation and environmental standpoint, he said SLO city's typical response is a waste of time and resources. For every homeless camp the city clears out, another is reborn elsewhere. If people had a designated place to camp, park, and deal with their waste, the city would have more time and energy to begin addressing the root causes of homelessness.

"But there's this mentality in SLO, I think, that whenever you do something like that you're kind of aiding and abetting the homeless people," Andreano said.

Paso Robles launched a designated campsite for homeless people in July 2020 when the city decided to clear out illegal camps in the Salinas Riverbed, but the program ended months later without much success.

Waste and trash had built up in the Salinas encampments, and fires were becoming a regular occurrence, but Community Services Department Director Julie Dahlen said the city couldn't legally relocate riverbed residents during the pandemic without providing some other residency option. Paso didn't have a homeless shelter at that time, so the city roped off an area for camping at Borkey Flats.

"None of us frankly were extremely satisfied with that as an alternative," Dahlen said.

Dahlen said Paso provided tents, sleeping bags, restrooms and wash stations, trash service, and security. A local nonprofit provided some free meals to campers, and others offered support services.

It took about \$11,500 to set the camp up and \$20,000 a month to run it, and Dahlen said it ended on Oct. 31, 2020, as planned. Attendance never exceeded 15 campers a night, she said, and frequently fell below that. Dahlen said it wasn't a perfect solution, but chronic homelessness is a complex problem that'll take the whole community and a lot of experimenting to fix.

"We're all trying to find the best answer," she said. ○

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

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Sun

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA FLORES

JOSE INEZ SALAS, 82, of Morro Bay passed away 2/3/2021

ROBERT A. HANLON, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 2/10/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RICHARD ALAN JACKSON JR., 32, passed away 2/10/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

TERESA RAMIREZ, 51, of Santa Maria passed away 2/12/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ANTHONY PAUL RUFFINO, 91, passed away 2/12/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

JEFFREY GRADEN GOLDEN, 57, of Oceano passed away 2/14/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

IGNACIO F. MOLINAR, 79, passed away 2/14/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

ROBERT ERIC ANDERSON, 62, passed away 2/15/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

THEDA RUTH SPERRY, 74, of Grover Beach passed away 2/15/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CORRINE BERNSTEIN, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 2/17/2021

MACARIO RUIZ, 73, passed away 2/18/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

ANGELO S. SANDY, 50, passed away 2/19/2021 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

BARBARA ANN CABRAL, 94, of Lompoc passed away 2/20/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

SARAH LYNN TURNER, 35, passed away 2/20/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

EDWARD GERALD WEBSTER, 94, passed away 2/21/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

ALAN W. ARAM, 68, of Los Osos passed away 2/22/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

MARK ALLEN SHEPPARD, 59, passed away 2/22/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

DWIGHT GILBERT FROST, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 2/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FRANCISCO GARZA DELEON, 84, of Guadalupe passed away 2/23/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

VICTORIA JEAN ROBERTS, 69, passed away 2/23/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

PATRICIA LEE MEDINA, 47, passed away 2/23/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

JEFF LEONARD, 75, of Santa Maria passed away 2/24/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

PAUL FLAIG, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 2/25/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

FRANCISCO AZEVEDO, JR., 76, of Casmalia passed away 2/25/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

CHRISTINE M. BAGBY, 46, of Santa Maria passed away 2/25/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

JACQUI SAUCERMAN, 67, of Santa Maria passed away 2/25/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

FREDERICK BURTON FLEISCHMANN, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 2/26/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JOYCE FRANCES PURVIS, 88, of Solvang passed away 2/27/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

JOSEPH B MAXWELL, Sr. 95, of Santa Maria passed away 2/28/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

Feed the Valley

Restaurants and nonprofits partner to deliver meals to those in need, keep restaurant workers employed

BY MALEA MARTIN

When the pandemic forced Bell's Restaurant, a French-inspired bistro in Los Alamos, to close its doors in March 2020, owners Daisy and Greg Ryan were certain of one thing: None of their employees would be losing their jobs.

"We made the decision that we weren't going to furlough any of our staff, we were going to figure out ways to keep them employed," Greg Ryan told the *Sun*.

Simultaneously, the Ryans started thinking about how they could help other people in the community who were struggling.

"As we continued to move forward with takeout, Daisy and I were really trying to think about that there has to be a better way to try and get to folks that are food insecure," Ryan said.

After receiving a generous donation to kick-start the concept, the Ryans began networking with local organizations that already have ties to residents who are hungry, homebound, or both in the Santa Ynez Valley community. The goals were simple: deliver free, warm meals to people who need them and keep restaurant workers employed. Feed the Valley was born.

It started with Bell's making meals for the Los Alamos Foundation's weekly meal distribution for seniors. But as the initial donation began to dwindle, the Ryans knew they needed to make the program more sustainable, so they connected with the Santa Barbara Foundation, which became "essentially our financial partner," Ryan said. "They allow us to run our pilot program through them."

Anyone interested in donating to the collective can do so through the Santa Barbara Foundation, and contributions are tax-deductible.

In the first two months of the program, which started in April 2020, "I think we did close to 1,500 meals," Ryan recalled. "It was great. ... We're being able to feed people that we know are in this town that just can't come to our restaurant."

After the initial shutdown ended and Bell's opened back up, the restaurant put Feed the Valley on a temporary pause in order to build out the infrastructure needed to keep it going.

"As November came around and stay-at-home happened again, we were in a much better position to be like, 'Great, this is what we're doing,'" Ryan said.

This time around, Feed the Valley is more than just Bell's: Santa Ynez Valley food favorites



PARTNERING FOR GOOD: Daisy Ryan of Bell's Restaurant prepares meals for People Helping People to deliver to local residents who need food. The partnership is part of Feed the Valley, which aims to mobilize restaurants and fight food insecurity.

like Pico, Plenty on Bell, and First and Oak joined in to make meals and partner with local organizations to help deliver them.

A recent addition to the Feed the Valley collective is People Helping People (PHP), a Solvang-based organization that provides human and social services in mid-Santa Barbara County. Development and Communications Coordinator Erica Flores told the *Sun* that PHP joined a few weeks ago, delivering meals made by the restaurant partners three days a week.

"This really came from their vision to say, how do we take care of the community that we are a part of? How do we keep our employees, doing what they do best, which is feeding people? And how do we partner with local organizations that have the relationships with the people?" Flores said. "So that's where we come in as People Helping People."

Whether it's a senior in need or a family with multiple children struggling to make ends meet, "we work with those clients day in and day out and have long before the pandemic," Flores said. "That was really the natural pairing for both of us to come together and do what we do best."

While COVID-19 metrics continue to improve in Santa Barbara County, Flores believes a lot of the impacts of the pandemic are not yet fully visible.

"I think we've still got a long ways ahead of us, and having these creative partnerships and thinking outside the box and being innovative is going to be the key of us taking care of our neighbors in our community," she said.

Highlight:

- Marian Regional Medical Center announced on Feb. 24 that it received the Healthgrades 2021 America's 250 Best Hospitals Award. The award places the hospital in the top 5 percent of nearly 4,500 hospitals assessed by Healthgrades, a resource that "connects consumers, physicians, and health systems," according to a statement from Marian. ☉

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

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Online Poll

Where do you stand on youth sports during the pandemic?

- 42% They should have been allowed back months ago; our youth need sports.
- 26% It's too soon—we're still living in a pandemic.
- 16% Low-contact sports are one thing, football and basketball are another.
- 16% Getting any kids back on the field is a step in the right direction.

26 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.



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

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AWW ALTERNATIVE WEEKLY NETWORK

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VERIFIED

Our congressman is no help to local businesses

Salud Carbajal has never helped my business! Michael Smith writes on Feb. 18 (“Carbajal has acted in businesses’ favor”) that he was surprised to read a letter claiming Carbajal has been bad for business (“Dear Congressman Carbajal, now is your chance,” Feb. 4).

Here are my two experiences with Carbajal’s office.

I own a small corporation in Santa Maria. I was a victim of a fairly large, very clever interstate credit card fraud scam a year ago and reached out to Carbajal’s office for help. No, they did not ever answer a phone call or ever return a message. I submitted one of their comments forms and never heard back.

Recently, as a result of Trump, my earlier tariffs exclusion expired and I only wanted Carbajal’s office to advise me whom to contact. This is a federal issue and last I read he is a U.S. congressman. Of course no one answers the phone, so I left a message. And of course no one responded. I again submitted a form and got no response.

Finally I figured it out—I called the U.S. Trade Representative’s Office in Washington, D.C., and a voice picked up in a couple of rings. He advised me to call the Counsel’s Office for Exclusions. Again, I got right through to a Washington bureaucrat on the second ring, and he was quite helpful about what I might expect.

The lesson, I guess, is it’s much easier to talk to Washington than your local congressman.

And I think the comment form on his website is nothing more than an email-gathering device.

Michael Guista
Santa Maria

Government needs to be kept at arm’s length

I recently contacted our congressman, Salud Carbajal, asking that he cast a no vote for HR 1. I cited that it was an infringement of states’ rights set out in the 12th Amendment: The only job the federal government has is to set the date for voting and certification of the Electoral College vote.

Our Legislature retains the authority by state constitution to certify the Electoral College vote. Already even I can see how this past election has been compromised in half a dozen ways, but sticking to my point: Federalism was an agreement among the states that each state’s sovereignty was protected. The federal government was limited by the governed to what powers they had. Over the years, the federal government has exceeded what would be their initial roll to provide for the common defense and to promote trade. Federal government has bloated to an overreaching bureaucratic tyrant.

At first blush, federal standardization of elections seems reasonable. However, 50 states conforming to what is outlined in HR 1 mandates include directives that some don’t want. It’s true that one state’s election laws could cause friction with other states, and if a disenfranchisement leading to harm to the other states is demonstrated, it would be up to the Supreme Court to sort out those issues. (Which recently that court abdicated their authority to do. That is another topic for another day.)

What I’m boiling down to is independence. Henry David Thoreau, among others, is quoted in “Civil Disobedience,” “The government that governs least, governs best.” Government should be “held at arm’s length.” You have no redress to authority that hides behind masks and barbed wire.

Read HR 1. Tell Salud that he represents us to the federal government and not the other way

around. Government in this country derives its authority by consent of the governed.

By the way, his response to me was that he was going to vote to impose federal authority over our election process.

Jan Lipski
Vandenberg Village

Oso Flaco dunes project makes no sense

It is incomprehensible that State Parks, an agency tasked with conservation as well as recreation, would propose to place, within a few miles of each other, projects comprising 721 campsites, OHV staging and training areas, new OHV highways into the dunes, acres of parking, permanent administration buildings and staff residences, equestrian facilities, and, of all things, a shooting range for peace officers, all in an area that includes Oso Flaco Lake, designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as “the most unique and fragile ecosystem in California, ranking No. 1 on the list of habitats in need of protection.”

There will be massive destruction of natural habitat and disturbance of dwindling wildlife so that people can have fun—a special kind of fun based on fossil fuels, creating noise and pollution on the ground and CO2 pollution in the atmosphere. State Parks has the temerity to refer to these projects as “improvements.” This is State Parks planning run amok; the scale of these projects raises the question of just how deeply State Parks is tied to the OHV lobby.

They are also a study in irony: The California Coastal Commission staff recommends eliminating OHV activity on the dunes completely and reducing the impact of camping on sensitive beach and dune habitat.

Recreation is a social good. But social goods must be balanced with practices that sustain the natural environment, that narrow band of atmosphere that fosters human life.

Johanna Rubba
Grover Beach

State Parks has failed the coastal community

Thank you to the California Coastal Commission for its futurist reimagining of the park in the newly released staff report for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. Due to the park’s closure to OHVs last year, many people have for the first time experienced the magnificence of the Oceano Dunes.

This area is a geological wonder and is the largest intact coastal dunes system in the world. The new staff report shows that off-road riding degrades the habitat, causes air quality issues, and does not economically contribute to Oceano as much as off-road riders want the public to believe.

Local residents and visitors would spend more time and money in Oceano if they felt it was a safe environment for pedestrian enjoyment. Other beach communities are thriving even during pandemic times!

But what does State Parks propose? Moving the problem south in its draft plan. This would dramatically impact Oso Flaco and change land use where Phillips 66 is into an area with everything from a gun range to more riding, as well as increased traffic, light, noise, and air pollution.

Support the Coastal Commission and save this unique dunes area. State Parks has failed to come up with a solution.

Linda Reynolds
Nipomo

Dems need to examine their hypocrisy

Oh, you hypocrites! When Trump stopped “immigrants” from entering our country illegally, when he separated children from their parents rather than have them detained in cages built by Obama, the “righteous indignation” from the Democrats and the media was as

LETTERS continued page 10



MAYFIELD

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Short-term fix

If there's been one thing that COVID-19 is good for, it's an influx of funding to tackle homelessness—kind of. It's more like an influx of funding to make us feel temporarily better about not spreading a contagious virus among a population we've failed for decades.

Homeless advocates like **Good Samaritan Shelter Executive Director Sylvia Barnard** told the *Sun* that encampments are growing in Santa Barbara County and across the nation. Gina Fischer, who works for **3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann**, said COVID-19 led to a noticeable increase in Isla Vista's houseless population.

As it seems like nothing we've done over the last decade has put a dent in homeless populations in the county, how are we going to cope with that increase post-COVID-19? Most of the projects made possible with emergency COVID-19 funding from state and federal governments won't last. They're temporary, designed to house homeless populations for the duration of the pandemic's hold on our society.

But, hey, maybe it could be forever! Yay!

SLO County spent money last spring on a successful parking program, which only ran for a couple of months because funding ran out. **Paso Robles** tried to put together a camp to keep trash and fires from spreading in the Salinas Riverbed—unsuccessful. In Santa Maria, a pop-up shelter was set up at **Santa Maria High School**, only possible because students were virtual learning instead of on campus. Very temporary.

Using CARES Act funding from the federal government, Santa Barbara County erected 20 pallet homes that could act as temporary shelters in Isla Vista, providing wrap-around services to try to get people employed and in more permanent housing situations. Such situations often require

services like alcohol and drug abuse counseling, medical attention, or simply help acquiring identification documents. It cost about \$1 million and will only last until June.

After that, good luck people! Government help is out!

By contrast, clearing out the Santa Ynez Riverbed in Lompoc in 2019 cost half a million. And guess what? Yep, temporary. Who would have thought? (Ooh, pick me!) Encampments are definitely back in the riverbed. What a waste!

But permanent solutions are an expensive proposition.

In Paso Robles, a group of nonprofits was able to use one-time funding from the state to turn a Motel 6 into supportive housing similar to what the pallet camp is trying to accomplish in Isla Vista. It cost \$15 million-plus but at least it's expected to stick around—well, as long as it finds the ongoing funds and staff it needs to keep the momentum up. Good luck!



THE
CANARY

“There's a critical need for reliable ongoing funding to address the housing crisis,” **Santa Barbara County Homeless Assistance**

Program Manager Kimberlee Alvers told the **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** during a meeting about the second phase of the **Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness**.

But where does it come from? Ongoing funding has to come from the county. Grant funding is often temporary. Emergency relief funding is obviously meant to be a one-time cash influx.

If the county hopes to increase access to affordable housing and deliver support services, it needs to throw its own money at the problem. And it needs to take advantage of one-time funding to find more permanent solutions. Grant funding is only as good as the projects it funds.

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors: It's time to step up. ○

The Canary is in a permanent state of agitation. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.

LETTERS from page 9

thick as honey in a freezer. “We on the left would never do such a thing. How dare he?” they cried. Probably true. Dems and the media would never put this country first.

What's the Democrat solution? Rather than keep them out of our country and cages, we'll just kill them at the source. How? Abortion. Is it not despicable enough that we have allowed the deaths of more than 60 million of our own babies? Now under this new regime, we are going to take our tax dollars and pay for abortions in Third World countries.

The same self-righteous politicians and media mouthpieces who are so offended by what Trump did don't bat an eye over New York's abortion “rights,” which permit a baby to be aborted (killed) at 24 weeks. Every pro-abortion advocate should be made to watch an abortion and see how that baby is killed by a so-called doctor. Then to have them call it reproductive health care rather than calling it killing or murder is total hypocrisy.

In a recent media headline, Biden was called the most religious president in a long time. He's a Catholic. Do you or anyone else think the Catholic church is pro-abortion? Does anyone think God is pro-abortion?

Samantha Romero
Santa Maria

Reassess Los Alamos project

Los Alamos is a small, unincorporated town. We don't have our own elected government. We depend on county officials. We pay property taxes just like other county residents and expect fair and responsive treatment by these agencies.

Recently, however, a Planning and Development issue has come to the fore after

lying dormant for about two decades. Back then, the county ceded all responsibility for the maintenance of a two-block stretch of road here. We didn't ask for it. They placed financial responsibility for road upkeep entirely in the laps of the adjoining homeowners.

While 18 homeowners pay annual dues for these repairs, we are more than welcoming to pedestrians, joggers, bike riders, and dog walkers from all parts of town. All may enjoy this quiet and safe neighborhood.

Today, Planning and Development is moving ahead with a developer's profitable plan that would add as many as 11 new homes on an adjoining acre-and-a-half lot. The county has granted him the right of access to our private road. A county permit for his lot plan would greatly increase traffic here. It would raise the risks of accident and injury, reduce the safe and peaceful enjoyment of the road by us and our neighbors in town, and result in higher costs to us for road maintenance.

It may be that Planning and Development is able to do this within existing zoning and planning rules. But it is not the right or smart thing to do; there is another road that could provide access for the developer. Planners ought to steer the outcome in this sound and responsible direction.

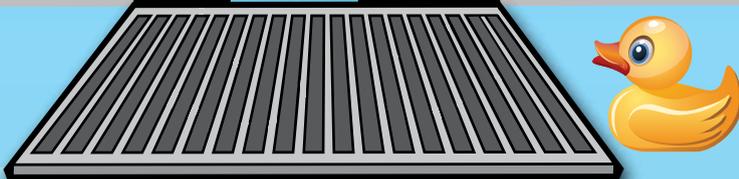
Instead, they first ignored a one-lane bottleneck. Then they tried to minimize its risks to safety because acknowledging it would complicate their aim to push forward with an ill-considered plan.

It seems to many here that county bureaucrats have been rigid, programmatic, occasionally arrogant, and obfuscatory. Isn't it time for a reappraisal and a sensible result?

Seth Steiner
Los Alamos

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SPRING ARTS



SEASONS CHANGE

Local artist Nicole Strasburg's paper-cut silhouette series, *Wintering: A Fox Tale*, will remain on display at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang through the end of spring. This public art installation is illuminated during the evenings for passersby to enjoy from outside the museum's windows. Visit wildlingmuseum.org to find out more about the installation.
—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE

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SPECIAL SPRING EVENTS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

KIWANIS POPPY POKER RALLY Cruise throughout the Central Coast to pick up cards and earn the best Stud Poker hand. Grand Prize is \$500, plus many raffle prizes. Starting/ending point is Allan Hancock College Parking Lot. Route information and starting time(s) will be e-mailed on Friday, April 23. **April 25**, 12-4 p.m. my805tix.com. Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

VALLEY ART GALLERY: SPRING ART SHOWCASE The Valley Art Gallery of Santa Maria is now exclusively showing at the Santa Maria Airport. The airport has free parking and plenty of elbow room for guests to social distance. With the winter exhibit closing at the end of March, the spring showcase will begin in April. **April 5-June 6** Free. 805-922-0663. valleygallery.org. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

PAINT 'N SIP A one-time afternoon of wine and painting at the Point San Luis Lighthouse with celebrated artist Andrea Olivier. **June 19**, 2 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SUNSET PHOTO SHOOT As part of a series of events for the 130th Anniversary of the Point San Luis Lighthouse, we will be hosting an evening for photographers and enthusiasts to come to the station and take sunset photos. **March 19**, 5:45-9 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CUESTA COLLEGE: STUDENT EXHIBITION AWARD CEREMONY The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery's annual student exhibition will be celebrated with a virtual awards ceremony. The exhibition will be posted online. Join Cuesta students to celebrate their creative accomplishments and engage in the online awards. **May 13**, 5-6 p.m. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery.

Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HJ MIOSSI ART GALLERY: ALUMNI PANEL 3 (GUESTS TBD) Join the HJ Miossi Art Gallery for its third Alumni Panel, where guests hear from Cuesta alumni for conversations about their post-Cuesta journeys. Artists TBD. Please subscribe to the Miossi Gallery newsletter for the most up-to-date information or check website. **March 18**, 12-1 p.m. Free. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery. Harold J. Miossi Gallery, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, 805-546-3202.

HJ MIOSSI ART GALLERY: ALUMNI PANEL 4 (GUESTS TBD) Join the HJ Miossi Art Gallery for its fourth Alumni Panel, where guests hear from Cuesta alumni for conversations about their post-Cuesta journeys. Artists TBD. Please subscribe to the Miossi Gallery newsletter for the most up-to-date information or check website. **May 6**, 12-1 p.m. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

2021 VINEYARD BEEKEEPING RETREAT Enjoy a night at the Geneseo Inn and spend a whole day learning in the CASS apiary, suiting up, and helping the experts tend and gather from the hives. **March 23**, 11 a.m. Varies. 805-239-1730. casswines.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

CENTRAL COAST RESERVE WEEKEND: LAKESIDE WINE FESTIVAL Escape into the magic of the Central Coast Reserve Experience with a full weekend to enjoy various festivities in Atascadero. **June 25**, 5-8 p.m., **June 26**, 8 a.m.-noon and **June 27**, 3-8 p.m. Varies based on event. atascaderochamber.org. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, 461-5000.

CRUISIN' WEEKEND IN ATASCADERO This weekend kicks off with the 28th annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite and continues with the annual Mid State Cruisers Car Show. **Aug. 20**, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and **Aug. 21**, 5-10 p.m. Free. visitatascadero.com. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

FIFTH ANNUAL CENTRAL COAST CIDER FESTIVAL An opportunity to taste a variety of craft ciders, meet the cider makers, and enjoy the community of Atascadero. Tickets go on sale starting this spring. **Aug. 14**, 5-8 p.m. centralcoastciderfestival.com/. Pavilion on the Lake, 9315 Pismo Ave., Atascadero.

FIFTH ANNUAL LAKE FEST AND CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE PARK The Friends of the Lake and the LINK are teaming up to bring two events in one. **July 17**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. visitatascadero.com. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, 461-5000.

HARTLEY FARMS DINNER IN THE GARDENS Enjoy a gourmet burger bar with brioche buns, ground beef or grilled chicken patties, and all the fixin's. Broccoli salad, French fries, and sweet potato fries accompany this meal. BYO beverages. **May 14**, 6 p.m. my805tix.com. Hartley Farms, 6770 Estrella Rd., San Miguel.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BREW AT THE ZOO Tickets

include a commemorative beer glass, craft beer, distilleries, wine, cider tasting, and live music. Must be 21 years old or over. **April 24**, 5:30-9 p.m. Presale \$38; \$43 at the door. visitatascadero.com. Charles Paddock Zoo, 9100 Morro Rd., Atascadero.

WILD ABOUT ART! Included with the price of regular admission, zoo guests can look forward to various arts and crafts booths, face painting vendors, live demos, and workshops from local artists throughout the park. **Aug. 14**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Varies. visitatascadero.com/events. Charles Paddock Zoo, 9100 Morro Rd., Atascadero.

VISUAL ART: EXHIBITS

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.

COLOR AND LIGHT Artists Neil Andersson and Vicki Andersen display their oil and acrylic paintings in this exhibit at Gallery Los Olivos. Open Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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.

THE NATURE OF CLOUDS: HOLLI HARMON Chandelier crystals, spider plants, and various succulents are among the items suspended by invisible threads, all under a ceiling designed to resemble a cumulus-cloud-filled sky, in artist Holli Harmon's window installation inspired by the water cycle. Through Sept. 22 wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

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.

SUNFLOWERS + HYDRANGEAS = HAPPINESS: OIL PAINTINGS BY PATTI ROBBINS Gallery Los Olivos presents a solo exhibit of oil paintings by Patti Robbins. This collection of paintings includes pieces that

focus on sunflowers and/or Hydrangeas as the primary subjects. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 30 Free. <http://GalleryLosOlivos.com>. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

WINTERING: A FOX TALE Local artist Nicole Strasburg's illuminated paper-cut silhouette series, *Wintering: A Fox Tale*, is one of two new window installations, easily viewable from outside the Wildling Museum. Through June 20 wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CALL TO ARTISTS: SANTA MARIA UTILITY BOX ART PROJECT The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is encouraging area artists to apply to beautify five traffic signal control boxes with captivating and inspiring imagery. Open to SB and SLO County residents. Through March 17 cityofsantamaria.org/art. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

MAKING MARKS IN CREATIVE SPACES: AHC FINE ARTS STUDENT SHOW (VIRTUAL) A virtual exhibit celebrating the work of the Allan Hancock Fine Arts students created during the pandemic, over the past year of online studio learning. This virtual exhibit will be able to view on the Ann Foxworthy Gallery website. **March 29-April 5**, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-694-8894. hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

WOVEN NARRATIVES (VIRTUAL EXHIBITION) A virtual exhibit of artist Michael F. Rohde's abstract tapestry work, weaving human connections and modern relevance. Through May 1, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-694-8894. hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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.

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 GALLERY: VINEYARD CHURCH PAINTERS A new virtual group show titled 'It's About Time.' If interested in submitting work, view site for requirements (deadline to

VISUAL ART: EXHIBITS continued page 12



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

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

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

Call to schedule your child's well exam today.



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805-922-3548

Monday – Friday

VISUAL ART: EXHIBITS

from page 11

submit is March 4). **March 6** and **March 6-April 25** Free. 805-434-7060. gallery@cambricenterforthearts.org. 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 AFTER DARK

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

VIRTUAL ART GALLERY

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

VIRTUAL OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR

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

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE JACK HOUSE

Public virtual tours via Zoom of the famous Jack House of San Luis Obispo. Access to the house is extremely limited and this is your best opportunity to get the inside view. Thursdays, 2 p.m. \$5 suggested. 805-543-0638. historycenteroslo.org/jack-tour.html. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ABSTRACT THOUGHTS An exhibit showcasing diversity in style, medium, and concept. Through March 29 Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthePark.org.

CALIFORNIA AESTHETIC 3D A celebration of California through sculpture. Features work created with elements of wood, stone, metal, and glass. **March 30-May 3** Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthePark.org.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM Go

FILE PHOTO BY REBECCA ROSE



SEE HOW THEY FLY

The Valley Art Gallery of Santa Maria announced its upcoming Spring Art Showcase, a public exhibition located at the Santa Maria Airport, which is scheduled to open on Monday, April 5, and run through Sunday, June 6. The participating artists of this group exhibition have yet to be announced. Previous works at the gallery's past airport showcases include Pop Art Poppy (pictured) by local artist Marilyn Benson. Admission to view the show will be free. Call (805) 922-0663 or visit valleygallery.org to find out more. —C.W.

online for more info. **May 4-June 28** Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthePark.org.

PORTRAITS IN NATURE View the unique and inspiring work of local Central Coast artists in oil, pastel, watercolor, photography, sculpture and glass in the Paso Robles Art Association Gallery. **March 6-April 28** Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthePark.org.



WESTERN TRADITIONS The West conjures up images of cowboys, Native Americans, ranching, and open plains. For some, the west represents a rough lifestyle that hasn't changed in over 100 years. **June 29-Aug. 30** Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthePark.org.

WINGS OF CHANGE: VETERANS' VOICES 4 ART EXHIBITION An outdoor butterfly sculpture garden. Through June 30 310-621-7543. Deprise Brescia Art Gallery, 829 10th St., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BROKEN NATURE This exhibit challenges artists to find ways of addressing the consequences of our choices and the urgent need to live sustainably within the earth's finite resources. Take-in date for art submissions is April 6. **April 8-May 4** Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

VISUAL ART: EXHIBITS continued page 14

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ANN FOXWORTHY GALLERY



DREAM WEAVER

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria presents Woven Narratives, a virtual exhibition showcasing artist Michael F. Rohde, which is slated to remain online through Saturday, May 1. This solo exhibit highlights a collection of Rohde's abstract tapestry works. Admission to view the show online is free. Call (805) 694-8894 or visit hancockcollege.edu/gallery for more info. —C.W.

SLO FILM FEST

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MARCH 9TH - 14TH

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SLOFILMFEST.ORG

Print guides available to pick up in locations around the county.

Pass holders will have access to most films for the full six day festival.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



OPENING NIGHT
Tuesday, March 9
MY SALINGER YEAR. A brand new entertaining coming-of-age tale starring Sigourney Weaver and Margaret Qualley plus post-film discussion with the director and screenwriter.



SURF NITE IN SLO
Wednesday, March 10
at the Sunset Drive-in
WHITE RHINO and **ENDLESS SUMMER.** Brent Storm's award winning **WHITE RHINO** is the focus of this year's 15th annual Surf Nite, with Bruce Brown's classic **ENDLESS SUMMER** rounding out the epic double-feature event!



NEW THIS YEAR: MUSIC VIDEOS
We are excited to celebrate this new eclectic mix of creative music videos from all over the world!



CULINARY ADVENTURES IN FILM
Using filmmakers suggestions, recipes and menus, cook up a feast at home or order take-out from some of the best participating restaurants in SLO County - see slofilmfest.org for details.



SHORT FILMS, BIG STORIES: A PROGRAM OF DIVERSE VOICES
This eclectic shorts program features outstanding narratives and documentaries from Black, Indigenous and filmmakers of color, whose visions amplify unique stories and experiences. Lively panel discussions round out this exciting series programmed by Courtney Haile, R.A.C.E. Matters SLO. **FREE** with Registration.



CLOSING NIGHT FILM AND AWARDS | WHERE THERE ONCE WAS WATER
The US Premiere of our Closing Night movie will start online at 9:00am PST on Sunday, March 14th and extend to March 17th for ticket holders and pass holders. Closing Night festivities will include filmmaker awards in four different categories, followed by a live discussion with filmmaker Brittany App and some of the individuals featured in the film.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!
View our full list of sponsors at slofilmfest.org/2021-sponsors





THE MASKED SINGER

Cal Poly's Chamber Choir, Women's Chorus, University Singers, and PolyPhonics will unite for a special virtual concert, Ubi Caritas (Charity), on Saturday, June 5, at 8 p.m. This concert will feature music selections of various styles from several different time periods, although each share similar themes of positivity and optimism. Admission starts at \$10. Call (805) 756-4849 or visit music.calpoly.edu for more details. Pictured: Erin Ichimura.

—C.W.

VISUAL ART: EXHIBITS

from page 12

FLOWER POWER This exhibit will demonstrate the flexibility of floral images to convey both timely and timeless themes. The flowers offer decorative appeal, symbolic and healing values, as well as ways of thinking about a wide range of topics. Through April 5 Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

STAGE: DRAMA

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK Streams live on PCPA's Instagram every Thursday and spotlights a different thespian guest each week. Hosted by Erik Stein. Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. Free. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

TWO DEGREES (VIRTUAL) Emma Phelps, a paleo climatologist, has seen first-hand the symptoms of our changing planet while studying ice core samples in Greenland. However, the recent loss of her husband has left her frozen in grief. This virtual performance is part of PCPA's InterPlay series. **March 12**, 7 p.m. and **March 13**, 1:30 p.m. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

STAGE: COMEDY

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

FADE (VIRTUAL) The cost of connection is unexpected in this comedy, about class, culture, and the question of "who gets to tell your story?" This virtual program is part of PCPA's InterPlay series. **March 19**, 7 p.m. and **March 20**, 1:30 p.m. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

INTO THE BREECHES! (VIRTUAL) A hilarious and moving celebration of collaboration, female fortitude,

friendship, and the healing power of theater. This virtual performance is part of PCPA's InterPlay program. **March 5**, 7 p.m. and **March 6**, 1:30 p.m. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

STAGE: DANCE

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FLOOR PLAN: A VIRTUAL DANCE CONCERT

Presented by the Orchestis Dance Company. Available to stream through the end of Cal Poly's academic year. **March 13-June 1** theatredance.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

11TH ANNUAL DANCING WITH OUR STARS

The Friends of the Atascadero Library is pleased to present the 11th annual Dancing with Our Stars show ("Prime Time Atascadero: Season 11"). This 4-day event will be held at the Pavilion on the Lake in Atascadero. **Sept. 8-11** friendsoftheatascaderolib.org. Pavilion on the Lake, 9315 Pismo Ave., Atascadero.

MUSIC: CLASSICAL, CHAMBERS, & CHOIRS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FIRST FRIDAYS AT FOUR

Featuring musicians from the Santa Maria Philharmonic, this monthly series of musical adventures are recorded in local settings and offered free to the public. First Friday of every month Free. smphilharmonic.org. Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY CHOIRS: BREATHE IN HOPE

Selections on the theme of perseverance and hope. Features works by Adolphus Hailstork, Camille Saint-Saëns, André Thomas, and Ernst Toch, plus Dale Trumbore's "Breathe in Hope," based on a Facebook post in response to the killing of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. **March 13**, 7:30 p.m. \$10. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/choirs. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY OPEN HOUSE RECITAL This virtual presentation will feature student instrumentalists and vocalists from a variety of majors who participate in Cal Poly's Choirs, Symphony, University Jazz Bands, Wind Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. A live Q-and-A with students and faculty will follow the recording of performances from the 2019-20 season. **April 10**, 2 p.m. Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY STUDENT OPERA THEATRE: MUSICAL THEATRE DUETS Cal Poly Student Opera Theatre will present a virtual program from the golden age of musical theater, including scenes from some of America's most classic and beloved shows. Cal Poly music majors, from their homes miles apart, will sing famous duets. **April 10**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/opera. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY SYMPHONY SPRING CONCERT: VIRTUAL The Cal Poly Symphony concludes its first full season as a hybrid ensemble, with members playing together both in-person and virtually. The program includes music for winds and brass, music for string orchestra, and music with everyone together. **June 4**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/symph. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WIND BANDS WINTER CONCERT: 'COMMUNITY' Music has the ability to bring together minds and souls. For this concert, the members of the Cal Poly Wind Bands explore the connections between individuals that make us part of a larger whole, whether they are performing in person or remotely. **March 6**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/winds. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WIND BANDS: VOICES IN THE WIND Featuring two new compositions, including "A Mother of a Revolution!" by Omar Thomas, inspired by the Stonewall riots of 1969. Faculty oboist Heidi Butterfield will be the guest soloist for "Hidden Currents" by Katherine Bergman. **June 6**, 3 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CUESTA COLLEGE: UNMASKED AT HOME (VIRTUAL FACULTY CONCERT) A special virtual

concert starring the Cuesta College Music Faculty. **March 31** bigbigislo.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FESTIVAL MOZAIC Virtual and/or live performances to be determined. Check website for the most current updates. **July 24-31** festivalmozaic.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

W. TERRENCE SPILLER: BEETHOVEN PIANO SONATA CYCLE V The fifth in Spiller's survey of the Beethoven piano sonatas: Sonata in E Major, Op.14 No.1; Sonata in D Major, Op. 28, "Pastoral"; Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90; and Sonata in A flat Major, Op. 110. Available to stream through May 28. **May 21-28**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/special. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MUSIC: MORE MUSIC

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY RSVP XXVI: ELECTRONIC MUSIC SHOWCASE

Featuring new works for electroacoustic media produced by Cal Poly sound design students. The program will include grooves, soundscapes, and experimental music for laptop ensemble, electronic instruments, and interactive computer music. **May 29**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

3 SONGWRITERS SHARE THE STAGE

Songwriters at Play host Steve Key is joined by Ken McMeans and John Nowel of the band Stereo Chickens. Steve, Ken, and John are all writers, so they'll swap songs and jam on some favorite tunes as well. **March 6**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

TIM STYLES AND STEVE KEY SWAP SONGS LIVE

Minnesota native Tim Styles joins Songwriters at Play host Steve Key for an afternoon of live music outdoors on the winery's garden stage. Tim will add some lead guitar work on Steve's songs, while Steve looks on in amazement during Tim's songs. **March 13**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

FILM & TV

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

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: MOVIE TALK DISCUSSION GROUP A video conference movie discussion group; meets on the second Thursday of

each month. For more information email ssstarnaud@cityofsantamaria.org or call 805-925-0994. Second Thursday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN LUIS OBISPO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021

Includes 100+ films that include narrative features, documentaries, short films, music videos and more. Don't miss the return of the popular Surf Night at Sunset Drive-In. Secure your pass online. **March 9-15** \$10 per film; \$300 festival pass. 805-546-3456. slofilmfest.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

HARTLEY FARMS: MOVIES IN THE GARDENS

Grab your chair or blanket and head over to the farm for an outdoor movie night under the stars. BYO food and beverage. Popcorn and candy will be available for purchase. Last Tuesday of every month. through Sept. 1 my805tix.com. Hartley Farms, 6770 Estrella Rd., San Miguel.

MOVIES IN THE GARDENS Come see some movies with your family under the stars. Movies are free to the public. Food is available. Call for more details. Saturdays, 8-11 p.m. through Sept. 4 Free. 805-470-3360. visitatascadero.com/events. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

WRITERS & LITERATURE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

EARTH DAY POETRY CONTEST

The Wilding Museum of Art and Nature is inviting residents of Santa Barbara County to enter original poetry that highlights the importance of standing up to protect the planet's dwindling natural resources and working against the threats of climate change. Sojourner Kincaid Rolle will judge the contest's entries. Through March 22 wildingmuseum.org. Wilding Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: BOOK CLUB OVER THE PHONE

A teleconference book discussion group, meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information email jgayan@cityofsantamaria.org First Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

CLASSES & LESSONS

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

CLASSES & LESSONS

continued page 16

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTY THAYER



STAGE WITH ME

The San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre hosts its ACT Spring Break Camps starting on Monday, April 5, and through Friday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon each day. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed during this program open to students ages 5 to 13. Participants will learn the basics of acting, improv, and other areas. Admission is \$195. Call (805) 781-3889 or visit slorep.org to find out more.

—C.W.

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MARILYN DOVER BENSON

Marilyn Dover Benson is an English-born award-winning artist. Known for her brilliant color palette her works include vineyard and beach scenes, enchanting English cottages and European scenes. Her eclectic mix also features radiant poppies, pets and abstracts. Yearly scheduled shows at The Wine Merchant Cafe, Santa Maria Library, Old Town Garden Center and Santa Maria Airport.

Private studio tours by appointment
(805) 314-2202 · donaldbenson2@mac.com
marilyndoverbenson.com



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WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART & NATURE

The Wildling invites the public to experience two new contemporary art installations that may be viewed from the outside-in. *Holli Harmon: The Nature of Clouds* and *Wintering: A Fox Tale* by Nicole Strasburg are on view now from our sidewalk! Explore virtual offerings, activities, and shop the museum store on our website! The Wildling is hopeful to reopen indoors spring 2021.

(805) 688-1082 · Call for the latest visitor info
1511-B Mission Drive, Solvang
www.wildlingmuseum.org · info@wildlingmuseum.org

SOCIAL DIS-DANCE 2021



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CLASSES & LESSONS from page 14

NATIONAL CRAFT MONTH ZOOM

PRESENTATION AND CRAFT KITS FOR ADULTS Join the Library staff for a Zoom presentation on creating paper wreaths. A limited number of paper wreath craft kits will be available for patrons to pick up before the presentation. Registration is required. For more information, call the Santa Maria Public Library. **March 9**, 3-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria 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, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ACT THEATRE CLASSES ACT classes stretch the imagination, encourage teamwork and collaboration, and help children to develop listening and speaking skills, all while promoting creative self-expression and self-esteem. Classes are socially-distant and follow COVID-19 safety protocols. (Multiple classes designed for ages 5-18). Mondays-Thursdays, 3:30-6 p.m. through May 14 \$150-\$400. 805-781-3889. slorep.org/education/act-after-school-classes/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

ACT SUMMER THEATRE CAMPS Enjoy a whole week of theatrical fun in a safe, welcoming environment. Students (ages 5-18) will learn a variety of theater skills, including improvisation, movement, character exploration, and acting basics. Camps conclude with a performance for family and friends. Scholarships available. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through July 30 \$150-\$300. 805-781-3889. slorep.org/education/act-theatre-camps/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WEBINAR: ADDRESSING RACISM AND DIVERSITY IN MUSIC INSTITUTIONS With guest panelists Stephanie Shonekan, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science and professor of music at the University of Missouri (MU), and Keith Jackson, dean of the College of Creative Arts at West Virginia University (WVU). Moderated by Cal Poly's Arthur White **April 8**, 11:10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-756-2406. music.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

LABORATORY SERIES VIV The ninth segment of the Laboratory Series, a conversation series with Black-identified artists in collaboration with R.A.C.E. Matters SLO. Artist TBD. Subject to change. Please subscribe to the Miossi Gallery newsletter for the most up-to-date information. **April 23**, 5-6 p.m. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

LABORATORY SERIES X: JESSICA VALORIS The tenth segment of the Laboratory Series, a conversation series with Black-identified artists in collaboration with R.A.C.E. Matters SLO. Please subscribe to the HJ Miossi Gallery newsletter for the most up-to-date information or check the gallery website. **March 25**, 5-6 p.m. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

LABORATORY SERIES XI: ALISA SIKALIANOS CARTER The 11th segment of the Laboratory Series, a conversation series with Black-identified artists in collaboration with R.A.C.E. Matters SLO. May's guest artist is Alisa Sikalianos Carter. Please subscribe to the Miossi Gallery newsletter for the most up-to-date information. **May 27**, 5-6 p.m. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO CAMERA CLUB Online Zoom meetings and competitions. Everyone is welcome. Visit site for meeting links. Second Thursday of every month Free to guest. slocameraclub.org/home.shtml. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0639.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FUSED GLASS SQUARE PLATE OR BOWL Learn the basics of fusing and slumping in this 2-hour beginner class. You may use pre-cut glass pieces, or learn how to cut glass shapes to create your own unique design. All materials included. Limited to 6 people. **March 7**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$100. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARCHITECTURE OF LIGHT: VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

The Morro Bay Art Association is proud to present world renowned artist and author, Thomas W. Schaller, for a virtual watercolor workshop, via Zoom. **April 16-18**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

BEADED GLASS PEARL BRACELET Guests will create a sea-inspired faux pearl bracelet with instructor Gail Martin. **May 8**, 10 a.m.-noon Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

DOUBLE WIRE WRAP SEA GLASS JEWELRY Create in the comfort of your home with this kit featuring local sea glass and a step-by-step instructions sheet to guide you to a successful, fun project. Learn basic wire wrapping techniques. **April 24**, 11 a.m.-noon \$40. 805-286-5993. creativetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

COURTESY IMAGE BY JARIEN DE HAM



WHEN BRUSH COMES TO SHOVE

Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay will be showcasing Chinese brush paintings by Central Coast-based artist Jarien de Ham through Monday, March 29. Flowers, trees, birds, and fish are among the subjects found in de Ham's nature-themed paintings, which are on display in the venue's lower gallery. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com to find out more about the exhibition.

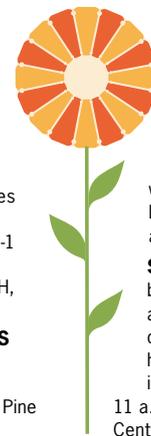
—C.W.

MARK MAKING: DEVELOPING YOUR SIGNATURE STYLE IN ABSTRACT PAINTING

Participants will explore various techniques while using water soluble pencils, charcoal, and other supplies. **June 18**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and **June 19**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

MIXED MEDIA ART JOURNALING: ZOOM WORKSHOP Mixed media art journaling can be a transformative tool to utilize during life's transitions, when you want to gain clarity on a major decision, explore your creativity or just need to process your thoughts in a visual way. Mondays. through March 22 Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

SEA GLASS WIRE WRAP JEWELRY Learn basic wire wrapping to create a lovely necklace and two pierced earrings. Date shown is for curbside kit pickup. Create in the comfort of your home with a kit and how-to video. Local sea glass is provided. Preregistration required. **April 24**, 10-11 a.m. \$35. 805-286-5993. creativetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.





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!

HOT STUFF
 MARCH 4 – MARCH 11
 2021

BRASS TACKS
The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents Fridays at Four, a monthly virtual concert series on YouTube, which premieres its next video on Friday, March 5, at 4 p.m. This month's program, Lively and Lovely, features horn players Steven Gross and Julie Gross and pianist Pascal Salomon, who will perform pieces by Mozart, Britten, Telemann, and other composers. New entries in the series are uploaded on the first Friday of each month. Visit santamariaphilharmonic.org to find out more.
 —Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

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.

EARTH DAY POETRY CONTEST The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature is inviting residents of Santa Barbara County to enter original poetry that highlights the importance of standing up to protect the planet's dwindling natural resources and working against the threats of climate change. Sojourner Kincaid Rolle will judge the contest's entries. Through March 22 wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

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.

THE NATURE OF CLOUDS: HOLLI HARMON Chandelier crystals, spider plants, and various succulents are among the items suspended by invisible threads, all under a ceiling designed to resemble a cumulus-cloud-filled sky, in artist Holli Harmon's window installation inspired by the water cycle. Through Sept. 22 wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

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.

WINTERING: A FOX TALE Local artist Nicole Strasburg's illuminated paper-cut silhouette series, *Wintering: A Fox Tale*, is one of two new window installations, easily viewable from outside the Wildling Museum. Through June 20 wildlingmuseum.org. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

CALL TO ARTISTS: SANTA MARIA UTILITY BOX ART PROJECT The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is encouraging area artists to apply to beautify five traffic signal control boxes with captivating and inspiring imagery. Open to SB and SLO County residents. Through March 17 cityofsantamaria.org/art. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

INTO THE BREECHES! (VIRTUAL) A hilarious and moving celebration of collaboration, female fortitude, friendship, and the healing power of theater. This virtual performance is part of PCPA's InterPlay program. **March 5**, 7 p.m. and **March 6**, 1:30 p.m. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

NATIONAL CRAFT MONTH ZOOM PRESENTATION AND CRAFT KITS FOR ADULTS Join the Library staff for a Zoom presentation on creating paper wreaths. A limited number of paper wreath craft kits will be available for patrons to pick up before the presentation. Registration is required. For more information, call the SM Public Library. **March 9**, 3-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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.

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.

TWO DEGREES (VIRTUAL) Emma Phelps, a paleo climatologist, has seen first-hand the symptoms of our changing planet while studying ice core samples in Greenland. However, the recent loss of her husband has left her frozen in grief. This virtual performance is part of PCPA's InterPlay series. **March 12**, 7 p.m. and **March 13**, 1:30 p.m. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

WOVEN NARRATIVES (VIRTUAL EXHIBITION) A virtual exhibit of artist Michael F. Rohde's abstract tapestry work, weaving human connections and modern relevance. Through May 1, Free. 805-694-8894. hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Ann Foxworthy Gallery, Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS VIRTUAL GALLERY: VINEYARD CHURCH PAINTERS A new virtual group show titled 'It's About Time.' If interested in submitting work, view site for requirements (deadline to submit is March 4). **March 6** and **March 6-April 25** Free.



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

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805-434-7060. gallery@cambricenterforthearts.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FLOOR PLAN: A VIRTUAL DANCE CONCERT Presented by the Orchestis Dance Company. Available to stream through the end of Cal Poly's academic year. **March 13-June 1** theatredance.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

LINDA WEINBERG-HAMMER: PASTEL EXHIBIT Pastel artist Linda Weinberg-Hammer will have her works on display. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, please contact the artist directly. ongoing 913-522-9457. Jamaica You, 1998 Santa Barbara Ave., 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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021 Includes 100+ films that include narrative features, documentaries, short films, music videos and more. Don't miss the return of the popular Surf Night at Sunset Drive-In. Secure your pass online. **March 9-15** \$10 per film; \$300 festival pass. 805-546-3456. slofilmfest.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SHELTER: AN AUDIO PLAY An experimental theatrical experience available to stream through the end of Cal Poly's academic year. **March 6-June 1** theatredance.calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO CAMERA CLUB Online Zoom meetings and competitions. Everyone is welcome. Visit site for meeting links. Second Thursday of every month Free to guest. slocameraclub.org/home.shtml. SLO Guild Hall, 2880 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-0639.

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

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

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ABSTRACT THOUGHTS An exhibit showcasing diversity in style, medium, and concept. Through March 29 Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthepark.org.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK: ONLINE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS Check site for a variety of virtual classes and workshops online. ongoing studiosonthepark.org. Studios on

the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800. **WINGS OF CHANGE: VETERANS' VOICES 4 ART EXHIBITION** An outdoor butterfly sculpture garden. Through June 30 310-621-7543. Deprise Brescia Art Gallery, 829 10th St., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CALL FOR ARTISTS: BROKEN NATURE (MIXED MEDIA EXHIBIT) Artists are called upon to courageously expose greed, brutality, neglect-of nature and each other.

COURTESY FILE IMAGE BY VICKI ANDERSEN



Exhibit challenges artists to find ways of addressing the consequences of our choices and the urgent need to live sustainably within Earth's finite resources, healing ourselves and the planet. Through April 6 Entry fees vary; see entry forms. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FLOWER POWER This exhibit will demonstrate the flexibility of floral images to convey both timely and timeless themes. The flowers offer decorative appeal, symbolic and healing values, as well as ways of thinking about a wide range of topics. Through April 5 Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: CHINESE BRUSH PAINTINGS BY JARIEN DE HAM Jarien de Ham began Chinese brush painting in 2002. Includes landscapes and figure paintings. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

GATEWAY GALLERY

Color and Light, a new duo show at Gallery Los Olivos, opens on Thursday, March 4, and is scheduled to run through Monday, March 29. This exhibit highlights a collection of oil and acrylic paintings from local artists Vicki Andersen and Neil Andersson. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com to find out more. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—C.W.

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. **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.

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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CARNEGIE LECTURE: THE QUICK AND THE DEAD In 1858, the Committee of Vigilance hanged seven Californio men in Mission Plaza. A posse pursued Pio Linares, the alleged ringleader, to the Los Osos Valley and killed him in an extended shootout. Pete Kelley, noted local author and historian, has studied the record intensively. **March 5, 5:30 p.m.** Free. 805-543-0638. historycenterslo.org/lecture. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

GRIEF RECOVERY AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (8 WEEKS) A step-by-step grief recovery program on how to let go and move on in your life. Pertains to all losses (death, divorce, COVID-19, intangible losses of faith, health, trust, etc.). All are welcome (ages 18 and over). Tuesdays, 10-midnight and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through April 14 \$59 (includes book). 714-273-9014. facebook.com/grief.loss. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 19



FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS (BOP)

Join the Leader in Correctional Health Care

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Search Department of Justice;

Physician (Clinical Director)-Series 0602, Physician (Medical Officer)-Series 0602, Physician (Psychiatric Physician)-Series 0602, Physician Assistant (Mid-Level Practitioner)-Series 0603, Advance Practice Nurse (Mid-Level Practitioner)-Series 0610, Nurse (Registered Nurse)-Series 0610, Health Technician (Paramedic)-Series 640

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- No insurance hassles



We encourage you to consider a career in corrections within our bureau family. You can learn more about us and the Federal Bureau of prisons at our website: <http://www.bop.gov/> and/or on the official job site at www.usajobs.gov.

Additional incentives include Retention and/or Recruitment Bonus up to 25% above the minimum rate, annual leave credit and student loan repayment program may be offered to eligible candidates.

For more information, please call (805) 737-5069
LOX-Recruiter-S@bop.gov

MIXED MEDIA ART JOURNALING: ZOOM WORKSHOP Mixed media art journaling can be a transformative tool to utilize during life's transitions, when you want to gain clarity on a major decision, explore your creativity or just need to process your thoughts in a visual way. Mondays. through March 22 Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504, artcentermorrobay.org.

SKYE WRIGHT: GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE Digital artist Skye Wright has had a love affair with art since early childhood. As an adult, she began a 3-year intensive education in Adobe Illustrator ("love at first click"). Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through March 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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.

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

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: MOVIE TALK DISCUSSION GROUP A video conference movie discussion group; meets on the second Thursday of each month. For more information email ssarnaud@cityofsantamaria.org or call 805-925-0994. Second Thursday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.



NEW

PHOTO AD EASY AD

Home Improvement Service Directory Page



Are you a home improvement business looking for an affordable way to market your business?

Let us help you reach thousands of homeowners on the Central Coast!

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805-546-8208 ext 223 or dgilmore@newtimeslo.com

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 May 28 \$10-\$30. 805-549-1253. slcusd.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

PARENTING THE INFANT, BABY AND ME YOGA, AND PREPARING FOR THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD (ONLINE) Meet other parents and form connections that last a lifetime in Parent Participation's infant classes (ages 0 to 12 months). Learn from the comfort and safety of your own home. Expecting parents welcome. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, through May 28 \$10-\$46. 805-549-1253. slcusd.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SOLOROLL: A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE A free pop-up roller skating event. Locations posted the day of at 4 p.m. Follow @thesoloroll. First Friday of every month Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

UNVEILING OUR BODY'S WISDOM: MOVEMENT WORKSHOP Join us for this 8-week series where we explore art, writing, breath, and movement to dive deep into ourselves, connecting to our creativity and creating the language and the space for our bodies to express their wisdom and stories. Thursdays, 5-6:30 p.m. through March 4 \$108 for series. 707-266-8945. atthasomatics.org/. 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.

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SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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a generous portion of lean corned beef, red potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions, horseradish, and a freshly baked roll. All meals will be packaged to go (stay in your car for a contactless pick-up). **March 14**, 12-3 p.m. my805tix.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

AT HER TABLE: RESTAURANT WEEK In celebration of Women's History Month, enjoy a 7-day countywide event with more than 20 SLO County women-owned eateries. Participating eateries feature special menu items, virtual classes, and discussions that encourage open conversation about the stories of local female industry leaders. **March 8-14**, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. athertable.com. SLO County, Countywide, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

VIRTUAL WINE TASTING PACKAGES AT CASS WINERY Wine by the glass and bottles are also available for purchase. Check site for specific virtual tasting packages. ongoing Free. 805-239-1730. casswines.com/. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY CHOIRS: BREATHE IN HOPE Selections on the theme of perseverance and hope. Features works by Adolphus Hailstork, Camille Saint-Saëns, André Thomas, and Ernst Toch, plus Dale Trumbore's "Breathe in Hope," based on a Facebook post in response to the killing of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. **March 13**, 7:30 p.m. \$10. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/choirs. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY SYMPHONY SOLOIST SHOWCASE CONCERT Solo competition winners: Kiran Manikonda (Rossini's "Introduction, Theme and Variations"), Grant Smith (first movement from Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, plus Jacob's "Old Wine in New Bottles", and Grieg's "Two Elegiac Melodies"). **March 12**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu. Online, See

website, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY WIND BANDS WINTER CONCERT: 'COMMUNITY'

Music has the ability to bring together minds and souls. For this concert, the members of the Cal Poly Wind Bands explore the connections between individuals that make us part of a larger whole, whether they are performing in person or remotely. **March 6**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/winds. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

ELFIN: SPRING ALBUM RELEASE

Local artist Dr. C. Hite releases *Elfin* to celebrate spring and St. Patrick's Day. ongoing Free streaming; \$1 per song; \$10-\$20 per album. carolbethhite.bandcamp.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FREE BILINGUAL MUSIC CLASS FOR KIDS (VIRTUAL)

Children will learn a number of concepts through singing, games, musical stories, and more in English and Spanish with singer/songwriter Nathalia. For ages 0 to 5. Register in advance for Zoom link. Email rajuretic@sbcglobal.net for details. Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. through April 21 Free. zoom.us. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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GLASS IN SESSION

Glasshead Studio in Atascadero hosts its next *Fused Glass Square Plate workshop on Sunday, March 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.* This class is limited to six guests who will learn how to cut glass shapes or use pre-cut glass to create their own unique plate or bowl. Admission is \$100. Call (805) 464-2633 or visit glassheadstudio.com for more info. The studio is located at 8793 Plata Lane, Atascadero.

—C.W.

to enjoy from home. Come early for the best parking spot. **March 6**, 7:30 p.m. slo-symphony.com. Madonna Meadows, 100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

3 SONGWRITERS SHARE THE STAGE Songwriters at Play host Steve Key is joined by Ken McMeans and John Nowel of the band Stereo Chickens. Steve, Ken, and John are all writers, so they'll swap songs and jam on some favorite tunes as well. **March 6**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles. ○

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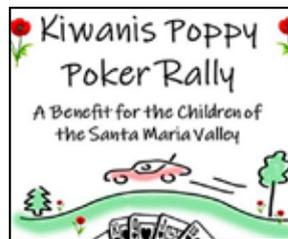
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FRIDAY, APRIL 25
 Allan Hancock College



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Arts Briefs

Hancock holds virtual showcase for fine arts students, Making Marks in Creative Spaces

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery in Santa Maria will present a virtual iteration of its annual student showcase, Making Marks in Creative Spaces, starting on Monday, March 29. This exhibition will celebrate a variety of works from Allan Hancock College's fine arts students and is scheduled to remain online through Monday, April 5.

This year's show will specifically highlight artworks created over the past year during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's showcase, held in February 2020, was one of the Ann Foxworthy Gallery's last in-person exhibitions before closing to the public during the first shutdown in March.

Admission to view this virtual group exhibit will be free, online at hancockcollege.edu/gallery. The gallery's virtual format is described as best viewed on a desktop computer or laptop in full-screen mode, rather than on a mobile device. Guests of the site can currently view the gallery's latest virtual exhibit, Woven Narratives, a curated collection of tapestry artworks by Michael F. Rohde, which is slated to remain online through Saturday, May 1.

For more info on Making Marks in Creative Spaces, Woven Narratives, and other updates from the Ann Foxworthy Gallery, call (805) 694-8894. The gallery is located on Hancock's Santa Maria campus, at 800 S. College Drive.

PCPA continues InterPlay programming with its next virtual play reading, Into the Breeches!

IMAGE COURTESY OF PCPA



The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) will stream two live readings of George Brant's *Into the Breeches!*, the first on Friday, March 5, at 7 p.m., and the second on Saturday, March 5, at 1:30 p.m. The reading is roughly two hours in length, with one five-minute intermission, and both presentations will be followed with an artists' talkback.

Director Andrew Philpot guides this reading of the moving comedy about an acting troupe that sets out to produce an all-female version of Shakespeare's *Henriad*, while all of its male actors have left the company to go fight during World War II. The show is described in press materials as a "celebration of collaboration, female fortitude, friendship, and the healing power of theater."

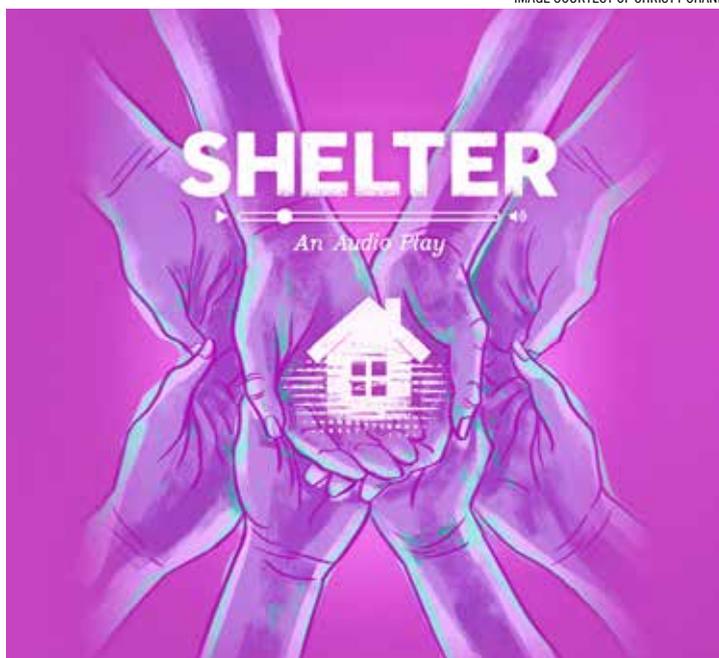
The cast of *Into the Breeches!* includes Kitty Balay, Polly Firestone Walker, Katie Fuchs-Wackowski, Erik Stein, Emily Trask, Don Stewart, Meami Maszewski, Evelyn-Claire Smith, and George Walker. Admission to stream the show is \$10.

Other upcoming entries in PCPA's InterPlay series include readings of Tira Palmquist's *Two Degrees* (Friday, March 12, and Saturday, March 13), and Tanya Saracho's *Fade* (Friday, March 19, and Saturday, March 20).

To find out more about the InterPlay series and other upcoming programs from PCPA, visit pcpa.org.

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

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHRISTY CHAND



GIMME SHELTER: Co-written by its seven cast members, *Shelter*, a new audio play, is described as a collection of autobiographical stories, monologues, and poems presented in a unique, interactive format. For example, the cast will often invite listeners to move through their own living space just as they themselves are.

Homeward bound

Cal Poly students and faculty collaborate on a new, interactive audio play and virtual dance concert

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

"We may ask you to walk around with us and dream with us. So, if you are in a house, home, or shelter and are able to participate, please do," co-writer and cast member Bella Ramirez says during the opening scene of *Shelter*, a new original audio play produced by Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department.

Co-written by its seven cast members, this collection of autobiographical stories, monologues, and poems is presented in a distinctive, interactive format. For example, the cast of students will often invite listeners to "move through their living space from room to room, take a seat at the kitchen table or on the edge of the bed, and gaze out their windows," director Karin Hendricks-Bolen explained.

"Due to COVID-19, many of us are spending much more of our lives in our homes, sheltering in place by working or attending classes from our bedrooms, kitchens, and living rooms.

Our relationship with our home is deeper and more complex than ever before," she said. "I was inspired to investigate the complicated and rich connection to 'home' and to provide an opportunity for our students to write and tell their unique stories that are especially timely as we shelter at home."

Hendricks-Bolen began developing the concept for *Shelter* last summer, not long after the department had already laid out plans for its next in-person season, in hopes it would be safe again for audiences to congregate for live performances in the fall.

"As the pandemic continued into the summer, it became clear that the safest way to move forward would be to pivot to fully virtual productions," she recalled. "I was in the middle of moving out of my home when I started to consider what kind of production I



RAISE THE ROOF: The creators of *Floor Plan*, presented by the Orchesis Dance Company, wove together several video segments of dancers performing in their own homes into one intricate flow—as if the dancers are actually all in the same household.

No place like home

Shelter becomes available online on Saturday, March 6, while *Floor Plan* debuts on Saturday, March 13. Both productions will stream through the end of Cal Poly's academic year. Visit theatredance.calpoly.edu to find out more.

wanted to direct in our re-imagined season."

While packing her

belongings during the move, a wave of intense memories triggered an emotional epiphany of sorts, the Cal Poly professor explained.

"Without intending to, I had built a deep relationship with this house. This building provided shelter to me, and yet it was so much more than just a shelter. And although it was my choice to move, it was a complicated goodbye," Hendricks-Bolen said. "Given my reaction to leaving my old home and the memories the moving process stirred up, I suspected that I was not the only one who had stories embedded in the place where I lived."

Shelter will become available online starting on March 6, just one week before Cal Poly premieres another uniquely meta production for audiences to enjoy from the safety of their own homes, *Floor Plan*, which begins streaming on March 13.

The creators of *Floor Plan*, presented by the Orchesis Dance Company, wove together several video segments of dancers performing in their

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITTANY APP



IN GOOD COMPANY: "I miss being in the same space as the company and creative team," said Christy Chand, director of *Floor Plan*, a virtual dance concert presented by Cal Poly's Orchesis Dance Company. Pictured is dancer Olivia Davis during a piece in January 2020 celebrating the company's 50th anniversary.

own homes into one intricate flow—as if the dancers are actually all under one roof. The camera seamlessly floats from room to room, as each featured dancer performs in their respective living space.

"One of the biggest creative challenges has been inventing the transitions between each dance. Since the goal of the concert is to present a home inhabited by dancers, we needed to find ways to cut from one video to the next while still proving the appearance of the dances all happening in one home," said Christy Chand, the show's director and choreographer.

Unable to coordinate each segment with the show's performers in person, Chand created a color-coded sheet for each dancer that illustrated ways in which they should film their portions.

"Directing a dance concert always presents organizational challenges, but doing so without one synchronous meeting in which everyone involved in the production was present has made organization the most important element of this process," said Chand, who misses the camaraderie of rehearsing with her team in a

lively studio setting.

"I miss being in the same space as the company and creative team," she said. "But the comments I've heard from the experiences that the students and choreographers are sharing truly makes all of the behind-the-scenes work worth it."

Many of the show's featured performers probably adopted a new outlook on spatial awareness during the project, Chand said.

"Dancers have spent months trying to clear out their space to avoid smacking shins or elbows onto walls, ottomans, and people," she said. "Our process invited spatial research that will inevitably change the way the dancers live in their homes." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is working from home. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

SLO THE VIRUS

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Venality

Writer-director J Blakeson (*The Disappearance of Alice Creed*) helms this infuriating black comedy about professional conservator Marla Grayson (Rosamund Pike), who uses the legal system to gain guardianship of the elderly to swindle them out of their money under the guise of caring for them. When she sets her sights on Jennifer Peterson (Dianne Wiest), Marla attracts the attention of Mafia boss Roman Lunyov (Peter Dinklage), Jennifer's son, setting in motion a cat-and-mouse game as Roman tries to leverage for his mother's release while Marla attempts to extort him for \$10 million. (118 min.)

Glen: I can't immediately recall when I've hated a character more than I hated Marla Grayson. She's an absolute reprobate, a con artist who games the system and swindles the elderly without so much as a twinge of remorse. Pike is fantastic in the role. Even her hair is acting—a straight brutalist bob that screams, "I'm perfect and you're not."

Marla has the system wired. She uses Dr. Karen Amos (Alicia Witt) to scout candidates for exploitation, preferably old and rich with no family to interfere. When Marla finds the right mark, she goes to court with tales of diminished capacity, gains guardianship, sticks the mark in an eldercare facility, pumps

I CARE A LOT

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

him or her full of drugs, and then extracts all the wealth from his or her estate. Trust me, you'll want to murder her. It seems like everyone is in on the scam, palms out waiting to be greased. The problem is her most recent mark, Jennifer Peterson, has a relative, one just as ruthless as Marla herself. Dinklage is great as Roman, who sees in Marla a worthy opponent who perhaps can become an opportunity. The corruption runs deep, and its ugly to its core, yet to Marla and Roman, it's a thing of beauty. **Ug.**
Anna: Marla is so hateable, so unapologetically disgusting, so reprehensible—Pike gives us a character we love to hate. I always check out the Rotten Tomatoes scores after watching a movie to see how it fared with both audiences and critics. Well, let's just say that audiences did not enjoy watching evil on screen—it comes in at a paltry 36 percent, while the critics' score is a much more respectable 80 percent. I'm with the critics on this one. While watching these characters make ugly, selfish, ruthless moves isn't a pleasant affair, both Dinklage and Pike deliver deliciously dastardly characters that are so fun to root against. Wiest is wonderful as always here. Marla messed with the wrong woman, and Wiest's Jennifer has fun messing with her even from her drug-induced stupor. The tragic part of this film is that it's just a magnifying glass on things that most assuredly happen in the system every day. Marla and her cohorts didn't know Jennifer had a son, and if she hadn't, she would have wound up just another photo on the wall of Marla's victims. It's a sad reality, pumped-up Hollywood style and turned into a dark comedy.

Glen: It is pretty hard to watch. Wiest's Jennifer is certainly the most likeable character, mainly because she's feisty, but let's face it: Even she's pretty flawed. She's fine with her criminal son and the spoils that go along with it, such as millions in cash and diamonds in a safety deposit box that Marla gains control of. I think, too, the ending may be a bit much for most audiences. It comes out of nowhere! Well, not nowhere, but it doesn't have much to do with the main storyline of Marla, Jennifer, and Roman. I don't want to give anything away, but the ending is both satisfying and somewhat hollow. I wanted more comeuppance for Marla. It's pretty horrible that the elderly are so easily warehoused and forgotten, and that the system doesn't do enough to protect them. The film also hits home during these pandemic days, when COVID-19 sweeps through nursing homes and kills off residents, who, even if they're lucky enough to have caring relatives, are excluded from seeing them out of fear of disease transmission. This is a dark comedy for our dark days, and personally I'm looking forward to coming out of this tunnel, and watching a film in a theater—maybe even an insipid summer blockbuster. Sounds grand.
Anna: Ah, yes. Just think, soon enough we'll be able to watch a new movie on a screen bigger than our home televisions! A dream come true



EASY TO HATE: Rosamund Pike stars as Marla Grayson, a sleazy con artist who uses the legal system to acquire conservatorship over old people, allowing her to drain their finances under the guise of helping them, in the new Netflix film *I Care a Lot*.

to be sure! I definitely was also hoping for a big ol' revenge on Marla and her nastiness, and while I got a piece of what I wanted it, still didn't quite satisfy. The fun here lies in letting yourself embrace the true awfulness of the characters and jumping on for the ride. If you're anything like me, you're going to want to punch the screen more than a few times for sure. I've had a few people ask if we've watched this one yet, and when I say yes, what follows is a tumble of words akin to, "Oh my god, do you believe what happened? Isn't she like the worst???" Wasn't Dinklage amazing?? Don't you want to just burn them all to the ground!?" It may not be good feelings that the film is giving its audience, but it is definitely making them feel something! Don't watch the trailer before this one; just let it all come with the shock and awe of a first viewing. ○

TV & Film Reviews

GREENLAND

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2020**
 Where's it showing? **Redbox**

Stuntman turned director Ric Roman Waugh (*Felon*, *Snitch*, *Angel Has Fallen*) helms this apocalyptic disaster thriller about a family struggling to survive and find safety as all life on Earth is imperiled by a cataclysmic comet from outer space. Skyscraper builder John Garrity (Gerard Butler) is heading to his former home to attend his young son Nathan's (Roger Dale Floyd) birthday party with his estranged wife, Allison (Morena Baccarin), and his former neighbors. He's hoping to reconnect with his wife after a bout of infidelity when suddenly Florida is wiped out by fragments from a comet with more on the way. It quickly becomes clear life on Earth is about to end, and the film becomes a race for the Garritys to make it to underground bunkers in the titular Greenland. Is a global pandemic the right time for a disaster film? Maybe not, but there's something familiar about how quickly a segment of society seems to lose its moral compass at the first sign of trouble. Watching Butler's husband and father

PHOTO COURTESY OF THUNDER ROAD PICTURES



READY TO RUN! The Garritys—(center) John (Gerard Butler), Allison (Morena Baccarin), and their young son Nathan (Roger Dale Floyd)—learn they've been chosen to join a group of selected survivors being transported to underground bunkers, in *Greenland*, available at Redbox.

character wade through hell to save his family is B-movie fun. (119 min.)

—Glen

WOUNDED HEROES

What's it rated? **Not rated**
 When? **2021**

Where's it showing? **Amazon, Google, an iTunes starting March 5**

Written, directed by, and starring Michael Gier, this new documentary examines the troubling practice of overmedicating soldiers suffering from PTSD. Instead, it explores alternative treatments, starting with equine therapy, as well as ART (Accelerated Resolution Therapy), which essentially trains the brain to replace traumatic memories with good memories. It will be released to the public for free on March 5, available on Amazon, Google and iTunes.

It will probably appeal to a fairly narrow audience: those with PTSD, the loved ones of someone with PTSD, or anyone interested in alternative therapies. It mostly consists of Gier interviewing treatment experts and soldiers who have responded positively to equine therapy and ART, and it's inspiring to hear about people who are able to get off pharmaceuticals and get their life back.

The production values are equivalent to a TV infomercial, so don't expect a lot of amazing filmmaking. Gier wants to get the information out and alleviate soldiers' suffering. There's a lot of information available on the film's website,

woundedheroesdocumentary.com, so if you know someone in need, this will be worth watching. (111 min.) ○

—Glen

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIER PRODUCTIONS



ALTERNATIVE HELP: In his new documentary *Wounded Heroes*, Michael Gier examines alternative treatments for PTSD, including equine therapy and Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART). The film streams for free starting on March 5.

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THICK PASTA: Antonio Ramos III cooks up handmade pasta dishes for Chef Antonio's Italian Kitchen every week for you to enjoy in the comfort of your home.



POSTAGE STAMPS: Francobolli are raviolis shaped like postage stamps. Chef Antonio's Italian Kitchen dishes up fresh pasta like this based on years of experience in Italian kitchens from San Francisco to New York.

Pasta man

Chef Antonio's Italian Kitchen delivers fresh pasta for your dinner

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

Antonio Ramos III was helping to build a shed in his brother's backyard during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, when he had a vision.

"This could be my pasta room, my little pasta laboratorio," Ramos said. "So we built it out. ... And by August, I was like, 'Let's just start doing dinners.'"

So he did that, too, hosting private dinners in his parents' Santa Maria backyard for family and friends with his fresh, handmade pasta. After a little while, Ramos found a commercial kitchen to use at Camp Arroyo Grande, making dinners on weekend nights for outdoor diners who found their way to the 30-acre facility close to The Village.

Around October or November, Ramos started to set his sights on opening a restaurant, but as the COVID-19 pandemic resurged in California, outdoor dining closed again. However, he's keeping his dream alive through Chef Antonio's Italian Kitchen, which delivers fresh pasta dinners to doorsteps from Santa Maria to San Luis Obispo on Wednesdays with the potential for a weekend night in the near future.

Dinners come with a salad—on Feb. 10, it was a kale Caesar salad with shaved parmigiano-reggiano and garlic croutons—dessert—almost always chocolate budino with toasted walnuts (from Arroyo Grande) and Maldon sea salt, and some rustic garlic bread. The pasta special changes weekly, and the options are endless.

Spaghetti alla chitarra with littleneck clams, smoked butter, chili flakes, lemon, and garlic.

Pappardelle with pork ragu or mushroom and kale.

Ravioli with smoked hen and prosciutto or fresh lemon ricotta.

Tonnarelli cacio e pepe with thin hand-cut noodles, Parmigiano, pecorino, and fresh cracked black pepper.

"When I think of food, I think of pasta," Ramos said. "I just love cooking pasta. It's just what I know. I just create dishes, and it's just what I do."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Ramos and his wife, Elise Raviv, have had quite a journey. After he lost his restaurant job in New York City, and Raviv took a forced hiatus from her job as a nanny, they left the city—stopping in Maine before coming to the Central Coast.

From December 2019 to February 2020, Ramos said, it was as if everyone in New York City was already sick. They knew that COVID-19 was coming.

"Restaurants were already closing before it was announced in New York, because everybody already knew," Ramos said. "We got out right before it ended up happening. ... I was just thinking, let's just get out of the big city."

So they headed to Raviv's parents in Maine, where they stayed for a while until things got a little cramped. As the pandemic saw no signs of letting up, Ramos said they decided to move back to where he grew up. Ramos graduated from Ernest Righetti High School and worked at Shaw's Steakhouse & Tavern in Santa Maria before moving to San Francisco and then New York.

In 2014, he started working at Flour + Water in San Francisco. Executive Chef Thomas McNaughton had recently published *Flour + Water Pasta*, a book Ramos described as the "definitive culinary pasta cookbook." Although McNaughton was touring the country for his

book at the time, Ramos started learning the ins and outs of the pasta business from the Mexican family that was at the center of the restaurant.

"I just stuck around and got into it. I just loved the organization. ... I learned whole animal butchery because they would do a whole pig," he said. "Just doing everything the real way, you know, everything from scratch. ... And they were just so good at doing a massive amount of stuff every day."

It was the culture that raised him in the kitchen, he said. And he stuck with the pasta business from that day forward. Ramos said almost every restaurant he worked at over the last seven years was Italian, including Misi and Charlie Bird in New York City.

Now, Raviv and Ramos are in San Luis Obispo chasing two dreams: starting a family and opening a restaurant. Raviv and Ramos got married on the Central Coast in 2020, and she's pregnant. Although the plan wasn't necessarily to open a restaurant so quickly, making food was a pull that Ramos couldn't shake. He missed the busyness of cooking in upscale restaurants, and he missed making food for others.

As doors started to open for him on the Central Coast, he chose to walk through them, from serving dinners in his parents' backyard to getting the opportunity to cook in Camp Arroyo Grande's commercial kitchen.

He said he approached the new challenges of opening a food business just like he had everything else in his life.

"Like, OK, I don't know anything about business; I'm just going to get it done. Just like cooking. There's a recipe, just do it," he said.

So they got a catering permit, a California seller's permit, a fictitious business name, and a business bank account. They started to meet local producers who could provide fresh eggs, produce, and meat. They searched for the perfect flour. And, Ramos said, he kind of just let things happen as they happened.

So while the restaurant industry on the Central Coast had to close dining again for a couple of months, Ramos said it came at the perfect time, allowing them to rethink what they wanted and move forward with a plan to make the dream happen.

They found a commissary kitchen in San Luis Obispo that's close to home, and for now, Chef Antonio's Italian Kitchen is a delivery-only service. They post the meal for the week on the website, and people can preorder. Ramos and Raviv do it all: prep the food, cook it, and deliver the dinners.

The couple will be taking a 40-day break once the baby arrives at the end of March, but Ramos said his pasta dreams are just beginning. He's looking for the right space, a small sushi-style bar with a few counter seats and a couple of tables.

"I'm hoping for a miracle, that someone will just say, you know what, I know the perfect space that you could work at," he said. "I just wanted to cook for people, you know, so however I can make that happen." ○

Editor Camillia Lanham is waiting for a pasta delivery. Send food notes to clanham@santamariasun.com.



FRESH: Spaghetti alla chitarra is the base for many delicious things, including one of chef Antonio's recent creations, which included littleneck clams, smoked butter, chili flakes, lemon, and garlic.



DELICATE EXPLOSION: Tonnarelli cacio e pepe is a creamy flavor bomb with thin hand-cut spaghetti alla chitarra, Parmigiano, pecorino, and fresh cracked black pepper.

Fresh and ready

Chef Antonio's Italian Kitchen is open for Wednesday dinner delivered throughout Santa Maria, Five Cities, and San Luis Obispo. Find the menu and order at chefantonios.com and look for @chefantoniositaliankitchen on Facebook and Instagram.



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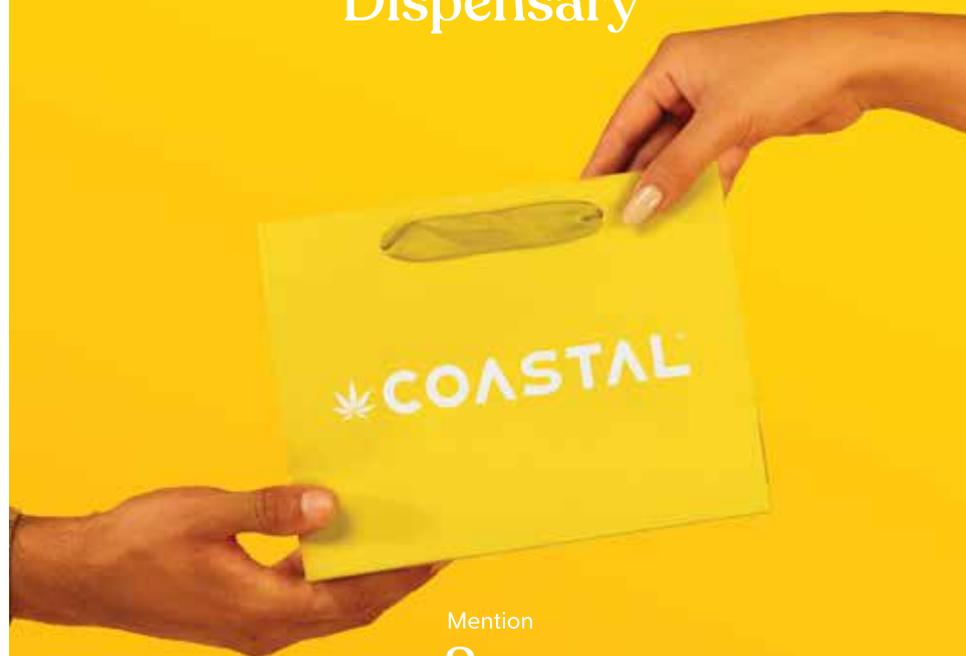
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