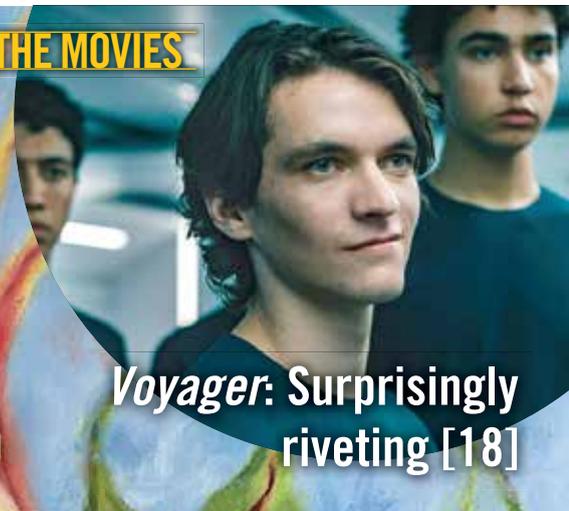


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# Sun

AT THE MOVIES



*Voyager: Surprisingly riveting [18]*



## Capturing happiness

*Sunflowers and hydrangeas in luxurious oil paint are now on display in Los Olivos [17]*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

**NEWS** County is close to looser COVID-19 tier [4]

**NEWS** Mobile car washes targeted with new rules [7]

**EATS** Winemaker shares Story of Soil [19]

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# Contents

APRIL 15 - APRIL 22, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 7

Inspired by contemporary artist Jimmy Wright, oil painter Patti Robbins captures the essence of flowers in their prime. COVID-19 lockdowns gave her the time to paint homegrown hydrangeas and sunflowers, enough to build up a collection of paintings now on display at Gallery Los Olivos. Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood talks to Robbins about what it means to capture happiness [17].

You can also read about Santa Barbara County being on the cusp of moving to the orange tier [4]; how Santa Maria changed the rules on mobile car washes in the city [7]; and the Story of Soil and its impact on wine [19].

*Camillia Lanham  
editor*



**APRIL FLOWERS:** Local artist Patti Robbins' oil painting, Embracing Happiness (pictured), is one of 17 pieces featured in her latest solo exhibit, Sunflowers + Hydrangeas = Happiness, at Gallery Los Olivos. The show is scheduled to remain on display through the end of April.

Cover courtesy image by Patti Robbins > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

**NEWS**

News Briefs .....4  
Political Watch .....4  
Spotlight.....8

**ARTS**

Arts Briefs .....17

**MOVIES**

Reviews .....18

**OPINION**

Web Poll .....10  
Mayfield .....10  
Canary.....11

**CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE**

.....20

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

Hot Stuff .....12



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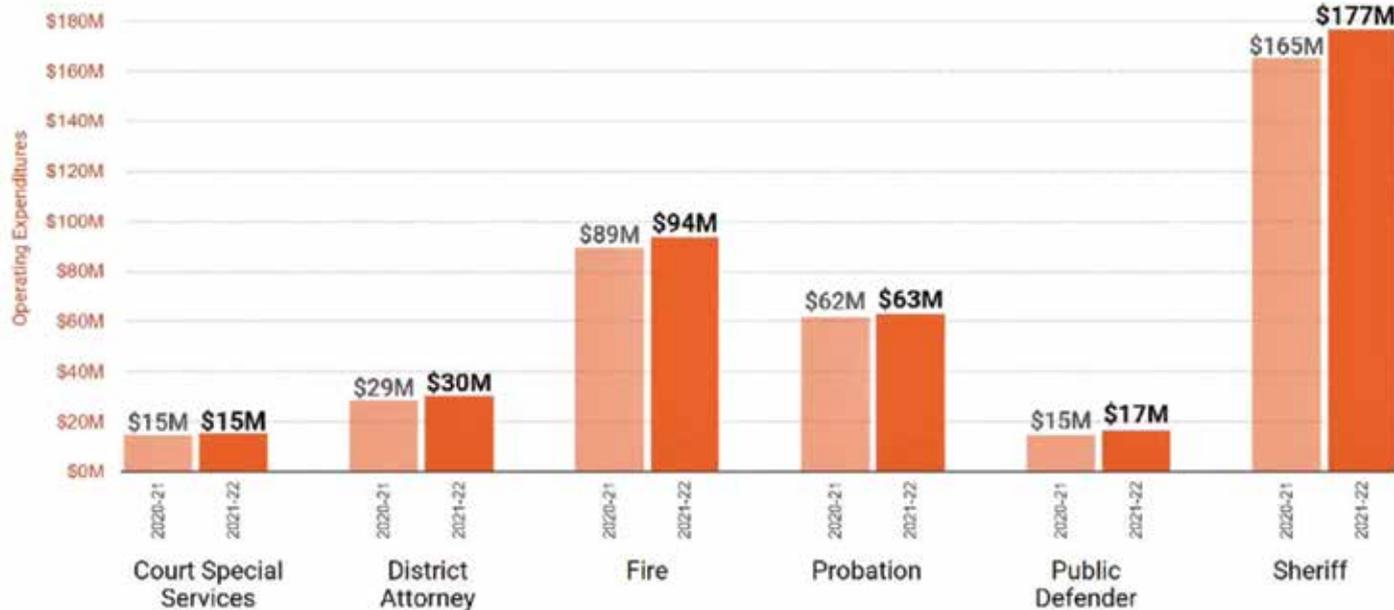
## Political Watch

On April 7, the **Biden administration** announced a series of executive actions around gun violence prevention, such as directing the Justice Department to publish model red flag legislation for states and encouraging Congress to pass similar legislation. “Red flag laws allow family members or law enforcement to petition for a court order temporarily barring people in crisis from accessing firearms if they present a danger to themselves or others,” according to The White House website. **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal’s** (D-Santa Barbara) Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, which he first introduced with **U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), incentivizes other states to implement these red flag laws. “I lost my older sister to suicide with a firearm at a young age and then, in 2014, our community was rocked by a mass shooting in Isla Vista,” Carbajal said in an April 9 statement reacting to Biden’s actions. “California took decisive action after that shooting and enacted a successful red flag law to give our law enforcement the right tools to prevent gun violence and save lives. ... I’m thankful for President Biden’s support, and Sen. Feinstein and I will continue to advocate for this critical legislation to become law.” The congressman’s statement said the act would be reintroduced again the following week. **Gov. Gavin Newsom** voiced support for Biden’s executive actions in an April 8 statement. “I applaud his orders to diminish the proliferation of untraceable ‘ghost guns,’ invest in violence intervention, and regulate the trade and trafficking of illegal firearms,” Newsom said in the statement. “California is proud to have the strongest gun laws in the nation, including pioneering statewide protections approved by voters in Proposition 63 to ban possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines and require background checks to keep ammunition out of the hands of dangerous people. ... We are grateful to now have a partner in the White House who knows we can—and must—do more to end gun violence.”

**Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced on April 6 that he plans to fully reopen the California economy on June 15—but only if two criteria are met. First, the vaccine supply must be sufficient enough to inoculate Californians 16 and older who wish to be vaccinated. Second, hospitalization rates must be “stable and low,” according to Newsom’s office. A Beyond the Blueprint memo added that the state will be specifically looking to see if hospitalizations among fully vaccinated individuals are low. The announcement about a potential full economic reopening comes after California surpassed its goal to administer 4 million vaccine doses in the state’s hardest-hit communities, as defined by the Healthy Places Index. California also reached a milestone of 20 million total vaccine doses administered throughout the state, according to the governor’s office. If the two criteria are met by June 15, “everyday activities will be allowed and businesses can open with common-sense risk-reduction measures, including encouraging all Californians to get vaccinated and mandating masking to prevent illness and promote health,” Newsom’s statement said. “The state will continue contact tracing and testing to detect cases early and contain spread of the virus.” As hospitalizations are monitored, the June 15 dates might be revisited, the statement added. When the reopening moves forward, “All sectors listed in the current Blueprint for a Safer Economy grid may return to usual operations in compliance with Cal/OSHA requirements,” according to Newsom’s office. “Large-scale indoor events, such as conventions, will be allowed to occur with testing or vaccination verification requirements.”

**Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) issued a statement on April 8 in response to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updating its youth sports guidance to allow more spectators. “CDPH’s initial guidance limiting spectators at outdoor youth events to just one parent per participant was incredibly dumb,” Cunningham said in his statement. “Thankfully, the department heard the voices of thousands of California parents who just want to be able to watch their child play the sport they love, and changed the regulations to allow full families to go watch outdoor youth sporting events.”

## Operating Expenditures Year-over-Year Trend



**SPENDING MORE:** A graph presented by county staff shows that the Sheriff’s Department projects a year-over-year operating expenditure increase of \$12 million.

## County public safety departments want better data, technology capabilities

Budget workshops in Santa Barbara County are underway, the last step before the county releases a recommended budget in May and begins budget hearings in June. Workshops kicked off on April 12 with public safety department heads each making cases for their financial needs to the Board of Supervisors, a conversation that largely centered on the need for data and technology improvements.

County Public Defender Tracy Macuga spoke first, emphasizing how outdated information technology infrastructure, support, and processes are hindering her department and the county from achieving a fair criminal justice system.

“Here in our county, we are a data desert on this issue,” Macuga said. “Community activists and public defenders know that individuals in North County face harsher sentences and longer terms of probation than similarly situated South County residents. That suggests we have a problem.”

Macuga asked for \$382,200 in expansion requests to allow the Public Defender’s Office to bridge some of those gaps. Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino voiced support for stronger data collection within the county’s public safety departments.

“I’m looking at this budget as the time to get right with technology and data, and that is going to feed us the proper information that we need to make the tough decisions going forward,” he said.

District Attorney Joyce Dudley also emphasized IT inefficiencies and barriers within her department. She said she anticipates that upcoming large-scale cases—such as Operation Matador, the 2016 sting operation on gangs in Santa Maria, and *People v. Pierre Haobsh*, a triple homicide murder case—will only further strain her department’s resources. Dudley’s expansion requests amounted to a little more than \$1 million total, and included money to hire data discovery clerks, a data analyst, and to upgrade the digital storage system.

The Sheriff’s Office, which has an operating budget of more than \$176 million, requested \$1.7 million in additional ongoing funds, and \$480,000 in additional one-time funds. Like the public defender and district attorney’s offices,

much of the Sheriff’s Office’s challenges are rooted in data and technology needs, Sheriff Bill Brown said. The opening of the Northern Jail Branch, which Brown said may not happen until late summer or early fall, is also straining the department.

Brown hopes to establish a Data Unit within the Sheriff’s Office to enhance data-driven decision-making. The department’s expansion requests include money for a data center future replacement fund, hiring a data analyst, cannabis compliance team expansion, and body-worn cameras.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Craig Bonner called body-worn cameras, or BWCs, “an incredibly important tool that will greatly assist in the provision of effective and transparent policing services within our communities.”

“Researchers that have studied agencies such as the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and others have found evidence indicating that the mandated use of BWCs can potentially lower the number of use of force incidents and the number of complaints against deputies, and it also increases efficiency within downstream criminal justice processes,” Bonner said.

However, he continued, the maintenance costs of the devices has stopped his department from implementing them in the past. Bonner said the Sheriff’s Office is prepared to designate \$130,000 of its current funding to cover the upfront cost of purchasing 135 BWCs, but it requests another \$313,000 of ongoing funding to maintain them.

Some community members and racial justice organizations took the workshop as an opportunity to call for a decrease in the Sheriff Department’s budget, pointing to findings from a 2020 operational and performance review study on the Sheriff’s Office. The county contracted with KPMG to conduct the study on all its departments.

Laurence Severance, a member of the CLUE Santa Barbara Criminal Justice Workgroup, pointed to increases in the Sheriff’s budget over the last few years during public comment.

“The KPMG study found that our Sheriff’s Department spent more than \$26.7 million and had 165 full-time equivalents more than comparable counties,” Severance said. “So it seems that, over time, our Sheriff’s budget has growth disproportionate to what most counties have that are comparable.”

Similarly, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

Santa Barbara wrote in an April 11 Instagram post that it demands the Board of Supervisors to cut the Sheriff’s budget by \$26.7 million.

“Currently, the SB Sheriff’s budget is far greater than any other comparable county in California,” the organization wrote. “Cutting \$26.7 million would put SB County on par with the funding that sheriff departments in comparable counties receive.”

—Malea Martin

## Solvang Trolley wants to provide rides on two new electric trolleys

Solvang Trolley & Carriage Company owner Sal Orona requested that the Solvang City Council review his company’s business license to include two additional electric trolley vehicles to service his customers when it’s not appropriate to use horse-drawn carriages.

During the April 12 City Council meeting, Orona spoke during public comment, saying his company is always looking to improve its service to the community. However, he said the downtown area’s current configuration—with extra outdoor seating due to COVID-19—has been difficult to maneuver.

“This is our main concern, because sometimes we can use the horses but because of the weather, or logistically, the city blocks a street, we can’t [use the street or area],” Orona said.

City Manager Xenia Bradford said that last year, the City Council renewed the Solvang Trolley’s business license for one year. The approved license allows the company to operate seven trolleys, six of which are horse-drawn and one is motorized.

At the time of the approval, the council directed staff to come back with an amendment to consider extending the renewal license period from one year to up to five. It was never revisited.

Solvang Trolley & Carriage Company’s existing business license is slated to expire on June 30. Orona said his family-owned business has already purchased the trolleys and is ready to begin using the electric vehicles when they get the green light.

“These almost two years of [dealing with] the COVID-19 situation has really been a struggle for



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NEWS from page 4

us. Last year we didn't run the trolley for more than four months," he said.

Despite not operating his business, Orona said he still had expenses to maintain, including caring for the horses that pull the traditional horse-drawn trolleys.

"Historically the [carriage] ordinance mainly speaks about horse-drawn carriages but any electric vehicle submitted by the Oronas have been included in their annual license renewal," Bradford said.

If the council were to amend Orona's license to include two new trolleys and bring back the longer renewal term, the discussion would need to be agendized to include a public hearing. The council directed staff to bring back the discussion at the May 10 council meeting.

—Karen Garcia

## Santa Barbara County reaches orange tier metrics, but won't move up just yet

While all of Santa Barbara County's COVID-19 metrics now meet the orange tier requirements in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, it won't be able to officially move into the less restrictive tier just yet. Meanwhile, hospitalizations continue to decrease as the county progresses with its vaccine rollout.

As of April 13, the county's test positivity rate was 1.9 percent, putting the metric into the yellow tier range. The health equity positivity rate sat in the orange at 2.7 percent, just 0.5 percent away from yellow. The adjusted case rate was 4.6 daily new cases per 100,000, solidly in the orange tier threshold. If these numbers hold or improve for two consecutive weeks, a requirement to move to a less restrictive tier, the county could exit the red tier by the end of the month.

Hospitalizations in the county continue to see steep declines over time, after hitting an all-time high of 211 on Jan. 12. Four months later, as of April 12, 17 people were hospitalized with three in the ICU. Over the past month, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients declined by 60 percent, and nearly 40 percent in the last two weeks.

The county's vaccination efforts continue to move steadily. Of the 222,910 vaccine doses received thus far, the county has administered 117,703 first doses, 63,124 second doses, and 5,956 single doses, Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso said at an April 9 virtual press conference.

But with the FDA advising that the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine be halted after six women in the U.S. developed serious blood clots, the county will pause administration of the single

dose vaccine for the time being.

"Any clinics scheduled this week that originally planned to use the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will not be canceled, but instead use the Moderna vaccine," department Public Information Officer Jackie Ruiz said in a statement.

Starting April 15, all community members aged 16 and older are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Santa Barbara County. Do-Reynoso said that guardians and parents must accompany minors to their appointments and give consent in order for them to be vaccinated.

Cottage Health announced on April 12 that it has 10,000 Pfizer vaccine appointments available this week at its Goleta drive-up clinic. Those interested must sign up through My Turn, the state-run scheduling hub.

The county announced the start of its phased roll out of My Turn on April 9. First-dose clinics moving forward will be released on the My Turn portal, a statement said, and those who need a second dose will receive an email to schedule it about a week before it's due.

—Malea Martin

## 'Reimagining Resilience' initiative aims to strengthen Cuyama economy

The birth and death of an oil boom, extreme drought, a dwindling water supply—the residents and businesses of the Cuyama Valley have seen it all. Those who have survived have done so through self-sufficiency, resiliency, and creativity, and those are the characteristics several Cuyama businesses and organizations are hoping to tap into through a new initiative aimed at reinvigorating and diversifying the region's economy.

Through the recently launched Reimagining Resilience campaign, the Cuyama Buckhorn, the Blue Sky Center, Rock Front Ranch, and High Desert Print Co. are teaming up to bring attention to the many products grown and made in the Cuyama Valley, an effort that they hope will eventually help to create sustainable jobs and industries in the area.

For the Blue Sky Center, a nonprofit that has long worked to support entrepreneurs and economic resources in the region, that endeavor is taking shape in the form of a new for-profit business venture: Cuyama Beverage Company.

"It is a risk for our nonprofit," Blue Sky Center Executive Director Em Johnson said, "but we believe it's a necessary one."

While nonprofits are often born out of and funded by for-profit businesses, Johnson said it's admittedly rare for things to happen the other way around. But she said the Blue Sky Center needed a more stable source of funding that's

not reliant upon outside sources, one that mirrors the self-sufficiency of so many Cuyama residents.

The Blue Sky Center launched Cuyama Beverage Company in early March, both as a way to fund its own operations and to support other local businesses and growers. Using locally sourced ingredients, Johnson said the company's session-style meads will help support local growers and highlight their products when sold throughout the Central Coast. Cuyama Beverage Company's first release is a delicate and effervescent sage honey wine made with honey from Rock Front Ranch, a local grower that Johnson said is focused on environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and crops.

Johnson said that kind of drought-tolerant mindset will likely be vital in coming years in Cuyama, which is home to a critically overdrafted groundwater basin, one of several such basins throughout the state.

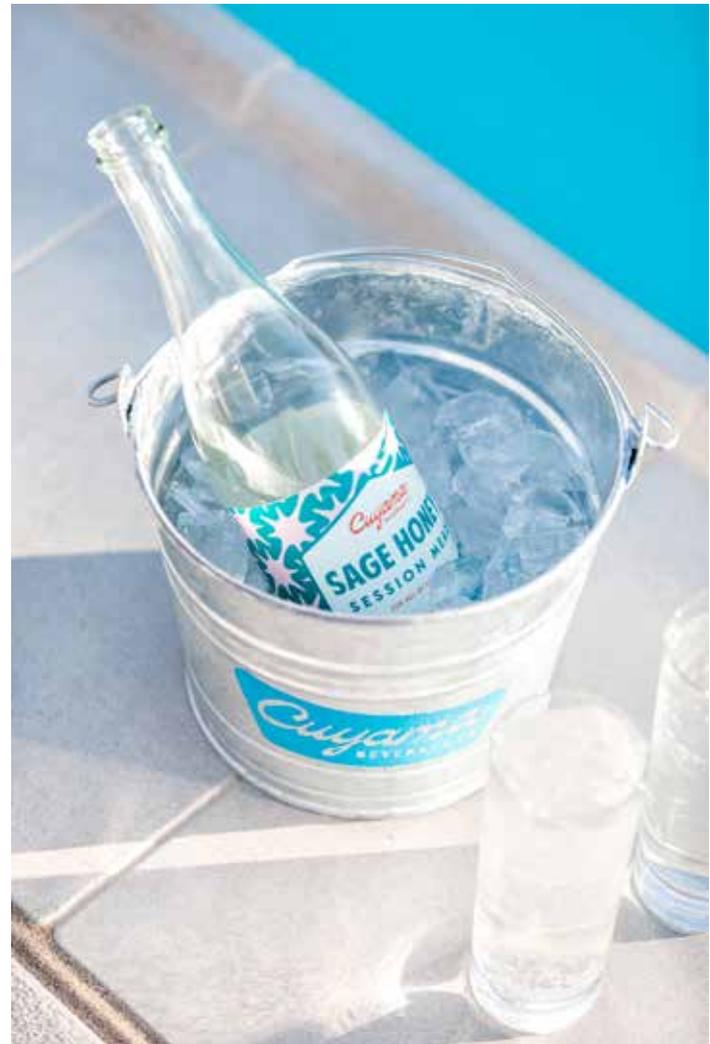
"So for us this beverage really personifies what the Cuyama Valley has, and what we want to invest in in the future," Johnson told the Sun.

But through the creation of its new business, Johnson said the Blue Sky Center has run into many of the same barriers that have stopped other potential entrepreneurs and business owners from setting up shop in Cuyama, including a Santa Barbara County policy that prohibits food and beverage processing in much of the Cuyama Valley. So while Cuyama Beverage Co.'s ingredients are local, the drinks have to be brewed elsewhere on the Central Coast.

Johnson said the Blue Sky Center is working with the county to learn more about the prohibition and a potential repeal.

"So we're really using this opportunity as a part of advocacy," she said.

Cuyama Beverage Co. drinks will be readily



NEED MEAD? The Blue Sky Center in New Cuyama recently launched a for-profit mead brewing business, Cuyama Beverage Company, as part of an effort to revitalize the area's economy.

available at the Cuyama Buckhorn, which unveiled its completed restoration in March. Marketing and Operations Manager Savannah Fox said that through the Reimagining Resilience initiative, the Buckhorn plans to highlight locally grown products in its restaurant, coffee shop, and specialty goods market, a recent addition to the hotel that came about as a way to offer further grocery access during the pandemic.

As a hotel and one of the main stops for people who are even just passing through Cuyama, Fox said the Buckhorn hopes to act as a liaison between the little known products of Cuyama and the outside world, a place where visitors are introduced to all the tiny high desert valley has to offer.

"In every aspect we can," Fox said, "we're pulling locally." ○

—Kasey Bubnash

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# 'It's what I depend on'

*Santa Maria City Council passes mobile car washing ordinance despite public opposition*

BY MALEA MARTIN

After catalyzing community protests and lengthy discussion among elected officials, a Santa Maria ordinance that will regulate mobile car washers narrowly passed at a recent City Council meeting.

As council members listened to public comment and discussed the ordinance on April 6, the sound of protesters was audible over the meeting's livestream. Two weeks earlier, on March 23, mobile car washers and their families took to the streets in protest after the council voted 4-1 on March 16 in favor of continuing the ordinance to a second reading.

Many mobile car wash owners submitted written and oral public comments about how the ordinance would impact their livelihoods. The city provided live translation for Spanish-speaking commenters.

"Me and my colleagues don't have anything against the City Council: We just ask that your rules aren't as strict," said one car wash owner named Miguel, whose comment was translated. "I lost my job because of the pandemic, so I started doing the mobile car wash, and this is what I use to generate income. It's what I depend on."

The ordinance will require that mobile car washers maintain proper equipment setups to contain and dispose of water; that they no longer operate on public property and must be mobile, meaning they must go to their customers' homes to conduct their services; and that the operations be inspected every two years. They will also have to obtain business permits.

"The city wants to help mobile commercial car washes to prosper, with reasonable regulations for safety, fairness, and to protect the environment from uncontaminated wastewater discharged onto the street," city Public Information Manager Mark van de Kamp said in a statement after the March 23 protest. "The city is not trying to put anybody out of business."

**'I wish that we would have done it backwards. That we would have first heard from the mobile car wash owners, talked to them about what our end goal would be, and hear from them what would be doable and wouldn't be doable.'**

—Gloria Soto, Santa Maira City Council member

The issue first came before the council last summer, City Attorney Thomas Watson said at the first reading of the ordinance, after the Regional Water Quality Control Board reached out with concerns about mobile car washes. Some of the city's mobile car wash operations had become effectively stationary, Watson said, causing large quantities of wastewater to drain on public streets. The council requested

that the city's code enforcement team conduct outreach and then bring the ordinance back.

The city made contact with about 40 mobile car washers, according to Code Enforcement Supervisor Joy Castaing, roughly half of those operating in the city, and concluded that "most of these issues could be eliminated by simply not setting up in one location," Castaing said at the March 16 meeting. Watson said that Boone Street was particularly problematic, with more than 30 mobile car washes set up and staying in one place on a single day.

Initially, Councilmember Gloria Soto supported the ordinance for environmental reasons and voted to continue it to a second reading. But at the April 6 second reading, Soto said she could no longer support the ordinance after listening to public outcry.

"I am very much adamant that every one of us needs to do our part to protect our environment and prevent chemicals or pesticides or residue from going into our storm drains," Soto told the *Sun* after the ordinance passed. "However, [policies are] oftentimes done without first hearing from those who are going to be most impacted by the policies that we're setting forth."

While the city plans to bring the ordinance back for review later this year to see how it's impacting the community, Soto said she would have preferred for organized workshops to occur prior to passing the new rules.

"As much as I applaud the efforts of the city

attorney's office of wanting to do town halls to inform mobile car wash business owners about the new ordinance, I wish that we would have done it backwards," Soto said. "That we would have first heard from the mobile car wash owners, talked to them about what our end goal would be, and hear from them what would be doable and wouldn't be doable." Councilmember Michael Cordero voted



**NEW REGULATIONS:** The Santa Maria City Council passed an ordinance on April 6 that will introduce new regulations for mobile car washing operations. In this 2016 file photo, an employee of Central Coast-based Clean and Green Auto Care—which uses virtually no water—washes a car. The state may ultimately mandate that mobile car washes go waterless, according to City Attorney Thomas Watson.

against the ordinance at both readings. "Some people will go out of business," Cordero said during the first reading. "It's going to be difficult and somewhat expensive for some of these people that are barely making it as it is."

He maintained this stance at the second reading, but also acknowledged some of the outside forces leading the city to take up the ordinance.

"These regulations that the city of Santa Maria is putting into effect, yes, they're written on the city stationary and they're city regulations, but they're in place to comply with state demands," he said. "It's not just Santa Maria that is deciding, 'We're going to do this.'"

City Attorney Watson said he anticipates future car washing regulations from the state level.

"This is an industry that ultimately will probably have to go waterless because state regulations will probably prohibit gallons of water being used for car washes that is not recycled," Watson said. "But, for right now, what we're trying to do is that baby step."

Soto told the *Sun* that from her perspective, the city doesn't need to rush to impose regulations before it's required to.

"We as the city of Santa Maria should be taking proactive steps to do our part in protecting the environment," Soto said. "But it's going to take time to bring communities along, and we'll need to make sure that as we're pushing or putting in place certain policies, that working families are not left behind struggling." ○

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLEN TORRES

# Hope for survivors

Central Coast organizations like Casa of Hope in Santa Maria and RISE in SLO are committed to supporting survivors of sex trafficking

BY MALEA MARTIN

Casa of Hope is a nonprofit in Santa Maria that's dedicated to providing safe housing for survivors of sex trafficking, and Executive Director Ellen Torres understands the importance of this resource from personal experience. She survived sex trafficking in Santa Maria when she was a teenager.

"When I was 16 my family moved here from Pennsylvania," Torres said. "I had only been here about a month and a half, and I had traffickers that were following me to and from school every day."

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, California is one of the largest sites of human trafficking in the nation. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines sex trafficking as a commercial sex act that is "induced by force, fraud, of coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age," the hotline's website states.

Casa of Hope currently operates one safe house that can house up to six people at a time, and Torres said she accepts survivors regardless of the location they're coming from. She hopes to open more shelters in the coming years.

"We'd like to have a transitional house following this one, and then maybe something similar to independent-living style after that," Torres said. "It takes a lot more than that to really instill behaviors and teach those new behaviors, and really provide opportunities to use those behaviors."

Casa of Hope is guided by the RED letter edition, which stands for revelation, education, and dedication, Torres said.

"One of the things that I'm seeing that's missing from some of the other safe houses throughout California or their programs, is really teaching about human trafficking and educating them," Torres said. "You'll have girls come in and they don't even know that that's what's happened to them."

For Torres, revelation is about showing to survivors the coercive, forceful, and fraudulent nature of the trafficking they've experienced.

The education piece means giving safe house occupants the opportunity to finish their high school diploma, work toward a GED, or attend college.

"This opportunity doesn't come around all the time, that you have a place where you can stay, you don't have to worry about anything, everything is provided for you," Torres said. "So why not take advantage of that and advance your education?"

Finally, the dedication aspect is about "committing and following through with your goals, whatever it is in life that you want to do," Torres said.

For San Luis Obispo County survivors, RISE SLO offers support and serves as a referral point to other resources.



**LIVED EXPERIENCE:** Casa of Hope Executive Director Ellen Torres knows what it's like to survive human trafficking. Now, she's using her experience to help others.

"That type of survivor historically has accessed our shelter resource," RISE Associate Director Susan Lamont said. "[We] house them, just so that they're safe and can get their feet under them, and then assist them to look for another organization that only specializes in sex trafficking [survivors]."

All trauma is unique, Lamont said, and the trauma that sex trafficking survivors experience requires nuanced and specialized support.

"There's sometimes problems with integrating into a community living setting," Lamont said. "There's still a lot of very valid fear around strangers ... and so it's just this very, very high alert that they're on."

Lamont said she appreciates local legislators like Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham for the work he does to combat human trafficking. Cunningham, who represents SLO County and Northern Santa Barbara County, has called the issue one of his top priorities and authored multiple pieces of anti-human-trafficking legislation.

"I do think that it's a problem everywhere, but I think that this particular area is a pretty high traffic area for it," Casa of Hope Executive Director Torres said. "I want people to be educated in human trafficking so that they see the signs."

## Highlight:

The Santa Maria Public Library wants local residents to find their green thumbs with the Spring Gardening Kit program. The library is offering a limited number of kits, which each contain six peat pots, soil, plant markers, and seed packets. The program is open to patrons 18 years and older, and the kits are available at the Main Library from April 12 to 17. Registration is open at [cityofsantamaria.org/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/library). Kits are also available at the Orcutt Branch Library from April 12 to 17 and the Los Alamos Branch Library from April 12 to 16 on a first come, first served basis. ○

Staff Writer Malea Martin wrote this week's Spotlight. Send tips to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

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# DEATH NOTICES

**BRETT EUGENE TAINTER**, 56, of Los Alamos passed away 3/16/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**ROSEMARIE B. HOUGH**, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 3/20/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BOBBY EUGENE THOMAS**, 56, of Santa Maria passed away 3/20/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**MABELADRIENNE COLLI**, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 3/26/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**NICOLAS TINOCO JACOBO**, 38, of Santa Maria passed away 3/27/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**EVAJO EVELINE BABCOCK**, 90, passed away 3/27/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**KRYS BRANDON RUIZ**, 26, of Lompoc passed away 3/28/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**DR JACKSON LANCE PARTIN**, 94, passed away 3/29/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**LARRY KEITH BRYANT**, 80, of Atascadero passed away 3/30/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**LAWRENCE KANUI MOIHA**, 80, of Lompoc passed away 3/30/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**FRANCES HELEN CARONI**, 97, of Santa Maria passed away 3/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**JAMES DERRICK**, 75, passed away 4/1/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**EDNA ELEANORE EYLER**, 100, passed away 4/1/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**DAVID MCNALLY**, 62, passed away 4/1/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**MARY ISABEL RECCHIA**, 87, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/2/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**LUCIA INEZ RUIZ, NEE AGUIRRE**, 90, passed away 4/2/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**EDWARD IRVING ILIFFM**, 72, passed away 4/3/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**JANN MARIE ALMQUIST**, 68, of Templeton passed away 4/3/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**ANTONIO MANUEL FERNANDES**, 89, of Grover Beach passed away 4/3/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**SANDRA KAY BURLISON**, 63, of Los Alamos passed away 4/4/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PATRICIA CAROL ANDERSON**, 68, of Santa Margarita passed away 4/5/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**BUD KENNETH HOGUE**, 32, passed away 4/5/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**JAMES HARLEY DAVIDSON**, 40, passed away 4/5/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

**GLYNDA DEPARINI**, 75, of Santa Maria passed away 4/6/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**JAVIER VASQUEZ FONSECA**, 56, of Santa Maria passed away 4/6/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**ANDRES CONTRERAS GELERA**, 65, of Santa Maria passed away 4/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**JOHN CARL DEGARMOE**, 79, of Lompoc passed away 4/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**FRANCES I. WOODRUFF**, 96, of Lompoc passed away 4/7/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**OLA MAE COYKENDALL**, 86, of Santa Maria passed away 4/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**GLORIA VILLALVAZO**, 55, of Cambria passed away 4/8/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**JOSE ZARAGOSA RAMIREZ**, 74, of Santa Maria passed away 4/8/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**LUIS LEDESMA CABRERA**, 55, of Santa Maria passed away 4/10/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**GLENDA LUKER**, 78, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/10/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**NICHOLAS AUYONG**, 81, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/10/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

**KAREN HOGAN**, 77, of Los Osos passed away 4/11/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary



## COALITION for responsible cannabis

### Is your air clean?



*Cannabis terpenes are classified as volatile organic compounds and may be causing air pollution.*

*These chemicals emit potentially harmful gases, particularly when created in large doses. These gases react with other pollutants in the atmosphere to create ground-level ozone, an unstable toxic gas that ravages local ecosystems. Elevated ozone in the environment may contribute to chest pain, respiratory difficulties, stinging eyes and throat, and other health issues.<sup>1</sup>*

*Volatile organic compounds can also damage the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere, leaving us more vulnerable to the sun's harmful UV rays. High concentrations of VOCs may also contribute to a number of health issues including respiratory irritation, liver damage, and even cancer.<sup>2</sup>*

**Support common  
sense cannabis  
regulation today:  
sbcountycoalition.com**

1. Desert Research Institute. "Emissions from cannabis growing facilities may impact indoor and regional air quality: Pilot study evaluates potential for air quality impacts at facilities in Nevada and California." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 18 September 2019. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/09/190918100230.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/09/190918100230.htm)>.

2. <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/volatile-organic-compounds-impact-indoor-air-quality>



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### Online Poll

#### What do you think about the county opening up the vaccine to 16-plus at some clinics?

- 47% It's about time!
- 23% I would have preferred more sectors to get access before opening to everyone.
- 23% The state plans to do the same thing in about a week, so it doesn't make a big difference.
- 7% I'm worried it will make it harder to get an appointment.

13 Votes

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://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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## Remember this

### Jordan Cunningham mocks COVID-19 restrictions

BY RITA CASAVERDE

*Editor's note: Since the writing of this commentary, the California Department of Public Health updated its youth sports guidance to allow more spectators (see Political Watch on page 4).*

Some of our friends are still grieving the loss of their loved ones. Some are still trying to recover from the virus. A dear friend of mine is still struggling with COVID-19 side effects, working to get her sense of smell and taste back. Still, the most tasteless comment comes from our own state Assembly member, Republican Jordan Cunningham. Following the GOP rules of conduct, Jordan decided to mock COVID-19 restrictions, once again.

This time, on March 25 he posted a Facebook picture of him at a soccer game with the caption: "Friends, I risked my life today ... attending my kid's soccer game," in response to the one-parent-rule guidelines from the California Department of Public Health. He added, "Here is photographic evidence to prove the incredible danger." The picture portrayed families watching a game respecting social-distancing guidelines.

Some constituents laughed at his comments, while others have called out his recklessness. Jordan went a step further and responded to some comments, saying it was sarcasm, but then he added: "The Constitution still exists, and still prevents arbitrary and capricious government dictates. So while my tone is joking, I am dead serious."

Yes, he said "dead serious" while mocking restrictions that are meant to err on the side of caution, because we have lost 550,000 people too many, including 255 SLO County residents. Can you believe that we pay this man to represent us in Sacramento? A six-figure salary even. What a waste of taxpayer money.

We're now in April of 2021, and the rise in

## We are not allies on immigration

An article featured in the Sun stated that U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal recently visited a border facility that temporarily housed unaccompanied minors ("Carbajal says border facilities are improving, but work remains," April 1). If he is so concerned with the safety and welfare of these illegal immigrants, mostly children, why doesn't he sponsor a few of them as suggested by Gina Whitaker, member of the SLO County-based organization Allies for Justice? How about all Democrats including Ms. Whitaker support them and take them into their homes and foot the bill?

What an oxymoron, "Allies for Justice." Per the dictionary, the word allied means "united by treaty, relationship, or similar in nature or qualities." What does that have to do with illegal aliens forcing themselves into the United States? We are not "allied" with Mexico or Central America when it comes to immigration. What do I as a legal U.S. citizen have in common with an illegal immigrant? My family came to the U.S. legally from Mexico and worked hard to put food on the table and clothes on their families.

They did not get a free handout or welfare.

Carbajal and immigration justice advocates both say there is much work to be done. Yeah, like build the wall that ex-President Trump promised to do and more than 90 percent of people want built. Biden did not inherit this problem, Trump did, and he tried to fix it. Biden has exacerbated the problem by open borders, catch and release into this country, and exposing U.S. citizens to COVID-19.

Samantha Romero  
Santa Maria

## Planning requires good sense

From previous letters in this space, readers may be aware of ill-conceived plans for a widely unpopular housing project here in Los Alamos. It involves as many as 13 dwellings on a relatively small plot with poor road access and traffic hazards.

Sacramento is requiring our county to add 25,000 new housing units this decade. The size and speed of the directive contributes to flawed planning and siting decisions.

hospitalizations in 19 states is threatening a fourth COVID-19 wave. Doctors are telling us that we're not out of the woods yet, that we need to be patient and follow COVID-19 guidelines, but this doesn't seem to faze our state assemblyman. As much as Jordan Cunningham avoids talking about Trump, his words and behavior show us the stark similarities. Both endorsed by the Republican party, both downplaying a life-threatening virus, both attacking Democratic governors, both against safety guidelines, and both risking us all. Birds of a feather.

My utmost respect to the front-line hero who left a comment in his post: "As a hospital worker, your indifference has put my life and my families' life in peril. As I continue handling hundreds of tests daily, I am sure glad elected people like you get to voice their inconveniences. Perhaps the voters next time will remember this. I sure will."

We all will. ○

Rita Casaverde is the chair of the San Luis Obispo County Democratic Party. Send a response for publication to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).

## LETTERS

Planning and Development and Public Works aim to issue permits here that would cause harm to the well-being of nearby residents and to the wider community. They would also result in increased risk of injury from traffic-related accidents.

Taking refuge in technicalities, planners expect to avoid a traffic study and environmental review. Instead of applying actual knowledge of the traffic realities here, they intend to sidestep a study by resorting to general handbook formulas.

To move this project forward also requires the suspension of intellectual honesty. In estimating traffic volumes, a loophole allows planners to ignore the existence of half of the dwellings to be built and of all the vehicles associated with them.

Further, with regard to the dangers posed by a one-lane bottleneck that would see substantially increased traffic, the transportation planning supervisor unapologetically claims that the county would not be legally liable for any resulting accidents or injuries.

Lastly, Planning and Development is trying to minimize awareness of the depth and range of discontent with the plan. It has decided not to include, in the public report and record, some comment letters that were sent to a range of officials by community residents.

As a homeowner and board member of our street association, I have expressed views critical of some of these actions. Planners were not pleased. This led to asking for my resignation from the Los Alamos Planning Advisory Committee.

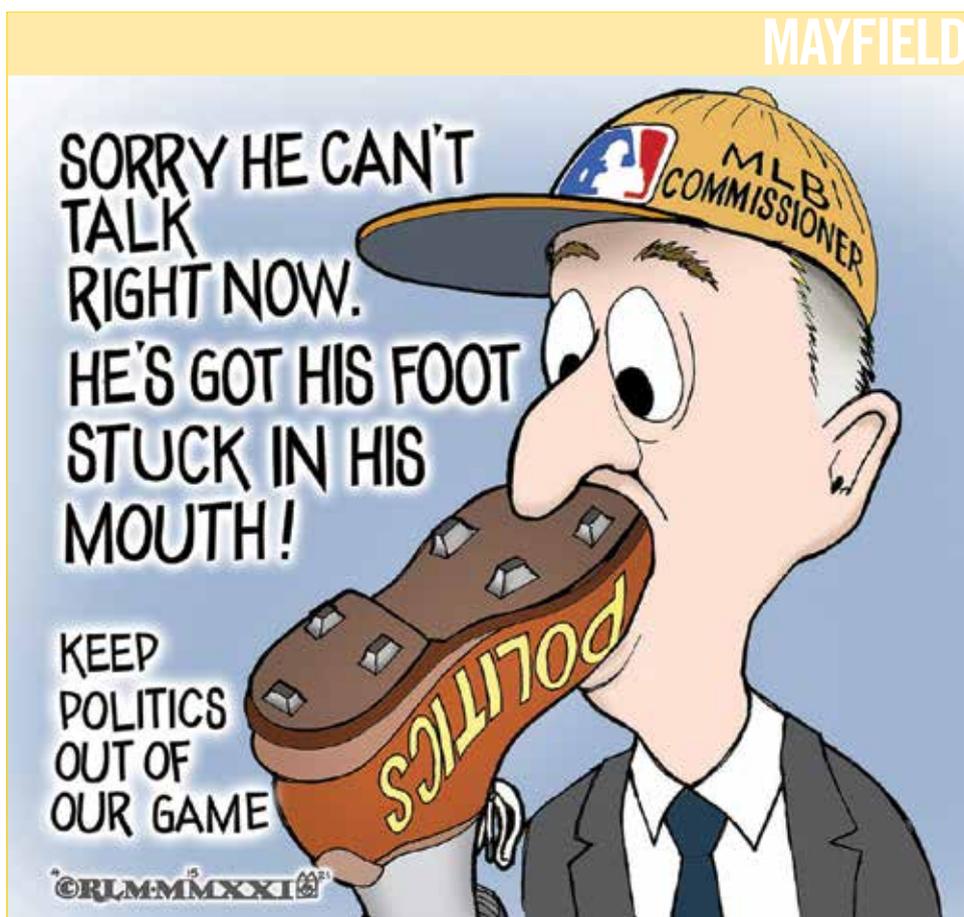
The county has the power to make decisions that affect our lives. Planners ought to be candid, aware of consequences of their actions, and seek and respect input from local residents who must live with the results. If they did, we would have better outcomes.

Seth Steiner  
Los Alamos

## Let's close down ski resorts, too

If we close down the Oceano Dunes to recreational vehicles, we need to shut down all California downhill ski resorts as well. They are a blight on the landscape—wide swaths of forest devoid of trees that caused increased erosion. They are also big contributors to climate change, needing large amounts of power to run ski lifts and hospitality services. The private vehicles used to commute to the slopes help exacerbate the problem. They are dangerous, causing many injuries and deaths each year. They only serve a small minority of our population, mostly the affluent. We need to dismantle them, revegetate the forests, and leave the natural landscape open to hikers.

Paul C. Hertel  
Arroyo Grande



## Over time, over budget

**S**anta Barbara County is working its way through a series of performance reviews designed to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of county departments.

Efficient. Effective. They sound great on paper. But what do they actually mean?

Cost-savings? Trim departments so they can handle more services with fewer people?

Nope!

According to county CEO **Mona Miyasato**, the performance reviews are neither financial audits nor budget cutting exercises.

However, she added, if the recommendations of the reviews get implemented, it *should* result in some cost saving measures.

Somebody help me. I already don't care. But I suffered through a February presentation to the county **Board of Supervisors** just so I could help you care. See? I do things for people.

On Feb. 9, the **Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office** was up! My favorite public safety department to scrutinize! The review was 150 pages, but what stuck out to me included adopting demand-driven staffing, data-driven decision making, and better overtime tracking.

**Sheriff Bill Brown** responded by saying his department was in "agreement with the vast majority" of the recommendations, but they disagreed with "some" of them, started implementing "some" of them, and had plans to implement "some" of them.

Umm. Could he be more specific? Well, his staff got super specific. But unless you'd read the whole report and knew what recommendation 1.1 and 1.2 were or 5.3 was, it was pretty hard to follow. Public meeting? More like a coded meeting.

And the end result: This whole implementation of recommendations to be more efficient and more effective is going to take some time and cost some more money. OK! Great! More taxpayer dollars on law enforcement! Isn't that just exactly what the community at large is asking for? Negative.

On April 12, public safety departments, including the Sheriff's Office, presented their budgets for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The Sheriff's Office budget increased by more than the five other departments combined. Even the **Santa Barbara County Fire Department**, which is dealing with unprecedented wildfire seasons and increased risks, only asked for a \$5 million increase, from \$89 million to \$94 million. Brown wants \$177 million in 2021-22—\$12 million more.

As community activists pointed out during the budget workshops: that performance review found that Brown's Sheriff's Office spends \$26.7 million more and has 165 full-time staff equivalents more than comparable counties.

"It seems that over time, our sheriff's budget has growth disproportionate to what most counties have that are comparable," **CLUE Santa Barbara Criminal Justice Workgroup member Laurence Severance** said at the meeting.

Funny, you say "over time" Laurence, because overtime seems to be an issue for the Sheriff's Office, which can't seem to figure out that less work should mean fewer people and less overtime.

That performance review found that from 2017 to 2019, calls for law enforcement service fell by 6 percent, while the number of full-time law enforcement staff grew by 3 percent. It also found that overtime increased by 30 percent from 2017 to 2019, excluding the peak in 2018 caused by response to the Montecito debris flow.

For the last several fiscal years, the Sheriff's Office has spent between \$6 million and \$10 million on overtime per year. Over time, it seems like Brown's department is getting less efficient and effective. Not more. ○

The Canary needs overtime pay. Send help to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



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**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

APRIL 15 – APRIL 22  
2021



## WILD HORSES

The Santa Ynez Chamber of Commerce presents its Painted Horse Roundup and Outdoor Artisan Market on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the vacant lot located between Highway 246 and Meadowvale Road in downtown Santa Ynez. The community is invited to meet and greet with the group of artists responsible for the Painted Horse Project, an ongoing public art initiative. Email [linda@santaynezchamber.org](mailto:linda@santaynezchamber.org) to find out more about the event.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF SUZANNE HUSKA

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**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](http://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](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

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

**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](http://wildlingmuseum.org). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

**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. Through June 6 Free. 805-922-0663. [valleygallery.org](http://valleygallery.org). Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

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

**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. 805-694-8894. [hancockcollege.edu/gallery](http://hancockcollege.edu/gallery). Ann Foxworthy Gallery, Santa Maria.

### 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. [slopep.org/education/act-after-school-classes/](http://slopep.org/education/act-after-school-classes/). San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

**ART CENTRAL: MINI MASTERPIECE CONTEST** Paint a masterpiece on one of our mini canvases and submit your paintings by April 28th for a chance to win 'big'. Check blog for more information. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through April 28 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/another-art-contest-at-art-central/](http://artcentralslo.com/another-art-contest-at-art-central/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**ART EXHIBIT: NOWHERE TO LAND** An exhibit featuring local artist and Cal Poly Professor Antonio F. Garcia. Enjoy his unique exploration of mediums and concepts. Please stop by Art Central's gallery during store hours to view this exhibit. Mondays-Sundays, through May 3 Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com/portfolio/nowhere-to-land/](http://artcentralslo.com/portfolio/nowhere-to-land/). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: ART CENTRAL'S VIRTUAL GALLERY** For 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/](http://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 submit is March 4). Through April 25 Free. 805-434-7060. [gallery@cambriacenterforthearts.org](mailto:gallery@cambriacenterforthearts.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**FINDING SPACES** Finding Spaces is a group exhibition of artists' works, exploring a variety of paint mediums. This exhibition is hosted by SLOMA in partnership with The Painters Group and was guest curated by Laura-Susan Thomas. Through May 30, noon [slo.org/exhibition/finding-spaces/](http://slo.org/exhibition/finding-spaces/). 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. Through June 1 [theatredance.calpoly.edu](http://theatredance.calpoly.edu). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**HELP ART CENTRAL FEED SLO: DONATE TODAY** Art Central has come up with a way to both raise funds for our local food pantries and get art supplies into the hands of children from disadvantaged families. Click the link in this post to learn more and donate. Through April 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$10. 805-747-4200. [artcentralartsupply.com/art-central-donation.php](http://artcentralartsupply.com/art-central-donation.php). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**THE INTERMISSION SHOW** This brisk 8- to 10-minute show is set up like a socially distanced talk show with SLO Rep's Managing Artistic Director Kevin Harris at the helm, clad in a tacky suit and tie with a faux alcoholic drink nearby. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 3 p.m. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo, 805-786-2440, [slopep.org/](http://slopep.org/).

**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](http://cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery). 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.

**NEVER STOP CREATING: STUDENT FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS COMPETITION** An opportunity to celebrate Central Coast students who found safe ways to continue creating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenge covers film, digital media arts, screenplay writing, and podcasting. Through April 15 Free. 805-668-4828.

ARTS continued page 14

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

## INDEX

Arts .....	[12]
Culture & Lifestyle.....	[14]
Food & Drink.....	[16]
Music .....	[16]

# Federal Bureau of Prisons

## WE ARE HIRING!



### Hiring Event:

April 14 & 15, 10 am - 6 pm

April 16 & 17, 7 am - 3 pm

Location: FCC Lompoc

Scott Williams Training Center

403 Oak Ridge Rd, Lompoc, CA



**Begin your application now at:**  
**[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)**

**Keywords "bureau of prisons"**

### Careers:

- Correctional Officers
- Secretary
- Medical Professionals (Doctor, Mid-Level provider, Registered Nurse, Phlebotomist)
- Food Services (Warehouse Worker, Cook Supervisor)
- Facilities Management (Maintenance, Plumbing, and Electrical Supervisors)
- Accounting Technician and Accountant
- Education (Vocational Training instructor HVAC, Culinary Arts, Teacher)
- Psychology (Advanced Care Psychologist, Internship Program Coordinator, Restrictive Housing Psychologist)
- Case Manager

### Benefits Include:

- Competitive Pay
- Federal Law Enforcement Retirement Pension
- Matching 401k
- Promotion Opportunity
- Full Health Benefits
- Free Fitness Center
- Vacation and Sick Leave
- 10 Paid Holidays
- Life Insurance Options
- Equal Opportunity Employer

Questions, contact our HR Dept. at (805)737-5069  
or email

[LOX-Recruiter-S@bop.gov](mailto:LOX-Recruiter-S@bop.gov) , [WXRO-Careers-S@bop.gov](mailto:WXRO-Careers-S@bop.gov)

122 Locations nationwide with 15 in the Western Region

USP Atwater, CA; FCI Dublin, CA; FCI Herlong, CA; FDC Honolulu HI;  
MDC Los Angeles; FCC Lompoc, CA; FCI Mendota, CA; FCI Phoenix, AZ;  
FCI Safford, AZ; MDC San Diego, CA; FDC Seatac, WA; FCI Sheridan, OR;  
FCC Tucson, AZ; FCI Terminal Island, CA; FCC Victorville, CA



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SAN LUIS COASTAL ADULT SCHOOL

## WORKOUT WEBINARS

The San Luis Coastal Adult School began offering a new program of virtual fitness classes in mid-April, which includes a variety of weekly courses held every Monday through Thursday. Classes include gentle yoga, qi gong, total body conditioning, strength training, advanced strength training, and more. Call (805) 549-1222 or visit [slcusd.org](http://slcusd.org) to register or for more info. —C.W.

## ARTS from page 12

[centralcoastfilmsociety.org/never-stop-creating-challenge.html](http://centralcoastfilmsociety.org/never-stop-creating-challenge.html). 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. Through June 1 theatredance. calpoly.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SLO REP: THE INTERMISSION SHOW** Even though SLO REP's stage is dark, enjoy a dose of SLO REP behind-the-scenes fun every Friday until the theater opens its doors to the public again. Fridays, 3-3:30 p.m. through April 30 Free. 805-781-3889. [slorep.org/shows/the-intermission-show/](http://slorep.org/shows/the-intermission-show/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SLOMA: A DIGITAL ART SALON (VIRTUAL)** This digital exhibition features diverse artworks created by contemporary California digital artists. Juror selections were made by artist Michelle Robinson. Through May 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. [slooma.org/exhibition/a-digital-art-salon/](http://slooma.org/exhibition/a-digital-art-salon/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SPIRITUAL MOVIE DISCUSSION (VIRTUAL)** Supported by Unity 5 Cities, this weekly virtual group discusses popular movies with spiritual themes (please watch movies in advance). Contact Melissa at [melissacrist@gmail.com](mailto:melissacrist@gmail.com) to be added to the email list and receive the link. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. 805-440-9461. [unity5cities.org](http://unity5cities.org). Online, See website, 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/](http://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](http://facebook.com/artsobispo). Downtown SLO, Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo.

**WE ALL BLEED: PHOTOGRAPHY OF PROTEST BY RICHARD FUSILLO** An exhibition of photography and media surrounding the Black Lives Matter protests in SLO. Hosted in collaboration with R.A.C.E. Matters SLO. Through May 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. [slooma.org/exhibition/we-all-bleed/](http://slooma.org/exhibition/we-all-bleed/). Online, San Luis Obispo.

## NORTH SLO COUNTY

**CALIFORNIA-AESTHETIC-3D** A celebration of the California spirit through sculpture. CA3D features work created with elements of wood, stone, metal and glass. Sculptors include Carl Berney, Peter Charles, Mecki Heussen, George Jercich, Larry Le Brane, Ron Roundy, and Ken Wilbanks. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, noon through May 3 Free. 805-238-9800. [studiosonthePark.org/events/californiaaesthetic3d/](http://studiosonthePark.org/events/californiaaesthetic3d/). Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

**FUSED GLASS SUSHI SET** Perfect serving set to impress your guests or give as a gift. Create a rectangular sushi plate with two matching square dipping bowls, and two chopstick holders. All materials included. Limited to 6 people. Masks required. **April 18**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$200. 805-464-2633. [glassheadstudio.com](http://glassheadstudio.com). Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

**MOSAIC MINIS** Create a fun mini masterpiece while learning mosaic basics. Kit includes everything needed to make a square mosaic in a heart or flower design. Kit also comes with an instruction sheet and link to a how-to video to guide you while creating at home. **April 19**, 6-7 p.m. \$25. 805-286-5993. [CreativeMeTime.com](http://CreativeMeTime.com). Paso Robles Recreation Center, 600 Nickerson Dr., Paso Robles.

**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. Through April 28 Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, [studiosonthePark.org](http://studiosonthePark.org).

**STUDIOS ON THE PARK: ONLINE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS** Check site for a variety of virtual classes and workshops online. [studiosonthePark.org](http://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

**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. \$250-\$310. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2504.

**BROKEN NATURE** This exhibit celebrates artistic expression in all media, including textile, encaustic, mixed media, oil, watercolor, acrylic, and photography. In celebration of Earth Day. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through May 24 Free. 805-772-2504. [artcentermorrobay.org](http://artcentermorrobay.org). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**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. [creativemetime.com](http://creativemetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE PRESENTS WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS BY SHERIL VIAU** Sheril Viau's vibrant, detailed, uplifting watercolors are inspired by her many travels. She paints a wide variety of subjects, including flowers, boats, harbors, landscapes and architecture. She grew up in Morro Bay and currently resides with her family in Nipomo. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 29 Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**MINI MOSAICS (CURBSIDE PICK-UP)** Create in the comfort and safety of your home with a Creative Me Time kit guided by a how-to video and instruction sheet. Choose from several projects. Great for beginners. **April 18**, 10-11 a.m. Various. 805-286-5993. [CreativeMeTime.com](http://CreativeMeTime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**MOSAICS FOR BEGINNERS** Create in the comfort and safety of your home guided by a how-to video. Choose from several projects to make your heart sing while learning mosaic basics to complete your project. Date listed is for curbside kit pickup. Preregistration is required. **April 17**, 10-11 a.m. Various. 805-286-5993. [creativemetime.com](http://creativemetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**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. [creativemetime.com](http://creativemetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**TANGLED LINES: PEN AND INK DRAWINGS BY DEBBIE GEDAYLOO AND STEVIE CHUN** Artists Debbie Gedayloo and Stevie Chun have come together to showcase their pen and ink drawings. Both artists work with different techniques and line intensity, patterns, and ink strokes. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, through April 29 Free. 805-772-1068. [galleryatmarinasquare.com](http://galleryatmarinasquare.com). Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**TEMPERED GLASS MOSAICS** Create in the comfort and safety of your home guided by a how-to video. This kit begins with a chat with the instructor to select your colors, theme, and personal items you'd like to include. You'll receive photos of chosen supplies and layout. Preregistration required. **April 17**, 11 a.m.-noon \$75. 805-286-5993. [creativemetime.com](http://creativemetime.com). Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

### 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](http://partnersincaring.org). Citywide, Santa Maria.

**FEEL GOOD YOGA** Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. 805-937-9750. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**FOURTH ANNUAL FREE SHRED DAY** Drive-up drop off service. Call or visit site for more info. **April 16**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. [vividfm.com](http://vividfm.com). Vivid Financial Management, 340 E Clark Ave., Orcutt.

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

**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](http://my805tix.com). Allan Hancock College, 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

**LINE DANCING** Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m. 805-937-9750. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS** Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-937-9750. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**SPRING/SUMMER WAGS AND PURRS ONLINE AUCTION** Visit website to find out more about the auction items and where the proceeds are going. Through April 19 [sbcanimalcare.org](http://sbcanimalcare.org). That's FETCH, 3564 Skyway Dr., Suite B, Santa Maria, 805-361-0802.

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

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**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](http://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, 11 a.m. \$10. [pointsanluislighthouse.org/](http://pointsanluislighthouse.org/). Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**THE ART OF MEDITATION** Learn to meditate and/or deepen your practice with Zoom meditation sessions that can take you easily into a space both necessary and sustainable. Email [info@theartofsilence.net](mailto:info@theartofsilence.net). Sundays, 6-7 p.m. Donation. [theartofsilence.net](http://theartofsilence.net). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**AUTHOR IBRAM X. KENDI: HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST** In collaboration with CSU Chico's Book in Common program, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries, and additional community partners, host a virtual conversation with author Ibram X. Kendi. **April 21**, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free. [sforce.co/3m00Hh](http://sforce.co/3m00Hh). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**BEAUTY: THE INVISIBLE EMBRACE** A conversation based on John O'Donohue's book, on rediscovering the true source of compassion, serenity and hope. Tuesdays, 10:15-11:30 a.m. through May 25 Free. 805-528-0654. [stbenslososos.org](http://stbenslososos.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**CAL POLY BASEBALL VS UC IRVINE** Cal Poly Baseball take on UC Irvine in a Big West Conference doubleheader at Baggett Stadium. **April 16**, 5 p.m., **April 17**, 1 p.m. and **April 18**, 1 p.m. 805-756-4849. [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

**METABOLIC CONDITIONING** We use primarily our own body weight in this interval training class to run through exercises and drills to raise the heart rate, condition our muscles, and stay flexible. This advanced class also incorporates hand weights and sand bags, if you have them. Mondays-Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. \$72. 415-516-5214. [ae.slcusd.org](http://ae.slcusd.org). 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 May 28 \$10-\$30. 805-549-1253. [slcusd.org](http://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](http://slcusd.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARKUS SPISKE



## TEACH THE WORLD TO SING

The Earthcare team at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Los Osos presents a virtual workshop, *Sacred Ground: What We Can Do for Healthy Soils and a Healthy Planet*, on Thursday, April 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom. This free webinar will include discussions on climate solutions and other topics. Call (805) 528-0654 or visit [stbenslososos.org](http://stbenslososos.org) to find out more.

—C.W.

**RESTORING NATIVE HABITAT: EXAMPLES FROM CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST** Celebrate Earth Day with the SLO Botanical Garden. Join California State Parks Environmental Scientist Jodi Isaacs for an online talk about restoring the natural habitat of two of our treasured, local state parks. **April 24**, 1-2 p.m. Suggested donation of \$10 for public; \$5 for SLOBG members. 805-541-1400. [slobg.org/calendar](http://slobg.org/calendar). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SPOKES SYMPOSIUM 2021** Due to current challenges, many nonprofits and small businesses need to explore options such as re-evaluating and streamlining their business models or consolidating operations with like-minded entities. This event will address these challenges and offer solutions. **April 20**, 12-1:30 p.m. \$35 or free to Spokes 2020 members. [spokesforprofits.org](http://spokesforprofits.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**VOLUNTEER SOLAR INSTALLER WEBINAR WITH SUNWORK** Learn the basics of installing rooftop solar energy systems by volunteering with SunWork. After completing the training, you are eligible to join us to install residential solar systems in our community. **April 17**, 9 a.m.-noon Free. 805-229-1250. [sunwork.org](http://sunwork.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HOT STUFF continued page 16

# Go Green IN THE Spring

The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department is providing City residents with a FREE

**landscape burlap**  
and **three MPR1000**  
**Rotator sprinklers**  
and **MPR heads.**

This promotion is to remind all homeowners, gardeners,

and landscapers to **Go Green in the Spring** by pulling weeds and collecting clippings to spruce up the landscape, planting drought-tolerant plants to conserve water, and regularly checking irrigation sprinklers

and outdoor faucets to address any leaks. Promotion available while supplies last. Call to reserve today.



One (1)  
7' x 7'  
Landscape  
Burlap



Three (3) Hunter  
MPR1000 Rotators with MPR heads



CITY OF SANTA MARIA

**Utilities  
Department**



**(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270**

[www.cityofsantamaria.org](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org)



## Join CASA of Santa Barbara County's Circle of Hope

Together, we can give hope to the nearly 650 children experiencing abuse or neglect each year.

Give **comfort** to 13-year-old Jasmine who was removed because of sexual abuse in her own home.

Give **consistency** to 2-year-old Brayden who has moved foster homes 3 times in one year.

Give **love** to newborn Nevaeh who was born addicted to 6 different types of drugs.

Give **encouragement** to 17-year-old Savannah as she approaches adulthood and applies to colleges.

Give **advocacy** for 6-year-old David so that he can continue to see a therapist.

Give **time** to 8-year-old Sophia who just needs someone to listen and encourage her dreams.

Give **knowledge** to 11-year-old Caleb who needs someone to advocate for his education plan.

Give **a hand to hold** for 4-year-old Isabelle as she walks into the courtroom.

Give HOPE.

Join the Circle of Hope and make a pledge to give **monthly** at [SBCASA.ORG/circleofhope](http://SBCASA.ORG/circleofhope)  
Ready to become a CASA volunteer? You are needed now! Visit [sbcasa.org/volunteer](http://sbcasa.org/volunteer) today

Thank you to our extraordinary community of people giving hope every month:

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Tami McKnight  
Francie Olivera  
Joanne Parker

Lauren Pinsker  
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Tristin Sherman  
Lindsay Soleimani  
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Crystal & Wes Sullins  
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## What's Your Take?

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

This week's online poll 4/15-4/22

Do you agree with the Santa Maria City Council's decision to regulate mobile car wash operations?

- Yes. There's a reason the city receives lots of complaints about them.
- No. These are people's livelihoods on the line, during a pandemic no less.
- I understand the need to regulate, but I still want access to quick and easy car washing!
- Car washes are a waste of money; just do it yourself.

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



HOT STUFF from page 14

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

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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**DALLIDET SPRING SOUP SAMPLER** The Dallidet Gardens continue to grow some of the finest produce you'll find. **April 18**, 12-2 p.m. \$50. 805-543-0638. [historycenterslo.org/soup](http://historycenterslo.org/soup). Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

**ESTATE BEEF DINNER FT. NEW YORK** Enjoy a tender and flavorful New York strip steak during this event, as part of an exclusive winemaker dinner series. **April 16**, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$112-\$140. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.

**LOCAL BITES EVENT** Paso Food Co-op is starting a cooperative food store; come hear about it, become an owner-member. **April 22**, 4-7 p.m. Free. 805-727-3745 [facebook.com/events/211900297359004](http://facebook.com/events/211900297359004). Cypher Winery, 740 Pine St, Paso Robles.

**MID-STATE FAIR MARKET**

The Paso Robles Event Center is pleased to announce the Mid-State Fair Market, a monthly one-day shopping experience to find antiques, new and used items, plus handmade items from local artisans and crafters. Featuring free admission and parking. **April 16**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. [midstatefair.com](http://midstatefair.com). Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles, 805-239-0655.

**WAX AND WARES MUSIC AND STREET FAIR ON TRAFFIC WAY** Enjoy music, food, vinyl records, and more. In the parking lot behind 5800 Block of Traffic Way, Atascadero. A COVID-19 conscious event. **April 18**, 8 a.m.-noon 805-464-2994. Traffic Records, 5850 Traffic Way, Atascadero.



## MUSIC

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](mailto:rajuretic@sbcglobal.net) for details. Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. through April 21 Free. [zoom.us](http://zoom.us). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

**CELLO BOB JOINS STEVE KEY FOR LIVE SHOW** Singer-songwriter Steve Key and multi-instrumentalist Cello Bob will share the sculpture garden stage for an afternoon of live music. Ynana Rose will play a guest set. **April 17**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. [stevekey.com/events](http://stevekey.com/events). Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

**TRAFFIC RECORD STORE THIRD ANNIVERSARY AND GRAND REOPENING** Join in as we celebrate our third anniversary and grand reopening in our larger building. We will celebrate the occasion with music, sales, specials, and food. Bring your mask and come see our new home. **April 17**, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. 805-464-2994. [trafficrecordstore.com](http://trafficrecordstore.com). Traffic Records, 5850 Traffic Way, Atascadero. ☪

## Arts Briefs

### Betteravia Government Campus to host Valley of Light, a new public art installation

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE



The Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture is co-producing a new public art installation at the Betteravia Government Campus in Santa Maria, in partnership with Allan Hancock College and the city of Santa Maria. Designed by local artist and art instructor Nancy Jo Ward, Valley of Light includes seven tree-like sculptures made of branches punctuated with acrylic leaves.

This outdoor exhibition will use solar-powered LED leaf lights, which will project kaleidoscopic fields of color during the evening, and is scheduled to be installed this summer. Running on 100 percent renewable energy is a transition all buildings at the campus will be adapting to sometime later this year, according to the Office of Arts and Culture.

"The installation's efficient LED lights are solar powered through a photovoltaic and battery storage system that will also provide reliable power for the Betteravia Campus," Ashley Watkins, chief of the county's Sustainability Division, said in a release.

Dennis Smitherman, chair of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, praised Ward's design for its "thoughtful, imaginative, smart, responsible use of solar energy to light the displays."

Ward's proposal for Valley of Light was selected from a large slate of submittals from various faculty members in Hancock's Fine Arts Department. The artist has strong connections to the Betteravia Government Campus, according to the release. She recalled memories of her daughter attending preschool there nearly three decades ago and described the campus as "a place where community comes together and where lives change."

Once Valley of Light is completed sometime this summer, a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held. To find out more about the upcoming public art installation, visit sbac.ca.gov.

### Santa Maria Public Library takes part in In-N-Out Burger's Cover to Cover reading program

FILE PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE



Children ages 4 through 12 are invited to participate in the Cover to Cover reading program at the Santa Maria Public Library through Saturday, April 17. For every five books read, participants will earn an award certificate that can be redeemed for a free cheeseburger or hamburger at any In-N-Out Burger restaurant. Children are eligible to earn up to three certificates.

Participants can pick up a reading log from the Santa Maria Public Library to track the books they've read. Parents or caregivers can list the books read together for children learning to read during the program. For more details, contact the library's Youth Services division at (805) 925-0994, Ext. 8564, or visit cityofsantamaria.org/library. The library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. ○

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

COURTESY IMAGES BY PATTI ROBBINS



**A DREAM IS A FISH YOUR HEART PAINTS:** One of artist Patti Robbins' still life pieces highlights a bundle of sunflowers at the center of a table, surrounded by a few vessels, including a fish bowl. Robbins was babysitting her neighbor's blue betta fish at the time, so it got a fun cameo in the painting, she explained.

## Each of us is a flower

Gallery Los Olivos presents *Sunflowers + Hydrangeas = Happiness*, a new showcase of paintings by Patti Robbins

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Whenever someone assumes Patti Robbins' still life paintings are a nod to Vincent Van Gogh's sunflower series, she's more than ready to shut that theory down.

"Not that I don't love his work, and seeing the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam was impressive," said Robbins, the featured artist of Gallery Los Olivos' current exhibition, *Sunflowers + Hydrangeas = Happiness*, which is scheduled to run through the end of the month.

Some of Robbins' favorite flowers to paint are tulips, protea, and succulent flowers, but none rank higher in her mind than the exhibit's two titular flowers. And to debunk the aforementioned Van Gogh comparison, Robbins' sunflower paintings were mainly inspired by a much more contemporary artist, New York-based painter Jimmy Wright.

After discovering Wright's work, Robbins was immediately drawn to his sunflower pieces. That's when she decided to paint her own, starting with

the ones growing in her front yard.

"Sunflowers are surprises I find on our property—wild, expressive, twisting and turning to follow the sun, unfolding their glory day by day," said Robbins, who used to primarily paint portraits and figurative pieces before switching to still life. "They are 'happy' flowers, which is why I never get tired of observing their cycle of life and preserving their beauty in oil paint.

"A lot of these sunflowers [I painted] were homegrown, but I do go to our farmers' markets as well as borrow from neighbors and friends," Robbins added.

Hydrangeas also grow on Robbins' property, but they don't last as long as sunflowers do in the studio, she said. Robbins also noted that she never paints from reference photos, only from objects in front of her and in the moment.

"The supermarket varieties [of flowers] last about a day—which makes them too expensive to keep up. Sometimes I start with artificial ones when I lay out my composition to get the

### Happiness is a warm sun

Patti Robbins' new exhibit, *Sunflowers + Hydrangeas = Happiness*, will remain on display at Gallery Los Olivos through the end of April. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com) for more info.

shape and feel of them," Robbins said. "Then I cut them from the bush for the final painting process."

*Sunflowers + Hydrangeas = Happiness* marks the first solo show for Robbins in three years, dating back to when she was the featured artist at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, from April to June of 2018.

When COVID-19 mitigation measures began and stay-at-home orders went into effect last March, Robbins found her own silver lining while continuing to paint her flowers from home during quarantine.

"With lockdowns and decreased exhibiting opportunities, it gave me time to paint canvases and put them aside and have a collection," Robbins said.

From the paintings she completed between then and now, Robbins chose 17 to be showcased in the new exhibit. Aside from the flower theme, another aspect that ties the pieces together is that each is of the same medium.

"Oil paint is luxurious to me," said Robbins, who used to paint in acrylics, but can't imagine herself going back to that anytime soon. "Oil paint is buttery; the colors are intense and I love the chemistry and history of pigments. There are rules to follow, and if done correctly [oil paintings] can last hundreds and hundreds of years without failure.

"Acrylics have not been around as long as solid oil painting, our museums prove that point," she added.

But some of the intricacies that separate each painting are thanks to the personal stories behind them. One of Robbins' still life pieces, for example, highlights a bundle of sunflowers at the center of a table, surrounded by a few vessels, including a fish bowl. Robbins was babysitting her neighbor's blue betta fish at the time, so it got a fun cameo in the painting, she said.

When comparing all of her own sunflower and hydrangea paintings in the show, Robbins doesn't prefer one piece over the other, she explained.

"I can't claim any favorites," the artist said. "The joy of painting each and every one is my passion." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is feeling as dandy as a dandelion. Send virtual flowers to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



**HY ON LIFE:** Although sunflowers are Patti Robbins' favorite flowers to paint, hydrangeas rank high on her list, high enough to share the spotlight with sunflowers in Robbins' new exhibit, *Sunflowers + Hydrangeas = Happiness*, at Gallery Los Olivos.



**SUNFLOWER STATEMENT:** "Sunflowers are surprises I find on our property—wild, expressive, twisting and turning to follow the sun, unfolding their glory day by day," said artist Patti Robbins. "They are 'happy' flowers, which is why I never get tired of observing their cycle of life and preserving their beauty in oil paint."

PHOTO COURTESY OF AGC STUDIOS AND FIBONACCI FILMS



**MADNESS:** Zac (Fionn Whitehead, center), one of 30 crew members on an 86-year-long space voyage, goes power mad, splitting the crew into warring tribes, in *Voyagers*, screening at Galaxy in Atascadero.

**Glen:** *Voyagers* is essentially *Lord of the Flies* in space. What is our nature? Are we inherently altruistic and cooperative, or are we naturally tribal and violent? The film opens with the crew being raised in a facility that will mimic their long trip, which is being overseen by Richard (Colin Farrell), who deeply believes in the mission and sincerely wants to keep these young adults safe. As part of the mission protocol, however, the crew is administered “the blue,” a liquid designed to repress their sexuality and increase impulse control. Things start to go sideways when two of the young men—Christopher (Tye Sheridan) and Zac (Fionn Whitehead)—discover the truth and begin pouring the drug cocktail down the drain. Soon they grow more boisterous, competitive, and in Zac’s case, violent. As the rest of the crew also begins to refuse “the blue,” they split into tribes, and like the supposed

“monster” in *Lord of the Flies*, there may be an alien entity on board. Obviously the story is derivative, but I was engaged throughout. It’s an interesting little potboiler that will appeal to adolescents. **Anna:** If you’ve ever dealt with a snotty teenager who obviously knows everything about everything, you’ve probably experienced the constant feeling I had during this movie—the desire to drag them out by the ear and punch them right in their smug face. Zac is such a hateable jerk, and once he isn’t dulled down by “the blue,”

### VOYAGERS

What’s it rated? **PG-13**  
When? **2021**  
Where’s it showing?  
**Galaxy in Atascadero**  
What’s it worth, Anna?  
**Matinee**  
What’s it worth, Glen?  
**Matinee**

his actions are downright horrible. The thing that keeps order in this world of budding adolescents is Richard and the protocols set in place by the system they were raised into. These kids never experienced the outdoors, were designed from the eggs and sperm of the “best of the best” back on Earth, and have one purpose—to have kids so their kids can have kids, and those kids will be able to continue the species on another planet. Perhaps a noble life mission, but one that is certainly tainted when free choice is removed. There’s Christopher, who starts to notice the opposite sex and gets more competitive with his wrestling, but who mainly stays a good and altruistic being even when chaos reigns. His counterpart, Zac, is anything but good, and bravo to Whitehead for embracing and becoming a character so incredibly irredeemable. He had me clicking my tongue, anger-sighing, and straight-up shaking my head at the screen. It’s very *Lord of the Flies* and never feels particularly original or unpredictable, but I was certainly paying attention to that screen from beginning to end. It’s surprisingly riveting.

**Glen:** Whitehead is really good at playing bad. His big break came in 2017 when Christopher Nolan cast him as Tommy, the young soldier trying to get home in *Dunkirk*. Johnny Depp’s daughter, Lily-Rose Depp, also appears as Sela, the ship’s chief medical officer, over whom Christopher and Zac clash. Other than Sheridan and Farrell, however, most of these actors are relative unknowns, but they hold their own in this brisk and gripping

story. It’s an age-old question: Are human beings inherently good or bad? And the film’s answer is both. Even Christopher struggles to overcome his impulses. Zac, on the other hand, is much more charismatic, and his cult of personality draws most of the crew in because they’re looking for an authoritarian figure to rely on. As in *Lord of the Flies*, a strong but malevolent leader can produce otherwise good people to do bad. The real tragedy of humanity is how easily it’s led down the wrong path.

**Anna:** Depp is also good here, as is Sheridan. The cast is solid, even the unknowns, but the storyline is predictable. It’s certainly worth a watch, but I’d be happy paying matinee prices for this one and not much more. Farrell is his usual solid casting choice, but Richard’s storyline takes a backseat to the adolescents he’s the ward of. His role is to maintain order and ensure compliance, a challenge no doubt much easier when the kids were younger. The “alien” is an interesting mystery too, something that seems to be both a red herring and a danger. There’s unidentifiable sounds, odd power glitches, and happenings around the ship that are easy to tie to an unseen enemy—one that Zac realizes he can use to incite fear and violence among his peers. It all comes to a head and things have to go really wonky before they can get sorted out, but like I said, it’s pretty riveting. A dark theater is the perfect place to catch a matinee of this claustrophobic thriller; it adds to the atmosphere and keeps you engaged. ○

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

# Human nature

**W**riter-director Neil Burger (*The Illusionist*, *The Lucky Ones*) helms this sci-fi adventure about a mission to reach a habitable planet 86 years away from Earth by spacecraft. Crewed by 30 young people, all conceived in a lab and raised in seclusion to mirror the lonely isolation of a multi-generational space journey with the idea that their grandchildren will fulfill the mission, they descend into paranoia and distrust 10 years into their voyage. Can they pull back from the brink of madness and save their species? (108 min.)

## Film Reviews

### WEWORK: OR THE MAKING AND BREAKING OF A \$47 BILLION UNICORN

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

Where’s it showing? **Hulu**

Written and directed by Jed Rothstein, the documentary examines the six-week unraveling of a multi-billion-dollar overvalued company on the brink of an IPO that was supposed to save it. Wondery put out a podcast called *WeCrashed: The Rise and Fall of WeWork* last year, and that was my introduction to this wild ride of a story and the menace/genius behind it: Adam Neumann.

Talk about thinking big—Neumann planned and executed a multi-billion-dollar business, and much like Icarus, flew too close to the sun and melted his own creation into the ground. What started as a concept of bringing the millennial generation into a group space that allowed for creatives to share, to vibe, to collaborate, and to co-habitate, turned into an incredible dumpster fire. It spread from the idea of shared workspaces to shared housing to an education system, with huge cultlike gatherings of WeWorkers required to go to camp

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPFIRE AND FORBES ENTERTAINMENT



**CHARISMATIC D-BAG:** Adam Neumann, the co-founder of WeWork, managed to make and break his multi-billion-dollar start-up, as documented in *WeWork: Or the Making and Breaking of a \$47 Billion Unicorn*, on Hulu.

for the weekend and hear endless speeches followed by drinking the night away.

Looking back on it, you can easily see how this overbearing dream could take such a turn toward failure, but at the time it was all hidden behind smoke and mirrors. Hulu’s new doc gives a glimpse at the inside workings with interviews from

past employees, investors, business execs, and more to tease away the shiny coating WeWork had at its heyday and show the ugly workings that were really at the heart of it. (104 min.)  
—Anna

### BOSS LEVEL

What’s it rated? **TV-MA**  
When? **2021**

Where’s it showing? **Hulu**

I can’t believe this is a film that was almost never released. Directed by Joe Carnahan (*The Grey*, *The A-Team*, *Smokin’ Aces*), it was planned for release on Aug. 16, 2019. Instead it was shelved. Thank goodness it’s found a home on Hulu. It’s a hoot!

Following the now well-worn idea of *Groundhog Day*, the story trails former Special Forces operative Roy Pulver (Frank Grillo) as he relives the day of his death over and over again. Like *Edge of Tomorrow* (2014), every day Roy gets a little further through the day before he’s inevitable killed by one of a cadre of colorful assassins. Think of it like a video game and the player trying to level up.

Roy’s trying to figure out why his scientist ex-girlfriend and mother of his child, Gemma Wells (Naomi Watts), was

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARPARTY FILMS AND SCOTT FREE PRODUCTIONS



**249 WAYS TO DIE:** Ex-Special Forces operative Roy Pulver (Frank Grillo, left) faces off against Col. Clive Venter (Mel Gibson), in *Boss Level*, a time-loop action flick on Hulu.

killed and whether her boss, Col. Clive Venter (Mel Gibson), had anything to do with it. Roy also eventually finds his estranged son, Joe (Grillo’s actual son, Rio), and makes up for the lost time when he was away on missions.

The action is terrific, the humor bone dry, and Grillo is terrific! Carnahan and Grillo have already teamed up again for *Cop Shop*, which is coming out this summer. Can’t wait! (94 min.) ○

—Glen



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COURTESY PHOTO BY LAUREN MAUVE

PHOTO COURTESY OF STORY OF SOIL



**RAISING THE BAR:** While the Story of Soil tasting room is located in Los Olivos, owner and winemaker Jessica Gasca (pictured) collaborates with vineyards all over Santa Barbara County to create her varietals, including Duvarita Vineyard in Lompoc, Larner Vineyard in Ballard, and Gold Coast Vineyard in Santa Maria.

**BOTTLE THROTTLE:** Open for wine tasting reservations and walk-ins every weekend and private reservations during the week, Story of Soil offers wine by the bottle and three different packages for wine club members to choose from (packages of three, six, or 12 bottles, each received three times a year).

PHOTO COURTESY OF ACACIA PRODUCTIONS

## Story within a story

*Story of Soil in Los Olivos offers high-quality, balanced wines by the bottle, glass, and tasting from winemaker Jessica Gasca*

### BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

The age-old adage “less is more” rings true for local winemaker Jessica Gasca, at least in terms of her modestly described “tiny operation,” Story of Soil in Los Olivos.

“Larger wineries always seemed to lack that soul,” Gasca said on why she prefers to own and operate a relatively small-scale winery that promotes gentle processing techniques and minimal human interference.

One of Gasca’s secrets to maintaining said “soul” in her winemaking is the freedom to experiment, which ideally results in more complex and interesting wines. For example: By keeping her batches of wine small, Gasca has ample room for experimentation, while wineries that use large ones can rarely risk spoiling the batch.

A mission statement on the Story of Soil website begins with: “As a small winery, we can put more time, attention, and care into our wines (than the larger wineries can afford to, really).”

While Gasca’s tasting room is located in Los Olivos, she collaborates with vineyards all over Santa Barbara County to create her unique wines. She described the region as “a wellspring of riches for grape growing,” which few can confidently debate.

Vineyards that Gasca uses include Duvarita Vineyard in Lompoc, Larner Vineyard in Ballard, Mirabella Vineyard in Los Olivos, and Gold Coast Vineyard in Santa Maria. The latter of which is where she kicked off her winemaking career, during an internship from 2009 to 2010.

Gasca can vividly remember one of her first experiences picking and sorting pinot noir grapes at Gold Coast Vineyard, just before sunrise one morning.

“There was a certain level of extreme fulfillment I experienced when I worked that harvest,” Gasca said. “It was overwhelmingly beautiful.”

Gasca felt in those initial moments as if she was connected to the Earth and its soil, which she defines as “a mixture of minerals, organic matter, gases, liquids, and countless organisms that together support life on Earth.”

That profound feeling of interconnection would repeat itself throughout her career and inspire the name of her own company.

“Being in the vineyard and creating with nature is remarkable; a feeling of passion, yes, but more important, a feeling of life purpose,” Gasca said.

Born in Lake Arrowhead and raised mostly around Southern California, Gasca’s introduction to the Central Coast was not wine related, but it was the wine that kept her there.

“Initially I began coming to the Central Coast as my great-grandmother lived up in the Pismo Beach area, so we would come up and visit regularly,” Gasca said.

After her internship at Gold Coast ended in 2010, Gasca apprenticed at Sanguis Winery in Santa Barbara for about three and a half years. She described the experience as helping her appreciate even the most meticulous details of winemaking.

“Every decision and action, no matter

### Ground control

To find out more about Story of Soil, visit [storyofsoilwine.com](http://storyofsoilwine.com). The tasting room is located at 2928 San Marcos Ave., Los Olivos. For more info on the Santa Barbara County Vintners Association, visit [sbcountywines.com](http://sbcountywines.com).

how small they seemed, were of extreme importance to the outcome of the wine,” Gasca wrote in her bio on the Story of Soil website. “Even the stacking and lining up of barrels became a meditation of sorts. And although times like re-coiling the hose over and over again might have seemed silly, it helped train me. I learned intention.”

During her time at Sanguis she saved enough money to buy her own grapes and create her first vintage in 2012. Less than a decade later, Gasca isn’t only the winemaker behind Story of Soil, she’s also the president of the Santa Barbara County Vintners Association. The nonprofit was founded in 1983 to promote the county as a world-class wine producing and grape growing region.

One of the association’s current priorities is making sure local vineyard workers have the opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccine in a convenient and timely manner, Gasca explained, thanks to a mobile vaccination program offered by the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast.

“They have a mobile medical unit that comes directly to our winery and vineyard sites to vaccinate,” Gasca said. “It’s a tricky program because we are beholden to the government for the number of vaccines that we receive. So far we have vaccinated about 700 vineyard workers, but we still have a long road ahead.”

As for her own wines currently offered from Story of Soil, Gasca doesn’t have a definitive personal favorite, but she can think of a few recommendations.

“I am currently digging our Martian Ranch Vineyard gamay noir and



**MOBILE CLINIC:** Jessica Gasca is also president of the Santa Barbara County Vintners Association, a nonprofit that recently prioritized helping local vineyard workers obtain the COVID-19 vaccine, thanks to a mobile vaccination program offered by the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast.

COURTESY PHOTO BY LAUREN MAUVE

Fiddlestix Vineyard grüner veltliner,” Gasca said.

Patrons can enjoy sampling those and several others at Gasca’s tasting room, which is currently open for reservations and walk-ins every weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and private reservations during the week. Story of Soil also offers three different package options for wine club members: packages of three, six, or 12 bottles, each received three times a year.

As for in-person wine tasting at the moment, Gasca is feeling grateful for the hustle and bustle, especially in comparison to last year.

“I think people are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel,” Gasca said, referring to recent flows of steady business thanks to those comfortable enough to return to the world of wine tasting.

“[2020] was tough. It pushed my limits,” she said. “I learned to have more patience, more compassion, and more grace. This wasn’t just a personal lesson as a business owner, but also a lesson for me regarding everyone going through the same pandemic.”

*Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is starting to see the light too. Send comments to [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).*



**BEHIND THE WINES:** As for her current offerings at Story of Soil, winemaker Jessica Gasca (pictured) doesn’t have a definitive personal favorite wine, but she can think of a few recommendations. “I am currently digging our Martian Ranch Vineyard gamay noir and Fiddlestix Vineyard grüner veltliner,” she told the Sun.



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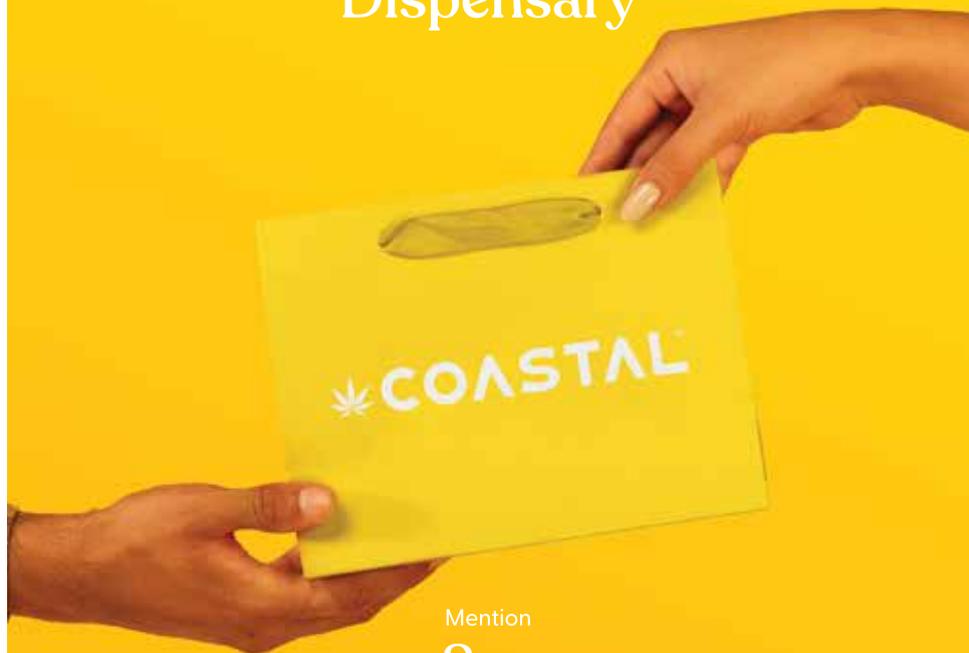
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