

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

Sun



AT THE MOVIES

Serpent: Flawed, compelling [18]

TRANSLATION EQUATION

While Santa-Maria Bonita School District makes interpretation services a priority, not all districts are created equal [7]

BY KAREN GARCIA

NEWS High school students back on campus [4]

ARTS Two shows, one curator [17]

EATS Strawberry season is here! [19]

**MAKE A CONNECTION
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BY VOLUNTEERING!**



Be a volunteer at the Senior Connection Program and reap the rewards

Volunteer as an **Information and Referral Specialist** and assist older adults with topics such as:

- COVID-19 Vaccinations
- Stimulus Checks
- Transportation
- In-Home Help
- And so much more

One-on-one training will be provided.

For more information on our volunteer program call:

(800) 510-2020 or (805) 928-2552



CentralCoastSeniors.org

528 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Outside Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo Counties, dial (805) 928-2552



Contents

APRIL 29 - MAY 6, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 8

Santa Maria-Bonita School District provides interpretation services in English, Spanish, and Mixteco to serve its students and their families. While districts are required to provide translation services for non-English speakers, they have a lot of leeway when it comes to the shape those services take. This week, Staff Writer Karen Garcia talks about the differences between what Santa Maria-Bonita and the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District provide to the families they serve [7].

You can also read about a return to campus life for some students [4]; shows at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery and the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art [17]; and the Berry Stop in Santa Maria [19].

*Camillia Lanham
editor*



MESSAGING PROBLEMS: School districts are required to provide translation services to non-English speakers, but California doesn't set standards for what that needs to look like.

Cover design by Alex Zuniga

NEWS

News Briefs4
Political Watch4
Spotlight.....8

OPINION

Web Poll10
Mayfield10
Canary.....11

EVENTS CALENDAR

Hot Stuff12

ARTS

Arts Briefs17

MOVIES

Reviews18

CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE

.....20



DONATE DONATE

HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION

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

www.santamariasun.com

SantaMariaSun.com Newsletter

Sign up for the *Santa Maria Sun Weekly* newsletter and get your current local news FREE every Thursday in your inbox.

Select the SIGNUP button at the top right of our homepage at www.santamariasun.com



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.**

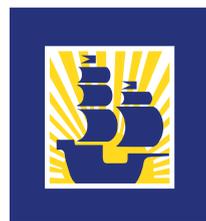
This promotion is to remind all homeowners, gardeners, and landscapers to **Go Green in the Spring** by pulling weeds and collecting clippings to spruce up the landscape, planting drought-tolerant plants to conserve water, and regularly checking irrigation sprinklers and outdoor faucets to address any 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

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced on April 23 that he directed the Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM) Division to stop issuing new fracking permits by January 2024. Newsom also requested the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to consider how the state can end all oil extraction by 2045. "The climate crisis is real, and we continue to see the signs every day," Newsom said in a statement. "As we move to swiftly decarbonize our transportation sector and create a healthier future for our children, I've made it clear I don't see a role for fracking in that future and, similarly, believe that California needs to move beyond oil." With the governor's directive, CalGEM will begin creating regulations to stop issuing new fracking permits. The target to end all oil extraction by 2045 will be added to the state's Climate Change Scoping Plan, a "comprehensive, multi-year regulatory and programmatic plan to achieve required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions," according to Newsom's office. "CARB will evaluate economic, environmental, and health benefits and effects of eliminating oil extraction. CARB's scoping plan process will be informed by cross-sector collaboration and public input focusing on benefits in disadvantaged communities, opportunities for job creation, and economic growth as we achieve carbon neutrality." In the meantime, CalGEM will also update and develop new rules to protect public health and the environment, such as new regulations to protect workers and communities near oil fields, according to the governor's office.

• On April 22, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) issued a statement commending the Biden administration for reinstating California's ability to set its own fuel emissions standards—an allowance that was previously blocked by a Trump-era rule, according to a statement from Carbajal's office. At the time that the Trump administration first announced the rule in 2018, Carbajal co-sponsored a resolution in opposition. "California's clean car standards paved the way for other states to take steps that improve air quality and fight climate change. The Trump administration's decision to revoke California's waiver was an attack on our state's environmental leadership and completely ignored the realities of the climate crisis," Carbajal said in an April 22 statement. "I applaud President Biden for moving to restore California's authority to set our own standards. There is no better way to celebrate Earth Day than by taking action to curb air pollution and protect our planet."

• **The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup**, a group of immunization and public health experts across West Coast states, announced April 24 that it completed a review and concluded that use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine should resume in Western states, according to a statement from Gov. Gavin Newsom's office. "On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lifted its pause on the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, following a review by a federal vaccine safety review panel," according to the governor's office. "The workgroup further recommended that vaccine information fact sheets be culturally and linguistically appropriate and available in multiple languages at an accessible reading level to inform conversations between health care providers and vaccine recipients." Throughout the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, the workgroup has independently reviewed the FDA's vaccine actions and recommendations, and will continue to do so as other vaccines become approved. "After additional review, analysis, and scrutiny, experts have concluded the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is safe, effective, and will protect you against the COVID-19 virus," Newsom said in a statement. "To date, about a million Californians have already received this vaccine—including myself and many of the state's top doctors. I encourage all Californians to trust the science; getting vaccinated is the best way to protect ourselves and our loved ones and end the pandemic." ○

Some Santa Maria high school seniors return to classroom

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District seniors returned to in-person learning for the first time in more than a year on April 20, and school officials say all is going well so far. Some students opted to continue distance learning, and those who returned are on a hybrid model.

For now, only 12th grade students at Pioneer Valley High School, Santa Maria High School, Ernest Righetti High School, and Delta High School have the option to be on campus part time.

Pioneer Valley Principal Shanda Herrera said the high school had about 150 seniors on campus for the first day back, and spirits were running high.

"We welcomed the kids with an inflatable tunnel, breakfast, water bottles, and then every student got a candy bag with a PV mask," Herrera said. "We also had a DJ for them at lunch for the first two days of school."

Herrera said allowing the seniors to optionally return will give them "a chance to walk the campus again and allow them to have some closure for the year," and also to engage with their teachers in ways not possible at a distance.

"In ag classes today, outside they sheared a sheep and they built step stools. You can't do that over Zoom," Herrera said. "I have one ag teacher, he is committed to doing a hands-on project once a week until the kids graduate—getting the kids out from behind the screen and really letting them have that time."

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Superintendent Antonio Garcia said teachers are making the most of having students in person while maintaining safety protocols.

"Things still need to be conducted in a safer manner in the classroom," Garcia said. "But nonetheless, for example, some of the science teachers have been able to conduct some of their labs in person, and other teachers have been doing other hands-on instruction. Most people know we have a strong career technical education program across all of our schools in the district, and so a lot of that learning takes place beyond the textbook."

District Public Information Officer Kenny Klein said school officials will be evaluating the return on a weekly basis to make sure things are operating safely and smoothly.

"We just wanted to see how it goes ... to bring the students back in the safest way possible," district Public Information Officer Kenny Klein told the *Sun*. "As the environment becomes safer, I'd like to have all the kids back, to give students an opportunity to come back, but when it's safe to do so. We're evaluating the ninth through 11th graders on a weekly basis for an opportunity to return."

Garcia said he's been in conversation with other school officials to assess how things are going, as well as keeping a close eye on COVID-19 metrics.

"We're looking not only at our county tier, but looking at our local data here in Santa Maria. Things are looking very favorable in that regard," he said. "Those are some of the factors that we have been looking at very closely, and will do so here in the next few days, to then make a determination and bring a recommendation to the board about the possibility of bringing any other students back in person."

Under the current hybrid model, all students are on Zoom on Mondays. Seniors who want to be on campus are broken up into two groups based on their last names, with half on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the other half on campus Wednesdays and Fridays.

Garcia said that across the high schools, as of April 26, about 40 percent of 12th graders have



BACK TO CLASS: Pioneer Valley seniors are welcomed back with a walk through the school's inflatable tunnel.

decided to come back to campus with the hybrid model, and the others are opting to stay fully at a distance. But if a distance-learning senior decides they'd like to come back to campus in a future week, it's not too late.

"We are going to leave that option open for our students, if others would like to come back in the hybrid model," Garcia said.

Righetti High School social science teacher Joseph Graack said he was happy for the students who decided to come back, especially after seniors last year had to miss quintessential 12th grade activities like prom and graduation.

"It was smooth, kids were happy to be back," he said. "I think [the hybrid model] is good to get us through the rest of the year and try to acclimate things together, in terms of who else they bring on campus."

But in the long term, Graack said it might be unsustainable. He said it's challenging to simultaneously teach online and in-person students. Superintendent Garcia acknowledged that "it requires a lot more work."

"There are different types of arrangements that teachers have had to work out to make sure that their instruction is engaging for those students that are in the classroom physically and those that are at home," Garcia said. "We have provided a lot of technology to help facilitate their instruction in this hybrid model. ... That has been very helpful, but I also acknowledge that it's not easy."

But after more than a year at a distance, Garcia said having students back on campus in any capacity "feels amazing."

"I spent time at all of our schools last week, walking around the campus and visiting multiple classrooms," he said. "It's a wonderful feeling."

—Malea Martin

Planting-A-Seed and Lompoc have yet to come to agreement on riverbed cleanups

The city of Lompoc is still working to iron out an agreement with a local organization that wants to continue cleaning waste out of homeless camps in the Santa Ynez Riverbed but recently faced costly fees for doing so. Now the nonprofit status of the organization is in question.

Planting-A-Seed is a self-described Lompoc-based nonprofit that offers various services to those experiencing homelessness. The organization has hosted several "riverbed cleanup" events since at least March, an effort to

identify abandoned homeless camps in the Santa Ynez Riverbed and remove the trash, hazardous waste, and supplies left behind.

After a particularly heavily attended cleanup event on April 10, Planting-A-Seed wrote on its Facebook page that volunteers had collected roughly 26 tons of waste from the riverbed, which the organization said cost \$2,179.54 to leave at Lompoc's landfill. Despite the city's willingness to waive similar fees for the organization at least once before, Lompoc denied the nonprofit's request to continually waive fees associated with such events, including the April 10 cleanup.

"Instead of trying to work with us and find a way to assist," Planting-A-Seed wrote on its Facebook page on April 11, "the city of Lompoc told the public that we can no longer go on public land and clean."

Community members are broadly showing support online for Planting-A-Seed and its cleanup efforts, thanking volunteers by the dozens on Facebook, promising to donate money to the organization, and calling the city's response "ludicrous" and "ridiculous."

To appease community concerns, the city released an April 8 letter to Planting-A-Seed from Lompoc City Manager Jim Throop, in which Throop explained that while the organization's efforts were much appreciated, the cleanups could easily become a liability issue for the city.

Throop requested that Planting-A-Seed sign an agreement with the city spelling out specific regulations that volunteers would need to abide by while working on city property and making contact with those living in the riverbed. The agreement would also protect the city from any possible legal threats associated with the events, and Planting-A-Seed would be required to obtain liability insurance of at least \$2 million.

"To avoid what could be significant negative consequences to the city's limited financial resources," Throop wrote in the letter, "please be advised, unless you and your volunteers comply with the requirements set out in this letter, you and they do not have permission to enter any city property for any cleanup event."

In the letter, which was addressed specifically to Planting-A-Seed's Executive Director, Shawndel Malcolm, Throop repeatedly insinuated that Planting-A-Seed might not be a "legally recognized organization."

Planting-A-Seed did not show up among any of Lompoc's tax exempt organizations on the IRS website, which lists all organizations

Cottage quality. Urgent care.



Now Open

SANTA MARIA

Orcutt Hills Plaza
1606 E Clark Ave, Suite 102

N. Broadway
1846 N. Broadway, Suite A

Coming soon to
Skyway Drive

cottagehealth.org/urgentcare

 Carside COVID Assessment/Testing
(Select Locations)

 Open 8 a.m.–8 p.m., 365 days a year

 Goal of complete care in 45 minutes

 Walk-ins and online appointments

 X-ray and lab service

 Cottage clinical providers



SPECIAL PUBLICATION

SUMMER GUIDE

PUBLICATION DATE:
5-27-21

Soak up the rays and take in the annual SUMMER GUIDE – your go-to publication for a comprehensive list of all summer happenings on the Central Coast.

Sun NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
(805) 347-1968 advertising@santamariasun.com

ORCUTT



PROVIDING FUEL & SERVICE TO ORCUTT FOR OVER 60 YEARS

SMOG CHECKS

★ PASS OR DON'T PAY ★

Old & New Vehicles

★ DRIVE-UPS WELCOME ★

OIL CHANGES

★ ASK FOR DETAILS ★

\$10⁰⁰ OFF
SMOG CHECK
Pass or Don't Pay!

Drive Ups Welcome!



\$34⁰⁰

Regular Price \$44.00
Appointments
805-937-5340

Plus \$8.25 Certificate + \$1.50 Transfer fee + \$1.00 OPUS fee. '99 & Older \$25 extra, Vans & Motor Homes \$30 extra. Coupons may not be combined with any other offer. Expires 5/31/21



805-937-5340

100 E. Clark Ave., Orcutt

WWW.ORCUTT76.COM

NEWS from page 4

with nonprofit status. A California Secretary of State business search shows that Planting-A-Seed is currently under a Secretary of State and Franchise Tax Board suspension, meaning it has temporarily lost its privilege to do business in California. Such suspensions, according to information provided on the Franchise Tax Board website, occur when a business fails to file a tax return, files information incorrectly, or fails to pay taxes, penalties, fees, or interest.

The Sun discovered this information just before press time, and Malcolm could not be reached for comment.

The Santa Ynez Riverbed poses a longstanding issue for the city of Lompoc. Homeless camps are common there, and the waste associated with the camps is often hazardous, consisting of people's belongings, human waste, and sometimes used syringes.

In 2018, the city spent roughly half a million dollars and nearly a year of planning to clear the riverbed of people and trash due to concerns over the safety of the city's water system and other environmental issues. Through that project, Lompoc hired a professional cleaning company to handle the hazardous waste, spent months contacting those living in the riverbed and connecting them with services, and launched a temporary triage center for the displaced.

Lompoc Mayor Jenelle Osborne said the process was complicated and involved a lot of time, money, and legal know-how.

Although people aren't allowed to live in the riverbed, Osborne said homeless individuals have rights. She worries that if the general public or volunteers associated with an organization like

Planting-A-Seed aren't aware of those rights, they might illegally dispose of a homeless person's belongings during a cleanup event, putting the organization, city, and homeless at risk.

Different parts of the riverbed are also owned by different individuals and jurisdictions—some parts are city-owned, some parts are privately owned, and others are owned by the county or federal government—and volunteers aren't allowed on all portions of that property. Even some of the property that is city-owned isn't really open for public access, she said.

Another pressing concern, Osborne said, is that the trash that volunteers are dealing with is hazardous. If someone were to get sick or injured in the riverbed, the city could face serious repercussions.

"It isn't necessarily something I like to think about, but we're responsible for all of our community members," Osborne said, "and so when you recruit volunteers to go down into an area that could lead to them pricking themselves with a needle and ending up with hepatitis, they may choose to hold you accountable for that. And are you prepared for that?"

City staff recently met with Planting-A-Seed leadership, and Osborne said that if they can come to some kind of agreement, that will be discussed at a future City Council meeting.

—Kasey Bubnash

Public Health officials urge vaccination as some appointments go unfilled

As Santa Barbara County races to vaccinate as many residents as possible and ward off the

spread of more dangerous COVID-19 variants, public health officials say not all available vaccine appointments are filling up, and a significant chunk of community members remain on the fence about getting inoculated.

"The scarcity of vaccine supply does not seem to be a problem anymore," Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg said at an April 23 press conference. "As a matter of fact, we have noticed that not all vaccination appointments are filling up at our sites at North County, or at Cottage Hospital in South County."

The county has a goal of vaccinating around 80 percent of the population, but only 28 percent of county residents were fully vaccinated as of April 27, and there's a clear disparity between regions: While more than 75,000 South County residents are fully vaccinated, just 34,000 North County and almost 21,000 mid county residents have received both shots or a single dose vaccine, according to the Community Data Dashboard.

Ansorg estimates that about 60 percent of the county's population is ready and willing to be vaccinated, but the remaining 40 percent are either unsure or unwilling.

"We know that there's around 20 percent of people who are categorically against vaccinations in general, whether it's influenza or pneumonia shots or anything," he said. "Twenty percent are what we call 'on the fence': they haven't quite decided. ... This 20 percent, that's where we really want to make an extra effort, to go the extra mile, to bring it to them."

The county ran two first dose vaccine clinics on April 27 and 28 in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, each offering the opportunity to walk up without an appointment and get the shot.

Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso

said during the press conference that, in partnership with Herencia Indigena, new videos in two Mixteco dialects on how to access and use the My Turn vaccine scheduling platform are up on the organization's YouTube page.

Do-Reynoso added that the county recently set up five mobile teams to bring vaccines straight to workplaces, housing facilities, places of worship, warehouses, and community organizations. Three of the bilingual mobile teams are based in North County, one in mid county, and one in South County. If a community partner is interested in hosting a mobile site, they can contact mobileclinic@sbcphd.org. The county announced April 26 that, following the direction of the California Department of Public Health, it will resume Johnson & Johnson vaccine administration at some of these Mobile Vaccine Program clinics.

"Participants will be given the option to select a different vaccine if they would like," a department statement said. "Other vaccine opportunities with the J&J vaccine may also become available beginning as early as this week."

Ansorg said getting more local people vaccinated is essential to stopping the spread of more dangerous COVID-19 variants that are running rampant in other parts of the world.

"It is only a question of time that these more aggressive forms of the virus will arrive here as well," he said. "The best protection we have is to get immunized as soon as possible. I would like to encourage everyone who is still on the fence about whether or not to get the COVID shot to please go ahead and take it." ○

—Malea Martin

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

PRIDE

BOOK ADS BY:
5-14-21

PUBLICATION DATE:
5-20-21



Love is love. Don't you think so? Pick up this uplifting special issue where we show support for and learn more about the LGBTQ+ community.

Sun NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
(805) 347-1968 advertising@santamariasun.com



JDX PHARMACY
HealthMart.
PHARMACY

Your Local Pharmacy and Medical Equipment Supply Source

805-922-1747

Medical equipment:	Medicine:
• Hospital beds	• Prescription medicine
• Lift chairs	• Cold medicine
• Wheelchairs	• Cough syrup
• Bathroom safety products	• Cough drops
• and more	• Flu medicine
	• Pain relief medicine

OPEN: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-1pm

JDX Pharmacy is a full-service pharmacy that offers medications and other medical equipment to all of Santa Maria, CA. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is always ready to assist you with all your medical supply needs. We offer same-day service for your convenience.

1504 SOUTH BROADWAY EAST, SANTA MARIA • WWW.HEALTHMART.COM

Stay Healthy



We'll be back, Stronger than ever!

Exercise is Essential!

2015 S Broadway B, Santa Maria • 805-348-1888
Email: wwhealthclub23@gmail.com

WW Health-Club

Language of communication

School districts are required to provide interpretation services for non-English speakers, but what that looks like depends on the district

BY KAREN GARCIA & MALEA MARTIN

In the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD), the number of students who speak a language other than English at home outweighs the English-speaking students, according to data presented at a March 24 special board meeting.

Nearly 10,500 students speak Spanish at home, more than 1,700 speak Mixteco, and nearly 500 speak other languages. The district has a little more than 3,000 students who speak English at home.

Santa Maria-Bonita provides interpretation services to its students and their guardians whose primary languages are English, Spanish, and Mixteco.

Providing interpretation and translation services for these students and their families is what's required of a school district, SMBSD Public Information Officer Maggie White said.

"And then there's common sense and how you want the families of your students to feel at your schools, how you value their feedback, regardless of how it's provided, and how you want to make them comfortable and connected because of all of those things," she said.

White said the district's interpretation services are "simpler" than most school districts in the state, which often provide services in Vietnamese, Hindi, Hmong, or Farsi. School districts, she said, often have to provide interpretation for more than just conversational situations. The interpreter also needs to understand educational terminology—chemistry terms, for example.

Because Mixteco doesn't have a written component for its language, Santa Maria-Bonita created videos in which Mixteco speakers talk about certain notices that would have otherwise been mailed or sent home with a student.

"We can't tell if we're meeting all of those needs, either academic or even socio-emotional, without hearing from the families. Families are such an important stronghold for our students," she said.

Santa Maria-Bonita is fortunate, White said, to have many community members and board members who are bilingual or trilingual (English, Spanish, and Mixteco) and can communicate with the district's families.

Not all school districts are as fortunate. Paso Robles community activist Yessenia Echevarria, who founded Paso People's Action and Mujeres de Acción (Women of Action), works to inform and educate Latino-speaking residents in the community. A lot of her recent work has focused on getting the news out about a high school ethnic studies course proposed for the Paso Robles Unified School District.

That work included rallying Latino and Spanish speakers to participate in school board meetings by speaking about their experiences during public comment in a language that they're comfortable with. But at Paso Robles school district meetings, Spanish-speakers are sometimes discouraged from making public comments in Spanish.

During public comment at the March and April Paso Robles Joint Unified School District board meetings about the ethnic studies course proposal, board member Chris Arend

interrupted several public commenters who spoke in Spanish.

"The rule is when you address the board, since you're fluent in English, you do not need help, you can address the board in English, and it will be simultaneously translated. You do not address the board in Spanish, which none of us understand," Arend said right before a public commenter made their statement at the March 23 board meeting.

California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) found that 35 percent of all students enrolled in the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

'... if a school district is not here to help students be the best they can be and provide them with as many opportunities as possible, then what are we doing here?'

—Maggie White, Santa Maria-Bonita School District

come from homes where Spanish is the primary language. Although the district does provide translation services at its board meetings, the interpretation from English to Spanish and Spanish to English isn't always clear.

At the April 13 school board meeting, San Luis Obispo Democratic Party Chair Rita Casaverde said she wanted to make her comment in Spanish.

"I speak more than two languages, and I'm multicultural. Today, I speak in Spanish, not because I want to make you feel uncomfortable. I speak in Spanish because I can. It's the language that I want to speak in today," Casaverde said in Spanish.

The interpreter asked Casaverde to repeat those sentences three times and couldn't translate Casaverde's comments into English for the board.

"This is not working with the translation. And I hate to say it, my old traditional rule is if you can speak to us in English, speak to us in English. We are glad to provide translation services for people who need them, but not for people that speak English and can communicate with us perfectly. Frankly, I'm getting tired of us horsing around with this every week," Arend said.

Casaverde was ultimately allowed to make her comments in both Spanish and English.

"The precedent that this board is setting is

School districts ... often have to provide interpretation for more than just conversational situations. The interpreter also needs to understand educational terminology—chemistry terms, for example.

horrible," she said. "I would also like this board to hire services of translation that can actually help people get their message across. ... Just right now we have proof that this board is not ready to provide translation services."

School districts throughout

California are required to provide a means of communication for parents whose first language isn't English. However, there aren't strict guidelines for how to provide those resources.

Paso People's Action and Mujeres de Accion recently hosted a virtual "Know Your Rights" learning forum with CRLA—in English and Spanish—to help the community understand how school districts could meet their needs. During the forum, CRLA Director of Litigation Cynthia Rice said that school districts don't have a bright-line to follow in terms of providing interpretation services.

"Essentially, school boards and public agencies of all types who hold public hearings have the authority to implement procedures to facilitate the efficient running of a meeting. I do think, however, we have been successful in arguing that when those procedures limit a speaker to three minutes when there is not a simultaneous interpretation, that is not provided to that board or agency, and that would be a violation," Rice said.

In other words, when translation is needed to interpret a speaker's comments, more time should be allotted to the speaker so the interpreter can translate the speaker's comments.

Deborah Escobedo, a senior attorney for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco, said she believes the California Department of Education has a very loose standard with respect to translators. Escobedo said translators and interpreters hired by districts don't need to be certified. Although training is required, there isn't a training standard.

School districts create their own interpreter policies to meet the needs of the communities they serve. For instance, Coast Unified School District, which serves students in Cambria and Cayucos, asks that requests for interpreters be made three days in advance of a school board meeting.

Coast Unified's administrative assistant to the superintendent, Bonnie Duston, said a non-English speaker may bring their own interpreter to the meeting, and the interpreter (personal or district-provided) is given extra time to translate.

"Most parents bring their own interpreter, but we have several district employees assigned to provide translation if requested for a board meeting. In addition, each of our school sites have a bilingual clerk [Spanish] that is available for translation services during school hours," Duston said.

For the Santa Maria-Bonita School District, providing translation and interpretation services is "all about creating that sense of community, and it's all for supporting students," Public Information Officer White said.

"That's what we're here for, if a school district is not here to help students be the best they can be and provide them with as many opportunities as possible, then what are we doing here?" she said. "And that includes embracing whatever might be unusual or different about their families." ○

Staff Writer Karen Garcia can be reached at kgarcia@newtimeslo.com. Staff Writer Malea Martin can be reached at mmartin@santamariasun.com.

EMPLOYMENT MARKETING & SALES COORDINATOR

New Times Media Group (NTMG) is a family-owned business that has been part of the community since 1986. Our mission is to publish great newspapers which are successful and enduring; create a quality work environment that encourages employees to grow; and to have a positive impact on our communities, and make it a better place to live.

The Marketing and Sales Coordinator is our equivalent of a project ninja. Flexibility, attention to details, and great time management is key.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: managing the marketing and promotion of special publications, assisting the sales team, planning company events, and being the communication cornerstone as an internal and external representative of NTMG.

Experience:

- Experience in business, customer service or related field
- College degree preferred.

TO APPLY: If this sounds like you, please email your résumé and cover letter to Cindy Rucker at crucker@newtimeslo.com.

When you submit your résumé please answer the following questions in the body of your e-mail:

- 1) Why are you interested in working for NTMG?
- 2) Why should we hire you?

Compensation includes a base salary, commission and bonus; excellent benefits package including medical, dental, and paid time off.

NTMG is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

NEW TIMES MEDIA GROUP

New Times **NMG** Sun

1010 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo
NewTimesSLO.com

2540 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria
SantaMariaSun.com



COALITION

for responsible cannabis

Where is our water going?



Growing marijuana requires a lot of water, regardless of whether it is grown inside or outdoors. In California, where growers have decades of experience cultivating, plants still require about six gallons of water per plant each day. That adds up to almost 300 million gallons of water for each square mile of marijuana grow each growing season.¹

That is almost double the amount of water wine grapes use annually, and about the same water consumed by almond orchards – which is recognized as contributing to aggravated water shortages here in California.²

Support common sense cannabis regulation today:

sbcountycoalition.com

1. High Time for Conservation: Adding the Environment to the Debate on Marijuana Liberalization. BioScience 2015; 65 (8): 822-829. doi: 10.1093/biosci/biv083.
2. "Forget Almonds: Look at How Much Water California's Pot Growers Use." Washington Post. 26 June 2015.

PHOTO BY MALEA MARTIN

Watch it burn

The Burn Cycle Project's latest exhibit inspires fire prevention, celebrates the beauty of wildfire as natural and necessary

BY MALEA MARTIN

The smell of wood is first to hit my senses upon entering Walk Into Wildfire, an immersive multimedia exhibit on display at the Buellton Recreation Center.

As I walk toward the centerpiece of the exhibit—careful not to trip, as it's the only light source in the otherwise pitch-black room—I can feel the crunch of mulch beneath my feet, like walking across a forest floor. I'm startled for a moment by a patch of red-hot, burning wood, before realizing that the embers are coming from a projector mounted on the ceiling.

At the center of the room, three large panels face one another, ablaze with projected footage of burning Central Coast hills. As smoke and flames move seamlessly from one screen to the next, I imagine the heat one would feel standing this close to a real inferno. The scene soon changes to a time-lapse. Green grass shoots up from the ash, and a rich, instrumental soundscape conjures feelings of hope and renewal.

Then it all burns again.

Walk Into Wildfire is the collaborative project of local artist Ethan Turpin, founder of the Burn Cycle Project; Jonathan Smith and Kym Cochran from The Environment Makers; and Zach Gill, the multi-instrumentalist member of Animal Liberation Orchestra and Jack Johnson's bandmate. The Burn Cycle Project is a Santa Barbara County-based design and production service that aims to educate the public about wildfires.

"This is the sixth iteration of using fireproof camera box footage in an immersive installation," Turpin said of his Buellton exhibit, which is on display until May 1. "This is focused on that on-the-ground wildfire experience."

Between Turpin's precisely edited video projections, Smith and Cochran's eerily realistic artificial environment, and Gill's soothing soundscape, the viewer at once witnesses the terrifying speed that a wildfire can spread and destroy, but also the way life can emerge from the ruins more resilient than before.

Turpin said the exhibit is about finding the right balance between showing and telling: educating, without being didactic.

"People do want the opportunities to confront these things that have a scary side, but that are also bigger than that," Turpin said. "It's sharing an experience rather than telling people in particular what to do. But there is this opportunity to learn about what we can do to be safer, and how we live with fire, by partnering with the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council."

Turpin collaborated with the Fire Safe Council on a video teaching people how to create defensible spaces—buffers designed to reduce fire danger—around their homes, which premiered alongside the exhibit.

"My experience is that, when we do exhibits like this, people walk out feeling really enlivened and ready to absorb more information in a pretty special way," Turpin said.

Nic Elmquist, a wildland fire specialist for the Montecito Fire Department and a Fire Safe Council member, said the project is particularly timely, as May marks the official start of high fire season. One of the main determinants for the severity of Santa Barbara County's fire season



CYCLICAL DESTRUCTION: Burn Cycle Project artist Ethan Turpin (left) and musician Zach Gill (right) take in the main feature of their latest collaborative exhibit: a three-paneled projection displaying local fire footage.

are annual grasses that are more likely to burn as they become drier, a process called curing.

"What you'll start to notice around this time is that our grasses begin to get cured. All of that is dependent on the season's rainfall," Elmquist said. "What's particularly concerning this year in Santa Barbara County [is] we're at 50 percent of what's normal for this time of year."

With the majority of fires in Southern California being human caused, Elmquist hopes the exhibit will inspire people to pay attention to their surroundings and actions. At the same time, Elmquist said he appreciates the Burn Cycle Project for balancing that prevention messaging with the reality that fire can be part of a necessary and natural cycle.

"Around here, in more of the chaparral shrublands, we probably are seeing too much fire. The fire return intervals are too short," Elmquist said. "But there's a lot of places throughout the state where the areas aren't burning enough. They're getting an accumulation of fuel loads, and that's causing increased fire intensity."

"What's cool about The Burn Cycle is it shows how the fire burns through, but then you can also see the recovery process that occurs," he continued, "and really the beauty of nature and how fire is just a component of that."

What's unique about re-creating a wildfire scene is that most people outside of the firefighting community have never been so close to one—nor should they be. The exhibit takes away the dangerous parts of a fire so viewers can experience what remains: something both terrifying and sublime.

"It's both scary and beautiful at the same time," Turpin said. "It can be paradoxical, and life is like that."

Highlight

- The city of Santa Maria is encouraging residents to be environmentally friendly by offering free landscape burlaps and sprinklers for city residents as part of its Go Green in the Spring promotion. "The promotion is to remind homeowners, gardeners, and landscapers to 'go green' in the spring by pulling weeds and collecting clippings to spruce up the landscape, plant drought-tolerant plants to conserve water, and regularly check irrigation sprinklers and outdoor faucets to address any leaks," according to Santa Maria officials. Those interested need to contact the Utilities Department to reserve their promotion and schedule a no-contact pickup at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 7270. ○

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

DEATH NOTICES

SANTIAGO MALDONADO MARTINEZ, 17, of Santa Maria passed away 3/7/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

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

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

JERRY STEPHEN KENNEDY, 68, of Santa Maria passed away 4/7/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

JOSE R. ZARAGOZA, 74, passed away 4/8/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

AURORA EFIGENIA GOOLD, 83, passed away 4/9/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

RICHARD LEE SCHENBERGER, 83, passed away 4/12/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BRUCE TORREY BEVANS, 77, passed away 4/13/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

EDITH DIXON, 95, of Atascadero passed away 4/14/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

GARLAND LUCILLE AKERS, 79, passed away 4/14/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

EDITH DIXON, 95, of Atascadero passed away 4/14/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

VINCENT GALINDO, 38, of Santa Maria passed away 4/15/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

JOAQUIN ALCANTOR, infant, of Santa Maria passed away 4/15/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

KATHLEEN PULTS, 67, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/15/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

JOSEPH RUSSELL ROAN STEWART, 24, passed away 4/16/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

ELWOOD E. CAMPBELL, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 4/16/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

RICHARD ALEX RUDY, 84, of Santa Maria passed away 4/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JANIS STANSFIELD, 90, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/17/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

RUSS SHORE, 88, passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

JEAN COGAN, 83, of Cambria passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

MARK GROSZ, 60, of Santa Margarita passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

RUTH ELSIE PETANOVICH, 93, passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

SETH ABATE, 36, of Atascadero passed away 4/19/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

JACK MARTIN, 68, passed away 4/19/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

LORRAINE MARIE SHIN, 97, passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ROBERT MCCLURE, 85, of Paso Robles passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

WILLIAM LOWMAN SR., 73, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

LENORA YVONNE ROBERTS, 83, passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ENRIQUE MARTINEZ PEREZ, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ZILLA JOHNSON, 97, of Santa Maria passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DENISE STEEB, 57, of Nipomo passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

LORETTA LOU RYAN, 78, of Lompoc passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

JAMES "JIM" H. BURRESS JR., 92, of Santa Maria passed away 4/21/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

YVONNE BRATCHER, 61, of Nipomo passed away 4/21/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

BEAU DAVID PRYOR, 50, passed away 4/21/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

HARRY FIERSTINE, 88, of San Luis Obispo passed away 4/22/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

JOHN HERSHBERGER JR., 70, of Santa Maria passed away 4/21/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

BRENT T. MACDONOUGH, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 4/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LORI UBER, 64, of Atascadero passed away 4/22/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

PORFIRIO ROCHA, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 4/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JOE WOODWARD, 90, passed away 4/23/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park

CONNIE FRIEND, 79, of Cambria passed away 4/23/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

RAYMOND DOTY, 56, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/23/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

LAWRENCE ANTHONY LANDRY, 90, passed away 4/24/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

JOYCE DENAVICH, 87, of Morro Bay passed away 4/24/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

ALFRED GRANADO, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 4/25/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

Winning Images



Brian J. Matis, 2020

26th Annual Photography Contest & Exhibition

ENTER ONLINE MAY 13-JUNE 2

CATEGORIES: ANIMALS · FLORA · IN MOTION
LAND/SEASCAPES · PEOPLE · TRAVEL · YOUTH · OPEN

Winners will be published on June 24, 2021 and will be a part of a show at The Photo Shop in SLO

NewTimes Sun ^{The} Photo Shop

NewTimesSLO.com · SantaMariaSun.com · PhotoShopSLO.com

OBITUARIES

Want to memorialize a loved one?

Sun
OBITUARIES

Mark your family's memories

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

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

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

Spring Special!
\$25 off any service

Smith
MECHANICAL - ELECTRICAL - PLUMBING
LIC. NO. 420418

(805) 621-5000

1340 W. Betteravia Rd, Santa Maria

se habla español
805-868-0954

smith-electric.com



Online Poll

How do you feel about Santa Barbara County reaching the orange tier?

- 40% Great! Our businesses need fewer restrictions to survive.
- 35% It's good for industries that are suffering, but I'm concerned people will be less cautious.
- 25% As long as we keep getting folks vaccinated, reopening is probably safe.
- 0% It's too soon—there is still plenty of COVID-19 spread in the community.

20 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.



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

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING | 805-347-1968 FAX | 805-347-9889
E-MAIL | mail@santamariasun.com WEB | www.santamariasun.com

FOUNDER | Steve Moss 1948-2005

EDITORIAL

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

ADVERTISING

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE | Kimberly Rosa
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES | Katy Gray, Jennifer Herbaugh,
Lee Ann Vermeulen, Danny Vasquez, Drew Gilmore
MARKETING & SALES COORDINATOR | Hannah Pugh

PRODUCTION

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

BUSINESS

Cindy Rucker
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR | Jim Parsons
CIRCULATION | Michael Ferrell, Margo Baldvies, Simon Lopez
PUBLISHERS | Bob Rucker, Alex Zuniga
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS | Patricia Horton

SUBMITTING LETTERS

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

TO ADVERTISE

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

ONLINE

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

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

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

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

© 2021 Sun



Americanism

Please don't divide us into conflicting tribes

BY SUSAN CHAPMAN

We recently finalized a national election. On that hopefully we can all agree. But now everyday things are quickly changing that are not at all familiar to me.

Our government is acting like they have become our parents, too. They are using their power to tell us exactly what we can and cannot do.

Last time I looked, none of us are kids. We are adults, paying for their bills. It is their job to spend our funds wisely and not burden us down with frills.

Recently, the meaning of words I thought I definitely knew are being switched from a bright red to some new shade of blue.

Nancy Pelosi has banned the use of words like daughter, sister and mother. The leaders also frown upon using gender pronouns such as son, father and brother

These are only words—not sticks and stones that can break our bones,

but what about reverse discrimination for paying back local farm loans?

The COVID-19 Relief Bill from which we were all happy to receive a stimulus check contained a provision somehow intended to racially level the playing deck.

If they were honest and wanted a discussion, they would have called it reparation. Instead, they threw it into the relief bill so it got hidden in their gigantic creation.

If you are a farmer of color who took out a loan, that debt can be forgiven 120 percent but exempts white farmers alone.

The good news is, in this community we mingle well together and treat each other with respect.

I thought the Constitution provides we cannot discriminate on the basis of the color of our skin. Seems the new law has a blatant racial bias but this time targets simply a different color of kin.

“Woke” used to be something I would do before getting out of bed. Now to some it means we have to be cautious about everything that is said.

My high school mascot—a Native American warrior—is now perceived as somehow bad,

when we were once so proud to display his uniqueness. I think that is rather sad.

Even the beautiful Santa Maira ship logo someone now claims is offensive. After all these years, why are some suddenly becoming so defensive?

The good news is, in this community we mingle well together and treat each other with respect. After all, isn't that down deep what most of us realistically desire and expect?

The Golden Rule, of course, is no longer in the schools taught. Neither are many ideals for which our forefathers and newcomers sought.

All people work much better together than standing way far apart. An honest discussion of issues would certainly be a good start.

We all need to remain vigilant and let our local and far away representatives hear, “Please do not divide us into conflicting tribes. We are all Americans, and that is what we hold dear.”

Susan Chapman writes from Santa Maria. Send a response to letters@santamariasun.com.

Cunningham needs to go

While his office should get credit for helping residents secure their unemployment benefits during the pandemic, Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham called for a reopening of our county in April, just one month into the pandemic. When other cities and counties reopened throughout the state, they were hit with a wave of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. We would eventually be hit with several waves. And with mounting pressure from politicians like Cunningham, Gov. Newsom modified the state's phased reopening approach and ultimately developed conditions that resulted in a significant surge of cases and hospitals over capacity last fall. The circumstances led to our state establishing a mutual aid system for our hospitals to accept patients who couldn't be cared for in overburdened hospitals located in other counties.

In a way, Cunningham helped create the kind of economic conditions that led to his constituents having to collect unemployment benefits longer. When front-line workers faced a shortage in personal protective equipment and ventilators because of these surges, Cunningham stepped in. Just because he stepped in to help doesn't absolve him from not having the foresight to address these critical issues early on.

Cunningham likes to complain about public health edicts that are “illogical” and not “science-based” (“Achieving sound public policy,” April 22). He insists his complaining is somehow an important part of his job as the community's representative in the legislative branch. In reality, he acts like an angry spectator more than an assemblyman, complaining bitterly on Facebook about state orders that he could effectively and constructively address with bipartisan cooperation. Instead of being productive on that front, he represents clients as part of his law practice who defy common-sense COVID-19 guidelines and actual science that justifies those guidelines. He will support the compromising of our public health and

safety as long as he can financially enrich himself.

Cunningham will complain about COVID-19 guidelines, but by unlawfully blocking his critics on social media, he refuses to have any sort of debate or dialogue with his constituents. A responsible assemblyman and public servant doesn't shy away from inconvenient facts. Elected representatives need to be mature, accept bitter truths, work with

people on both sides of the political aisle, and make hard choices that best support their constituency.

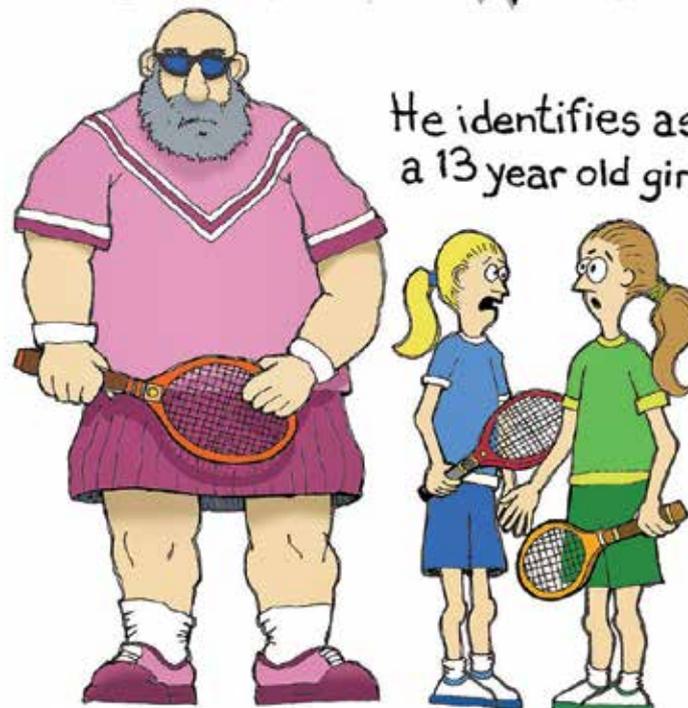
Central Coast families and businesses cannot be fully supported by someone who chooses to govern by passive-aggressive tweets and brazen conflicts of interest. It's time for new leadership.

Aaron Ochs
Los Osos

LETTERS

MAYFIELD

Our Modern World



He identifies as a 13 year old girl

© RUMMXXI

Dysfunction junction

What's your function? Hooking up Lompoc with nonprofits and Santa Ynez Riverbed cleanup efforts.

Dysfunction junction, how's it function? Lompoc has three favorite phrases that don't get the job done.

Dysfunction junction, what's their function. They want "liability insurance" because of the "potential for injuries," and a need to "issue permits." Those'll get you pretty far when it comes to a riverbed cleanup.

But you can't go anywhere without liability insurance, volunteer instructions, and an agreement to not sue the city if you get injured or sick cleaning up hazardous waste from abandoned homeless camps without all of the right permissions.

So far, **Planting-A-Seed**, which has engaged in several riverbed cleanups over the last few months, doesn't have any of those things in place with the city of Lompoc. And everything was going swimmingly until Lompoc decided it would no longer waive its waste disposal fees for the unpermitted cleanups, leaving Planting-A-Seed with a \$2,000-plus bill and a lot of residents with residual anger.

"Instead of trying to work with us ... Lompoc told the public that we can no longer go on public land and clean," the organization wrote in a Facebook post.

People were not happy to hear that! "Lompoc get your head out of your ass. These people are volunteering to clean up a mess that you are allowing and yet you can't even waive dump fees," **Aaron Knight** responded.

"I would like to know WHY, especially when you consider what it costs every time the city cleans up it runs ten times the cost. This needs an answer NOW," **Denise Morehead** said.

The answer is simple: It's complicated, Denise. The Santa Ynez Riverbed has been an issue for years. It's a place to live for many without homes, which leads to trash and hazardous waste buildup—a blight on the community that Lompoc successfully cleaned up in 2018, albeit temporarily. All it cost was \$500,000! What a steal!

Lompoc is cash-strapped, with limited resources for public safety and an obvious inability to deal with homelessness issues. And many residents are super thankful for the work that Planting-A-Seed has been doing—which includes organizing volunteer cleanups, doing outreach, and serving meals to homeless residents in the city.

But all of this work on public property without the proper permitting, rules, or oversight puts the city in a weird position. Liability issues abound with the cleanup of human waste and hypodermic needles, plus there are private property rights to contend with (yes, homeless people own things, too).

The biggest problem, though, seems to be that Planting-A-Seed isn't exactly a legal nonprofit, according to the **Franchise Tax Board of California**, which suspended the organization's license. Meaning: Planting-A-Seed can't legally operate. It can't fundraise. It can't organize volunteers. It can't get liability insurance. It can't actually do what it's been doing.

So while everyone is just reaming the city and praising Planting-A-Seed, things are just always way more dysfunctional than they sound on the surface.

Maybe it's time to put our reality pants on and actually do the work that's needed to figure out what the *actual* issue is instead of hollering about how poor city leadership is. Maybe then the community can pull together and get Planting-A-Seed legally operating again so it can continue the good work that it seems to be doing. ○

The Canary lives at dysfunction junction. Send conjunctions to canary@santamarisun.com.



Men of CASA Help Build a Better System

Oftentimes, children in the protective care of the court do not have a reliable father figure or positive male role model in their lives. Although all of our volunteers are trained and ready to advocate for any child, children with a consistent, positive male influence in their life:

- Have a better physical well-being,
- Possess higher competency for relating with others,
- Demonstrate greater ability to take initiative,
- Better evidence self-control,
- Achieve more academically, and
- Are more likely to abstain from using drugs.

Protect the vulnerable, join the Men of CASA.

SBCASA.ORG



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



NOW OPEN

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

1307 North H Street · Lompoc
805-736-1730
www.surfconnection.net

Sign up for our monthly email coupons or follow us on



THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS:

Billy Burger & Deep Fried Burrito <small>small order of fries & small soft drink of choice</small>	Big Burger, small order of fries <small>& small soft drink of choice</small>
\$6.44 + tax <small>Exp. 5/4/21</small>	\$6.90 + tax <small>Exp. 5/4/21</small>



Bill's Take Out

Santa Maria's Original Fast Food Place!

Sorry, debit or credit cards not accepted
523 North Broadway, Santa Maria · 922-6116



HOT STUFF

APRIL 29 – MAY 6
2021

NOTE: As state and local governments lift restrictions designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, venues are reopening more broadly. However, some venues may still cancel or postpone events depending on local conditions. Please check with the venues directly, and most of all, stay safe!



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB HOUGHENS

MUSIC TO THE EARS AND EYES

The Santa Maria Philharmonic Society presents Fridays at Four, a monthly virtual concert series on YouTube, which premieres its next video on Friday, May 7, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. Each program includes a selection of classical music, performed by both artists from the Philharmonic and guest musicians, for viewers to enjoy. New entries in the series are uploaded on the first Friday of each month. Visit santamariaphilharmonic.org to find out more.

—Caleb Wiseblood

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.

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

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

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

SUNFLOWERS + HYDRANGEAS = HAPPINESS: OIL PAINTINGS BY PATTI ROBBINS Gallery Los Olivos presents a solo exhibit of oil paintings by Patti Robbins. This collection of paintings includes pieces that focus on sunflowers and/or Hydrangeas as the primary subjects. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through April 30 Free. <http://GalleryLosOlivos.com>. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

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

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

YOUTH ART PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Register to pick up an art pack to create your own masterpiece at home. Art packs include projects that help students learn basic principles of art. These packs are geared towards ages 6 to 12. **May 8** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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. slore.org/education/act-after-school-classes/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., 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/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

ART IN THE GARDEN includes jewelry, glass, paintings, wood, ceramics, textiles, and more. All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden. **April 30-May 16** Free first weekend; \$5 after. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

CALLING ALL ARTISTS: CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS VIRTUAL JURIED SPRING SHOW Seeking artists for Spring Juried Exhibit. Art Take-in (online) deadline is April 26. Questions: gallery@cambriaarts.org. Mondays-Sundays and **May 1**, through June 27 free. 805-434-7060. cambriaarts.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 sloma.org/exhibition/finding-spaces/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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, slore.org/.

LINDA WEINBERG-HAMMER: PASTEL EXHIBIT Pastel artist Linda Weinberg-Hammer will have her works on display. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, please contact

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. 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.

INDEX

Arts	[12]
Culture & Lifestyle.....	[15]
Food & Drink.....	[16]
Music	[16]

ARTS continued page 14

2021

APRIL 28-MAY 2

Santa Maria Valley
STRAWBERRY CRUZIN'



CALIFORNIA
STRAWBERRY
COMMISSION

Wednesday 4-8pm • Thursday 4-8pm
Friday 12-8pm • Saturday 12-8pm • Sunday 12-8pm

Drive-thru for delicious carnival foods from these favorite fair vendors

Colossal Corn Dogs
Noel's Mexican Food
Strawberry Dole Whip

Fanny's Fab Funnel Cakes
Log Cabin Kettle Corn
Old West Cinnamon Rolls
Little Pete's Farm

Admission is a donation to the Santa Maria Fairpark Foundation.

Proceeds from donations will benefit the current efforts of the Santa Maria Fairpark Foundation, 2021 Youth Scholarships, 2021 Junior Livestock Virtual Show and Auction.

SantaMariaFairpark.com

805.925.8824 • Santa Maria Fairpark • 937 S. Thornburg Street • Santa Maria

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 May 2, noon Free. 805-668-4828. 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/. 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. sloma.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 meliss.crist@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. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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



SEA FOR YOURSELF

Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay presents a showcase of oil paintings by local plein-air artist Jeff Odell, which will run from Saturday, May 1, through Saturday, May 29. With a portfolio spanning more than 30 years, Odell is best known for painting landscapes and seaside scenes based on locales in Morro Bay. Call (805) 772-1068 or visit galleryatmarinasquare.com to find out more about the exhibit. The gallery is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay. —C.W.

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. sloma.org/exhibition/we-all-bleed/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

BOBBI MATUK: ARTIST RECEPTION AND BOUTIQUE Will feature wine from VOTM, food boxes by Colony Culture, chocolates from Sheila Kearns Chocolate, and a silks and linens art demo from Matuk. Presented by

FARMsteadED. April 30 805-237-0378. farmstead.com. Vines on the Marycrest, 5076 Mustard Creek Rd., Paso Robles.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM Go online for more info. May 4-June 28 Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org.

STAINED GLASS SUNCATCHER CLASS Create a unique stained glass suncatcher in this 4-hour class. All materials included. Please bring a bag lunch. Limited to 4 people. Masks required. May 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$125. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio,

8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

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

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

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

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. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FEATURED ARTIST: JEFF ODELL Enjoy the works of a Morro Bay-based plein air artist. Friends and Family night is May 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through May 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRETT HARVEY Gallery at Marina Square presents "From the Sea to the Sierras", which showcases photos by Harvey. Friends and Family night on May 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through May 29 Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, 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. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

ARTS continued page 15

PRIDE

BOOK ADS BY: 5-14-21
PUBLICATION DATE: 5-20-21

Love is love. Don't
you think so? Stand
with us to show it.

SUMMER GUIDE

BOOK ADS BY: 5-21-21
PUBLICATION DATE: 5-27-21

This unique guide to
summer on the Central
Coast is published right
before Memorial Day.

Sun NORTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
(805) 347-1968 advertising@santamariasun.com

Mother's Day Is Around The Corner

May 9th
Order today

Flower Carriage
2255 S. Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93454
805-922-0578

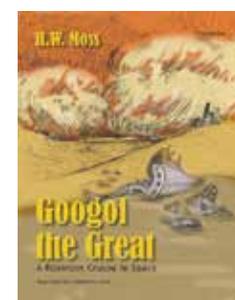


Radisson

A great place for
your next
stay-cation.

Enjoy the heated
pool & room
service meals.

928-8000 · 3455 Skyway Drive, SM
www.radisson.com/santamariaca



A Robinson Crusoe of space
adventure written by H.W. Moss
Illustrated by Steve Moss

Published by
NetNovels.com



ILLUMINATE: VIRTUAL SHOW Cambria Center for the Arts presents its spring juried virtual exhibit. Mondays-Sundays, 12-11:30 p.m. through June 27 Free. 805-434-7060. cambriaarts.org. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

PAINT NIGHT WITH ARTSOCIAL805 Each person will have their own paint station, including: canvas, paint brushes, paints, and aprons. Snacks and sweets will be available for purchase. Sister restaurant shop will be serving local wine. **May 6**, 6-8 p.m. \$48. 562-400-3679. stashlocalgoods.com. STASH Local Goods, 815 Main St., Cambria.

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. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

LINE DANCING Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

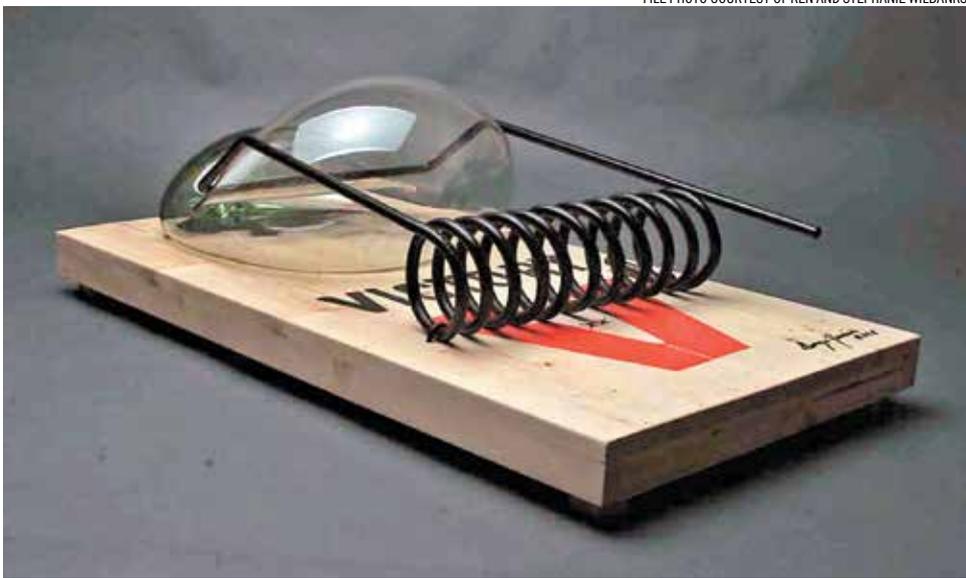
VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. ongoing Varies. Unwind Studio, 130 N. Broadway, suite B, Santa Maria, 805-748-2539, unwind santamaria.com.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

GROVER BEACH COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOOK SALE Books are sold by the inch; free book for every child while supplies last. Social distancing policies followed. **May 1**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Free to attend. 805-481-4131. groverbeachlibrary.org. Grover Beach Community Library, 240 N 9th St., Grover Beach.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN AND STEPHANIE WILBANKS



MOUSE ARREST

George Jercich's *Mouse Trap* (pictured) is one of several sculptures featured in *California Aesthetic 3D*, a group show that runs through Monday, May 3, at *Studios on the Park in Paso Robles*. Other featured artists in the exhibit include Carl Berney, Peter Charles, Larry Le Brane, Ron Roundy, Mecki Heussen, and Ken Wilbanks. Visit studiosonthepark.org for more info. The gallery is located at 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

—C.W.

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. ongoing partnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

DIA DE LOS NIÑOS PACK/PAQUETE DE DIA DE LOS NIÑOS Packs are available at Library branch locations, or register online to pick up at the library, then tune in for Dia storytime on the SMPL YouTube page. **April 29, April 30 and May 1** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

FEEL GOOD YOGA Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Center, 420 Soares 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. Divine Inspiration, 947 E Orange St., Santa Maria.

LADIES GET LOUD: VIRTUAL 'NIGHT IN' Support children and families throughout Santa Maria who need our help, while enjoying a fun evening from the comfort of your couch. Features an entertaining virtual program and personal party packs. **April 29**, 6 p.m. \$50. 805-441-1520. calm4kids.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

LEGO PACK PROGRAM: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SMPL is offering a take home Lego program for children ages 6 to 17. **May 1, May 3, May 4, May 5, May 6, May 7 and May 8** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

IN-PERSON LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Docent led tour of the buildings and grounds of the historic Point San Luis Light Station. Saturdays, 12 & 2 p.m. through May 29 my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. \$10. pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

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. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MEDITATION FOR BEGINNERS (ZOOM) Learn to meditate from the comfort and security of your home. For beginners as well as those desiring to deepen an existing practice. Email info@theartofsilence.net for more info. Sundays, 6-7 p.m. Donation. 559-905-9274. theartofsilence.net. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT This event's goal is to provide a forum where community members can speak with local decision makers to help improve the Mental Health System here in SLO. Special guest panelist: Anne

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 16



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

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

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

Call to schedule your child's well exam today.



Pediatric Medical Group
OF SANTA MARIA, INC.



David Ikola, M.D.



Shane Rostermundt, D.O.



Joseph Nunez, M.D.



Dr. Michele Kielty, D.O.



Lynn Peltier, C.P.N.P.



Geronna Leonards, N.P.



Jessica Prather, C.N.P.

1430 E. Main St.
Santa Maria, CA

www.pmgsm.com
805-922-3548

Monday – Friday

Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.



Virtual Tours

WEDNESDAYS THRU JUNE
Point San Luis Lighthouse,
Avila Beach



In-Person Tours

SATURDAYS STARTING MAY 1
Point San Luis Lighthouse,
Avila Beach



**Fiesta at Fin's Drive-Thru
Fundraiser for 5CHC**
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Fin's Restaurant, Grover Beach



Dinner in the Gardens: Gourmet Burger Bar

FRIDAY, MAY 14
Hartley Farms, San Miguel



Movie in the Gardens at Hartley Farms

TUESDAY, MAY 25
Hartley Farms, San Miguel



Yoga at the Lighthouse

SATURDAY, MAY 29
Point San Luis Lighthouse,
Avila Beach

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix?

Contact us for a demo today! info@My805Tix.com



POWERED BY: *NewTimes* & **Sun**

Robin, Behavioral Health Director. **April 29**, 12:45-5 p.m. Free. 805-748-4145. camhpro.org/lead-summit/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

ONLINE FITNESS CLASSES THROUGH THE ADULT SCHOOL Lifelong fitness classes are offered online through the Adult School. Visit site for more information and to register. Mondays-Thursdays, through June 3 805-549-1222. slcsud.asapconnected.com. 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. slcsud.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.



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

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PRESQU'ILE WINERY: RESERVATIONS

ONLY Call or go online to make a reservation (reservations open to the public starting June 6). ongoing Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110, presquilewine.com.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 12:25 p.m. Arroyo Grande Farmers Market, Olohan Alley.

FIESTA AT FIN'S: DRIVE-THRU SEAFOOD

DINNER FOR 5CHC 100 percent of the price of your dinner is donated by Fin's to 5Cities Homeless Coalition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA R. FALK

LEARNING TO FLY

Glasshead Studio in Atascadero hosts its Stained Glass Suncatcher class on Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Early registration is recommended, as the workshop is limited to four participants who will learn how to cut glass to a pattern and create their own suncatchers. Admission is \$125 and masks are required during the class. Call (805) 464-2633 or visit glassheadstudio.com for more info. The studio is located at 8793 Plata Lane, suite H, Atascadero.

—C.W.



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. slcsud.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

SPRING PLANT SALE AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN Enjoy a wide selection of drought-tolerant and volunteer-grown California native and mediterranean climate plants. **April 30-May 2**, 10 a.m. \$3 parking. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

THE ACTIVATED EARTH SOIL REPAIR WORKSHOP Discover what is happening to our world's farmland and how it is the consequence of current farming practices. A Fundraiser for the Templeton Heritage Tree Foundation. **May 1**, 9 a.m. \$25-\$45. 805-235-0666. eventbrite.com. Black Diamond VermiCompost, 5325 Broken Spur Pl., Paso Robles.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

Fin's employees donate their time and their tips as well. **May 4**, 4-7 p.m. \$25. my805tix.com. Fin's Restaurant, 25 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach, 805-473-3467.

MUSIC

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

3 SONGWRITERS MEET FOR PASO SHOW Songwriters at Play host Steve Key is joined by jazz guitarist Josh Rosenblum, and folk-rock artist Paul Hayward. Playing guest sets in the middle of our show: April Rain and Charles Motley. **May 8**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND AT SCULPTERRA Steve Key is joined by Grover Anderson and Pi Jacobs. John Sandoval and Sarah Molly play guest sets in the middle of the show. **May 1**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS: VIRTUAL MUSIC SERIES Follow the venue's Facebook page for a virtual series of music, wine tasting, and education. Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m. Free. facebook.com/vinaroblesamphitheatre/. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles, 805-286-3680. ○

Give Her a MOTHER'S DAY She Will Remember

Sunday, May 9th

Experience fine dining with a "Million Dollar View." Overlooking the dramatic pacific coastline of the gateway to Big Sur.

Breakfast featuring Build Your Own Omelet, Eggs Benedict, French Toast & Pancakes
Brunch 8:00-3:00 and Dinner 5:00-9:00

Call for Reservations (805) 927-5708



www.raggedpoint.com • For Hotel Reservations Call (805) 927-4502



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

What's Your Take?

This week's online poll 4/29 - 5/6
How do you feel about some high school seniors in Santa Maria being back on campus?
○ Seniors deserve one last chance to walk their campuses before graduation.
○ It's important for the kids to have some normalcy, but hybrid models are stressful for teachers.
○ Why now? The school year is almost over.
○ As long as they're following Public Health Department guidelines, what's the harm?

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com



Arts Briefs

Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Dept. holds photography contest for 2022 calendar

The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is currently accepting entries in its 2022 Calendar Photo Contest. The deadline to submit is May 31, and the department will only accept photos that were taken at one of Santa Maria's 28 city parks or the city's regional park, Los Flores Ranch Park.

Contest participants are encouraged to take photos, whether on a cellphone or with professional camera equipment, that "depict a moment in time found in nature," according to press materials. A total of 13 submissions will be chosen by the department to be included in the 2022 calendar (12 for the different months and one for the cover). All of the contest's winners will receive a special gift pack and other prizes.

Visit cityofsantamaria.org/recreation for more info.

Construction continues on Allan Hancock College's Fine Arts Complex

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE



Allan Hancock College celebrated progress on the construction of the college's Fine Arts Complex during a beam signing ceremony on April 15 (pictured above). The final steel beam of the building's superstructure was signed by members of the college's fine arts department and board of trustees, as well as representatives from the project's contractor, AMG and Associates.

Once completed, the two-story, 88,000-square-foot facility will include a 400-seat venue for concerts, recitals, and other programming. Visit hancockcollege.edu for more details.

ZFolio Gallery and Art First Studio co-host new student showcase, Young at Heart, in Solvang

Young at Heart, an exhibition of artworks by 17 students of Art First Studio, debuted at ZFolio Gallery in Solvang on April 23 and is scheduled to remain on display through May 23.

The featured student artists in the exhibit range from ages 3 to 11 and include Malena Sanchez, Carly Mendizza, Luca Merz Bass, Kaylie Wright, Klaire Wright, Samuel Sanchez, Sloan Ellis, Audrey Elcon, Eva Zivic, Layla Olmedo, Isla Long, Zeaden Sherieff, Sophia Menelli, Shelly Brophy, Lochlan Whalen, Henry Garvey, and Patrick Garvey. The exhibit also includes pieces by Art First Studio instructor Halina Wyluda-Kazmierczak and local artist Christine DiPego.

"The motivation and purpose for each child's art differs from piece to piece," Wyluda-Kazmierczak said in a press release from First Art Studio. "Although they created their pieces working in a group, each piece freely expresses their unique talents."

An accomplished artist in her own right, Wyluda-Kazmierczak resides in the Santa Ynez Valley and her acrylic paintings have been collected in private and corporate collections in several countries, including the U.S., Canada, Germany, Australia, and Poland.

To find out more about Young at Heart, visit artfirststudio.com or zfolio.com. The gallery is located at 1685 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang. ○

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

COURTESY IMAGE BY NICO VANDENHEUVEL



MORNING MEDITATION: San Luis Obispo Museum of Art's current group show, Finding Spaces, "begins with work that focuses on more intimate spaces in our homes and comfort in the daily familiar rituals, such as the act of making coffee each morning," said guest curator Laura-Susan Thomas, alluding to artist Nico Vandenheuvel's *Java Time* (pictured).

Web sights

Laura-Susan Thomas, director of the Ann Foxworthy Gallery and guest curator at SLOMA, discusses two ongoing virtual exhibits

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

"I think having multiple tasks, at least for me, keeps me energized and fresh," said Laura-Susan Thomas, who recently curated not one but two local exhibitions.

As the director of the Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Thomas organized the venue's annual Fine Art Student Show, which premiered online this year at the end of March and will remain available through the end of May. She also curated Finding Spaces, a new group show at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA), which nearly shares the same runtime (April 2 through May 30).

"It's always exciting to work with a new space and new faces. I feel like every show I install, I always learn something new from the artists, the staff, even the process," Thomas said, commenting on her first outing as a guest curator at SLOMA. "Curating a group show especially, you get to work with artists who are working in so many different techniques."

For Finding Spaces, Thomas curated a collection of artworks created by members of The Painters Group, a collective of local artists sponsored by SLOMA. Participating artists were asked to submit their "personal interpretations of both the physical and introspective spaces that they seek to bring calm, to heal, to bring joy, or to help us move forward."

The resulting artworks range from realistic to abstract and tackle the exhibit's theme in a variety of ways, from capturing the simple pleasures of daily life to illustrating metaphorical representations.

"The exhibit begins with work that focuses on more intimate spaces in our homes and comfort in the daily familiar rituals, such as the act of making coffee each morning, to celebrating our connections to the outdoors, and to more abstract pieces that speak to our human connections," Thomas said.

While Finding Spaces solely includes

paintings, Allan Hancock College's Fine Art Student Show highlights several art forms, including photography, assemblage art, and altered books (in which artists repurpose old books into artworks by cutting into their pages, creating cubbies or drawers, customizing flaps and openings, etc.).

The exhibit is subtitled Making Marks in Creative Spaces and aims to showcase the ways in which Hancock students were able to continue studying and creating art while pivoting to online art studio instruction, Thomas explained.

"Our students have created some amazing work over the past year, carving out studio spaces in their homes, on kitchen tables, and alongside others working and Zooming around them," Thomas said.

Curating the Fine Art Student Show was Thomas's third time adapting an exhibit at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery into the virtual realm—following two solo shows, Marcos Dorado's *Immigrant Me* last fall and Michael F. Rohde's *Woven Narratives* earlier this spring—and she doesn't think it will be her last, even after in-person exhibits return to prominence.

"I think this format for the arts will probably become a fixture alongside, or in addition to, in-person art shows," Thomas said. "It provides such an outreach for the college and the community. We have visitors from all over the world that can access the art."

Still, the things Thomas misses about the

COURTESY PHOTO BY BRIDGET ADAMS



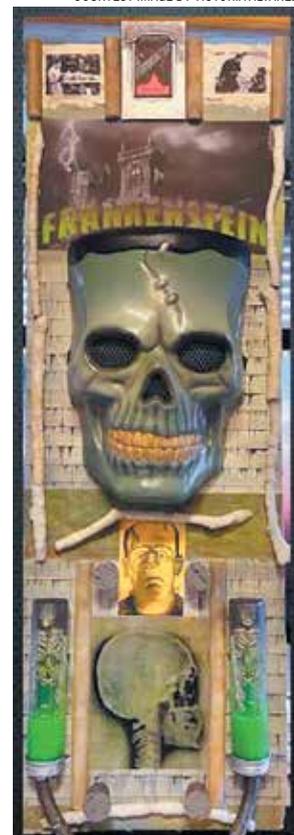
ALL THE SMALL THINGS: The photography portion of Allan Hancock College's Fine Art Student Show is described as a slice-of-life glimpse into "the small things that connect us through our student photographer's eyes," on the exhibit's website.

COURTESY IMAGE BY LOIS CHARLES



SHAPES OF WATER: Participating artists of SLOMA's Finding Spaces exhibit were asked to submit their personal interpretations of the spaces they seek for comfort.

COURTESY IMAGE BY VICTORIA ALVAREZ



IT'S ALIVE: Allan Hancock College's Fine Art Student Show highlights works of several art forms, including photography, multimedia art, and assemblage art. One of the exhibit's featured assemblage art pieces is *Homage* (pictured) by Victoria Alvarez.

On point and online

Visit sloma.org to view Finding Spaces, a collection of artworks created by members of The Painters Group at SLOMA. Allan Hancock College's Fine Art Student Show is available online at hancockcollege.edu/gallery. Both shows will remain available through the end of May.

in-person exhibition experience could easily "fill a page," she said.

"There are things that don't always translate as well on a phone or computer screen—the human component and connection," Thomas said. "I miss the dialogue and the conversation one has when you are in an art space with others."

"As we emerge from the pandemic and begin to reopen, the arts are such a vital part of our community," she added. "It has been a hard year for the arts and artists, but we are still here."

In setting out to virtually emulate the feeling of wandering freely through an actual gallery space, Thomas hopes the layout of both virtual exhibits will help visitors stay "excited and compelled to keep scrolling and looking to the next art piece." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood kept scrolling. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Slick and sleazy

This limited eight-part series is a co-production between BBC One and Netflix chronicling the crimes of real-life French serial killer Charles Sobhraj (Tahar Rahim), who murdered young tourists between 1975 and 2000. Sobhraj, a man of Vietnamese and Indian descent, drugged and robbed young travelers in Thailand and elsewhere, stealing victims' identities, passports, and traveler's checks, and used the money to buy stolen gems at a discount to sell at a profit in Europe. With the help of his Québécois girlfriend, Marie-Andrée Leclerc (Jenna Coleman), and Indian henchman Ajay Chowdhury (Amesh Edireweera), they seemed untouchable... until a relentless Dutch junior diplomat, Herman Knippenberg (Billy Howle), began investigating the disappearance of two Dutch tourists. (eight 58-min. episodes)

Glen: As a story, the life and crimes of Charles Sobhraj are pretty repetitive. He finds susceptible tourists, drugs them, takes them home under the guise of healing them, and keeps feeding them poison as he extracts whatever money he can from them. Then he disposes of them. Rinse and repeat. I have a feeling if this series was simply in chronological order, it would get a bit boring, but instead, this time-hopper moves back and forth, coming at his crimes from multiple points on the timeline. Along the way, in what the series admits is wholly manufactured dialogue, we learn about Sobhraj's upbringing, his feelings as an outsider growing up in France, and his developing hatred of the well-to-dos—hippy kids who can take a

year or two off of life with a pocket full of parent-funded traveler's checks to travel to exotic locales. The fractured chronology feels needlessly complicated at times, but that's probably better than feeling repetitive. I have to say, Rahim is terrific in the starring role. He's charismatic, dangerous, and appropriately reptilian. I wanted to strangle him the whole time. What kind of monster can poison someone, watch them suffer, and feel nothing? He was a real fiend.

Anna: How Sobhraj's murderous story has been unknown to my true-crime-obsessed self, I'm not sure, but boy oh boy, this guy is an absolute nightmare. He's got the ability to charm and the means to offer his victims an easy place to stay that seems on the surface like a hippie Shangri-La. He managed to keep one step ahead of authorities for a really long time—his crime spree lasted 13 years, and he took the lives of a dozen people, at minimum, in at least nine different countries. He holds a spell over those closest to him—both Leclerc and Chowdhury are evil in their own right, but would they have turned that dark without Sobhraj? We'll never know, but it's certainly clear who the puppet master is here. I agree this really couldn't have been done chronologically—sometimes the time hops get needlessly complicated, but overall it keeps the pace of the miniseries rolling, especially in the last few episodes when the heat is on and the clock really

THE SERPENT

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **Netflix**
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**

starts ticking for Sobhraj and his cohorts. Once I settled into this series somewhere in the middle of the second episode, I was hooked.

Glen: This is also Knippenberg's story, and Howle plays him like a man obsessed. His boss, Ambassador van Dongen (William Brand) orders Knippenberg to leave the case of the missing Dutch tourists to the local Thai authorities, but the case is clearly not a priority for the overworked and corrupt Thai police. Unable to let it go, Knippenberg soldiers on, slowly digging up clues and becoming increasingly distraught that no one is doing anything to stop the killings and disappearances he's now linking together. All of this strains his relationship with his otherwise supportive wife, Angela (Ellie Bamber), who sees her husband imperiling his diplomatic career with something that's really not his responsibility. In fact, he's been told to drop it by the ambassador multiple times. Without Knippenberg's relentlessness, Sobhraj might still be out there. The series becomes taut when it's clear Knippenberg has zeroed in on the right culprit, and with the help of Sobhraj's once unsuspecting neighbors, Nadine (Mathilde Warnier) and Remi Gires (Grégoire Isvarine), a game of cat-and-mouse ensues. I'll hand it to Sobhraj—he's slippery and clever and always finds a way to escape. As a limited series, it's pretty engrossing, despite its flaws.

Anna: Knippenberg can't let this go—and thank goodness he didn't—but it definitely took him to a breaking point. Howle does a great job in the role. The last couple of episodes are especially tense as Sobhraj suspects that Nadine and Remi helped a friend named Dominique (Fabien Frankel) escape Thailand while Sobhraj, Leclerc, and Chowdhury



CHARMERS: In this fictionalized retelling, French serial killer Charles Sobhraj (Tahar Rahim) and his Québécois girlfriend, Marie-Andrée Leclerc (Jenna Coleman), drug and rob young travelers, stealing passports and changing identities, in the limited eight-part series, *The Serpent*, screening on Netflix.

were out of the country. He's a frightening guy. Rahim does an amazing job at capturing a seething, serpent-like quality. The plan to raid their compound becomes complicated and on the razor's edge of failure with Nadine held captive by Sobhraj. It's tense, and I was definitely yelling at the TV screen during a lot of that last episode. What ends up happening to Sobhraj further proves that his calculated and horrible moves have nothing to do with helping those he claims to care for—instead he's just a monster out to save his own skin. I'm definitely looking more into this story after watching *The Serpent*, and I'm so glad this killer is still sitting in prison at the age of 77. ○

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

Film Reviews

MORTAL COMBAT

What's it rated? **R**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **HBO Max, Hi-Way Drive-In**
Directed by Simon McQuoid, this most recent installment in the *Mortal Combat* franchise follows MMA fighter Cole Young (Lewis Tan), whose career seems to be fading fast. It's all but over... except just maybe he's the only offspring of 117th century ninja clan leader Hanzo Hasashi (Hiroyuki Sanada), who was defeated by evil Bi-Han/Sub-Zero (Joe Taslim), who slew the whole Hasashi bloodline except for a hidden infant daughter found by Lord Raiden (Tadanobu Asano)—lowercase god of thunder—who saves the girl so she could continue the Hasashi bloodline and its prophesy that the blood of Hanzo Hasashi will unite a new generation of Earthrealm champions to defeat Outworld before Outworld wins a 10th *Mortal Combat* tournament and takes over Earth.
Got all that? Doesn't matter. You're here for the fighting, and there's a lot of it. Unlike previous live-action installments, this one's rated R, so there's a lot of blood and gore too. Is it any good? That depends. Do you want to see a bunch of fighting

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA



FIGHT NIGHT: Goro (voiced by Angus Sampson, left) squares off against Cole Young (Lewis Tan), in the newest installment of the *Mortal Combat* franchise, screening on HBO Max and in local theaters.

and listen to some marginally funny banter between Earthrealm fighters? If so, you'll love it.

Otherwise, it's dumb as a bag of hair and silly to boot. Of course, I didn't play the video game and only watched the first 1995 film, so what do I know? Proceed with caution. (110 min.) —Glen

BECOMING RUBY AND PEDAL THROUGH

What's it rated? **Not rated**
When? **Saturday, May 1 (doors at 7 p.m.; films at 8:15 p.m.)**
Where's it showing? **Central Coast Brewing in SLO and slomotion.com**

SLO Motion Film, Bike SLO County, R.A.C.E. Matters SLO, and Central Coast Brewing (1422 Monterey St., SLO) are teaming up to bring you two short films focusing on inclusion in the outdoor and cycling industry. There's a virtual screening and a limited in-person screening available, with ticket info on slomotion.com. Well-known professional mountain biker Brooklyn Bell, a subject in both short films, will join the conversation during the event.

In *Becoming Ruby* (19 min.), Brooklyn Bell, who's Black, talks about growing up in mostly white Bellingham, Washington, where she searches for community among mountain biking and skiing people. Bell, also an artist, creates a hand-drawn comic character named Ruby J, through which she imagines a hero she can emulate—a strong, unapologetically Black woman. It turns out the hero was her all along.

Pedal Through (14 min.) features director Analise Cleopatra, a Black woman who had never camped or ridden a bike off-road, when she decides to join a week-long mountain biking adventure with an all-Black female cohort—fellow newcomer

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISA GEISER



INNER STRENGTH: Director Analise Cleopatra (center), decides to leave her comfort zone for her first camping and mountain biking trip with friend DeJ'uae Toliver (left) and professional mountain biker Brooklyn Bell (right), in *Pedal Through*, one of two short films screening May 1 online and in person at Central Coast Brewing in SLO.

to the sport DeJ'uae Toliver and professional mountain biker Brooklyn Bell. Out into the wilds of Oregon, they share their feelings and discover the healing power of nature and camaraderie as they challenge themselves. ○

—Glen



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






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

1301 W. Grand Ave., Grover Beach • 805.474.1000 • www.letswingit.com

the **HITCHHIKING POST**
IN CASMALIA

Your Hosts: the Ostini Family

World's Best Barbecue

Steaks • Seafood • Ribs

- 68 -
Amazing Years

A CENTRAL COAST TRADITION SINCE 1952

Reservations (805) 937 6151
always recommended



Let me take you down

Kathy McPike, owner of the Berry Stop in Santa Maria, reflects on a rewarding career in fresh produce

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

“It just kind of became mine,” Kathy McPike said, recalling how she came to own the Berry Stop back in 2013. The site was originally home to a Darenberries stand, which McPike worked at for about seven years before its vacancy allowed her to open a stand of her own.

“I was the manager/a little more than a manager, let’s just say,” McPike said, explaining how the experience helped prepare her for the Berry Stop days ahead.

“I was opening and closing, and running the staff,” she listed. “I’ve been blessed with staff. Every year I’ve just had wonderful people working with me.”

As passionate as McPike is about fresh, locally grown strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries, she’s equally fond of people in general. Looking back at her seasoned history running the Berry Stop, it’s the memories of specific people she’s encountered that light her eyes up the most.

“The majority of the people that come are awesome,” McPike said, referring to locals and freeway travelers alike, as the Berry Stop is easily visible from the 101. “We get a lot of regulars and you get to know them, and sometimes they become our friends.”

There’s one particular customer who’s been on McPike’s mind since about 2018, the year she stopped coming by for strawberries. She first visited the stand around 2014.

“Her name is Dolly—an elderly gal, she had long white hair, and she lived down south but had a boat in Morro Bay. So every week, she would come by and get berries to take to Morro Bay and get on her boat for the weekend,” said McPike, who wishes she knew Dolly’s last name.

McPike called Dolly one of her fondest acquaintances at the Berry Stop and said she was in the middle of writing a book when she last saw her.

Berry and bright

For more info, follow the Berry Stop on Facebook or Instagram, @theberrystop. The stand is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is located at Stowell Road and Highway 101, Santa Maria.



MCPIKE’S TURNPIKE: Kathy McPike (pictured) has owned the Berry Stop in Santa Maria since 2013. Easily visible from the 101 freeway, the site was originally home to a Darenberries stand, which McPike worked at as manager for about seven years before its vacancy allowed her to open a stand of her own.



TAKE YOUR PICK: While the Berry Stop is probably best known for its strawberries, offered by the basket (\$4), three-basket pack (\$8), half flat (\$14), and full flat (\$22), the stand also usually offers fresh blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries (depending on the day and availability).

“She said I was in one of the chapters, because she loved our relationship,” McPike said. “But after that, I never saw her again. She was an older lady, she might have passed.”

But if Dolly happens to be reading this, McPike said she would love to hear from her.

Like so many of her customers who discovered the Berry Stop while cruising up or down Highway 101, McPike herself is not native to the Central Coast.

“I’m actually a transplant. But I’ve been here for about 32 years,” said McPike, who’s originally from the Bay Area, but was living in Watsonville right before her move to Santa Maria in 1989.

In all the years since then, none have taken McPike by surprise as much as 2020 did, she explained. Like nearly every business owner

last March, McPike was worried. But the pandemic’s effect on sales at the Berry Stop wasn’t as harsh as she initially feared.

“At first I thought, ‘We’re just going to die, people aren’t going to want to come out.’ But actually, we did OK,” McPike said. “We stayed afloat.”

“I didn’t have to get any of the PPP money because I felt other people needed it more, other businesses,” she added.

McPike also explained that a major benefit of running the Berry Stop, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, is that it’s open on a seasonal basis, rather than year-round.

“This season we opened on Feb. 12, and we’ll probably run it through August, maybe the first week of September,” McPike said. “Business slows down when the pit fruits come in—the apricots, the peaches, the



FRUIT BY THE FOOT: One of the biggest perks for owner Kathy McPike when it comes to the Berry Stop’s location is simply that the fruit she sells is picked just a few feet away from the stand itself. The scenic view doesn’t hurt either, she said.



NOTHING TO GET HUNG ABOUT: “I can’t explain the feeling. I just want to say ‘happy.’ It’s a happy place, it’s *my* happy place,” owner Kathy McPike (pictured) said, describing the feeling of coming to work each morning.

plums. When they start hitting the markets, people are kind of over strawberries for a while.”

But one of the biggest perks for McPike when it comes to the Berry Stop’s location is simply that the fruit she sells is picked just a few feet away from the stand itself. The scenic view doesn’t hurt either, she said.

“I can’t explain the feeling. I just want to say ‘happy.’ It’s a happy place, it’s *my* happy place,” McPike said, describing the feeling of coming to work each morning. “It’s calming to me, it really is.”

“There are very few days that get me flustered,” she added. “And it does happen, when you get some people that don’t understand ‘please don’t touch the strawberries,’ and they want to rifle through them and fondle them.”

This was a problem before the pandemic, McPike said, leading her to enact an

informal “you touch it, you buy it” policy.

While the Berry Stop is probably best known for its strawberries, offered by the basket (\$4), three-basket pack (\$8), half flat (\$14), and full flat (\$22), the stand also usually offers fresh blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries (depending on the day and availability).

When asked whether she ever gets burned out on strawberries, especially being surrounded by them all day, McPike said she avoids that with a good dose of moderation.

“I don’t get sick of them, but I don’t eat a lot of them,” she said. “Just one, two, or three to put in my yogurt each morning.”

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood could use some shortcake right about now. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

CLASSIES

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

Get your classified ad—for Free!

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

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

Real Estate

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

FOR RENT



OCEANO

2143 Warner #4

2 bedroom 1.5 bath

\$1550 Rent

\$1550 Deposit

NO PETS

Available NOW

GUADALUPE

388 Campodónico #C

2 bedroom 1 bath

\$1600 Rent

\$1600 Deposit

**PLEASE DO NOT
DISTURB TENANTS!**

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

ROOM & ROOMATES

ORCUTT - Unfurnished Room, Near Clark & Bradley. Includes Kitchen, Laundry, Wifi, DIRECTV and DVR. VAC Preferred. \$550/mo + 1st & last. **805-264-7969**

WANTED TO BUY

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

Marketplace

Home & Garden

santamariasun.com

HAULING & CLEAN-UP

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

**HAVE AN
UPCOMING
EVENT?**

**ADVERTISE
YOUR
EVENT
FREE**

BE A PART OF OUR CALENDAR/ EVENT LISTINGS

- Go to SANTAMARIASUN.COM
- Click on **SUBMIT AN EVENT**
- Enter your event's info!

Upload a photo for a chance to be featured as a Hot Date

Sun

Questions? calendar@santamariasun.com

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

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



SERVING ...

ARROYO GRANDE

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

LOMPOC

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

SANTA MARIA

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

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

Call us today for a free consultation!

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
plusmanagement.net**

CA Broker # 00347608

PLUS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

an investment in your future

Powerful • Intellectual • Effective

**WHY
USA** WE HEAR YOU AMERICA!

PREFERRED PROPERTIES

NEW LISTING



502 Crescent, Santa Maria

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

COMING SOON



300 Monarch, Santa Maria

Gorgeous townhome with Master suite on main level. This 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom features beautiful wood-style floor throughout, living room with vaulted ceiling and cozy fireplace, and a stunning kitchen. This kitchen is a chef's dream with granite-style counter tops, stainless steel appliances including a premium LG 5-burner gas range, tile floor, and opens to a separate dining room. Two bedrooms upstairs have vaulted ceilings and one has an inviting balcony accessed through a sliding glass door. This townhome also has an attached 2-Car Garage, sliding glass door to access your private courtyard. Association Pool and Spa is also a great benefit to this complex. **\$350,000 (M0350)**



874 Comanche, Santa Maria

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

(805) 922-0660 BRE #01275631

5400 Telephone Road, Santa Maria

www.WhyUSAProperties.net

FLEXIBLE LOANS

TO MEET YOUR UNIQUE NEEDS



HOMEBRIDGE OFFERS home financing options that may help you buy or refinance through flexible programs that allow for all of your financial needs.

- **CONVENTIONAL FINANCING** requires only 3% down payment on primary residences.*
- **FHA LOANS** require a minimum down payment of 3.5%
- **VA LOANS** for military are available with no minimum down payment.** Can buy with no cash down!

Let our experienced team walk you through the process from application to closing, making your home buying journey a pleasant one!

CALL US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE OR ANY OF OUR HOME FINANCING SOLUTIONS!

YOUR LOCAL MORTGAGE LENDERS



MARTHA A. MORALES

Mortgage Loan Originator | Branch Manager
NMLS #260435
Hablo Español | P: (805) 478-5353
Martha.Morales1@homebridge.com
www.homebridge.com/MarthaMorales



VERNA NICOLL

Mortgage Loan Originator
NMLS #456761
P: (805) 478-7906
verna.nicoll@homebridge.com
www.homebridge.com/VernaNicoll



JENNIFER CRUZ

Mortgage Loan Originator
NMLS #1613455
P: (805) 680-1352
jennifer.cruz@homebridge.com
www.homebridge.com/JenniferCruz



THE SANTA MARIA BRANCH

2125 S Broadway, Suite 101A • Santa Maria, CA 93454 • 805-900-0568

*Additional restrictions may apply. **Veterans with full eligibility can finance 100% of the purchase price of a 1-unit primary home for loan amounts between \$144,001 to \$2,000,000. Minimum FICO score requirements and other requirements may apply.
*Following submission of your loan application, please note that the remainder of the loan process, including processing, documentation and closing, will all be conducted in English. We encourage the use of a translator you've provided to assist you.



Homebridge Financial Services, Inc.; Corporate NMLS ID #6521 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org); 194 Wood Avenue South, 9th Floor, Iselin, NJ 08830; (866) 933-6342. Licensed by the Dept. of Business Oversight under the CA Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Branch Address: 2125 S. Broadway, Suite 101A, Santa Maria, CA 93454; Branch NMLS# 1563650. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend. Loans are currently being closed and committed at the expressed rates, however these rates may change or may not be available at the time of your interest rate lock-in, commitment or closing. All loans must satisfy company underwriting guidelines. Interest rates and Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) are: based on recent market rates, for informational purposes only, subject to change without notice and may be subject to pricing add-ons related to property type, loan amount, loan-to-value ratio, credit score and other factors. Terms and conditions apply. Additional loan programs may be available. This is not an offer to enter into a rate lock agreement under MN law, or any other applicable law. Call for details. 12/2019 (0120-4873) LR 2020-66

JOBS WANTED

Reyes Gardening is looking for more work
23 years experience. Ask for Julio. 805-930-5851

New Times Route Driver Needed

Great pay for just a few
hours one day a week!

We're currently looking
to fill our Morro Bay/
Cambria route

Valid driver's license,
insurance, and large
vehicle necessary.

For more information or to
apply, please contact our
Distribution Manager
Jim Parsons at
(805) 878-8126, or email
jparsons@newtimeslo.com

1010 Marsh Street, SLO
NewTimesSLO.com

READY TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WORLD?

Connect with a Recruiter
to Learn More



PEACECORPS.GOV/WORK

ADVERTISE HERE
805-347-1968

Marketplace

Autos Boats

santamariasun.com



VEHICLES WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS
Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not
- 24 Hour Response - Maximum
Tax Donation - Help Find Miss-
ing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453.
(CalSCAN)

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

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

**CASH
on the SPOT**

WE BUY:

- ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS
- CLASSIC CARS
- RVs, TRUCKS, SUVs

We Come To You
(702) 210-7725

Marketplace

For Sale

santamariasun.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE

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

Marketplace

Business Services

santamariasun.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES

ARE YOU BEHIND \$10K OR
MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop
wage & bank levies, liens & au-
dits, unfiled tax returns, payroll
issues, & resolve tax debt FAST.
Call 1-855-970-2032 (CalSCAN)

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

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

Struggling With Your Private
Student Loan Payment? New
relief programs can reduce your
payments. Learn your options.
Good credit not necessary.
Call the Helpline 866-305-5862
(Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Eastern) (Cal-
SCAN)

HOME SERVICES

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

PEST CONTROL

MAAPS PEST CONTROL
Alternative Termite Eradication!
Office: (805)-563-7580 or Cell: (805)-294-0815
U.S. Borax

RETIRED COUPLE

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

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

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

CA Department of Real Estate, DRE #01041073

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

Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

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

INVENTORS - FREE INFORMATION
PACKAGE. Have your product
idea developed affordably by the
Research & Development pros
and presented to manufactur-
ers. Call 1-844-752-8272 for a
Free Idea Starter Guide. Submit
your idea for a free consultation.
(Cal-SCAN)

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

Portable Oxygen Concentrator
May Be Covered by Medicare!
Reclaim independence and mobi-
lity with the compact design and
long-lasting battery of Inogen One.
Free information kit! Call 844-327-
2824. (Cal-SCAN)

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

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

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

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

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

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE

PHOTO AD



FREE
CLASSIFIEDS
FOR
PRIVATE
PARTIES

**YOUR
#1 LOCAL
PRINT
SOURCE
FOR NEW
& USED
CARS
FROM
SANTA
BARBARA
TO PASO
ROBLES**

The ONLY auto classified
magazine on the Central
Coast with 8,500 copies
distributed and 3x
readership value!

Contact us to book
your ad today

805-543-9050
PHOTOADSLO.COM



LIC.# C10-0000301



HERBARIUM

PROUDLY GROWN & HANDCRAFTED IN SANTA BARBARA

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

HERBARIUM™

DOG WALKER JOINT

\$4.50

OUT THE DOOR

HERBARIUM™

10 DOG WALKERS

\$40

OUT THE DOOR

HERBARIUM™

20 DOG WALKERS

\$70

OUT THE DOOR

FLOWER

1/8TH

\$20

OUT THE DOOR

FLOWER

OZ

\$120

OUT THE DOOR

15% OFF

VETERANS,
SENIORS &
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

HERBARIUM

FIRST TIME PATIENTS

20% OFF

PACIENTES POR PRIMERA VEZ RECIBEN

20% OFF

HERBARIUM

FREE GIFT WITH EVERY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE BEFORE TAXES

UN REGALO GRATIS CON CADA COMPRA DE \$50 O MÁS ANTES DE IMPUESTOS

REMEMBER TO BRING THIS PAGE INTO THE STORE

921 W LAUREL AVE • LOMPOC, CA 93436

NOW OPEN • 8AM - 10PM • EVERYDAY • TEL: 805.741.7596

CELEBRATE SAFELY!

SPEED TO ELEVATE!
5/5/2021 Cinco De Mota!
DEALS all day + CRAVE Doughnuts!

30% OFF all FLOWER!
Happy **CINCO DE MAYO**

ELEVATE
118 S. HSt. LOMPOC

NATURAL HEALING CENTER

NOW OPEN IN MORRO BAY!

Morro Bay's only locally owned dispensary!

— 495 Morro Bay Blvd. —

NHCDISPENSARIES.COM

C10-0000388-LIC

Have the Sun delivered to your door!

Save yourself the trouble!

\$20/month
\$117/six months
\$208/year

Contact Patricia at (805) 546-8208 or phorton@newtimeslo.com to sign up today

www.santamariasun.com

ADVERTISE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

Sun 805-347-1968

classifieds@SantaMariaSun.com

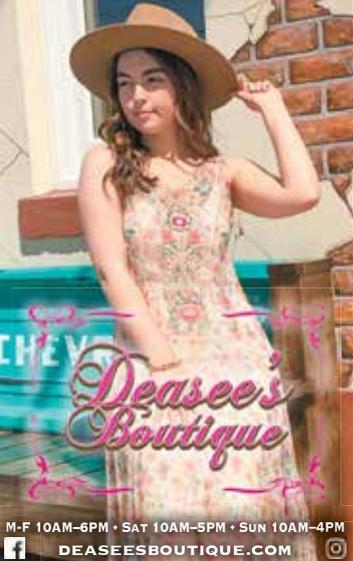
We are open!
*just bring your masks
 and social distancing*

**Still offering
 free local delivery and
 curbside pick-up too**
call or e-mail for details

*stay safe
 everyone!*



GAVIN'S BOOKS
 230 E Betteravia Rd ste K 805.922.4282
 gavinsbooks.com info@gavinsbooks.com



Deasee's Boutique

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

M-F 10AM-6PM • SAT 10AM-5PM • SUN 10AM-4PM
 DEASEESBOUTIQUE.COM

LOWEST PRICED PROPANE IN LOMPOC!
PROPANE

Always Cheaper Than Exchange!

Also Offering
 • Storage Units
 • Truck & Trailer Rentals
 • Hitches & Accessories
 • Boxes & Packing Supplies

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



uhaul.com

(805) 733-3375 150 Vulcan Dr, Lompoc

LUNCH SPECIALS

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

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

WEDNESDAY
 Asada Burrito \$5.99 + tax

THURSDAY
 Chicken Flautas \$6.49 + tax

FRIDAY
 Asada Quesdilla Combo \$6.49 + tax

SATURDAY
 Torta Asada \$5.99 + tax

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

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

IN OLD TOWN ORCUTT



**CARE HOMES FOR SENIORS
 WITH MEMORY LOSS**

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

SAKE

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

SUSHI 805
 ALL YOU CAN EAT
 SUSHI & BBQ
 460 W. Grand Ave.
 Grover Beach
 (805)489-3839

Sake Sushi #2
 KOREAN BBQ
 & SUSHI
 1325 N. "H" St. #C,
 Lompoc
 (805)736-8899

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

NOW Accepting New patients



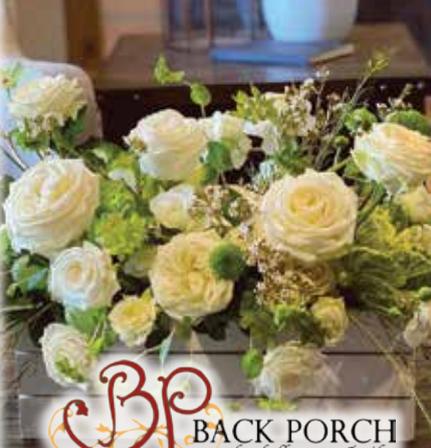
**Country Oaks
 CARE CENTER**

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

**830 East Chapel Street
 Santa Maria
 805-922-6657**

BEST NSDC READERS POLL
 Voted Best Senior Living Community

**Award-Winning Care
 with Award-Winning
 Commitment**



BACK PORCH
 fresh flowers & gifts

4850 S Bradley Rd. #D1 | Orcutt, CA
 805.938.1965 | backporchflowers.net

STRAIGHTEN YOUR SMILE



**CENTRAL COAST
 Orthodontics**
 Creating Exceptional Smiles!

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

*Diamond Plus Provider

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

UNITED PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
 Central Coast

SERVICES:

- Junk removal
- Clean ups
- Hauling
- Landscaping
- Dump runs
- Sealcoating
- Pressure washing
- Demo & more

doctorcleanups.com
805-878-1018

805-925-8711 • 734-4355
 www.oconnorcentralcoast.com

Got Gophers? Call Us



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

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

**Look for the ANT on the Door
 Free Gopher & Rodent Estimates**
 Same Day Service M-F
 www.oconnorcentralcoast.com
 805-925-8711 • 734-4355
 www.oconnorcentralcoast.com



MELBY'S JEWELERS
 Sun's Best of Winner,
 13 years!

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

OUR STORE HOURS
 Tues - Fri: 9:30-5:30
 Saturday: 10-3
 www.melbys.com

Mention this ad for a Military discount

FREE DRINK with Service



CESAER'S BARBER SHOP

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

Shop Local RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

805.347.1968 WWW.SANTAMARIASUN.COM