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Sun

AT THE MOVIES



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BY MALEA MARTIN



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Allan Hancock Joint Community College District

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A vacancy was created on the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District Board of Trustees, Area 3, by the April 23 resignation of Trustee President Larry Lahr following the announcement that he was moving out of his district.

The district is soliciting applications to serve as an appointed member of the Board of Trustees for the district's Area 3 until the next regularly scheduled election for governing board members, which is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

The Board is responsible for the performance of the Allan Hancock College, which provides vital educational services to the communities in the region. The board is seeking candidates who have the ability and time to fulfill the responsibilities of being a member of the board, which include:

- Participate fully in the work of the board, which includes attending all board meetings and key college events, studying and discussing policy issues, and participating in trustee education programs.
- Be knowledgeable about the communities served by the college and be willing to act on behalf and for the benefit of those communities.
- Be committed to community colleges and their missions; understand educational, social, and economic policy issues.
- Engage in balancing the needs of many diverse groups; be able to contribute to and build consensus.
- Contribute to effective board functioning and support the authority of the board as a whole.

The district's Area 3 encompasses Southwestern Santa Maria and Guadalupe. For a detailed map of Area 3, visit <https://www.hancockcollege.edu/board/boundary-map.php> or on the board of trustees' webpage on the college's website.

The board of trustees meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact the executive assistant to the superintendent/president and the board of trustees at ccamacho@hancockcollege.edu or **1-805-346-1001** for more information.

Additional information and application materials will be available after the board of trustees meet on May 11, 2020.



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The city of Santa Maria held a couple of workshops on the recently passed mobile car washing ordinance to educate business owners about new rules. Owners seemed concerned about a water capture rule that states car washers must capture 95 percent of the water they use. Several asked about evaporation and disposal options, which the city was unsure about. This week, Staff Writer Malea Martin writes about the conversation [7].

You can also read about Santa Maria-Bonita School District's impasse with its teachers union [4]; meditating on what's around you at the Wildling Museum [17]; and learn how to make monkey bread and support foster care services [19].

Camillia Lanham
editor



WATER CAPTURE: New Santa Maria regulations require mobile car washes to capture 95 percent of the water they use and properly dispose of it.

Cover file image from Deposit Photos > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• Ahead of **President Joe Biden's** Joint Address to Congress on April 28, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) named **San Luis Obispo County Public Health Director Dr. Penny Borenstein** and **Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso** as his virtual guests to the event. Biden's speech marked 100 days into his first term as president, according to Carbajal's office. "Throughout this pandemic, we have turned to our local public health departments to disseminate accurate information and guide our COVID-19 response," Carbajal said in a statement. "I'm honored to have two heroes of the pandemic who played a key role leading our COVID-19 response join me as guests for President Biden's address to Congress." After Biden's speech, Carbajal held a virtual press conference with Borenstein and Do-Reynoso to further honor their work in guiding the community through the pandemic. "County public health departments have played a key role in overseeing vaccine distribution and disseminating accurate information to ensure public confidence in the vaccine," according to Carbajal's office. "Forty-five percent of Californians have received at least one dose, including 45 percent of San Luis Obispo residents and 47.6 percent of Santa Barbara residents." Following Biden's address, Carbajal released another statement commending the president's COVID-19 response. "Under President Biden's leadership, we have made immense progress in tackling the COVID-19 crisis," Carbajal said in the statement. "I remain committed to working with all of my colleagues, regardless of party, to ensure the next 100 days are as historic as the first."

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** signed a bill on April 29 that will give small businesses a \$6.2 billion tax cut over the next six years. "California's small businesses have been hampered and hammered by this pandemic, and we are using every tool at our disposal to help them stay afloat," Newsom said in a statement. "Help is on the way in the form of a \$6.2 billion tax cut, which will provide support, not to large publicly traded companies, but to the mom-and-pop businesses—the beauty salons, restaurants and dental offices—which have been resilient during this difficult time." The legislation allows businesses to exclude forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from their taxable income. "These businesses can also deduct the costs of expenses that those loans paid for," according to Newsom's office. "This is additional state tax relief for the small businesses that have been struggling most, and may very well make a difference in their choosing to reopen, stay open, or shut down as they look to the future."

• On April 26, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) along with his colleagues **U.S. Reps. Norma J. Torres** (D-Chino) and **Grace Napolitano** (D-Los Angeles) announced that \$10 million from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 will go to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona to fund an Education Partnership Agreement between the two schools and the Air Force Research Laboratory, according to Carbajal's office. "Military-educational partnerships like the one between the Air Force and Cal Poly enhance our national security capabilities and provide Cal Poly students with hands-on learning opportunities that set them up for successful STEM careers when they graduate," Carbajal said in the statement. "The Air Force is looking to develop cutting-edge technology, and I have no doubt that Cal Poly's students and professors can deliver." The funds will go toward the development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), and Cal Poly SLO will receive half of the \$10 million for engineering students to conduct research on the technology. "As a result of this support, our students will have a unique opportunity to work with the latest UAV technologies," Cal Poly SLO President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said in the statement. "This will enhance Cal Poly's reputation for innovation while also providing students opportunities to perform relevant, real-world research with industry." ○

Teachers union, district at an impasse in contract negotiations

After a year and a half of contract negotiations between the Santa Maria-Bonita School District and the teachers union, there were some areas where the two parties could not reach an agreement, leading the union to declare a unilateral impasse.

The last collective bargaining contract reached by the district and the union was valid from 2017 to 2020, so a new agreement needed to be negotiated. The two parties engaged in more than 35 negotiation sessions and reached tentative agreements for a dozen of the articles, including leaves, transfers, retirement, and discipline procedures.

The Santa Maria Elementary Education Association (SMEEA) put in final offers for five of the articles up for negotiation, which the district didn't accept, leading the union to declare an impasse. When two parties jointly declare an impasse, it means they agree that no further progress is possible without mediation. But in this case, the district did not support the union's declaration.

"It's a unilateral impasse," SMEEA President José Segura said. "The district didn't agree that we were at an impasse, even though they're no longer making any efforts to really address the concerns that we have for some of these articles."

The district sees things differently: Superintendent Luke Ontiveros said the union didn't cooperate with some of the district's attempts at negotiation.

"Between last May of 2020 and December of 2020, the leadership of the teachers association did not respond to any of the proposals that the district provided on any of those issues," Ontiveros said. "We've got to get out of this cycle of waiting and waiting, and then throwing our hands up and saying, 'We're at impasse.'"

Segura feels progress was still being made during that time.

"We may have put some articles aside because we didn't really see a clear path towards a next proposal that didn't result in us just bargaining against ourselves, and so we focused on other articles where we felt like we could make some progress with the district, which is what we did," he said.

One of the articles in contention is association rights. The union wants 100 percent release time for its president, which would allow them to work on union duties full time. Right now, Segura is required to also teach part time.

"It's super difficult to run a union with over 900 members scattered across 21, 22 working sites, to have somebody who's just part time, and in the classroom part time," Segura said. "For me personally, it meant me sacrificing my work-life balance in order to meet the needs of my members."

The district believes that 50 percent release time, which would have the union president in the classroom half the time, is sufficient to perform union duties. Ontiveros compared SMEEA to the Classified School Employee Association (CSEA), another union that represents other school employees in non-teaching positions.

"The president of CSEA, through an agreement in the contract, has 10 hours of release time for association business, and with more members is able to get that job done and their day job," Ontiveros said. "So a half-time release for the president of the teachers association, in my estimation, is adequate release."

Segura said he's not just concerned with how much he's working as both a union president and a teacher, but also what is expected of teachers in



NO AGREEMENT: The teachers' union representing educators at the Santa Maria-Bonita School District recently declared unilateral impasse in contract negotiations with the district. Some of the disagreed upon articles include association rights and salaries.

and beyond the classroom.

"When we're talking about class size ... that's work-life balance," Segura said. "When we're talking about forcing teachers to provide additional hours outside of the work day, that's work-life balance. Reducing the number of days we have to conference with parents, that's about a work-life balance. ... I think that's probably more important now than it has been in a long time because of what folks have done through during this whole COVID time."

SMEEA filed its declaration of impasse with the Public Employment Relations Board in late April, and while the district did not agree with the union's declaration, Ontiveros said the board determined on April 27 that the parties are indeed at an impasse. The parties will be assigned a mediator within five days, Ontiveros said, to help them attempt to reach a settlement.

Though currently at a standstill, both sides are hopeful that they will eventually settle on a new contract.

"We want to get to a settlement," Ontiveros said. "Our employees are always incredibly responsive, and especially over this last year and a half with this COVID situation. The issue is really that the leadership see things differently."

Segura is "still very optimistic that we're going to settle with the district, and hopefully soon," he said.

"I'm always optimistic about these things, and I always go into them with the intent of finding common ground so that we can move forward—without, in this particular cycle, sacrificing more of my members' work-life balance," he said.

—Malea Martin

Solvang opposes potential micro-kitchen operations

The Solvang Chamber of Commerce urged the Solvang City Council to send a letter to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors disapproving of the county's proposed ordinance that would legalize micro-kitchen operations.

During the April 26 council meeting, Chamber Executive Director Tracy Beard said the Chamber is adamantly against micro-kitchens, citing the health and safety of the Solvang community.

The Chamber provided the council with a report on the impacts of micro-kitchens on neighborhoods, infrastructure concerns, regulatory concerns, and health and safety code concerns.

The county's ordinance would permit kitchen chefs to "store, handle, and prepare a limited number of meals (no more than 30 individual meals per day) for direct sale to consumers."

Beard told the council that micro-kitchens would impact gated communities. She said if a resident in Skytt Mesa, for example, were to operate a kitchen in their backyard that generates \$50,000 in sales, there would be about 30 to 60 cars coming in to buy food such as fried chicken, ribs, burgers, or gourmet steak dinners.

"We need to stop the nonsense right now within this. We have better ways of helping entrepreneurs in restaurants working with WEV, Women's Economic Ventures, our local colleges Santa Barbara City College and Allan Hancock. We have commercial kitchens all over Santa Barbara County right now that are unused," Beard said.

Beard said several times that the Chamber's opposition had nothing to do with concerns over competition between local restaurants and the micro-kitchens. Councilmember Robert Clarke said even though the Chamber didn't want to mention the competition, he would.

"Somebody puts their life, their heart, and soul into their family business and running a restaurant or something like that. They do everything by the book and then somebody can sell food out of their house. I just don't think it's fair to people that have existing businesses here in Solvang now, especially in COVID when we're all trying to support every different restaurant every week," Clarke said. "I just don't think this is appropriate for a small town like Solvang."

The entire council agreed. However, Councilmember Claudia Orona wondered whether the council could establish a local ordinance that would limit the number of micro-kitchen permits in the area.

"Many entrepreneurs would appreciate the opportunity to be able to have a startup, people that do not have the access to the capital to open a restaurant for whatever given reason," Orona said.

Ultimately the council unanimously moved to send an opposition letter to the county Board of Supervisors.

Solvang joins Santa Maria in voicing opposition to micro-kitchens. The county Board of Supervisors is currently conducting outreach with business communities, local chambers, and local city governments before reaching a decision.

—Karen Garcia

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NEWS from page 4

Santa Barbara County launches mobile vaccination program

As demand for COVID-19 vaccinations slows, Santa Barbara County is partnering with willing local organizations and businesses to bring vaccines straight to community members in need.

"To increase vaccine access, we have formed five mobile teams available to provide 50 to 300 Moderna vaccinations on-site at work sites, housing facilities, places of worship, warehouses, and at community organizations," Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Van Do-Reynoso said at a press conference on April 23. "It is a very easy registration process and we will assist the community partner."

Although Santa Barbara County's COVID-19 case rate decreased by more than 40 percent in the two weeks leading up to April 23, Do-Reynoso said vaccinations continue to be essential in the fight against the virus. A little more than 40 percent of the county's residents had received at least one dose of a two-dose regimen as of April 23, according to Do-Reynoso, but just 27 percent of the county's population had been fully vaccinated at that time.

Vaccination appointments remain readily available countywide, and public health officials say some appointments are going unfilled.

While some community members are adamantly opposed to COVID-19 vaccines or are still undecided, others may not have easy access to vaccine appointments at community clinics due to long work hours, child care conflicts, or lacking transportation.

Jackie Ruiz, a spokesperson for the county Public Health Department, said mobile vaccination clinics can help eliminate those obstacles. They're

being used nationwide in some form or another to bring vaccines directly to those most in need, according to the CDC, including those in groups at high-risk of contracting and dying from COVID-19, seniors, and those living in rural areas.

"These mobile clinics allow Public Health to meet the community where they live, work, play, and worship," Ruiz wrote in a statement to the Sun. "This is a fundamental public health strategy in the delivery of any health services. By taking away the barrier of access, getting vaccinated becomes an easier choice to make for our community."

Although Ruiz said the county has been using mobile clinics in some form since vaccines were first rolled out in late 2020, the county launched its community-wide mobile vaccine program on April 15. Since then, she said the mobile vaccine teams have administered 3,253 shots.

Through the program, mobile teams offer up to a few hundred vaccine appointments per location and automatically schedule dates for both first and second doses. The teams, which consist of administrative staff and nurses, offer bilingual services and, although they can travel anywhere in the county, three are based in North County, one is in mid county, and another is based in South County.

Pretty much any organization, business, or group can host a mobile clinic (those interested can get more information on registration at mobileclinic@sbchd.org), as long as it can help to identify people willing to get COVID-19 vaccines; has space inside or outside to conduct vaccinations; and can provide tents, tables, chairs, and water for the post-shot observation area.

The mobile teams are slated to host several vaccination events throughout the county in coming days, where health officials say walk-ups are welcome.

—Kasey Bubnash

Unemployment drops, some industries struggle more than others

As the unemployment rate in Santa Barbara County continues to improve, some industries are recovering more quickly than others, according to labor market data and local business leaders.

According to the Employment Development Department's most recent data released on April 16, Santa Barbara County's unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in March, an improvement from 7.2 percent in February. In January, the rate was 7.8, indicating that the county is seeing a consistent increase in employment so far in 2021. April data will be released on May 21.

While most industries saw employees return to the workforce in March, others stagnated. Construction, transportation, hospitality, government, and business services each gained 400 to 800 new employees in March, and agriculture increased by 2,200 workers.

However, information and financial activities saw no change. Educational and health services lost 100 employees.

And while many industries continue to inch their way back to pre-pandemic employment levels, few have fully recovered. Hospitality is still short 8,000 employees compared a year ago, government is short 5,500, and educational and health services 1,200. The only industries that meet or exceed pre-pandemic employment levels in the county are construction and business services.

"Throughout the pandemic there's been this uneven impact," Santa Maria Valley Chamber

of Commerce President and CEO Glenn Morris said. "Even in the depths of the pandemic, there were business categories, industries that were doing quite well. In the construction business and professional services, business kept moving."

But for small retailers, restaurants, personal services, and entertainment, "they've got a hole to get out of," Morris said.

"While they're seeing improvement, there's still a recognition that they've got a long ways to go to get back to where they really feel like they're thriving," he said.

The passage of the American Rescue Plan and the county's recent move into the orange tier in the state's reopening system are both good signs for local business, Morris said.

"The application window for the restaurant [revitalization] fund opened late last week ... so I suspect once the wheel gets turning it will be helpful," Morris said.

The American Rescue Plan's restaurant fund "will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location," according to the Small Business Administration's website.

"Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023."

Morris said the county's orange tier move will help the hospitality and entertainment industries in particular.

"I think the local [movie theaters] are going to reopen in the middle of May, so that's a positive step," he said. "For a lot of the other businesses, they already have been open, but this allows them to accommodate more customers—just to offer a better experience." ○

—Malea Martin

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Ordinance outreach

Santa Maria holds workshops to educate public about new mobile car washing regulations and answer questions

BY MALEA MARTIN

The city of Santa Maria held true to its promise to provide education and outreach around the recently passed mobile car washing ordinance, hosting two bilingual Zoom workshops on April 28 and 29. Local mobile washers had an opportunity get any confusion cleared up around the ordinance, and city officials said they will continue to be available to answer questions in the months ahead.

The city offered two meeting times to accommodate different schedules: one from noon to 2 p.m. on April 28, and another from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 29. Neither meeting was recorded, Public Information Manager Mark van de Kamp said. Both workshops started with the same presentation in English and Spanish, outlining the key changes and regulations that mobile car washers must comply with, before opening up for questions.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Joy Castaing started the April 28 meeting by reminding listeners to only ask questions concerning how to be a permitted mobile washer.

“We’re all here to help get you permitted, and this workshop is not about any changes that will be made to the ordinance,” she said. “Over the next 90 days, we will be continuing to provide some outreach and will continue to help answer any questions that you may have.”

Castaing said the city’s goal is to get all mobile washers permitted by early July.

Code Enforcement Officer Yvette Fuentes unpacked the main points of the ordinance and what the permitting process will look like. She emphasized that mobile commercial washers must be mobile and may only operate on private property. Rather than their customers coming to them, where in the past they were often stationed on public roads, now washers must go to their clients’ homes to perform their services.

Car washers must also contain 95 percent of the water used while operating—the city suggested using a tarp with barriers and a tank—and then legally dispose of that water, rather than letting it



NEW REGULATIONS: Mobile car washers are no longer allowed to operate on public property, and they must perform their services at their clients’ homes. They also need to collect 95 percent of the water runoff they create. City officials said the image on the left is an example of proper water containment.

go down storm drains.

“Whether you choose to use a mat or a tarp, the most important thing is that when you’re washing the vehicles, you’re just collecting the wastewater,” Fuentes said.

Folks calling in to the meeting expressed that this requirement doesn’t address the amount of water that evaporates while washing, especially on a hot day. One attendee, who identified as RC on the call, foresaw the requirement as a challenge to her operations.

“When you wash your car or water the plants, when water hits the pavement it evaporates within a couple minutes,” RC said. “So 95 percent collected water, that seems kind of impossible.”

Another workshop attendee, Roberto Aguilar, backed up RC’s comment.

“The point about the water evaporating is actually a very valid one,” he said. “On a hot day, it only takes a couple of minutes. ... The hot surface of a car, especially on darker vehicles, they contain a lot of heat. As soon as you drop water on top of it, the water evaporates.”

Fuentes said that when water hits the pavement and evaporates, it still leaves the potentially harmful car wash residue dried on the ground, which could then be washed away into the storm drain at a later time. A tarp surrounded by barriers could help alleviate the issue, as it would catch the water, she said. Even if evaporation occurred, the residue would at least dry on the tarp and not the concrete.

“If it evaporates, you’re not going to count that as part of the [95 percent],” Castaing added. “It’s what’s left over, you want to make sure that you collect 95 percent of it. ... It’s really just collecting what you can with what’s left over.”

Aguilar asked if he would be allowed to let as

much water as possible evaporate as he performs his other services, such as cleaning the interior of a car.

“None of the water would be dropped into the drain system or anything like that, it would be still on the mat,” he explained. “Therefore my expense when I go and dispose of that water would be a minimal expense.”

City officials said that would be permissible, but Aguilar still had his concerns. Because part of the ordinance requires that car washers keep records of how much water they use and dispose of, he said he’s worried that if a washer’s disposal records don’t match the amount they used, they could get in trouble.

“I think that’s the main concern that people have, and if you could clarify that, it would mean a lot,” he said.

Officials responded that they do not anticipate requiring that the quantity used match up with the amount disposed of.

Also during her presentation, Fuentes suggested that washers use a tank to drop the collected water off at the city’s wastewater treatment plant, where the current rate of disposal is nearly 12 cents per gallon. Utilities Department Regulatory Compliance Specialist Antonio Bravo noted that people are charged based on the full capacity of their tank, not how much water is in it: So a 100 gallon tank, regardless of how full it is at the time of disposal, would cost about \$12 every time it’s emptied.

RC expressed concern over the city’s wastewater treatment plant being closed on the weekend, when many mobile washers experience peak business.

“We all know that most people, I bet including you guys, wash your car on the weekends,” RC said, inquiring about how car washers would

dispose of the collected water on Saturdays and Sundays.

“That’s just one option you have to dispose of the wastewater,” Fuentes responded. “We’re not saying that that’s the only disposal location you have. There’s other alternatives that you’re more than welcome to look into.”

When RC asked for examples of alternatives, adding that she had done research and couldn’t find any other options for wastewater disposal in Santa Maria, Fuentes said she didn’t have a recommendation but would look further into it.

‘The main purpose is really to prevent this water from entering the storm drain.’

—Antonio Bravo, Santa Maria Utilities Department regulatory compliance specialist

Bravo with the Utilities Department offered the option to dispose of the water in one’s home.

“The main purpose is really to prevent this water from entering the storm drain, but [it can] be disposed of in something like a sewer,” Bravo said. “So one option that we kind of spoke about is if you can dispose of it in your own sewer system at your house, then that is something that could possibly be accessible.”

Van de Kamp told the Sun in an email that there are no future workshops planned for the adopted ordinance. ○

Reach Staff Writer Malea Martin at mmartin@santamariasun.com.

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Getting help

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and CenCal Health has resources for those who need it

BY MALEA MARTIN

Raising awareness for mental health during May is an annual occurrence for CenCal Health, but this year's Mental Health Awareness Month holds particular pertinence. After the past pandemic year, more people are struggling with their mental well-being than before.

"COVID-19 has certainly had an effect on everyone: National, state, and local agencies have all documented increases in depression, anxiety, and increased use of substances and also violent behavior," said CenCal Health Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Karen Hord. "Certainly, mental health has been a bigger concern with the isolation and other stressors that COVID-19 has brought."

CenCal Health highlighted results from a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center and published in March, showing how the pandemic has taken a toll on people.

"One year into the societal convulsions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, about a fifth of U.S. adults (21 percent) are experiencing high levels of psychological distress, including nearly 3 in 10 (28 percent) among those who say the outbreak has changed their lives in 'a major way,'" the survey results said. "Concerns about both the personal health and the financial threats from the pandemic

are associated with high levels of psychological distress."

The findings additionally showed higher than average mental distress among young adults aged 18 to 29, people with lower incomes, and people who have a disability. Hord added that certain groups, like youth and elders, have been particularly affected by pandemic isolation, since school closures and being in a high-risk category forced these groups to stay home.

"When people can't access their normal support networks or have transportation or just access to social events . . . then the risks go up for anxiety and social stress," Hord said.

Pandemic-caused stressors are particularly multifaceted, affecting every demographic in some way or another, Hord added.

"Things like the job losses, the uncertainties with where you might work, or health concerns or loss of family members, all of those things are major life stressors," she said.

While the pandemic has by and large taken a negative toll on folks' mental health, Hord pointed out that workplace flexibility and a general increase in awareness for mental health struggles may be one positive outcome in the long term.

"There's more flexibility, and we can recognize that people are responsible and can work independently from home," Hord said. "Companies are trying to encourage their employees to take their PTO [paid time off]. The idea is to use it and get refreshed and stay healthy, rather than save it up for sick days. PTO is meant to be for self-care."

Over her decades of working in medicine, Hord said she's witnessed a notable decrease in the stigma around mental health care.

"I think society is more open to acknowledging mental health as common and important to be identified and treated. We've sort of normalized

it," she said. "I don't think that we're completely comfortable as a society in discussing it and acknowledging when we need help, but there are signs that there's more social support. Recommending to take a mental health day, valuing self-care, I think has been more common."

Hord also emphasized the interconnectedness of physical and mental health, noting that psychological well-being shouldn't be treated in a silo.

"A decline in either one can certainly be correlated with a decline in the other, meaning if your mental health is suffering, certainly we see physical health effects from that and vice versa," she said. "Improved mental health or even addressing mental health conditions has positive impacts on blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, gastrointestinal problems, and particularly chronic pain conditions."

CenCal Health is the largest health plan in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, and Hord said there are resources available for both plan members and the general public seeking to take charge of their mental health.

On CenCal Health's website, people can access HealthWise, which includes informational materials in both English and Spanish about mental health problems like depression, bipolar depression, schizophrenia, and anxiety. There is a designated webpage for teens struggling with their mental well-being.

CenCal Health also recommends using findhelp.org under the Community Resources tab on its website. This resource allows people to filter results by ZIP code and price range to find the care they need.

"I think that's one thing that also normalizes looking for help," Hord said of providing accessible information about mental health. "If you have any symptoms, we should try to treat them, and there are resources."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENCAL HEALTH

GO GREEN: CenCal Health uses the lime green ribbon, the international symbol of support for those living with mental illness, to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month.

Highlight

CARE4Paws hosted its first countywide pet food and donation drive-through event on April 24 and 25, as the community need for pet food and animal support remains elevated more than a year into the pandemic. "The COVID-19 pandemic has created extreme challenges for two- and four-legged family members alike," according to CARE4Paws. "Across the nation, the number of pets living in poverty has increased by more than 20 percent compared to pre-COVID estimates, according to an ASCPA [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] study." Though the organization's first drive-through event has passed, it's not too late to donate: Head to care4paws.org to give a monetary gift, or check out what's on the pet food wish list. ○

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

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DEATH NOTICES

BAUSKE, JOE ALAN, 57, of Paso Robles passed away 3/30/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

BEIDEN, RICHARD HENRY, 83, of Paso Robles passed away 4/26/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

BIDDLE, WARREN HERBERT, 85, of Paso Robles passed away 4/13/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

CASARREAL, AMELIA, 93, of Paso Robles passed away 4/20/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

FERRARINI, FERNANDO, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 4/27/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

FRANCI, CLARRISSA M., 94, of Atascadero passed away 3/25/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

GOOD, FEEL, 69, of Lompoc passed away 4/29/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HANSOW, ROGER, 85, of Atascadero passed away 4/11/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

HART, BARBARA, 63, of Atascadero passed away 4/27/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

LA GIOIA, GUY ANTHONY, 80, of Oceano passed away 4/26/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

LANDY, LAWRENCE ANTHONY, 90, of Grover Beach passed away 4/24/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MCAHON, CELESTE ROSE, 63, of Santa Maria passed away 4/25/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MONTAGUE, DORIS MARIS, 86, of Paso Robles passed away 4/22/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

MORALES, ANGEL DAVID, 21, of Santa Maria passed away 4/25/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

OBAYASHI, ROY, 92, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/26/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

REAUME, KATHLEEN, 62, of Woodburn, OR passed away 4/29/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

RUST, FREDERICK DOUGLAS, 38, of Santa Maria passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SARGENT, LARRY DON, 86, of Paso Robles passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

SIME, PEGGY ANN, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 4/30/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

SYLVA, MICHAEL JOHNNY, 32, of Guadalupe passed away 4/26/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

TURK, JEFFREY, 67, of Atascadero passed away 8/10/20 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

WILHITE, JACQUELINE "JACKIE", 92, of Medera passed away 4/29/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens



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Learn more and join the fight at:
sbcountycoalition.com

1 Mills, Evan. "The Carbon Footprint of Indoor Cannabis Production." Energy Policy 46. (2012): 58-67.



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Grooming Team: Colette Florey, Letti Lemus, Isabella Moreno, Janae Amador. Bathers: Katie Hossli & Jacob Hughes

Online Poll

How do you feel about some high school seniors in Santa Maria being back on campus?

- 37%** As long as they're following Public Health Department guidelines, what's the harm?
- 37%** Seniors deserve one last chance to walk their campuses before graduation.
- 26%** Why now? The school year is almost over.
- 0%** It's important for the kids to have some normalcy, but hybrid models are stressful for teachers.

16 Votes

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Peace on Earth Day?

The planet isn't any better off today than it was 50 years ago on the first Earth Day

BY RON FINK

In Santa Maria, Lompoc, and many other areas of the country, Earth Day was observed a couple of weeks ago as it has been for several decades. It originated in 1970 to recognize and encourage world peace and honor the Earth. In more than 50 years, is the Earth doing any better peacefully or environmentally?

Since then, Santa Barbara has become an unchallenged leader in trying to control the environment through regulation, intimidation, and activism. All the environmentalists seemed to have accomplished is to drive productive, tax-paying businesses out of the county. The ozone levels are about the same as they have always been, a fact explained away by claiming it's ships passing by that dirty the air.

Their "fact" discounts the real fact that UCSB researchers report that "for thousands of years, oil and natural gas have erupted from natural marine hydrocarbon seeps in the depths of the Santa Barbara Channel."

Did you notice that in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic when virtually all traffic stopped in California for weeks that the air didn't get any cleaner? Maybe it wasn't the fumes emitted from automobiles, trucks, and industrial plants that caused air pollution. Could it be a natural occurrence instead? Maybe our scientists should look for other causes instead of grabbing the low-hanging fruit.

Have you noticed that since a concerted effort, heavily emphasized through regulation by government, to "reduce greenhouse gas emissions" that coincidentally weather patterns have changed and forests are dying? Could it be that tinkering with an environment that flourishes on carbon dioxide only worsens the situation? Have you noticed that during the

effort to reduce emissions that our water supply in California has been significantly reduced?

Concerning the reduction of emissions, did you know that the smoke/ash plume from one eruption of a volcano, according to the Centers for Disease Control, "can result in additional threats to health, such as floods, mudslides, power outages, drinking water contamination, and wildfires. Health concerns after a volcanic eruption include infectious disease, respiratory illness, burns, injuries from falls, and vehicle accidents related to the slippery, hazy conditions caused by ash."

And the United States Geological Survey says, "Volcanic gases like sulfur dioxide can cause global cooling, while volcanic carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, has the potential to promote global warming. The most significant climate impacts from volcanic injections into the stratosphere come from the conversion of sulfur dioxide to sulfuric acid, which condenses rapidly in the stratosphere to form fine sulfate aerosols."

"The aerosols increase the reflection of radiation from the sun back into space, cooling the Earth's lower atmosphere or troposphere. Several eruptions during the past century have caused a decline in the average temperature at the Earth's surface of up to half a degree (Fahrenheit scale) for periods of one to three years."

And as urban planners and environmentalists use "high density housing" to help save the planet, they only create other problems. When you pack people into even tighter living conditions, they tend to get on each other's nerves. How about stopping illegal immigration into our country as a way of reducing the human footprint in our nation?

And as environmentally sensitive politicians

increase energy saving regulatory pressure on the housing industry, have you noticed that the dream of owning your own home/condo is just that, a dream for low- and middle-income families?

The idle rich in Montecito, "save the Earth" hypocrites all, fund environmentalist efforts from their resource-gobbling mega-mansions. From there they preach their conservation and environment-cleansing blather. They fund the election of politicians who will adhere to their version of how others should live.

Did you notice that even the most ardent/hypocritical supporters of "saving the environment" still enjoy the pleasure provided by the exploitation of the very environment they are trying to save? They all drive or are driven in gasoline/diesel-powered vehicles; fly in fossil-fuel-guzzling jet airplanes to and from conferences that support the elimination of fossil fuel; and use hundreds of products in their daily lives that are produced using fossil fuels.

Have you ever heard of just one Green New Deal advocate giving up their cellphone? Or for that matter trying to live without anything associated with fossil fuel for just one day? Nope, they'll just go on ranting, raving, and creating new regulations that raise the price of everything out of reach for the average person.

Meanwhile, many of their efforts—including wind farms, such as the one being built in Miguelito Canyon south of Lompoc, and solar farms—create damage to a wide area of the land and eliminate habitat for sensitive and endangered species. But that doesn't matter and is explained away in environmental impact reports as necessary because of the "overriding consideration" that the value of the project is far more important than the loss of some critters and plants

So I say instead of focusing on the evil fossil fuel industry, how about helping clean the environment by ridding it of homeless camps and the blight they create. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send your thoughts, comments, and opinionated letters to letters@santamariasun.com.

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LETTERS

Cunningham should focus on his full-time job

It's interesting to see Mr. Cunningham respond to a Sun letter ("Achieving sound public policy," April 22). In addition to full-time state legislator, gym lawyer, parent, and husband, he is now newspaper commentator? It wouldn't take a genius to notice that someone is getting the short end of the stick here.

I would kindly ask Mr. Cunningham to focus on the full-time job we have elected him to fulfill in Sacramento and leave the passive-aggressiveness to political commentators. I wouldn't have caught the letter written about him if he had not replied. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be writing this letter either if he hadn't responded.

Wendy Guthrie
Paso Robles

Washing away

What happens when a city passes a regulation without actually putting *any* thought into it? You get Santa Maria's recently minted rules surrounding mobile commercial car washers—built to comply with an apparent environmental ask from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board without actually caring about how it would impact the industry it's meant to regulate or how industry members will comply with it.



Code Enforcement Supervisor Joy Castaing was very clear at the beginning of an April workshop about the ordinance: She was there to answer questions about compliance, not to talk about changing the new rules. Normally, those little workshops are held before City Council passes anything so the city can get input on feasibility.

But not this time! And when it came to answering questions from business owners about how exactly they were supposed to comply with directives, city staff didn't have answers.

Many business owners let the city know they were very concerned about the fact that mobile car washers are now required to contain 95 percent of the water used while operating. And they have to turn records in to the city of how much water they use and how much they dispose of.

During the workshop, one business owner, who called herself "RC," commented that collecting 95 percent of the water she uses seems impossible.

"When water hits the pavement, it evaporates within a couple of minutes," she said. **Roberto Aguilar** piggybacked on her comments adding that when water hits a hot car, it evaporates almost immediately. As anyone who's ever washed a car should know.

So, he asked, what do they do when the records don't match up?

"If it evaporates, you're not going to count that as part of the [95 percent]," Castaing told them.

Umm, OK. So the 95 percent requirement is loosey-goosey?

Code Enforcement Officer Yvette Fuentes suggested that washers collect their used water into a tank and drop its contents off at the city's wastewater treatment plant, where people get charged by how big the tank is—not the amount of water that gets emptied. Sounds fair. Not.

RC questioned what washers should do on the weekends, their busiest time, when the treatment plant is closed. The answer: Shrug.

"We're not saying that that's the only disposal location you have. There's other alternatives that you're more than welcome to look into," Fuentes said.

OK. Cool! So glad we had this talk.

RC had an answer for that, too, because she actually did her research—unlike the city. She'd looked into other disposal options, and there aren't any.

Utilities Department Regulatory Compliance Specialist Antonio Bravo recommended they could dispose of this water at home into their own sewer systems.

You know, hook that water tank hose up and pump it straight down the kitchen sink! Sounds great. I know the city's had sewer issues before because **Mayor Alice Patino** brought it up during a different meeting about different small businesses operating in the city—cottage kitchens out of people's homes—and she was pissed about it!

But dumping all the oil, road grime, and other crap that comes off a car during a wash into the city's sewer system is cool? I don't get it. ○

The Canary is dazed and confused. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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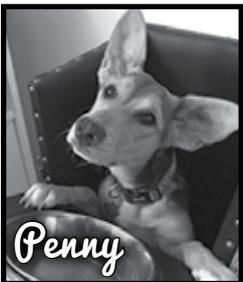
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NOTE: As state and local governments lift restrictions designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, venues are reopening more broadly. However, some venues may still cancel or postpone events depending on local conditions. Please check with the venues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

MULTI MASKING

The Ann Foxworthy Gallery presents a virtual iteration of its annual Fine Art Student Show, Making Marks in Creative Spaces, which will remain available online through the end of May. This multimedia exhibition showcases a variety of artworks from several participating students at Allan Hancock College. Visit hancockcollege.edu/gallery to view the show. The Ann Foxworthy Gallery is located at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY VICTORIA ALVAREZ

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.

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

THE ARTS IN BLOOM

Orcutt Community Theater and Klein Dance Arts presents a selection of music, theater and dance, in celebration of the performing arts. Let OCT and KDA entertain you with this family-friendly event. **May 15**, 1-6:30 p.m. \$5; ages 11 and younger free. 805-268-5969. Klein Dance Arts, 3558 Skyway Drive, Orcutt.

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

PCPA READS AT HOME

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

TECH TALKS: LIVE ON INSTAGRAM

Every Tuesday sit down with one of our technical staff and learn about the ins and outs of their craft. Get the exclusive with our host Erik Stein. Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

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

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.

YOUTH ART PACK PROGRAM: 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 children aged 6 through 12. **May 8, May 10, May 11, May 12, May 13, May 14** and **May 15** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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, May 10, May 11, May 12, May 13, May 14** and **May 15** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

YOUTH CLAY PLAY PACKS

Playing with clay is fun and beneficial. Register for a pack containing supplies to make a masterpiece at home. Designed for ages 4 to 17. Registration is required, one participant per pack please. **May 6, May 7** and **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. slorep.org/education/act-after-school-classes/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

ALUMNI SERIES 4: ISABELLE TUBIN AND ALONSO CASTAÑEDA

Join us for our fourth and final Alumni Series for the spring. **May 6**, 12:1:30 p.m. cuesta.edu. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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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. Through 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. through June 27 free. 805-434-7060. cambriaarts.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CUESTA COLLEGE: STUDENT EXHIBITION AWARD CEREMONY

The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery's annual student exhibition will be celebrated with a virtual awards ceremony. The exhibition will be posted online. Join Cuesta students to celebrate their creative accomplishments and engage in the online awards. **May 13**, 5-6 p.m. cuesta.edu/student/campuslife/artgallery. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

EVERETT: PAINTING IN PROGRESS

Private tours of Everett's studio. Masks and appointments required. Email cfineart@pacbell.net for more info. Second Saturday of every month Private home, Private address, TBA.

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 Orchestis 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 MIOSSI ART GALLERY: ALUMNI PANEL 4 (GUESTS TBD)

Join the HJ Miossi Art Gallery for its fourth Alumni Panel, where guests hear from Cuesta alumni for conversations about their post-Cuesta journeys. Artists TBD. Please subscribe to the Miossi Gallery newsletter for the most up-to-date information or check website. **May 6**, 12-1

ARTS continued page 14

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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



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**Utilities
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**What's Your
Take?**

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

This week's online poll 5/6-5/13

What are your Mother's Day weekend plans?

- Brunch, wine tasting, charcuterie boards—anything that involves food and drink.
- It will be another Zoom celebration this year.
- Getting outdoors and enjoying the finally warm weather in Santa Barbara County.
- Going out of town, especially since last year's Mother's Day was in the middle of the stay-at-home order!

**Enter your choice online
at: SantaMariaSun.com**

Sun



TALKING HEADS

Orcutt Community Theater (OCT) presents The Arts in Bloom, an outdoor program of live music, theater, and dance performances, at Klein Dance Arts Studio on May 15, with three chances to view it (1, 3, and 5 p.m.). Tickets are \$5 each, and ages 11 and under get in for free. Visit orcuttcommunitytheater.org for more info. The studio is located at 3558 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria. Pictured: OCT co-founder Lezlie Thoroddsen performing a ventriloquist act at a past fundraiser.

—C.W.

ARTS from page 12

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, slorep.org/.

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

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.

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.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

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

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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.

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.

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP (ONLINE) Join us for this Caregiver Support Group online. Sponsored by the Santa Maria Wisdom Center and Dignity Health Family Caregiver Support Program. Open to everyone. Call to have zoom link emailed, or for questions. Second Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-354-5326. smwisdomcenter.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, 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.

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

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.

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

STORY TIME LIVE FOR FAMILIES: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY (ZOOM) Register for live story time for families; on alternating weeks this program will be bilingual. There will be songs, fingerplays, and stories. Registration is required for a Zoom link to the program. Wednesdays. through May 26 Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=9521&EventID=421416&PK=684076. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN YARN WRAPPED LETTERS PACK Brighten things up with a personalized, yarn-wrapped letter. Visit your local SMPL branch for a pack or register to pick up at the Main Library. **May 8, May 10, May 11, May 12, May 13, May 14 and May 15** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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.

LAND TRUST TREKS AT OSO FLACO LAKE Land Trust Treks are a series of guided hikes designed to get you outdoors, explore scenic Santa Barbara County, and meet your local Land Trust. Free and open to the public. **May 6**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. sblandtrust.org/land-trust-treks/. Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, Oso Flaco Lake Rd., Nipomo, 805-343-2455.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 15

COURTESY IMAGE BY TOM PECK



HOT STUFF
MAY 6 - MAY 13
2021

SCENIC SANCTUARIES

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) presents Finding Spaces, a virtual group show, which will remain available to view online through the end of May. This exhibition showcases artworks by members of The Painters Group. Participating artists were asked to submit paintings of calming, comfortable spaces, whether physical or introspective. Visit sloma.org to view the show.

—C.W.

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, 5citieswimschool.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.

COUNTY WIDE TOBACCO PREVENTION SUMMIT FBSMV presents its first County-Wide Tobacco Prevention Summit. **May 13**, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-346-1774. whova.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

HIKE AND MEDITATION FOR VITALITY Hike the hills at the SLO Botanical Garden before an outdoor meditation practice. Every other Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through May 19 \$25 for Garden Members; \$30 for non-members. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., 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.

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 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.

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.

RE-ENERGIZING SLO: BUILDING AN ENERGY RESILIENT FUTURE Can a more resilient energy system strengthen our economy, increase public safety, and prepare us for natural disasters? Join us as we explore these topics in this webinar event. **May 13**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. slsociety.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.



FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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.

FOOD & DRINK continued page 16

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Brunch 8:00-3:00 and Dinner 5:00-9:00

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FOOD & DRINK from page 15

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

OASIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER
Pre-sale only, please contact us for reservations. Come join Jodi and the gang as they prepare a fabulous breakfast: 3 pancakes, 3 eggs, 3 sausage links, and a coffee or juice. **May 8**, 6:30-11 a.m. \$10. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

PRESQU'ILE WINERY: RESERVATIONS ONLY Call or go online to make a reservation (reservations open to the public). 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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

PASO ROBLES WINE COUNTRY VIRTUAL AUCTION Showcasing the wine country lifestyle to fans and bidders from around the country. Distinctive, exceptional lots not offered elsewhere feature one-of-a-kind experiences, rare wines, vertical collections, large format bottles, and more. **May 9-16** Free to register. 805-239-8463. pasowine.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BALTO LIVE May 8, 6:30 p.m. Free. slobrew.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

CIRCLES AROUND THE SUN May 6, 6:30 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

CUESTA CHOIRS: VIRTUAL CONCERT May 6, 7 p.m. bigbiglo.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MUSIC ALBUM RELEASE New music album, *ECLIPSE*, by local artist Carolbeth is being released at carolbethhite.bandcamp.com. This mysterious meditative music chronicles a solar eclipse seen on the

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN MARTIN FEE



UNCOVERED GEMS

Creative Me Time hosts a pickup date for its take-home Sea Glass Jewelry workshop at Art Center Morro Bay on Sunday, May 16, available for patrons to grab from 11 a.m. to noon. Participants will be able to create their own necklace and two earrings, using local sea glass and other included materials. Each kit costs \$35. Visit creativemetime.com for more info. Art Center Morro Bay is located at 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

—C.W.

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Milpas	La Cumbre Plaza	Goleta (The Original)	Isla Vista
216 South Milpas	3890 La Cumbre Ln Norte	5735 Hollister	888 Embarcadero Del

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

Central Coast and is great for yoga, meditation, and massage therapy. Enjoy the journey. Through June 3, midnight \$10. carolbethhite.bandcamp.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

RAS DANNY AND THE REGGAE ALL-STARS LIVE May 7, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

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.

BURNING JAMES AND POHO BLUES ALL-STARS May 9, 3 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000.

CELLO BOB AND STEVE KEY SHARE PASO STAGE Singer-songwriter Steve Key and multi-instrumentalist Cello Bob will share the sculpture garden stage for an afternoon of live music. Casey Rodgers and Rob Kimball will also join us for guest sets. **May 15**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

THE RECLINERS: ACOUSTIC DUO May 6, 6 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000.

STONE FUSION LIVE May 8, 7 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000.

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/](https://www.facebook.com/vinaroblesamphitheatre/). Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles, 805-286-3680. ○

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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

2AM LIVE May 7, 7 p.m. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563, puffersofpismo.com.

ERIN AND THE EARTHQUAKES LIVE May 8, 7 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismo.com.

JAMES SCOLIS LIVE May 6, 5:30 p.m. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563, puffersofpismo.com.

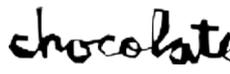
LOTO LOVELADY LIVE May 7, 7 p.m. Harry's Night Club And Beach Bar, 690 Cypress St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-1010, harryspismo.com.

PAUL HAYWARD LIVE May 7, 4:30 p.m. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563, puffersofpismo.com.

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Arts Briefs

Santa Maria author Tom Jolly releases new novella, *A Game of Broken Minds*

May 7 marks the release of *A Game of Broken Minds*, a new science fiction novella written by Santa Maria local Tom Jolly. The book, published through Distant Shore Publishing, follows a homeless protagonist who becomes the perfect candidate for a mysterious experimental drug.

An author and retired engineer, Jolly has written several sci-fi and fantasy stories that have been compiled in *Daily Science Fiction*, *New Myths*, and other publications. *A Game of Broken Minds* is available to pre-order through Amazon and other outlets. Visit distantshorepublishing.com for more info on the new book.

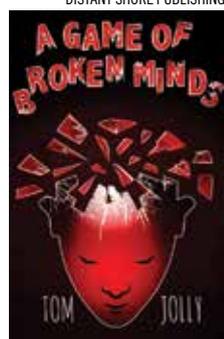


IMAGE COURTESY OF DISTANT SHORE PUBLISHING

Santa Ynez Chamber presents outdoor screening of Pixar's *Up*

The Santa Ynez Chamber is hosting an outdoor screening of the Disney/Pixar animated feature, *Up*, on the corner of Highway 246 and Meadowvale Road in Santa Ynez on May 15. Gates open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$30 per car, and face coverings are required. A concession stand, provided by the Santa Ynez Elks Lodge, will be open across the street from the event space.

To find out more information about the event and to purchase tickets, visit santaynezchamber.org.

Oak Group hosts new exhibit, *Circle of Compassion*, to benefit the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network

COURTESY IMAGE BY LINDA MUTTI



The Oak Group announced it will use proceeds from its 35th anniversary exhibition, *Circle of Compassion*, to benefit the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, a nonprofit dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating sick, orphaned, and injured birds, reptiles, and small mammals in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The exhibit, at the Santa Barbara Fine Art Gallery, is scheduled to remain on display through May 28. The show is also available to view online at three different websites, oakgroup.org, sbwcn.org, and santabarbarafineart.com.

Circle of Compassion features a variety of artworks from several members of the Oak Group. The participating artists are Meredith Brooks Abbott, Whitney Brooks Abbott, Marcia Burt, Chris Chapman, Bill Dewey, Michael Drury, Rick Garcia, Carrie Givens, Kevin Gleason, Whitney Brooks Hansen, Jeremy Harper, Ray Hunter, John Iwerks, Larry Iwerks, Manny Lopez, William Mitchell, Linda Mutti (whose work is pictured above), Rob Robinson, Ann Sanders, Rick Schloss, Skip Smith, Arturo Tello, Thomas Van Stein, Sarah Vedder, John Wullbrandt, Karen Foster, John Comer, Michael Enriquez, and Donald Archer.

For additional info on the exhibit, call the Santa Barbara Fine Art Gallery directly at (805) 845-4270. The gallery is located at 1321 State St., Santa Barbara. ○

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

COURTESY PHOTOS BY LAUREN SHARP



MIXTAPE: Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations of Nature, a new group exhibit at the Wildling Museum, displays a wide range of media, with its featured artists working in diverse concentrations, including ceramic, encaustic, mixed media, found natural materials, painting, and sculpture.

Meditation media

Solvang's Wildling Museum presents a new group show, *Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

The two artists responsible for the Wildling Museum's dreamy window installations earlier this year have paired up once again to co-curate a new exhibit at the same venue.

After getting the green light to organize a group show, co-curators Nicole Strasburg and Holli Harmon began discussing which contemporary artists they each hoped to showcase.

"We started making a wish list of who we would want to include," said Strasburg, whose own artwork is also on display in the show, alongside 10 other featured artists: Scott Chatenever, Lynn Hanson, Dorothy Churchill-Johnson, Karen Kitchel, Maria Rendon, John Robertson, Sommer Roman, Carol Saindon, Catherine Eaton Skinner, and Libby Smith.

While the exhibit displays a wide range of media—with its artists working in diverse concentrations, including ceramic, encaustic, mixed media, found natural materials, painting,

and sculpture—one trend that ties the featured artworks together is that each piece explores an element of nature in some way or another.

"Our intention was to include different media in order to keep the viewers engaged and not overwhelmed, in addition to creating a flow through the museum," Strasburg said, commenting on the layout of the exhibit, located on the museum's first floor. "The works move from realism to abstraction, linear to organic. All of them differ in ways of approaching nature, but all hold the thread of closely looking and exploring nature at length through repetition."

For Harmon, the exhibit—appropriately titled *Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature*—works as an invitation for viewers to meditate on their own surroundings while engaging with each featured artist's interpretation of the world around them.

In assembling these idiosyncratic recordings or reflections of nature, the exhibit also invites guests

Mass effect

Find out more about the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature at wildlingmuseum.org. Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature is scheduled to remain on display through Sept. 5. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang. Walk-in hours are every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

to ponder the relationship between any individual artwork and the surroundings of its creator.

"As artists, we are also creators. We are regularly receiving the impetus to make something from what we see, feel, and think," Harmon said. I think the natural world is fueled by this same energy that flows through the cycle of birth, growth, reproduction, and death."

Strasburg also expressed her philosophy on the relationship between art and nature.

"There are so many different ways of approaching nature, and equally as many ways of making art. How are art and nature connected? We are nature. We are animals in the greater whole, I think so often we forget that," Strasburg said. "Making art for me is always reminding myself that I have just a small part, and through the exploration of the work, I can find myself and my place."

"If what I do brings joy and offers that peace to another, then I'm doing my job well," she added. "I think art and nature share the quality of healing through self-awareness and understanding."

It's only fitting that the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature would showcase an exhibit exploring two topics inherent to its name, especially in celebration of its first reopening of the year to the public last month (with new temporary walk-in hours every weekend, set to be expanded over time). The group show premiered in mid-April and is scheduled to remain on display through Sept. 5.

When comparing and contrasting the exhibit's featured artworks, whether it's Smith's ceramic bird sculptures or Hanson's mixed-media installation, both curators noted that it's difficult for them to decide which pieces are their personal favorites.

"That's hard to answer, because each artist's body of work really engages me and inspires me to look more closely," Harmon said.

Strasburg agreed and added that one of the reasons she adores the exhibit as a whole is how well "all the work speaks, but in different languages, each artist with a different voice that is celebrating nature."

"For me one of the signs of a good exhibit is when I leave the museum and want to go home and make art," Strasburg said. "This show has that quality." ○

Give Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood a sign at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



BIRD IS THE WORD: Libby Smith is one of the 11 artists included in the Wildling Museum's group show, *Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature*. Smith's ceramic bird sculptures are currently on display on the museum's first floor.



ORINOCO FLOW: "Our intention was to include different media in order to keep the viewers engaged and not overwhelmed, in addition to creating a flow through the museum," co-curator Nicole Strasburg said, commenting on the layout of the exhibit. "The works move from realism to abstraction, linear to organic."

Standard issue

Stefano Sollima directs this screenplay by Taylor Sheridan and Will Staples based on the Tom Clancy novel of the same name. In Syria, Navy SEAL John Clark (Michael B. Jordan) and his elite team rescue a CIA operative taken hostage by Russian ex-military forces. A few months later, in apparent retaliation, a squad of Russian assassins comes after Clark and murders his wife, Pam (Lauren London), driving the highly trained soldier to seek revenge. What Clark uncovers, however, is an international conspiracy that could engulf the U.S. and Russia in an all-out war. This is the first of a two-part series, with *Rainbow Six* to follow. (109 min.)

Glen: This film has the right ingredients. Stefano Sollima (*Gomorrah*, *Sicario: Day of the Soldado*) has proven himself adept at directing gritty action. Novelist Tom Clancy (*The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot Games*) regularly supplies Hollywood with compelling source material. Screenwriter Taylor Sheridan (*Hell or Highwater*, *Wind River*) knows how to put together a propulsive story. Stars Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Bell, Guy Pearce, and relative unknown Jodie Turner-Smith turn in solid performances. So why does this film feel so flat? Clancy's novel was released in 1993, so perhaps it feels a little dated. Russian villains seems so... I don't know. Cold War era? The story is also remarkably simple. Man kills a bunch of bad guys, associates of bad guys kill man's wife, man tortures and murders Russian ambassador for info about one bad guy

who escapes, man goes to prison, man finds a way out of prison, man seeks revenge. Sure, there are a few side deals happening, like Bell's sleazy CIA operative Robert Ritter, who seems to have some ulterior motives going on, but where the film is going and whether or not it will get there are never in doubt. If you have Amazon Prime, it's free with your subscription, so why not watch? If you don't have Amazon Prime, there's nothing remarkable enough about the film to warrant signing up for it now.

Anna: I'm all for a gripping revenge flick, and while *Without Remorse* ticks a lot of boxes in that genre, it's certainly not one I'll be revisiting when I need to see a bereaved lover exact revenge on his enemies. It's got plenty of action. There is no shortage of bullets flying and bad guys fleeing, but at no point did I feel like the film had anything novel to offer—which is fine. Not every movie can be solid gold from start to finish. It's already paid for as part of our Amazon Prime subscription, so why not spend a couple of hours giving it a chance? I may even venture to say it would be worth a Redbox grab if you see it there, but beyond that I'm out. I loved both *Hell or Highwater* and *Wind River*, but to tell you the truth I wouldn't have guessed this flick came from the same screenwriter. It lacks a lot compared to those films, and it feels pretty hollow

WITHOUT REMORSE

What's it rated? **R**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**
What's it worth, Anna? **Stream it**
What's it worth, Glen? **Stream it**

beyond the guise of John's mission to destroy those who destroyed his life. That said, Jordan is good here—he's a sympathetic character and a certified badass as is Turner-Smith's character Karen Greer. The two work well together; they just aren't given a whole lot to work with.

Glen: In Sheridan's defense, he's adapting Clancy's story, so there's only so much he can do. I love Clancy's Jack Ryan stories, and John Clark is a character in the Jack Ryan universe, so I thought I'd like this film a lot more than I did. Turner-Smith definitely helped keep my interest. Her Karen Greer is a Navy SEAL and also the daughter of Adm. Greer (played by James Earl Jones in *The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot Games*, and *Clear and Present Danger*), who's Jack Ryan's boss at the CIA. The John Clark character actually appears in the Jack Ryan film *The Sum of All Fears*, played by Liev Schreiber. I can't fault Jordan. He comes off as a credible special ops soldier. I think it comes down to a flat, predictable story. This is supposed to be the first of a two-film series, and I'll definitely give the next one a chance, but unlike most of the Jack Ryan films, I doubt I'll be revisiting *Without Remorse*.

Anna: I didn't realize that all these stories connect. I've certainly heard of Tom Clancy but didn't realize the scope of the universe he has



MAN ON FIRE: Navy SEAL John Clark (Michael B. Jordan, right) chokes CIA operative Robert Ritter (Jamie Bell) in Tom Clancy's *Without Remorse*, a new straight-to-streaming film on Amazon Prime.

created and how many of those characters have ended up in movie scripts. It's a tough film to rate because while I don't necessarily endorse it, I also can't say I hated it; it was simply underwhelming. This pandemic has upped a lot of people's viewing hours, and we are no exception. Sometimes it feels like we've watched everything out there, so I'm not going to pooh-pooh a new film, even if it doesn't quite hit the mark. If you already have Amazon and need some action on the screen, this just might hold you over until the next big action movie comes out. Otherwise, you won't miss much if you decide to skip it. ○

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

Film & TV Reviews

THE LAST BLOCKBUSTER

What's it rated? **TV-14**
When? **2020**
Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Taylor Morden directs this documentary about the last remaining Blockbuster Video store, located in Bend, Oregon. Anyone who grew up in the heyday of Blockbuster Video can close their eyes and smell what that experience was—a mix of plastic cases, cheap carpet, and stale popcorn that commingled to create a sensory experience easy to remember but hard to describe. *The Last Blockbuster* pulls together interviews from comedians and actors who are gunning to share their memories about being customers, employees, and Blockbuster enthusiasts.

The film also tracks Sandi Harding, the last Blockbuster store manager left in existence and the valiant efforts she puts into keeping it alive, despite the fact that most people don't even own a DVD player these days. We also learn about how Blockbuster soared to its highest heights and its decline and demise as the world of streaming slowly shuttered its franchises en masse.

Overly nostalgic and totally endearing, *The Last Blockbuster* is both lighthearted and tender, you can hear and sense real



LAST STORE STANDING: The death of video stores is chronicled in *The Last Blockbuster*, a Netflix documentary featuring Sandi Harding, who runs the Bend, Oregon, store.

love from the interviewees, and it will bring you right back to the doors of your neighborhood video chain. You'll cheer for the super likable and down-to-earth Sandi and her family who all work to keep the store alive. I hope this movie brought them a ton of business. The youngsters may not appreciate this flick, but for anyone who lived that three-day-rental life, this film is sure to hit a sweet spot. (86 min.)

—Anna

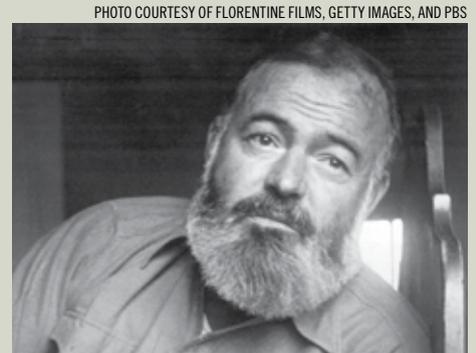
HEMINGWAY

What's it rated? **TV-14**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **PBS**

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick direct this three-part PBS series on one of America's most famous writers, Ernest Hemingway, author of classics such as *The Sun Also Rises*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. Narrated by Peter Coyote with Jeff Daniels acting as the voice of Hemingway, the series mixes archival photos, Hemingway's letters and writings, and interviews with various writers and literary scholars as well as Hemingway's second son, Patrick.

I love Hemingway's writing and his larger-than-life persona—a love I know I was supposed to grow out of after college but never did. This deep dive into his life is filled with revelations that help deflate Hemingway's outsized reputation, showing not only his remarkable talent but also his ego, self-aggrandizement, and pettiness. Despite feeling like a true aficionado of all things Hemingway, I learned a lot.

Burns and Novick do an amazing job of breaking his life into three parts, and what was perhaps most interesting to me is his depiction of his waning talent, which was clearly his biggest fear. If he could no longer write, what was he? A



A MAN'S MAN: In *Hemingway*, documentarian Ken Burns closely examines the life and times of American writer Ernest Hemingway, in a three-part series screening on PBS.

drunk and a liar with four wives? Still, even this warts-and-all biography can't diminish my utter awe of his storied life and his way with a sentence. (three 120-min. episodes) ○

—Glen

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELS FOSTER CARE



APRONS AND APPETITES: Participants in an upcoming virtual workshop, Baking for Angels, will receive a package of nonperishable ingredients, a bundt cake pan, and other materials needed to bake along with instructor Meichelle Arntz (pictured) from the comfort of their own homes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RECIPES BAKERY



BLESSED TO BAKE: A lover of baking since childhood, Recipes Bakery founder Meichelle Arntz continues to use family recipes handed down to her from her mother, which were handed down to her from her grandmother; hence the name of her bakery and cafe in downtown Santa Barbara.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RECIPES BAKERY

Divine desserts

Meichelle Arntz, founder of Recipes Bakery and Angels Foster Care, leads a virtual baking workshop to benefit the Lionheart Legacy Fund

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Monkey see, monkey *dough*, as participants of an upcoming fundraiser will discover. During the virtual workshop, those who sign up will get to bake their own batch of monkey bread.

Led by Recipes Bakery founder Meichelle Arntz, Baking for Angels takes place on a Sunday afternoon (May 16, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.) and pre-registrants will receive a package of nonperishable ingredients, a bundt cake pan, and other materials needed to bake along with Arntz from the comfort of their own homes.

One of the reasons Arntz chose monkey bread as the workshop's objective is it was one of her favorite things to bake growing up, despite the trickiness, she explained. The challenge of baking this soft, sticky pastry is also its appeal.

"Cookies are fun, and decorating them can be fun, but they're not very difficult to do. But yeast breads, and yeast-kinda things, are harder," Arntz said. "I learned to make it as a little girl with my mom, she's the one who taught me. It's difficult, but it's also a really fun thing for the family to do."

"That's why we thought monkey bread would be great. It's got that nice balance, it'll hopefully let people learn something they don't always get to cook at home," she continued. "Plus I just love the name, monkey bread."

Proceeds raised from tickets to the baking class will benefit Angels Foster Care, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit foster family agency, also founded by Arntz.

Before launching the agency in 2006, Arntz was volunteering with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). While learning firsthand

about the challenges faced in providing foster care to children throughout the Central Coast, one case about a pair of brothers left Arntz feeling compelled to make a change in the community.

"I was assigned these two little guys, one was 1 year old and the other one was about 4, and they got moved seven times in 12 months," Arntz said. "I was horrified."

As the focus of Angels Foster Care is to provide foster children (from birth to age 5) with one unchanging home for the entire duration of their foster care, parent applicants are thoroughly screened and allowed only one foster child or sibling set per home at a time. Since its inception, the agency has placed nearly 300 infants and toddlers in stable foster homes throughout Santa Barbara County and southern San Luis Obispo County.

The upcoming Baking for Angels class was specifically created to support the agency's Lionheart Legacy Fund, which helps provide intensive medical, educational, and behavioral services for Angels Foster Care children.

The agency's main office is located in downtown Santa Barbara, also home to Arntz and the popular bakery and cafe she later founded in 2012.

A lover of baking since childhood, Arntz was inspired by the family recipes handed down to her from her mother, which were handed down to her from her grandmother; hence the name Recipes Bakery.

Before March of last year, Arntz would occasionally hold in-person workshops for families, couples, and individuals at the bakery, but Baking for Angels will be the first virtual class she's ever hosted.

But she's not going in fully unprepared, she explained.

"We've done stuff with our family where we get together and cook virtually. So there's been a little bit of practice with that," Arntz said.

A team from Angels Foster Care will handle the livestream side of things, leaving Arntz with just the fun stuff, she added.

"We've got a great team so all I have to do is

just go in and have fun and talk to our audience and have them interact," Arntz said. "This is the first time we've done an event of this magnitude, you know, with possibly 90 or so people watching."

Tickets to the virtual workshop are still available, but early registration is recommended in order to receive the supplies package in a timely manner. General admission to the class is \$50, which includes materials, but for \$150 more, participants can receive an additional package of goodies, including a designer apron, a bottle of wine, and a copy of *Baking with Kim-Joy: Cute and Creative Bakes to Make You Smile*.

As for an eventual return to in-person workshops at Recipes Bakery, Arntz said she would be excited to have prospective students back in her kitchen again someday.

"I hope we get to do that again really soon because it's a blast," said Arntz, whose cottage-esque bakery was renovated from a 100-year-old house on Santa Barbara Street.

Although the house was nearly falling apart by the time she purchased the building about a decade ago, Arntz said the renovation costs were worth her while and she feels fortunate to own the space rather than having to rent a location, especially during the pandemic.

"I honestly don't know that we would have made it [during the shutdowns], if we would have been in a rented space, because we own the building and have this buffer of being in control of our costs, so we have been really grateful about that," Arntz said. "I think that's one of the reasons we've been able to make it through and come out on the other side." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is breaking on through (to the other side) at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



RAISE THE ROOF: Founder and owner Meichelle Arntz renovated the cottage-esque location of Recipes Bakery from a 100-year-old house on Santa Barbara Street in downtown Santa Barbara.

COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID CATER



LEGACY: Proceeds from the upcoming Baking for Angels class will benefit Angels Foster Care's Lionheart Legacy Fund, established in memory of Ezra Lionheart Fernandez. Pictured: Ezra's parents, Eric and Sara Fernandez (to the left), and Meichelle Arntz (right) at a 2019 luncheon.

Every time a bell rings

Baking for Angels, a virtual baking workshop led by Recipes Bakery founder Meichelle Arntz to raise funds for Angels Foster Care, will take place on Sunday, May 16, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$50 to \$200. Call (805) 884-0012 or visit angelsfostercare.org for more info.

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