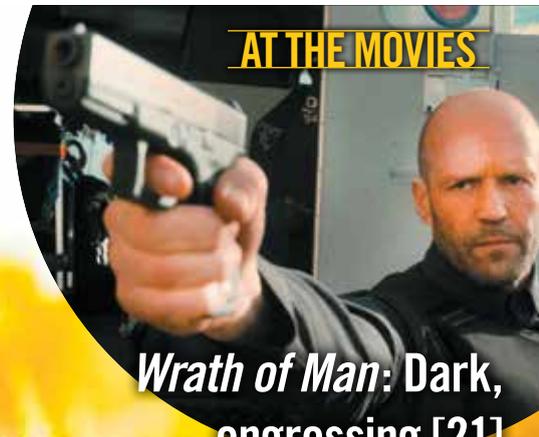


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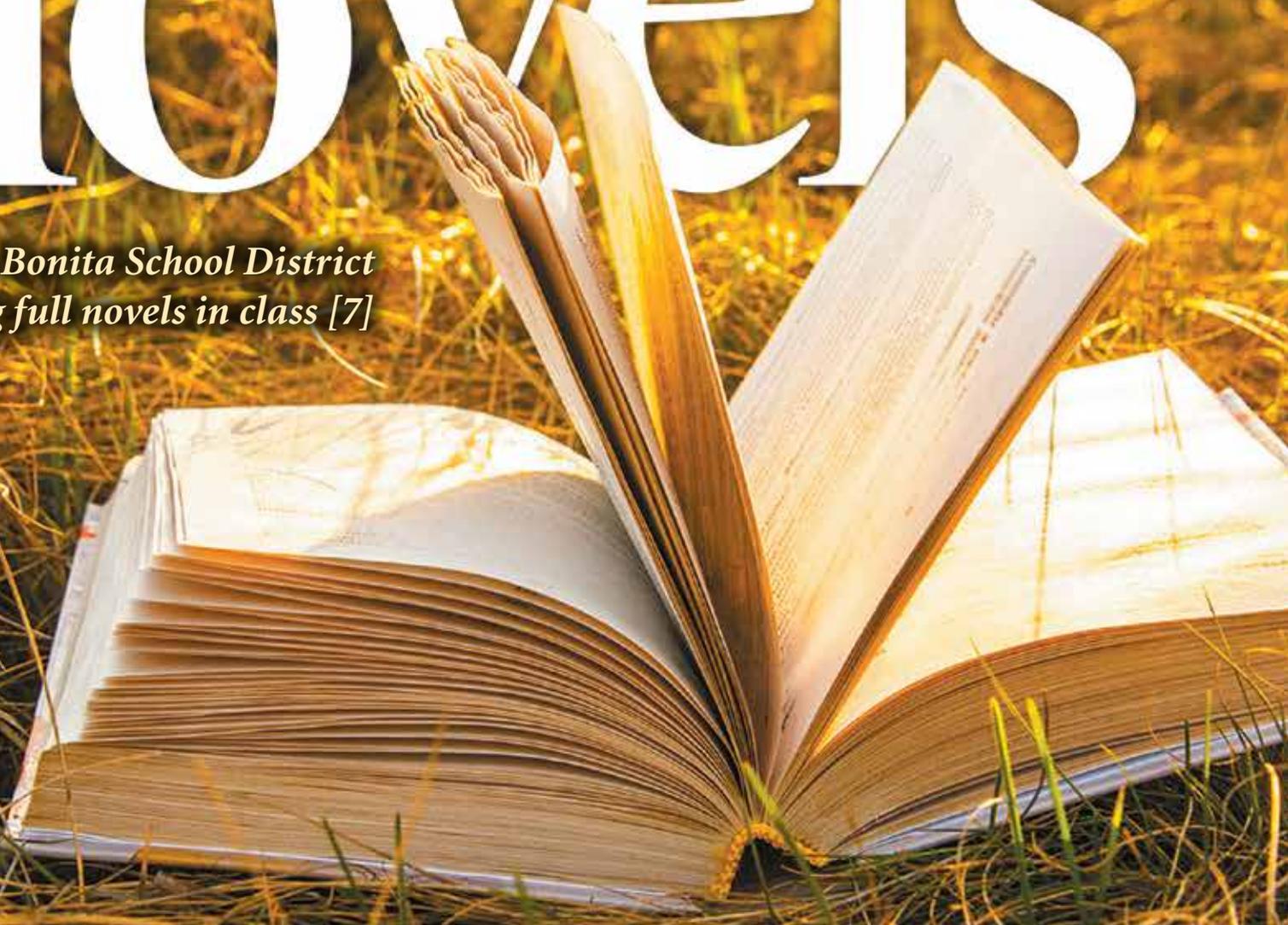
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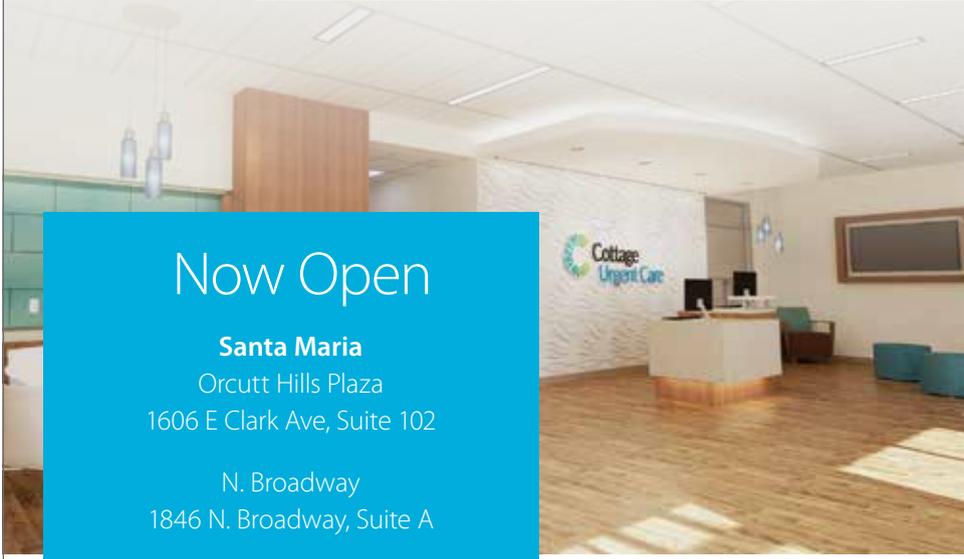
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Almost 50 Santa Maria-Bonita School District junior high and elementary school teachers recently sent a signed letter to the district opposing curriculum that no longer allows them to teach full novels during class. The district says that teachers can still assign reading for outside of class, but the digital and print curriculum it uses only allows for students to read excerpts from full-length novels. Teachers say that it will be detrimental to student growth. Staff Writer Malea Martin speaks with teachers and the district [7].

You can also read about local cities adopting the county's plan to reduce homelessness [4]; local novelist Tom Jolly's new sci-fi thriller [20]; and housemade sausage served out of a vintage trailer in Santa Ynez [22].

Camillia Lanham
editor

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Political Watch

• On May 4, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced new initiatives to get more underserved community members vaccinated. “New efforts focus on direct appointment assistance; community outreach including neighborhood canvassing, phone banking, and text banking; at-home vaccinations and transportation services; and an additional \$33 million in funding, bringing the total to \$85.7 million, to support community-based organizations,” according to a statement from Newsom’s office. The state recently surpassed a landmark of 30 million doses administered, and about 60 percent of eligible Californians had received at least one dose as of April 15. But according to Newsom’s office, about 53 percent of people in the lowest quartile of the Healthy Places Index haven’t been vaccinated. In comparison, only 28 percent of individuals in the highest quartile are unvaccinated. “We’re at a pivotal moment in our COVID-19 vaccine rollout—more than 30 million doses have been administered in California to date, and it’s going to take some new approaches to reach those who haven’t been vaccinated yet,” Newsom said in the statement. “These enhanced initiatives build on the community-based approach the state has taken throughout this crisis, in order to ensure vaccines are easily within reach of more people.” The state is moving away from using mass vaccination sites and toward “more targeted outreach with small clinics in communities with the highest disease burden,” according to the governor’s office. “Mobile sites will continue to operate in partnership with places of worship throughout the state, as well as in coordination with businesses, school districts, and local health departments where vaccination efforts are already underway.” These moves are in line with the state’s Vaccine Equity Metric initiative, in which California committed to dedicating 40 percent of its vaccine supply to the lowest Healthy Places Index quartile. “One of the most important responsibilities of government is to make sure that the most vulnerable receive equal protection, especially during a crisis,” **California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris** said in the statement. “These enhanced efforts aim to meet people where they are while building upon California’s ongoing commitments to ensure that equity is guiding our overall strategy.”

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) released a statement on May 5 in support of **U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla’s** (D-California) Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act, which will protect more than 1 million acres of California’s public lands. The bill includes Carbajal’s Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, which passed the House earlier this year. “The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act’s inclusion in the PUBLIC Lands Act serves as yet another vehicle for final passage of this crucial bill, which would designate over 250,000 acres of public lands on the Central Coast alone with the highest form of federal protection,” according to Carbajal’s office. The congressman added in the statement, “It’s crucial that we act now to permanently protect the great outdoors, which provide invaluable local watersheds and opportunities for outdoor recreation that support our health and our economy.”

• On May 6, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) announced that his police accountability bill passed the Assembly unanimously. AB 718 would “require law enforcement agencies to complete misconduct and officer-involved shooting investigations even after an officer resigns,” according to a statement from Cunningham’s office. The bill would also require any investigative findings to be shared with the officer’s new agency should they become employed with one. “Officer resignations should not be used as a tool to cover up potential misconduct,” Cunningham said in the statement. “By requiring investigations into misconduct be completed regardless of the accused’s employment status, we can ensure that bad actors are held accountable and help restore the public’s trust. I am grateful to my colleagues for their support of this important reform, and will continue to work on common-sense policies that increase transparency and accountability in all levels of government.”

Local cities adopt county plan to reduce homelessness

With the number of unsheltered homeless people on the rise in Santa Barbara County, the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc are both officially on board with phase II of the county’s Community Action Plan (CAP) to Address Homelessness. Both city councils adopted the plan at their respective May 4 meetings.

The first phase of CAP, which identified key strategies to address homelessness, was adopted by the county Board of Supervisors in 2019. The second phase sought to collect the data needed to get funding and further develop actionable goals to reduce homelessness, according to the county’s council agenda report. The phase II development process lasted from late 2019 to January 2021, involving outreach and input from more than 400 community members, and the board adopted it in February. Now the county is presenting the second phase to local jurisdictions for adoption.

During a presentation at the Santa Maria City Council meeting, Senior Housing Program Specialist Lucille Boss broke down what the county needs from local jurisdictions in order to combat homelessness as a region, much of which centers on increasing affordable and supportive housing. Boss said cities can help by encouraging local businesses to hire those experiencing homelessness, identifying new sites for alternative housing or parking programs, creating inclusionary zoning policies, and maintaining a list of funds dedicated to homelessness.

COVID-19, Boss said, has worsened the homelessness and housing crisis on the Central Coast.

“The number of encampments, the amount of belongings in encampments, and the risks and negative impacts for the person living in an encampment and the surrounding communities are growing,” she said. “Responding to encampments has been increasingly challenging, and the conditions people are living in are distressing.”

Boss added that the number of people using local shelter systems is down, a concerning statistic the county gathered through a point-in-time count in January.

“One year ago, there were 647 persons sleeping in our regular, year-round shelter programs,” Boss said. “In 2021, only 407 persons were guests in the same year-round shelters.”

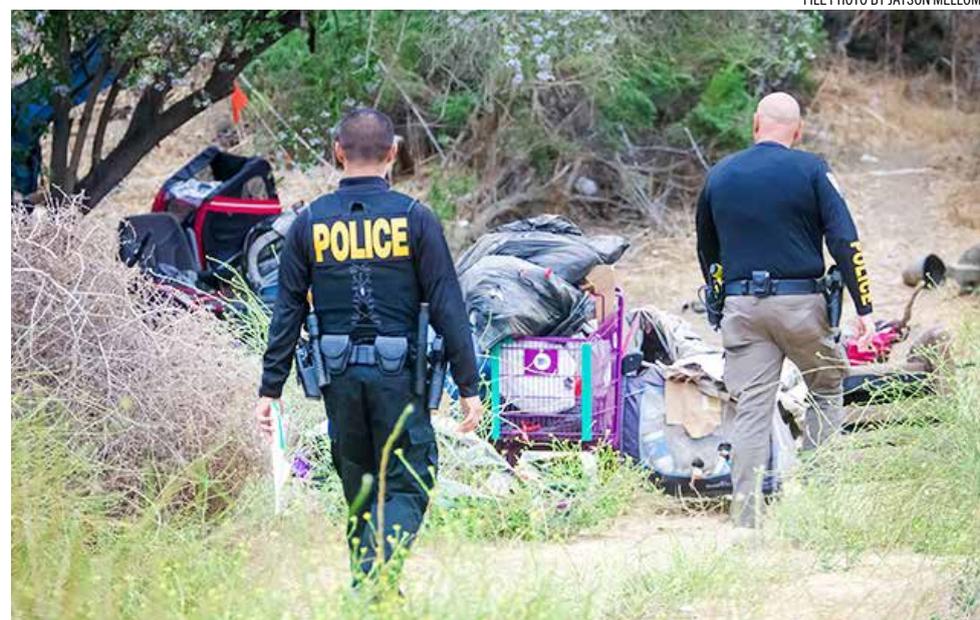
The decrease in the number of sheltered homeless individuals doesn’t mean the homeless population is going down: County data from over the last 10 years shows that the number of unsheltered individuals in the county is on the rise.

“The number of unsheltered persons living on the streets, beaches, in riverbeds, and in vehicles has been increasing, while the number of sheltered persons has decreased,” the CAP council agenda report said. “This can be correlated to the decreased availability of temporary, emergency shelter beds at the same time as increased rental costs.”

The CAP to Address Homelessness has system level goals, Boss explained, such as dramatically reducing homelessness for specific subpopulations (such as veteran and youth homelessness), increasing housing inventory dedicated to homelessness, and creating a culture of shelter diversion and prevention.

Mayor Alice Patino expressed a few hesitations with the county’s housing-focused approach.

“When you house a person first, and they have not detoxed and they haven’t been in any kind of a program, you just can’t take them off the street with their carts and say, ‘OK, we’re going to give



FINDING SHELTER: The county’s plan to address homelessness, which the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc both adopted last week, puts an emphasis on housing. In this August 2018 file photo, Lompoc police serve eviction notices to homeless individuals who’d been living in riverbed encampments.

you a house to sleep in and call us when you need us,” she said.

Patino added that from her perspective, “we can’t build our way out of this.” But she and other council members also expressed their support for the county’s different approaches to combating homelessness, and voted unanimously to adopt phase II of the CAP. Lompoc City Council voted in favor as well, though it was split 3-2.

Councilmember Dirk Starbuck was particularly outspoken against adopting the plan.

“It’s almost like the county can’t do what they’re getting a lot of money to do, and so they’re going to put it on us ... to take care of it,” he said.

Councilmember Victor Vega expressed concerns over the mental health aspect of homelessness.

“It’s pretty clear that the county is more concerned with implementing a plan and a way of generating revenue to continually support the homeless, which I understand,” he said. “But it doesn’t seem like they’re focusing on the mental health aspect of the people that are affected out there. ... There’s no goal to actually heal or help most of these people here in Lompoc.”

Mayor Jenelle Osborne said she believes the plan does adequately address mental health issues and allows Lompoc to be a part of the conversation.

“It is a comprehensive plan across the county, and we’re being invited to be at the table as part of the discussion, so that we can make sure that the needs that we have are met instead of overlooked,” Osborne said.

Osborne and Councilmembers Jeremy Ball and Gilda Cordova voted to pass the resolution. Vega and Starbuck opposed it.

—Malea Martin

Santa Ynez cannabis grow agrees to regulate and study odor emissions

A recently approved cannabis cultivation project in the Santa Ynez Valley includes an odor testing and analysis plan that some are hailing as the gold standard for odor abatement in the local marijuana industry.

At a meeting on May 4, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved plans for a roughly 30-acre cannabis farm near

Buellton in a unanimous 4-0 vote, with 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann abstaining. The long-awaited decision on the Central Coast Agriculture grow comes after nearly two years of back-and-forth between the company, the county, and the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, a group of community members who advocate for the needs of businesses and residents impacted by nearby cannabis grows.

Although the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis appealed the Planning Commission’s recent approval of the Central Coast Agriculture cannabis farm, the organization will not be pursuing further legal action in this case as it has in others. That, according to Marc Chytilo, an attorney for the coalition, is because Central Coast Agriculture agreed to ensure that any odors emanating from the grow are studied, analyzed, and adequately handled.

“That’s the best we can ask for at this point,” Chytilo said.

The odors produced by cannabis cultivation operations are a major point of contention in Santa Barbara County wine country. Some vintners and cannabis opponents in the valley say they’re concerned that organic compounds released from the plants—called terpenes—could taint the taste of the wine. A cannabis farm applicant financed a study last year that suggests this isn’t likely, but the county is looking into funding its own study to examine the issue. Some vintners in the area are also worried that odors from cannabis farms could affect guests’ tasting experiences at their wineries, and a number of Buellton residents say the smell from nearby cannabis farms is noticeable depending on the weather and time of day.

While the county’s marijuana ordinance does reference potential odor issues, supervisors have grappled with how to handle community complaints regarding odor and lacking enforcement options. Though the Board of Supervisors has made some attempts to strengthen portions of the ordinance, Chytilo said, “nothing of the scale that really addresses the impacts of this industry.”

“So we’ve taken to working directly with the growers,” he said.

Through its agreement with the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, Central Coast Agriculture will conduct analytical testing of terpene emissions at the farm’s property line and



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NEWS from page 4

in areas that are projected to be most impacted by such odors during harvest for at least two of the next three years. That will help the company determine where its odors are coming from and whether they're problematic.

Central Coast Agriculture also agreed to conduct best available control technology analyses if it receives multiple odor complaints, which will allow the company to consider all possible solutions. The company will also expand its planting and harvesting notifications to those living in the Buellton area and list potential corrective actions to ongoing odor issues.

"The county of Santa Barbara has failed time and time again to address the needs of the community," Coalition President Blair Pence wrote in a statement to the Sun. "It was time for the coalition to step up and create solutions, and we did. This agreement will hopefully pave the way for better odor enforcement across the county and lead to a renewed respect for neighbors and local communities."

In return, the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis promised it wouldn't sue the county or Central Coast Agriculture over the approval of this particular project, despite several other water and land use complaints listed in its appeal.

Avoiding litigation is the main reason Central Coast Agriculture agreed to the odor abatement plan, according to attorney Matthew Allen, although he said the company doesn't believe odor will be an issue at this site.

"From our point of view, we are glad we came to an agreement," Allen said. "We would much rather go and develop data to show that we're not causing a problem than spend years litigating them."

—Kasey Bubnash

Multilingual caravan informs farmworkers about labor rights

In an informational outreach effort, the California Labor Commissioner's Office and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, also known as Cal/OSHA, is hosting a four-day mobile caravan to agricultural fields from Ventura to Santa Barbara counties to inform farmworkers about their labor rights.

The caravan began on May 10 with a Department of Industrial Relations press conference at Plaza Park in Oxnard where English was translated into Spanish and Mixteco by Jorge Toledano—a community organizer for Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP).

"We're here to bring a message to farmworkers, that every farmworker has the

right to regular paid sick days, to supplemental paid sick days, to be paid all their hours that they work without fear of retaliation," said California Labor Commissioner Lilia García-Brower.

For the 2021 year, García-Brower said workers are entitled to paid sick leave or supplemental paid sick leave if their company has at least 26 employees. Workers can use this for COVID-19-related reasons, including being under isolation or quarantine orders, a child's school closing due to confirmed a COVID-19 case, to get the COVID-19 vaccine, or to get tested for the virus.

"We want to make sure that this community understands that their lives matter. Supplemental paid sick leave helps save lives. It helps curbs the spread of COVID," she said.

García-Brower said anyone with questions can call her office at (833) 526-4636.

As part of the caravan, Cal/OSHA consultants will also talk to workers about heat illness as the region experiences an uptick in temperatures, as well as COVID-19 protection.

Christina, a worker and community organizer, gave her testimonial in Spanish of what she described as working conditions in unbearable heat.

"It's unbearable to put up with the heat, and sometimes the supervisors don't give you a chance to drink water. I lived that and I share the experience with you," Christina said. "I want you to know that we have the right to a safe work environment to work in, to feel safe for ourselves, our families, and our fellow workers. We also have the right to deny working for an unsafe work environment."

The caravan will include representatives from Cal/OSHA, California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, California Labor Commissioner's Office, MICOP, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), and the California Rural Legal Assistance. Pre-recorded messages will play in English, Spanish, Mixteco, and Purépecha.

In an ongoing study of the effects of coronavirus on farmworkers, the California Institute for Rural Studies' initially found that workers lacked sufficient resources and financial assistance as they endured the challenges brought about by the global pandemic.

—Karen Garcia

Young people have highest COVID case rates, lowest vaccination rates

Santa Barbara County anticipates opening up COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to community members aged 12 and older this week, as health officials report that the lowest vaccination rates and highest case rates are among young people

in the county.

While eight out of 10 community members 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine, just four in 10 of those aged 16 to 29 have received a dose, Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso said at a May 7 press conference.

"Now that vaccine supply is plentiful, you can grab an appointment anywhere in our county," she said. "Everyone 16 and above is eligible. It is critically important for you to make your vaccine appointment as soon as possible."

Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg said at the conference that over the past two weeks, the age group with the most positive COVID-19 tests in the county were those under 18, followed by those aged 20 to 30.

"We have seen several outbreaks at various high schools across the county," Ansorg said. "Most of them were related to student athletes, but also to some unsanctioned parties and social events."

At the May 7 conference, Ansorg said he anticipates those 12 and older will be eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine at community clinics as soon as May 13. On May 10, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expanded the Pfizer emergency use authorization to include those 12 through 15.

"Having students vaccinated will greatly improve their safety, and it will help the whole community to get closer to a state of herd immunity," he said. "Later, in September, we are hoping the Pfizer vaccine to become available to all children 2 years and older."

There are currently a number of walk-in options throughout the county for eligible residents to get vaccinated.

"You can just walk in at any of our county Public Health vaccine clinics, and others as well: pharmacies are offering walk-ins and other clinics throughout the county. ... Hospitals



EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY: The county anticipates expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to those aged 12 and older this week. Public health officials say younger age groups have the highest case rates and lowest vaccination rates in the county.

and community centers are also offering," Do-Reynoso said. "So I encourage you to visit our website so you can see where all the opportunities lie."

The county's mobile clinic program continues to bring doses directly to people. In the three weeks since it began, Public Health held mobile clinics at 58 sites including agricultural workplaces, community centers, community-based organizations, faith settings, low-income housing complexes, shelters, and other congregate settings.

"We are expanding our sites to include farmers' markets, swap meets, and open air markets," Do-Reynoso added. "And again, these sites will not require an appointment, so if you see us at the farmers' market, swap meets, or open air markets, or anywhere at any of these sites above, please grab your shot." ○

—Malea Martin

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For the love of reading

Santa Maria-Bonita teachers are frustrated by a district mandate on how novels can be used in the classroom

BY MALEA MARTIN

Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series on the Santa Maria-Bonita School District's decision to not allow teachers to teach full novels in their classes.

Eighth grade English teacher Kevin Foote can recall numerous moments in his 10 years teaching at Tommie Kunst Junior High when books left an inimitable impression on his students. Reading *Enrique's Journey*, a story of a Honduran boy's quest to reunite with his mother, had a particular type of impact.

"I had students whose parents were arguing with them at the dinner table, because it's about immigration and undocumented status," Foote said. "I've had students whose moms have cried and opened up: 'You're 14, I'm going to tell you how grandma got here.' You can't put a number on that."

But now, Foote said, "those books are just sitting on my shelf."

Some Santa Maria-Bonita School District (SMBSD) junior high and elementary school teachers, like Foote, are frustrated by district curriculum and pacing guides that no longer allow them to teach full novels during class. District officials say that reading full novels in class creates gaps, does not meet standards, and that teachers can still assign long-form reading outside of class.

Nearly 50 district teachers signed a letter, which was read at a March 24 school board meeting, opposing the curricular requirement.

The letter states that at the beginning of this school year, "teachers were told to stick to pacing guides and only use district-adopted programs and a few specific, supplemental materials."

Then later in the year, according to the letter, the district instructed teachers not to read full novels in class.

"The rationale for this questionable mandate is that district-adopted ELA [English Language Arts] programs include unengaging and disconnected excerpts from novels; however, students become frustrated because excerpts come to an abrupt end or are not given adequate context to be fully understood," the letter said. "Students no longer experience the satisfaction of completing a book in its entirety, understanding the full plot, character development, motifs, and symbolism."

Santa Maria-Bonita uses StudySync, an integrated digital and print curriculum, for its junior high school ELA programs. This is the fifth year the district used StudySync as its state board of education-approved curriculum, the district's ELA teacher on special assignment, Leya O'Neal said.

While each StudySync unit has an anchor text



NO NOVELS: Santa Maria-Bonita School District wants English teachers to stick to pacing guides for their lesson plans and use the largely digital StudySync curriculum. Teachers are frustrated that these resources leave full novels out of the picture.

that students can read an excerpt from in class, the full-length text will no longer be taught in class, O'Neal explained.

"The verbiage that they use is that novel studies are concurrent programs, meaning it's not meant to be done in isolation, it's meant to be done with the core program. Doing it in isolation would create some huge gaps," she said. "StudySync never intended it to be a novel study where you're only studying just that novel."

Foote said over the years since StudySync was adopted, he's had a lot of independence in how he applied and supplemented the curriculum. So hearing that he could no longer teach full novels in class was a "head-scratching moment."

"It's not that I think without novels one cannot be a good teacher, or one cannot effectively learn as a student. Absolutely not," he said. "But I've seen the data, I've seen the work, I've seen the palpable moments over 10 years at Tommie Kunst where books have opened up classroom management, curricular depth, social-emotional learning. I've seen my students and faculty grow through novels."

District Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Loftus said that this has been the intention of the district's curriculum since it was adopted, but the district's introduction of pacing guides at the beginning of this school year brought the absence of full novels to the surface.

"Lesson by lesson, unit by unit, [we] teased out each priority standard, where it lived, and then mapped out the year," Loftus said of creating the pacing guides.

When teachers saw whole-class novel study was absent from those pacing guides, it "became really apparent that some teachers were very frustrated," Loftus continued. "So we've had to have a lot of really hard conversations around that."

Arellanes Junior High School seventh grade English Honors teacher Lisa Lira said she first heard she would no longer be allowed to teach full novels in class about a month ago. She was informed by her English department chair, who heard at a district meeting.

"It's not a two-way conversation," Lira said. "They listen to what we're saying, and then just continue to give us that same line."

Foote said he was especially baffled by the change after he said the district purchased dozens of full-length novels for his and other English teachers' classrooms at the beginning of the school year. Loftus said the district's intent was to encourage reading during distance learning.

"We knew that our students could not come to school and check out books in the library," she said. "So what we did is we identified some of the best novels that are out there ... and we purchased these for students to keep, to build their home libraries. ... They were never intended to be used in lieu of our core adopted instructional program."

But now during classroom time, Foote said books like *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which he has taught for years, will be one excerpt in StudySync.

"One diary entry, and then it disappears from the curriculum," he said. "Why can't I have the right, as someone who really spent time with students on that one diary, who dug deep into the California standards? ... Now I'm not allowed to follow a classic, honored book in eighth grade curriculum?"

It's not just middle school teachers who are frustrated and affected by the changes. Third grade Oakley Elementary School teacher Patricia Mitchell, who has taught for 32 years, feels the same way about the classics she historically always read to her students.

"We totally understand districts wanting to adhere to curriculum that they've approved. We abide by that, that's what we do," Mitchell said. "The fact that they're limiting us to not be able to read a novel to our children is very difficult for us to understand."

From the district's perspective, they are not barring students from reading novels: Loftus said they can still be assigned for homework outside of the classroom.

"We do want kids reading novels," she said. "We're really just asking to look at using them in a different way. And with that, finding additional opportunities for students that we can create together with them, in order to continue some of the practices they've really cherished—be that a literature circle, or a book club, or something along those lines."

But in Mitchell's opinion, it's not enough to inspire a love of reading in children.

"A perfect example is *Charlotte's Web*: core curriculum across the United States of America, third grade," she said. "I have people who are 62, like myself, who remember the day that their teacher read [it to] them. That's how powerful reading is to children." ○

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

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Pet connections

A Central Coast social media group assists in pet shelter adoptions

BY KAREN GARCIA

In 2020, individuals all over the state took a leap of faith and adopted furry companions to help them endure the ebb and flow pandemic life.

Colorado State University researchers released a report in November 2020 that found bonding with a pet during the stay-at-home orders reduced feelings of anxiety and depression.

Survey participants were questioned about how their relationship with their dogs affected feelings associated with COVID-19, and nearly 70 percent of respondents reported decreased feelings of loneliness and isolation—60 percent of cat owners had the same response.

According to the report, more than half of the respondents also reported that their canine and feline friends helped ease depression and anxiety and gave purpose to their lives.

The Central Coast also experienced a record number of pet adoptions in shelters in 2020 as locals sought a forever family member and the positive feelings that result. To make the pet-adoption process even easier, Facebook group 805 Available Shelter and Rescue Pets assisted in matchmaking humans with new pets.

Patricia Sly, founder of the Facebook group, works in partnership with shelters in Santa Barbara and SLO counties, group members, and other groups on social media to promote available pets in the area. The group focuses on pets in

shelters, senior fur friends, pets that have medical needs, and “rehoming.”

“We really try to highlight the dogs often looked over and get them into loving homes,” she said.

Sly said she doesn’t want to take any of the credit away from the shelters and everyone who’s involved in getting these pets into their forever homes.

She began volunteering with the Santa Maria Animal Shelter on Foster Road when she moved to Orcutt around 2012. Her duties included spreading the word on social media when there were available pets, fostering pets, and transporting pets to their future homes if the owners-to-be were out of the area.

A rare arthritis prevented her from doing physical volunteer work, so in 2017, she created 805 Available Shelter and Rescue Pets to push her promotional pet posts into high gear. It was a way for her to continue her meaningful work.

“This group literally changed my life in so many ways. It started off so small with a couple of my friends, but it grew to other volunteers, rescue and shelter staff, and trainers because we all use Facebook,” Sly said.

Since its formation, the group has grown to more than 2,600 members.

Sly recently went back to work full time, and 805 Available Shelter and Rescue Pets member Brooke Walsher helps post available pets, answer member inquiries for specific breeds of pets, and connects members with shelters.

“By sharing posts from pet rescues all across the area in our group, we help those looking to adopt, find pets outside their neighborhoods,” Walsher said. “In the end, we are helping pets across the Central Coast find new homes and giving animal rescues an opportunity to share more personal details about pets available for adoption.”

Sly said she completely agrees, because the original mission of the group “isn’t about any one person, it’s about getting these animals into a home in a comfy bed as quickly as we can.”

Highlights

- The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is hosting two free drive-in bingo events at the Elwin Mussell Center. The events are designed so participants can play from their cars, and they will feature non-cash prizes for winners. Senior Bingo is on Friday, May 14, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for community members age 50 and older. Family Bingo will take place on Saturday, May 15, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and is open to all ages. The Elwin Mussell Center is located at 510 East Park Ave., and registration is required. Call the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2260, for questions and registration.

- The Lompoc Recreation Division is holding free swim instructor training at the Lompoc Aquatic Center on May 21 and 22. “The purpose of the instructor training is to train instructor candidates to teach courses in the Lompoc Aquatic Center swim lessons program,” according to the city. “Training will be presented in a classroom-learning format. Participants will



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN AND JUSTIN LECLAIR

PUPPY LOVE: 805 Available Shelter and Rescue Pets’ latest success story is pairing Daisy with her forever family Kathleen and Justin LeClaire.

be given an overview of the Lompoc Aquatic Center swim lessons program, skills practice of stroke techniques, and given practice-teaching assignments.” Then participants will have a chance to shadow an instructor during a class on either May 24 or 25. Those who complete the course can apply to become an instructor at the Lompoc Aquatic Center. Register online or at (805) 875-8100. ☺

Staff Writer Karen Garcia wrote this week’s Spotlight. Send tidbits to spotlight@santamariasun.com.

REGISTER NOW!

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DEATH NOTICES

AGUILERA, MERCEDES ESPINOZA, 55, of King City passed away 5/4/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

ATKINS, DONNA RENEE, 92, of Pismo Beach passed away 5/1/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

AUYONG, NICHOLAS K.F., 81, of San Luis Obispo passed away 5/10/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

BAKER, JILL, 63, of Santa Maria passed away 5/5/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BARBER, WILLIAM, 87, passed away 4/19/2021 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

BARNES, KATHI A., Peoples, 65, of Santa Maria passed away 5/9/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DANIELE, PHILIP JAMES, 83, of Paso Robles passed away 5/4/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

ELLINGTON, DANIEL L., 32, of Santa Maria passed away 5/7/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

FERREYRA, JOHNNY H., 82, of Paso Robles passed away 4/30/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

FLOWERS, SUSAN G., 62, of Santa Maria passed away 4/28/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

FREDERICK, DONNA LEE, 91, passed away 5/7/2021 arrangements with Chapel fo the Roses, Atascadero

GARLEY, ELEANORE, 99, of Grover Beach passed away 3/26/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GARRITY, THERESE, 72, of Nipomo passed away 4/30/2021 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

GORDON, JULIE ANN, 81, of Santa Maria passed away 5/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GREENMYER, ELISE, 99, of Grover Beach passed away 3/31/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GUSTAFSON, SYLVIA, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 5/3/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

HART, FREDA LAVELLE, 89, of Paso Robles passed away 4/28/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

HERNAN, JEFFREY, 66, of Santa Maria passed away 4/3/2021

INGLIS, VICKI, 73, of Atascadero passed away 5/3/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

JACKSON, KENNETH, 84, of Morro Bay passed away 5/3/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

JACOBER, JOSEPH FELIX, 97, of Morro Bay passed away 5/2/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

LIU, HORNG ING, 88, passed away 4/24/2021 arrangements with Chapel fo the Roses, Atascadero

LOPEZ, HENRY, 64, of Santa Maria passed away 5/2/2021

LULL, DONALD LEE, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 5/3/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARTIN, MARY JACOBA, 98, of Arroyo Grande passed away 4/30/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

MORRIS, ERNEST ALBERT, 93, of Templeton passed away 5/5/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

OLIVER, JO ANN "JODY", 81, of Santa Maria passed away 5/7/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

PETERSON, ANNE, 82, of Santa Maria passed away 5/8/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

QUIGG, KATHLEEN ANN, 73, of Paso Robles passed away 5/7/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

RAY, DORIS MERCER, 93, of Atascadero passed away 4/28/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

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

ROTH, DARLENE, 80, of Grover Beach passed away 3/31/2021 arrangements with Marshall-Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

RYAN, WILLIAM T., 92, of Grover Beach passed away 4/18/2021 arrangements with Lady Family Mortuary

SCHATZ, LILLIAN D., 96, of Santa Maria passed away 5/4/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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

TAWZER, BRIGITTE, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 5/10/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TRELSTAD, JEROME "JERRY" CONLEY, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 4/24/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

VEATCH, WAYNE, 89, of Santa Maria passed away 5/4/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WHEIR, ROBERT ALEXANDER, 99, of Santa Maria passed away 5/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WOOTEN, ROBERT ANDERSON JR., 73, of Santa Maria passed away 5/1/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

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Online Poll

What are your Mother's Day weekend plans?

- 42% Brunch, wine tasting, charcuterie boards—anything that involves food and drink.
- 33% Getting outdoors and enjoying the finally warm weather in Santa Barbara County.
- 17% It will be another Zoom celebration this year.
- 8% Going out of town, especially since last year's Mother's Day was in the middle of the stay-at-home order!

12 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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An option for the houseless

Cities, counties, and states would do well to explore a mobile home park option for homeless locals

BY BOB ORACH

Here are some thoughts I feel that the state, counties, and cities should explore to address the homeless housing crisis. This would be cost effective, easier to implement, and help create a sense of home, not a municipal housing project costing a fortune to build or renovate. I propose a mobile home complex with a variety of units to meet individual or family needs!

I'll try to explain:

1. Mobile homes come in various sizes and shapes with varying amenities. Single wide, double wide, and so forth. They come equipped with kitchens, baths, living rooms, bedroom or bedrooms, and storage space, depending on individual or family needs.

2. The mobile home complex could be designed

so different sections allow for single individuals' units, family units, and maybe a veterans only section.

3. The infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, gas, electricity, garbage pickup, parking) is significantly cheaper to build than for an apartment complex, converted hotel or motel, or a single housing project.

4. This complex could or should be located close to existing community infrastructure connections without major costs incurred, such as water, sewer, electricity, gas, roads, etc.

5. Within this complex, a central community facility could be located for use by the county Social Services for assessment and evaluation to address any medical or mental health issues. Multiple agencies and nonprofits could assist in

providing programs on-site for an array of social or family needs.

6. We are currently trying to buy or build and convert hotels, motels, apartment complexes, or individual homes to satisfy this growing need. This approach is costing a fortune and only groups unfortunate individuals and families into a "non home" environment.

I've read about storage sheds being proposed or used and all the other housing methods currently being practiced. In my opinion, a mobile home complex helps to provide assistance while providing cost-effective housing, and creates a home environment, community accessibility, and most of all a helping hand to return as a valuable member or family of our community.

I know a lot of you have maybe bigger and better ideas and welcome your input in solving this problem! ○

Bob Orach was a longtime Santa Maria City Council member and is currently a self-described "recovering politician." He writes to the Sun from Santa Maria. Send a response to letters@santamariasun.com.

'Americanism' is inaccurate

In an April 29 commentary ("Americanism"), Susan Chapman wrote: "Please do not divide us into conflicting tribes. We are all Americans, and that is what we hold dear." One good way to help accomplish that goal is to avoid publishing inaccuracies and falsehoods about our elected leaders.

Among several arguable statements, Ms. Chapman claimed: "Nancy Pelosi has banned the use of words like daughter, sister and mother. The leaders also frown upon using gender pronouns such as son, father and brother." Ms. Chapman's assertion is—at best—inaccurate. The Associated Press reported on Jan. 15, 2021: "A resolution passed in the House in early January struck several gender-specific terms from a document outlining House rules in a move to 'honor all gender identities.' The change did not ban lawmakers from using such language in floor speeches or other congressional communications."

The AP further explained: "On Jan. 1, Pelosi and Rules Committee Chairman James McGovern introduced the new set of rules for the 117th Congress ... including using gender-neutral language instead of gender-specific language in references to pronouns and familial relationships. The House approved the new rules on Jan. 4. House members are not barred from using gender-specific language in bills, speeches, or elsewhere."

On Jan. 13, Speaker Pelosi told Congress: "I stand before you as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a daughter—a daughter whose father proudly served in this Congress." Her statement is entirely accurate and, apparently, in keeping with the approved House rules.

Brian Reed
Los Alamos

Reality check

In "Language of translation" (April 29), we were treated to a quotation from Paso Robles Joint Unified School District board member Chris Arend:

"The rule is when you address the board ... you can address the board in English. You do not address the board in Spanish, which none of us understand."

Let's unpack that.

According to the 2019 census (the most recent data I could get for Paso), Paso Robles was 38 percent Hispanic or Latino. It was 57.3 percent white alone.

Furthermore, the 2019 California census reported the state was 39.4 percent Hispanic or Latino, and merely 36.5 percent white alone.

Trends suggest that the Hispanic or Latino percentages have gone up since 2019.

Yet, the school district does not seem to prioritize having a board that represents its community. Instead, it tells the community to bend to the will of a certain group. A group that doesn't seem to be willing to take reality into consideration.

I suppose that's just the way things are. Even when Paso Robles has blown up with wineries and vineyards, and it seems like there's an underserved population in the school district working hard to keep them going. It's clear who's in charge and what they won't value.

Mexicans matter. Latinos matter. Chicanos matter. Hispanics matter.

LETTERS

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

That's a fact. And another fact is that what you do about it speaks volumes about your character.

Thank you for all your hard work, Yessenia Echevarria of Paso People's Action and Mujeres de Accion! Si se puede!

Rachel S. Bird
Nipomo

MAYFIELD



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THE RULES:

Entry divisions are either **ADULT** or **YOUTH** (under 18)

ADULT

- Categories are: **Animals, Flora, Land/Seascapes, People, Travel, Open** and NEW THIS YEAR: **In Motion** which can include any interpretation of action or motion.
- All images must be submitted digitally via our online entry form, where the category can be selected.
- A completed online entry form **MUST** be submitted for **EACH** photo entered.
- Entrants are asked to submit a high-quality digital file of their image (jpeg format, at least 300 dpi) on the submission form.
- Photos submitted in previous years are ineligible.
- All photos must be the original, creative work of the submitting photographer.
- All photographs must be taken within the boundaries of San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara Counties – except submissions to the Travel and Open categories – for which photos may be taken anywhere.
- Entries are \$10 per photo. Entry fees go toward cash prizes for winners in each category.
- After entering your photos, submit your payment online via PayPal. You may also mail a check (made payable to New Times) to: Winning Images, c/o New Times 1010 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Be sure to include your name, address, email, and a brief description of the photos entered online.
- **Photos must be received and entry fees must be paid in full by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to be considered officially entered.**
- Entry in the contest constitutes permission to use the photo in the paper, online, and for display.
- Judges have the right to reassign categories for mislabeled or misfiled photos at their discretion.

YOUTH (UNDER 18 YEARS OLD)

- This is an **OPEN** category. Photographs can be of any subject of the entrant's choosing, but must have been taken within the boundaries of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.
- Entrants must be younger than 18 years old as of June 24, 2021 and must be enrolled in any school (including a home school) that's not a college. A winner's legal guardian will be required to sign a release form.
- All other rules from the adult categories apply.

Winning photos will be published in the Thursday, June 24, 2021 issues of *New Times* and the *Sun* and will appear in an online gallery.



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

Support common sense cannabis regulation today:
sbcountycoalition.com

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

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

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New Times is looking for its next Flavor writer, but we're not looking for just any article-pushing, press release-reading, food-eating, wine-drinking someone.

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OPINION

Odor issues, fixed!

Don't worry everyone, the Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis has got our backs! They're taking care of business that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has failed to adequately address time and again, according to Coalition President Blair Pence.

I mean, if the Board of Supervisors would just do exactly what the coalition wants, it wouldn't have to keep appealing and suing the county about all of these approvals to legally grow marijuana in the Santa Ynez Valley, amirite?

But the board just *doesn't* because—news flash—the board doesn't work directly for the coalition's members and has to consider other county constituents as well as the legal parameters surrounding its decision. Details, you know?

So the coalition decided it needed to work "directly with growers" to find compromises that would work for both parties. Gasp! So novel!

"It was time for the coalition to step up and create solutions, and we did," Pence said.

Odor is the most pressing issue of our time! I'm so grateful to the coalition for taking care of this non-issue, and negotiating with yet another grower it was going to harass until the court system tangoed with its county-approved permit.

Central Coast Agriculture and the coalition came to an agreement to test odor and terpene emissions at the farm's property line and in areas thought to be most odor-impacted and use the best available control technology if odor and terpenes are a problem. Terpenes are organic properties associated with taste and smell released from all plants, but wineries are worried that pot terpenes will ruin alcohol ones—even though studies out there in the world report that cross-contamination between the two mind-altering substances isn't a thing.

Hey, do you think we could get wineries to stop smelling up the atmosphere during every post-harvest crush? That fermented fruity-sour smell is ruining my high! Maybe I can start a Coalition for Responsible Grapes to step up and create solutions.

Because of the odor agreement, the coalition agreed not to appeal the project's approval. Complaints about water use and land use are simply not as important as smell! It's not like we've been in a drought for 20 years or anything. I bet, really, all of that cannabis litigation is just getting a bit pricey, you know?

I say kudos to Central Coast Agriculture, because it's smart, smart, smart for agreeing to this odor thingy. Attorney Matthew Allen said the cannabis company doesn't think odor is going to be a problem, anyway, but now they can move forward with their project without worrying about costly litigation. Smart, smart, smart.

All sarcastic comments aside, it's nice to see two at-odds sides actually discuss their issues with one another and come to an agreement rather than yelling about each other at a Board of Supervisors meeting. It's what adults did in the real world that existed before the politically polarized one we're currently living in.

It's just a shame that the conversation took two years to come to solution. Maybe the next tough conversation between residents who disagree will come about a little quicker. Maybe it's one of those things that gets easier with time. You just have to take the first step. ○

The Canary is pondering a flight across the aisle. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



HANCOCK
100

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

MAY 22, 2021

PRESENTED BY 

Allan Hancock College Turns 100! Let's Celebrate Together!

The event on Saturday, May 22 (6 p.m.) will feature Musical Performances, a tribute to our Hometown Heroes, and a reveal of the Centennial Class of Distinguished Alumni.

In 1920, Santa Maria Junior College opened its doors with only a handful of students and faculty. Today, that school is known as Allan Hancock College and educates nearly 20,000 students and contributes over \$500 million to the local economy each year.

To celebrate this 100-year history, Allan Hancock College is producing a special Centennial Celebration on Saturday, May 22, for the community.

The virtual event, which is being planned by a committee of community leaders and college staff, will celebrate Hancock's history with an entertaining and inspiring mix of music, video, and photos. Santa Barbara County Supervisor Steve Lavagnino will emcee the event.

Live music will provide an entertaining backdrop for the celebration, featuring hit songs "through the decades" of Hancock's history. Musical guests include Grammy-winner and local favorite Louie Ortega and multi-platinum recording artist Glen

Phillips of the Santa Barbara-based Toad the Wet Sprocket. Other guests will include The Molly Ringwald Project, Steppin' Out, and a special solo acoustic performance by PCPA Artist-in-Residence Yusef Seevers.

Orcutt native Pryor Baird, who competed on the national music show The Voice, will close the show from Nashville with his new band Pryor & Lee.

FREE TICKETS with the link to the stream are available at www.hancockcollege.edu/100. Donations for the event can also be made at the site. All proceeds benefit the Hancock Promise campaign.



Hancock Promise Campaign Nears \$5 Million Milestone

The Hancock Promise provides free tuition and programming for students, but it's not free for Allan Hancock College.

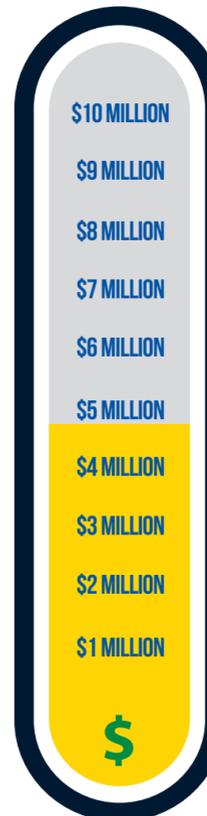
The Hancock Promise — which covers first year tuition and fees for local graduating high school students — is funded through a public/private partnership that leverages financial support from the State of California and local support from individuals, business, and community organizations.

Private support is being added to the Hancock Promise fund, a permanent endowment that will continue to ensure that tuition, fees, and other costs of attendance are covered for all graduating seniors in Northern Santa Barbara County.

In 2018, the Allan Hancock College Foundation launched a \$10 million campaign to establish the endowment. And after only three years—including a full year of economic shutdown during the global pandemic — the campaign is nearing the \$5 million milestone with over \$4.7 million in gifts and pledges.

"A community is only as strong as its educational institutions," says Jon Hooten, executive director of the Foundation. "Our region understands the role that Hancock plays in the community—especially where there are no other affordable options for higher education like in Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo."

Proceeds from the Centennial Celebration on May 22 will benefit the Hancock Promise fund.



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HOT STUFF

MAY 13 – MAY 20
2021

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



MOUNTAIN MAGIC

The Oak Group presents its 35th anniversary exhibition, *Circle of Compassion*, through Friday, May 28, at the Santa Barbara Fine Art Gallery. The show is also available to view for free online at santabarbarafineart.com. Proceeds from the exhibit will benefit the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, a nonprofit dedicated to rehabilitating sick and injured animals in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Visit oakgroup.org for more info.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY JOHN IWERKS

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BROUGHT TO LIGHT Showcasing works by Sherri Cassell, a painter, and Felice Willat, who team up to present striking images that are distinct and powerful. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, through May 31 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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

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

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

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

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, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

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

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

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

WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM Sara Curran Ice, PCPA's Technical Theatre Program Coordinator/Designer, is conducting Workshops via Zoom for local high school drama students. Check site or call for

more info. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, pcpa.org.

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 13, May 14 and May 15** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria 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 13, May 14 and May 15** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ART IN THE GARDEN Includes jewelry, glass, paintings, wood, ceramics, textiles, and more. All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden. 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.

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.

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 Orchestria 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.

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.

OBJECTIFYING SLOMA presents a showcase of contemporary sculpture by Elisa Ortega Montilla. **May 14-June 27** sloma.org/exhibition/objectifying/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

SLO CAMERA CLUB Online Zoom meetings and competitions. Everyone is welcome. Visit site for meeting links. Second Thursday of every month Free to guest. slocameraclub.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLOMA CELEBRATES PRIDE In collaboration with Central Coast Pride, SLOMA is hosting a free (and socially distant) take-home art activity for kids and kids at heart. The public is invited to visit the Museum's Mission Plaza entrance and grab an art bag with supplies and instructions. **May 22**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, 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.

SPRING FOR THE ARTS: AN ONLINE BENEFIT AND REVUE The Cambria Center for the Arts will celebrate its planned re-opening with a special streamed evening, called Spring for the Arts, of short performances of art, musical, and film activities. Combined with a virtual silent auction featuring unique experiences. **May 16**,

ARTS continued page 18

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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TAKE FLIGHT

The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature presents *Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature*, a group show on display in the venue's first floor, through Sunday, Sept. 5. This exhibit premiered in mid-April and showcases a variety of media from 12 different participating artists. Visit wildlingmuseum.org for more info. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

—C.W.

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4-5:15 p.m. Free, donations suggested. 805-927-8190. cambriaarts.org/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: SKETCHBOOK FREEDOM

This workshop, taught by Vicky Hoffman, is for those who want to jumpstart the daily practice of sketchbooking. All supplies are provided and masks are mandatory. **May 15**, 1-4 p.m. \$50. 310-993-1732. vickyhoffman.com. Marie A Ramey, 7460 Pinal Ave, Atascadero.

FUSED GLASS PLATE OR BOWL CLASS Learn the basics of fusing and slumping in this 2-hour beginning class. Create an 8" x 8" fused glass plate or bowl. All materials included. Limited to 6 people. Masks required. **May 16**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$100. 805-464-2633. glassheadstudio.com. Glasshead Studio, 8793 Plata Lane, Suite H, Atascadero.

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. ongoingstudiosonthepark.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

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. artcentermorroby.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.

SEA GLASS WIRE WRAP COILED JEWELRY Learn basic wire wrapping to create a lovely necklace and two

pierced earrings. All materials are provided including local sea glass, jewelry findings, and jewelry wire, except for basic jewelry tools. **May 16**, 11 a.m.-noon \$35. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SUCCULENT WREATHS KIT Learn how easy it is to create with succulents. Choose from two sizes of round moss wreaths or one size of heart wreaths. Everything is included except garden shears. **May 15**, 10-11 a.m. Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

SANTA YNEZ CHAMBER OUTDOOR CINEMA Enjoy Pixar's *Up*. At the corner of 246 and Meadowvale in Santa Ynez. \$30 per carload. The Santa Ynez Elks Lodge will provide a concession stand across the street. Park and walk over or drive through prior to entering the lot. Face coverings required to enter. **May 15**, 6-10 p.m. \$30. eventbrite.com. Downtown Santa Ynez, Saquinto St., Solvang.

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. ongoingpartnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

FAMILY ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a family activity pack. Register for a pack that will have supplies for a flower garland, shell pendant, and popsicle stick boat, as well as activity sheets, a book list, and informational links. **May 15, May 17, May 18, May 19, May 20, May 21 and May 22** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

FEEL GOOD YOGA Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. 805-937-9750. oasisorcutt.org. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

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

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 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, 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 ANIME CLUB PACK: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Register to pick up a Teen Anime Club Pack from the Santa Maria Public Library which will include something bookish, crafty, and of course, something yummy. **May 15, May 17, May 18, May 19, May 20, May 21 and May 22** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. 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 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 my805six.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL POLY BASEBALL VS CAL STATE FULLERTON Come watch Cal Poly Baseball take on Cal State Fullerton in a Big West Conference showdown at Baggett Stadium. **May 14**, 5 p.m., **May 15**, 1 p.m. and **May 16**, 1 p.m. 805-756-4849. gopoly.com/. Baggett Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., 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.

GALA AND CAL POLY PRIDE CENTER PRIDE WEEK Visit slopride.com for full list of Pride Week activities and events, including a Pride Art Show, the Pet Photo Competition, Pride's Got Talent, and more. **May 16-23** slopride.com. GALA Center Gallery, 1060 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

HOW TO HAVE TOUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN WORKSHOPS: TOPICS OF TECHNOLOGY AND RACE These one-evening workshops with Dr. Christina Kaviani are for anyone raising children ages 3 to 12 years old who is interested in learning about ways to have honest conversations about important topics. **May 18**, 7-8:30 p.m. \$5. 805-549-1253. slcusd.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

PUBLIC TALK: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, A CLEARER VIEW OF YOU Join this free public talk by Christian Science practitioner and teacher Lyle Young. Hosted by First Church Christ, Scientist, San Luis Obispo. **May 16**, 2-3 p.m. Free. bit.ly/SLOCSTALK. 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. slicity.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS Offering varieties 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.

FOOD & DRINK continued page 19

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

RAMEN HACKS FOR TEENS AND ADULTS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Want to learn how to elevate ramen into a gourmet meal? Register for a pack which will include basic supplies as well as recipes, hacks, and suggestions for a five-star ramen experience. Then join a Zoom discussion on May 25 to talk about ramen. **May 15, May 17, May 18, May 19, May 20, May 21 and May 22** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

PISMO BEACH FARMERS MARKET Features various vendors selling their goods. Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m. Pismo Beach Farmers Market, Pismo Pier, 805-773-4382.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SLO FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 8-10:45 a.m. World Market Parking Lot, 325 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

2021 SUNSET SEAFOOD BOIL A dinner prepared for seafood lovers. Enjoy some gorgeous local fare and decadent seafood indulgence. **May 21**, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$96-\$120. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.

CASS WINERY: WSET 1 CLASSES This hands-on WSET (the Wine and Spirit Education Trust) course teaches students through sight, smell, and taste, to understand more about wine. **May 22**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$350. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805.239.1730.

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.

MUSIC

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CONCERT IN THE GARDEN: RICHARD INMAN AND JANICE LAMONT Connect with your community while enjoying live music provided by Richard Inman and Janice Lamont, plus Gale McNeeley and Bob Moloznik. COVID-19 protocols observed. **May 16**, 1:30-3 p.m. Free. 805-440-9461. unity5cities.org. The Victorian, 789 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande.

PAINTED RED LIVE **May 21**, 5 p.m. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9099, branchstreetdeli.com.

TERRY LAWLESS OF U2 **May 14**, 5 p.m. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9099, branchstreetdeli.com.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CARBON CITY LIGHTS LIVE **May 14**, 6:30 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

MOTHER HIPS ACOUSTIC DUO LIVE **May 20**, 7 p.m. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843, slobrew.com.

SCATTER SEEDS: 20TH ANNIVERSARY A livestream from Matt Vargo's studio in Santa Margarita. Steve Key will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of his album, *Scatter Seeds*. **May 23**, 2-3 p.m. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

UPSIDE SKA LIVE Upside Ska plays roots Jamaican ska with a full band, featuring a local all-star cast. **May 15**, 7-10 p.m. my805tix.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ARTY THE DANCE PARTY **May 15**, 7 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000, pasobrewing.com.

BEAR MARKET RIOT LIVE **May 21**, 7 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000, pasobrewing.com.

BURNING JAMES AND POHO BLUES ALL-STARS **May 23**, 3 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000, pasobrewing.com.

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.

DIRTY CELLO LIVE **May 16**, 4 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000, pasobrewing.com.

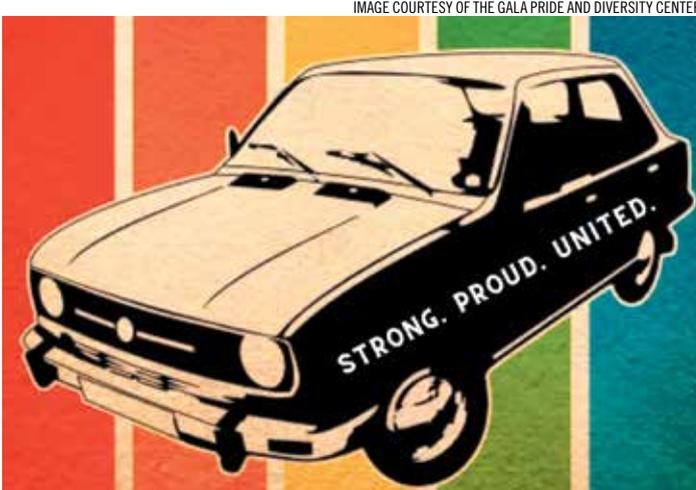
JD AND JAKE (MOTEL DRIVE ACOUSTIC) **May 14**, 5:30 p.m. Barrelhouse Brewing Co. Brewery and Gardens, 3055 Limestone Way, Paso Robles, 805-296-1128, barrelhousebrewing.com/.

JOHN STATION BAND LIVE **May 22**, 7 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000, pasobrewing.com.

LED ZEPAGAIN LIVE **May 13**, 7 p.m. Barrelhouse Brewing Co. Brewery and Gardens, 3055 Limestone Way, Paso Robles, 805-296-1128, barrelhousebrewing.com/.

ROCK OF AGES **May 15**, 7 p.m. The Pour House, 525 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-239-1000, pasobrewing.com.

SCULPTERRA SHOW FEATURES 3 SONGWRITERS Songwriters at Play host Steve Key is joined by Sara Petite (four-time winner of San Diego's Best Country-Americana Band), and Sarah Blick ("conservatory violinist with a fiddler's heart"). Lauren Hatcher and Servet Fidan will play guest sets in the middle of the show. **May 22**, 12:30-



DRIVE FOR DIVERSITY

The Gala Pride and Diversity Center presents the LGBTQ-plus Decorated Car Caravan on Monday, May 17, starting at 6:30 p.m., in downtown San Luis Obispo. The community is invited to decorate their vehicles and join the caravan in celebration of Central Coast Pride. Participants are also welcome to stop by Shippers Brew, SLO Provisions, and the Gala Pride and Diversity Center for free treats. Visit galacc.org for more info.

—C.W.

3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

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

YNANA ROSE LIVE **May 16**, 1 p.m. Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles, 805-369-6100, rabblewine.com/tasting-room/.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LAZY LOCALS: BIG SIRRS OF SWING **May 16**, 1 p.m. Castoro Cellars, 1315 N. Bethel Rd., Templeton, 805-238-0725, castorocellars.com. ○

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Sunset Seafood Boil
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Cass Winery, Paso Robles



WSET 1 Classes
SATURDAY, MAY 22
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Wine Seminar: Mourvedre
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Arts Briefs

Orcutt Community Theater and Klein Dance Arts Studio co-host upcoming variety show, *The Arts in Bloom*

COURTESY PHOTO BY ALAN SUTTERFIELD



Orcutt Community Theater presents *The Arts in Bloom*, an outdoor program of live music, theater, and dance performances, at Klein Dance Arts Studio in Santa Maria on May 15, with three chances to view it (1, 3, and 5 p.m.). Tickets to the program are \$5 each, and ages 11 and under get in for free. Guests are encouraged to arrive early as seating is limited.

Attendees of the show can look forward to hearing show tunes, such as “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” “Hard to Please,” and “Never Enough,” performed by Orcutt Community Theater actors and watching dance segments presented by members of Santa Maria’s Ballet Folklórico Corazon de la Costa. This show will also include performances of scenes from original plays written by local writers, including *Freedom 7* by Dan Bullard, *Flower Power* by Laura Gonzalez, and *In the Mood* by Dixie Arthur.

Visit orcuttcommunitytheater.org to find out more about *The Arts in Bloom* and other upcoming programs presented by Orcutt Community Theater. For more info on Klein Dance Arts Studio, call (805) 268-2530 or visit kleindancearts.com. The studio is located at 3558 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria.

Gallery Los Olivos hosts Brought to Light, showcasing photographer Felice Willat and painter Sherri Cassell

COURTESY IMAGE BY SHERRI CASSELL



Gallery Los Olivos presents Brought to Light, a new duo exhibition showcasing photography by Felice Willat and paintings by Sherri Cassell (whose work is pictured above). The show opened at the beginning of May and is scheduled to remain on display through Monday, May 31.

Known for her captivating images captured in various countries around the world, Willat is an award-winning fine art photographer and publisher. She recently won first place in the Children of the World category at the International Color Awards Exhibition.

Showcased alongside Willat’s photographs in the show, Cassell’s vivid oil, acrylic, and pastel paintings were inspired by the rolling hills and oak trees outside the artist’s studio window in Santa Ynez. According to press materials, Cassell uses texture and expressive color to give her landscapes an abstract touch.

For more details on Brought to Light and other updates from Gallery Los Olivos, call the gallery directly at (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com. The gallery is open every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. ○

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

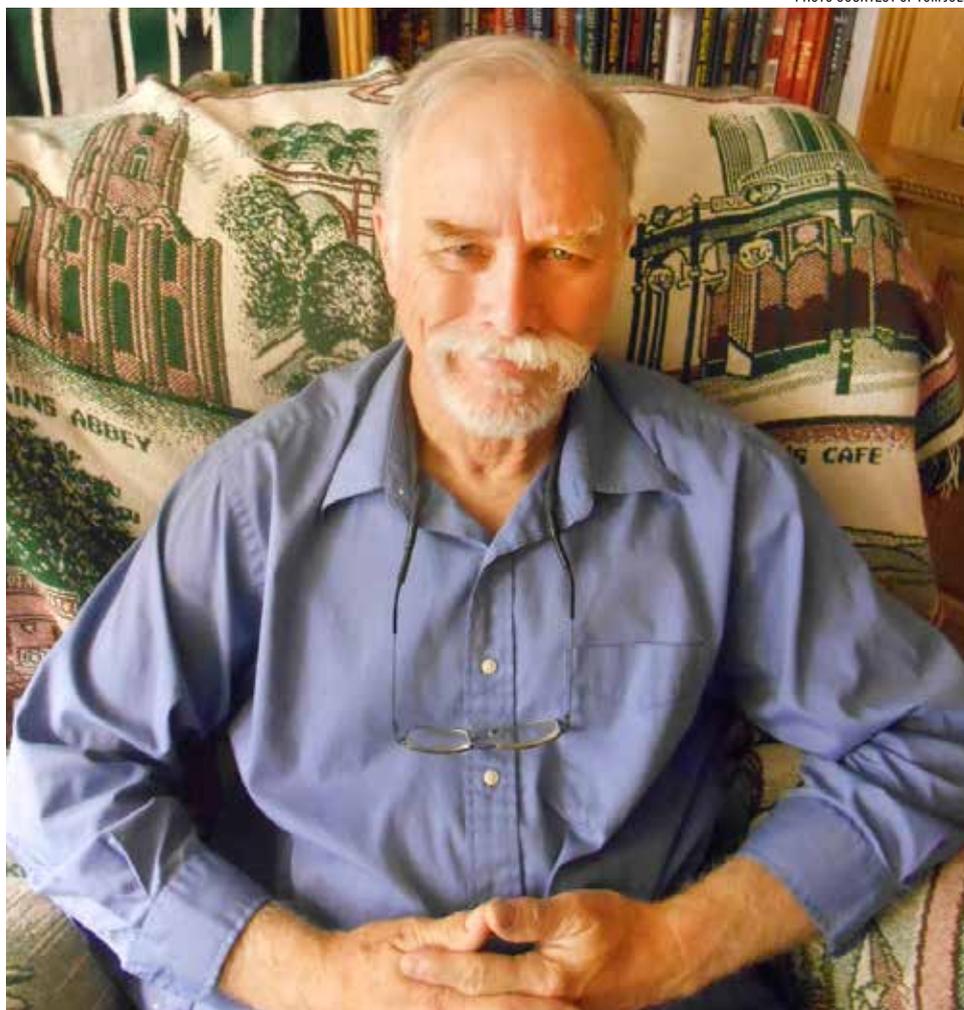


PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM JOLLY

SANTA MARIA SCI-FI: Tom Jolly (pictured) has written more than 50 short science fiction and fantasy stories for a variety of magazines over the years, including *New Myths* and *Daily SF*. The author currently resides in Santa Maria.

Mind games

Rack your brain over local novelist Tom Jolly’s new sci-fi thriller, *A Game of Broken Minds*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Science fiction and fantasy author Tom Jolly has one piece of advice for up-and-coming writers hoping to get published: It’s never too late to start.

“I never sold anything until 2011, when I was 57 years old,” said Jolly, a former engineer who’s written more than 50 short stories for magazines, including *New Myths* and *Daily SF*, and other publications since retiring.

Jolly has also self-published a full-length novel, *An Unusual Practice*, and a novella, *Touched: A Ghost Story*, but his latest book marks the first novella he has ever sold to a publisher, Distant Shore Publishing. Released on May 7, *A Game of Broken Minds* is described as a bite-sized, fast-paced, edge-of-your-seat sci-fi thriller.

After the story’s protagonist, a homeless man named Cory, becomes the test subject for a mysterious, experimental drug, he gradually begins to communicate with his “inner brain,” an entirely separate consciousness from his own, although they share the same cranium. The idea for this story came to Jolly while he was reading an article about the human brain, he explained. “I was reading something about the ‘unused part of the brain,’ a common myth

If it ain’t broke

Visit distantshorepublishing.com for details on how to order a copy of Tom Jolly’s new sci-fi novella, *A Game of Broken Minds*, which was released on May 7. The book is also available to purchase from Amazon and other outlets.

since most of the brain provides redundancy in the event that other portions get damaged,” Jolly said. “But I decided to run with that idea; what might be inside that other part of the brain? It’s brain-material, so what if it actually contained another functioning brain with its own personality?”

A longtime sci-fi and fantasy enthusiast, Jolly takes inspiration from some of his favorite authors, including Iain M. Banks, Martha Wells,

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM JOLLY



A DAY IN THE LIFE: “It’s just enormously easy to waste time once you’re retired, and it’s amazing I ever get anything written at all,” said local author and retired engineer Tom Jolly. Most of his evenings are spent on the patio with his wife, Penny, with a couple glasses of wine or whiskey, “as long as the mosquitos aren’t out,” the author said.

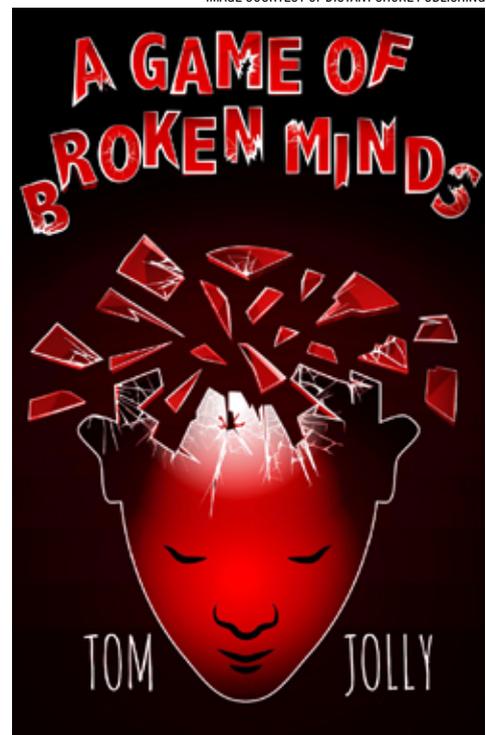


IMAGE COURTESY OF DISTANT SHORE PUBLISHING

GAME OF PROSE: Tom Jolly’s latest novella, *A Game of Broken Minds*, tells the story of a homeless man who becomes the test subject for an experimental drug that unlocks a hidden part of his mind. The book was released on May 7.

Isaac Asimov, John Scalzi, Mathew Hughes, Andy Weir, Orson Scott Card, Piers Anthony, Robert Heinlein, L. Sprague de Camp, and Steven Brust, when it comes to writing. In film and television, Jolly was a big fan of *The Outer Limits* and *The Twilight Zone* growing up, and nowadays gets a kick out of the modern Star Wars and Star Trek tie-ins as well as Marvel’s cinematic universe.

Jolly and his wife, Penny, currently live in the Santa Maria where they spend most of their evenings sitting on the patio with a couple of glasses of wine or whiskey, “as long as the mosquitos aren’t out,” the author said.

The couple first met in El Segundo, but they’ve lived around the Central Coast for the past 40 years, previously residing in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, and Nipomo before moving to Santa Maria.

Jolly worked as an electrical engineer for more than half of that time, during which he also obtained his degree in astronautical engineering. Ironically, Jolly said the degree has helped him more in terms of science fiction writing than it ever did during his engineering career.

“I used very little of what I’d learned in school on my job, which was mostly basic electrical stuff. After I retired, I started writing hard science fiction, and there I use quite a lot of what I learned in college,” Jolly said. “Designing a spacecraft for a story, or calculating orbital trajectories from one planet to another, or understanding the basic physics and environment of deep space—these are all very useful for writing hard science fiction, trying to get the facts right and making the stories as realistic as possible.”

While his retirement from the engineering field brought about a passionate side career in writing for Jolly, the local novelist admitted most of his day-to-day life consists of casually procrastinating on a dozen things, from writing projects in the works to typical, daily chores.

“It’s just enormously easy to waste time once you’re retired, and it’s amazing I ever get anything written at all,” Jolly said. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood always loves to hear from local authors at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Dark revenge

Based on the 2004 French film *Cash Truck*, *Wrath of Man* is co-written and directed by Guy Ritchie (*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*; *Sherlock Holmes*; *The Gentlemen*) and follows H (Jason Statham), a mysterious man who takes a job with an armored truck company. When his truck is held up at gunpoint, H efficiently dispatches the assailants. Who is this guy? We learn his son was murdered in a similar robbery, and he's using his position with the trucking company to find the killers. (118 min.)

Glen: A lot of Guy Ritchie's films are violent but cheeky—they feel lighthearted and insouciant. This one, on the other hand, is pretty dark. Even the banter-like dialogue has an edge to it. When H goes into work at the armored car company, his new co-workers razz him, and they're just total assholes. I think the idea is they know their jobs are dangerous, especially since H is there to replace one of two guards killed a few months earlier in the heist that also killed H's son. At first I wasn't sure if I was going to like the film—all the characters were pretty unlikable—but as it moves along, moving backward and forward in time to reveal H's backstory, it became very gripping. I was soon fully immersed and on the edge of my seat. It's also a bit of a whodunit since H believes the heist that killed his son was an inside job. One of these miserable pricks he now works with knows something, and he's determined to find out who.

Anna: Statham is awesome as always as a certified badass, brooding and mysterious and built like a brick shithouse. Luckily his character has more to do here than fire limitless bullets into bad guys. There's a story, and it makes us want H to figure out the mystery of the inside man while also taking down the guy who shot his son. The timeline jumps give us the middle of the story first then trace us back through H's life prior to his time at the cash truck company and through the tragic murder of his son, which H can't help but feel blood on his hands for. Vengeance is coming; a seething and determined monster lives in him and has no intention of stopping. His coworkers are wholly unlikeable, perhaps with the exception of Bullet (Holt McCallany), who acts as a sort of avuncular buffer while the rest of the Vanguard crew wants to start brawls with the new guy. It may be a bit thin dialogue wise, but that isn't what this film is here to do. We want to see Statham get some sweet revenge, and it certainly delivers on that front in a gritty, compelling way.

Glen: Like most Guy Ritchie films, *Wrath of Man* is populated by deeply interesting characters fleshed out by terrific actors. All the trucking company workers have colorful names such as Hollow Bob (Rocci Williams) and Boy Sweat Dave (Josh Hartnett), and there's also a side plot with law enforcement: FBI Agent King (Andy Garcia), Agent Hubbard (Josh Cowdery), and Agent Okey (Jason Wong). We also get new casts of characters in the time jumps, such as H's henchmen and the highjack team. It's a lot of moving parts, but this is where Ritchie excels. He manages to make lucid all these characters

WRATH OF MAN

What's it rated? **R**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **Downtown Centre in SLO, Sunset Drive-In in SLO**
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**

and jumps through time without confusion. Told in four parts, the story begins with "A Dark Spirit," continues with "Scorched Earth," then "Bad Animals, Bad," and finally "Liver, Lungs, Spleen and Heart." These subheads tie into each segment. There's also a spectacular concluding set piece that's absolute mayhem! This may not be Ritchie's best, but for action and revenge flick fans, this is essential viewing.

Anna: It's so fun to be in the theater again, and this movie is a great one on the big screen. It's loud and chaotic and perfect to recline in wide comfort while immersed in the spectacle of it all. Ritchie knows what he's doing and always delivers. Like you said, this may not be his best, but that doesn't make it bad—it's a rip-roaring ride, and even though we learn that H may not be a model Eagle Scout, we're still rooting for him to win. The eye into the heist team is really interesting as well—a group of ex-soldiers who listen to their "Sarge," played by Jeffrey Donovan. In that mix is Jan, played by Scott Eastwood, who's looking more and more like his pops every



MYSTERY MAN: In Guy Ritchie's *Wrath of Man*, H (Jason Statham) takes a job with an armored truck company that transports cash, but it's all a ruse to find the thieves who murdered his son in an armed robbery.

day. His character is one you loathe off the bat; he does a great job at playing the cold and calculated loose cannon of the group. Maybe it's just the joy of seeing something on an actual movie screen that is giving this a little extra special love in my heart, but I had a blast with this flick. It's dirty and gritty, and the cast is kicking ass and taking names. If you need an excuse to celebrate your COVID-19 vaccine, get into that theater and enjoy the action-packed ride *Wrath of Man* takes you on. ○

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

Film & TV Reviews

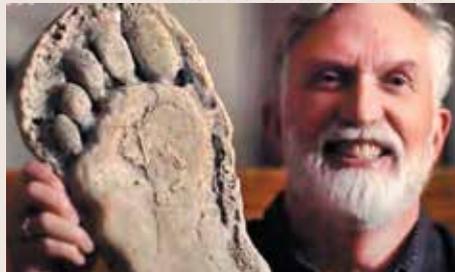
SASQUATCH

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **Hulu**

Under the guise of searching for firsthand accounts of Sasquatch sightings in the wilds of Northern California, filmmaker Joshua Rofe follows journalist David Holthouse as he explores the lore of a Sasquatch that killed three farmworkers, which he recalls from his days working on a pot farm. He interviews fellow farmworkers and town residents, most of whom are reluctant if not unwilling to share any details of the world of cannabis farms in the Emerald Triangle, nor the people who ran the business back then.

What starts as a search for a mythical monster soon transforms into a narrative on the dangerous and deadly world of growing weed in this isolated area controlled by street gangs, neo-Nazis, and others wholly uninterested in mixing with society. The DEA raids and destruction of their livelihoods left the town untrusting and quick to take extreme means to protect their land and its yield. The murder of the three men propels the storyline, and what we learn is that all of Mendocino County is

PHOTO COURTESY OF DUPLASS BROTHERS PRODUCTIONS



UNRAVEL: An independent journalist digs into a mystery involving a triple-homicide alleged to have been committed by Bigfoot, in *Sasquatch*, streaming on Hulu.

not the hippie-loving NorCal that many envision. Instead it's a forest of redwoods that houses deep-seated racism and shoot-first-ask-questions-later mentalities.

I bet a lot of people go into this series thinking they're going to follow some kookie Bigfoot believers around to look at footprints, which is where this journey starts but certainly

not where it ends. I found it a fascinating look at a world just outside of eyesight, a dark and dismal dive into what really happens up in those hills. (three episodes totaling 138 min.)

—Anna

EXTERMINATE ALL THE BRUTES

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **HBO Max**

Filmmaker Raoul Peck (*I Am Not Your Negro*) helms this four-part series that reexamines Western civilization and its path to the New World, revealing the truth behind our history rather than the whitewashed version we've told ourselves. With brutal clarity, Peck demonstrates the reality of colonialism, genocide of indigenous people, and slavery ... and the white supremacist philosophy the United States was founded upon.

Using reenactments with Josh Hartnett starring as the representative "White Man," we see the conquest of a continent from the perspective of those murdered, displaced, and stripped of their culture. Peck offers the truth behind Columbus, the pilgrims, Manifest Destiny, the Alamo, and other lies we tell ourselves to rationalize our ugly history.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO DOCUMENTARY FILMS



THE UGLY TRUTH: Director and narrator Raoul Peck (left) reveals the truth of America's founding in *Exterminate All the Brutes*, with Josh Hartnett (right) playing the part of the representative "White Man," available on HBO Max.

In the series finale, Peck explores America's idea of being a democratic land of the free, musing how it might reconcile our shared reality of white nationalism and how it links to fascism, slavery, colonialism, and Nazism. I'm sure many viewers will paint the series as revisionist history, but we're the true revisionists. (four episodes totaling 232 min.) ○

—Glen

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LET THERE BE LIGHT BITES: Menu co-creator Mara Jaffe described the Santa Ynez Sausage Company as “the perfect spot for light bites or a casual meal,” with ample space outside the Airstream trailer for outdoor seating.



TRAILER BLAZING: The Santa Ynez Sausage Company operates within the rounded, aluminum walls of an Airstream trailer parked next to Buellton’s Sideways Inn. The Airstream choice is a loving nod to the vintage trailers seen at the hotel’s sister property, Flying Flags RV Resort and Campground.

Trailer trove

Housed in a parked Airstream, the Santa Ynez Sausage Company offers outdoor dining with a vintage RV aesthetic

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

If a title as boss sounding as the Dogfather isn’t enough to convince patrons to give this house-made sausage on a toasted hoagie a go, it might help to know it’s a staff favorite at the Santa Ynez Sausage Company.

“I love to add caramelized onions, chopped-up house pickles, and Dijon mustard to make it perfect for my taste,” said Mara Jaffe, co-creator of the restaurant’s menu. She also recommends grabbing a side of garlic Parmesan fries to “share with the table as well.”

For Jaffe, the eatery’s best sausage is a close tie between the Dogfather (an Italian pork sausage topped with peppers and onions) and the Buellton Tailgate (a chicken and pork sausage with celery, carrot, blue cheese, and Buffalo sauce, topped with ranch dressing). Although she can’t make heads or tails of which dog ranks higher, one thing for certain is that unlike the Dogfather, Jaffe orders the Buellton Tailgate without customization.

“I love it exactly as it’s prepared on the menu—mostly because anything with Buffalo sauce and ranch is my absolute favorite,” Jaffe said.

Parked next to the famous Sideways Inn in Buellton, the Santa Ynez Sausage Company operates within the rounded, aluminum walls of a vintage Airstream. Whether you’re a guest at the hotel or

not, customers are welcome to enjoy their food on-site, as there are plenty of outdoor tables located near the trailer, spread out enough to accommodate social distancing.

The idea to launch this new dining option, which first opened at the Sideways Inn in January, came about as a proposed solution to the suspension of indoor seating at the Sideways Lounge, a casual eatery at the hotel known for both its food and wide selection of beers, wines, and cocktails.

“In line with COVID-19 regulations, we had to shut the doors to Sideways Lounge with the exception of takeaway offerings, which, for many businesses in the region, had quite an impact,” Jaffe said. “With limited outdoor seating, we had to get creative with how we could safely invite guests back to dine with us, while offering great food options to go along with our beverages.

“That’s when the concept for a new Airstream eatery and expanded outdoor seating came to life,” explained Jaffe, who works as the director of food and beverage for Highway West Vacations, the parent company behind the Sideways Inn.

Highway West Vacations also owns the hotel’s sister property, Flying Flags RV Resort and Campground. The two locations are within walking distance of one another.

“Integrating the Santa Ynez Sausage Company as part of our food and

Airtime

To find out more about the Santa Ynez Sausage Company, call (805) 688-8448 or visit highwaywestvacations.com. This Airstream eatery is open Wednesday and Thursday, from 5 to 10 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, from 3 to 10 p.m., and is parked at the Sideways Inn, located at 114 E. Highway 246, Buellton.

beverage offerings for the brand and the hotel itself was an ideal fit,” said Jaffe, who explained that the choice to establish the Santa Ynez Sausage Company as an Airstream trailer was a loving nod to “the vintage trailers and Airstreams at neighboring Flying Flags.”

To create the new eatery’s menu, Jaffe collaborated with Karoline Schwartz, a chef at the Grand Lake Lodge, a resort in Colorado also owned by Highway West Vacations. The duo worked in tandem to assemble the recipes for the company to base its sausage selection on.

“She is an incredibly talented chef and is extremely energetic and hospitable,” said Jaffe. She and Schwartz also created the menu to include hand-cut Belgian and Cajun fries, garlic broccoli salad, other side dishes, and a wide range of house-made dipping sauces, from chipotle mayo to Parmesan aioli.

Like the aforementioned Buellton Tailgate, a few of the eatery’s sausage concoctions celebrate cities along the Central Coast, including the Lompoc Link (a lamb and pork sausage with roasted garlic, caramelized onion, rosemary, and goat cheese, topped with scallion pesto and arugula) and the Lamb Ynez (a lamb sausage with roasted red pepper and red wine, topped with pickled red onion and “spicy ketchup”).

Other sausages include the Ginger



FEAST YOUR EYES: Mara Jaffe and Karoline Schwartz co-created the menu selection at the Santa Ynez Sausage Company, which includes a variety of sausages on toasted hoagie buns, Belgian and Cajun fries, house-made dipping sauces, and more.



AN OFFER YOU CAN’T REFUSE: Behold the Dogfather (pictured, left), an Italian pork sausage topped with peppers and onions, and the Lamb Ynez (right), a lamb sausage with roasted red pepper and red wine, topped with pickled red onion and “spicy ketchup.”

Snap (a chicken and pork sausage with fresh ginger, sage, and apple, topped with caramelized onion) and the Southwestern Veggie (a mushroom and lentil sausage with roasted red and green peppers, topped with chipotle lime crema and toasted chickpeas).

Before the restaurant opened in January, Jaffe and Schwartz had ample time to finalize the menu, as roadblocks prevented an ideally swift grand opening.

“The main challenge of getting it up and running centered around complying with current COVID restrictions,” Jaffe said. “We remained flexible and took the opportunity to fine-tune the menu and built out the

outdoor dining space, and we’re thrilled with the responses from diners so far.”

While the Santa Ynez Sausage Company mainly attracts guests staying at the Sideways Inn, Jaffe added that non-guests are more than welcome to venture onto the hotel property to try the new eatery.

“We would love more locals to know that it’s open to the public, and [we] are waiting for them to come on in,” Jaffe said. “It’s the perfect spot for light bites or a casual meal.”

Send business-casual comments to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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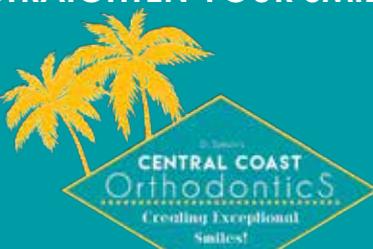
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