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# Sun

AT THE MOVIES



*Mare of Easttown: gritty, twisty thriller [16]*



# Dining differently

*For this year's Food and Drink issue, we cover the battle over micro-kitchens [6] and the future of outdoor eating [8]*

BY SUN STAFF

**NEWS** Santa Maria's in hot water over employee housing [4]

**ARTS** Summer Bloom at Gallery Los Olivos [15]

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JUNE 10 - JUNE 17, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 15

This year's annual Food and Drink issue comes out just as restaurants and bars can serve more customers with fewer restrictions. But eating out isn't relegated to brick-and-mortar establishments, something the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted. Staff Writer Malea Martin writes about Santa Barbara County's recently passed ordinance allowing micro-kitchens and the issues North County cities have with it [6]. The pandemic also gave rise to outdoor eating, something many Central Coast cities are struggling to decide the future of. Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash has the story [8].

You can also read about why Santa Maria needs to repeal its employee housing ordinance [4]; the blooms popping up at Gallery Los Olivos [15]; and what Future Perfect brings to the wine scene [18].

Camillia Lanham  
editor

Cover photo courtesy of Bobbi Thompson > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



**FIRST IN LINE:** Santa Maria resident and chef Bobbi Thompson plans to apply for a microenterprise home kitchen operation permit the day applications open in Santa Barbara County on June 15.

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## Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced on June 3 that restaurants and bars are permitted to keep their outdoor seating expansions on sidewalks and parking lots as well as continue the sale of takeaway alcoholic beverages with food. “As the state turns to post-pandemic life, we’ll continue to adapt best practices that have helped businesses transform customer experience for the better,” Newsom said on June 3 while visiting restaurants in San Francisco, according to a statement from his office. “With new opportunities and support for businesses large and small, and the California can-do spirit that has carried us through the past year, we will come roaring back from this pandemic.” The state is also encouraging local governments to keep outdoor dining through zoning and programs, according to the governor’s office. “Today’s actions by Gov. Newsom are critical—as they contain some of the most successful elements of emergency pandemic relief—and makes them stick for the longer term as we know that expanded outdoor dining is essential for paving the way towards a restaurant recovery,” **California Restaurant Association CEO and President Jot Condie** said in the statement. “These actions will be incredibly valuable for so many neighborhood restaurants throughout the state.”

• Local and state leaders released the Vandenberg Master Plan on June 3, a more than 50-page plan that lays out three goals for the recently renamed Vandenberg Space Force Base: “attracting space industry companies to the Central Coast, modernizing and investing in infrastructure, and strengthening the region’s space identity,” according to a statement from REACH, a Central Coast economic development collaboration. The state of California, Santa Barbara County, Space Launch Delta 30, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, REACH, and Deloitte all have a hand in the plan’s creation and implementation. “This plan serves as a cornerstone in sustaining and expanding California’s position at the forefront of the aerospace and commercial space industries, pushing the boundaries of innovation and creating the jobs of the future,” **Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development Director Dee Myers** said in the statement. “It’s an essential piece in maximizing the incredible assets the state has at what’s now Vandenberg Space Force Base, driving not just private investment but state and federal investment, too.” The plan garnered unanimous, bipartisan support from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. “The value of Vandenberg to this region is paramount,” **4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson** said. “That’s why the Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to join this partnership and usher in a new era of collaboration and synergy with our longtime neighbors at the base.” **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) voiced his support for the Space Force Base in a June 5 Facebook post. “The Central Coast’s commercial space industry is poised for takeoff,” Cunningham wrote. “Vandenberg’s unique launch capability and mission, combined with the Central Coast workforce and world-class higher education institutions, will lead to more head-of-household jobs and establish our region as the home of U.S. aerospace innovation.”

• In a June 4 Facebook post, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) said he was relieved to see Assembly Bill 1139 fail to pass the Assembly floor on June 2. The bill would have changed how solar energy customers get credit for the extra energy their rooftop panels produce, which opponents said would have disincentivized the switch to solar. “This bill would have drastically reduced the value of residential rooftop solar installations—systems that cost homeowners tens of thousands of dollars to purchase, finance, and install—and effectively killed the rooftop solar industry and its thousands of jobs,” Cunningham wrote in his post. “With California’s ambitious climate goals bearing down on us, we cannot afford to get rid of yet another way of producing clean energy.” ○

FILE PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS



**H-2A HOUSING:** Santa Maria must repeal its employee housing ordinance or face a \$400,000 fine from HUD after the federal agency said it may be discriminatory. The ordinance requires a conditional use permit to house H-2A workers in single family zones, though city officials say the majority of workers are housed in local motels.

## Santa Maria to look at housing ordinance again after HUD calls it discriminatory

After voting not to repeal Santa Maria’s employee housing ordinance, despite the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) determination that parts of it may be discriminatory, City Council members will consider the item again on June 15.

City officials said they’re also now double checking that future employee housing projects—such as a proposed large-scale H-2A dormitory—meet HUD requirements.

Adopted in June 2019, the employee housing ordinance permits employee housing in multifamily zones, however it requires a conditional use permit in single family zones.

“There was a great level of public interest in the original adoption of this ordinance,” City Attorney Thomas Watson said at a June 1 City Council meeting. “Candidly, we were concerned that there was going to be a greater level of use of the conditional use permit. And what we found was that the ag employers clearly heard the community: That they did not want to have employee housing in residential areas.”

Since the ordinance’s adoption, there haven’t been any applications for permits to house employees in single family zoned houses, Director of Community Development Chuen Ng said at the June 1 City Council meeting.

The council was forced to bring the ordinance back for discussion after the federal government said it may be discriminatory against H-2A workers, foreign agricultural employees who come to work in the U.S. on temporary visas. Many local farmers rely on H-2A workers to fulfill their labor force needs.

On May 20, the city received a consent proposal from HUD, City Public Information Manager Mark van de Kamp told the *Sun* in an email, “which had determined that the city must repeal and not enforce its employee housing ordinance because by specifically regulating H-2A employers it regulates people from a foreign country who are a federally protected class and may be discriminatory.”

Councilmember Etta Waterfield and Mike Cordero voted in favor of repealing the ordinance on June 1, but both expressed that they only did so because “our hands are literally tied,” as Waterfield put it.

“Had it not been for the federal government coming back and suggesting that we could suffer litigation for this, we would have never brought it back,” Cordero said. “I don’t believe we have a choice in the matter.”

Mayor Alice Patino expressed frustration over HUD’s determination, saying that the council conducted community outreach around the ordinance before it was adopted.

“We spent several meetings getting input from the community, getting input from the ag community, and coming up with something we thought was real workable,” Patino said. “For the federal government to say we’re being discriminatory really, really bothers me. They are overstretching their arm into our community, telling us how we can and can’t

house people, and what we can and can’t do with the consensus of our community.”

Patino and Councilmember Carlos Escobedo both voted against repealing the ordinance. Because Councilmember Gloria Soto was not present, the evenly split vote meant the motion to repeal the ordinance did not pass.

The city will discuss the ordinance again on June 15, van de Kamp told the *Sun*. If the council still fails to repeal it, the city could face a \$400,000 fine from HUD. However, van de Kamp said if the council repeals it this time around, the fine would not be assessed against the city.

The situation is leading city officials to be more scrupulous about potential future H-2A housing projects. The Santa Maria Planning Commission held a study session on June 3 to learn more about a large-scale H-2A housing plan that could house about 3,600 workers, proposed by Dan Blough of Dan Blough Construction, who is also a Santa Barbara County planning commissioner.

“The employee housing ordinance ... we do look at it independently from the proposed project,” Director of Community Development Ng told the *Sun*. “However, I think given the circumstances, we do want to make sure that we are going to run the project past our HUD representatives and make sure that they do not have any additional concerns. We want to make sure that we have the proper understanding of fair housing law and ... err on the side of caution in our review.”

—Malea Martin

## Deported Goleta mother paroled, returns to U.S.

Two years after being deported to Jesús Maria, Aguascalientes, in Mexico, Goleta mother Juana Flores reunited with her 10 children and 18 grandchildren with the help of U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara).

On June 2, Carbajal announced that the Department of Homeland Security granted Flores humanitarian parole, allowing her to stay in the U.S. with her family for one year.

In March 2021, Carbajal wrote a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas asking him to grant the Flores’ family request for humanitarian parole.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, humanitarian parole is used to bring someone who is otherwise inadmissible into the United State for a temporary period of time due to an emergency.

The *Sun* reached out to Carbajal’s office for clarification on why Flores was granted humanitarian parole, however a spokesperson for the office said the Department of Homeland

Security makes that determination and Carbajal’s office isn’t privy to the exact reason they granted it.

Flores’ parole began on June 4, when she returned to the U.S. for one year.

In a statement, Carbajal said Flores’ deportation under the “Trump administration left a hole in our Central Coast community that I’m glad will now be filled.”

“I will continue fighting to secure a permanent stay for Juana and reunite other families that were cruelly separated under the Trump administration,” he said. “The families of our service members deserve our respect and admiration, not deportation, which is why I will continue working to pass the Protect Patriot Parents Act and advance legislation that fixes our broken immigration system.”

Carbajal’s office has been working with the Flores Family since 2019 when he introduced the Protect Patriot Parents Act to create a pathway for parents of veterans to become permanent residents while continuing to live in the U.S. The legislation would apply to parents of U.S. citizens who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces either on active duty or as a reserve member.

Flores’ son, Caesar Flores, is a senior airman E-4 for the U.S. Air Force and wanted to help his mom with her legal status. Even though individuals who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces have a pathway to citizenship, that option is not available to their parents.

On March 5, the Protect Patriots Act was referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Flores was deported in 2019 after visiting her dying mother in Mexico and attending her mother’s funeral in 1999. Flores left and re-entered the U.S. without legal status, an action that results in an immediate bar from returning to the U.S.

Flores was deported and barred from returning for 10 years, and she’s served two years of that bar thus far.

—Karen Garcia

## Police are eager for new jail, advocates are concerned about inmate population

With crime on the rise this year, local police chiefs say opening the North County jail will alleviate challenges their departments are facing. But some inmate advocates and elected officials are concerned about what it all means for the future of inmate population reduction.

Senior Project Manager for the Northern Branch Jail Project John Green told the *Sun* that the project is in its final stages, and should be substantially complete by July 31 this year.

“Provided that we can get the final acceptance from the state, we hope to have occupancy in early fall 2021,” Green said.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office presented an analysis of jail capacity and what the inmate population might look like once the new jail opens during a June 1 special meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

North County police chiefs told supervisors they were eager to use the new jail and the resources that will come with it.

“There’s three agencies in Northern County that we have to travel anywhere from 55 to 80 miles if we have to book somebody down south,” Lompoc Police Chief Joseph Mariani said at the June 1 meeting. “Especially for the smaller agencies like myself, that is a huge, huge demand for us and impact on us when we have to send someone, at a minimum for three hours, that are gone from the city.”

Guadalupe Police Chief Michael Cash said small communities like his are often the least resourced.

“We have people who need these services,” he said.

NEWS from page 4

"I am not an advocate for always putting people in jail, but there's people at times who will not get assistance until they're forced to or court mandated to, and they need sometimes to be in a system, to be forced to get help."

Santa Maria Police Chief Marc Schneider said from 2019 to 2020, there was a 72 percent increase in aggravated assaults and a 67 percent increase in motor vehicle thefts in Santa Maria. In 2020 there were 57 total shootings, and as of June 1, there had already been 41 in 2021.

"We don't want to obviously fill the jail with people that do not need to be there, but until we have different systems in place to address some of the mental illness and drug addiction, it presents as very challenging to the police department in what we do with these individuals in these crisis moments," Schneider said.

But a looming question remains once the North County branch opens: the extent to which the South County Main Jail will continue to be used. The Sheriff's Office presented a plan at the June 1 meeting that laid out different tiers of potential capacities.

"We've developed a rolling housing reduction plan," Chief Custody Deputy Vincent Wasilewski said. "Our plan involves strategically shutting down and opening housing areas to maximize on-duty staff and reduce overtime."

As the average daily capacity hits certain trigger levels, under the plan, the jail would move up and down through a tier system to determine how many beds to make available at a given time. Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart criticized the plan for not doing enough to proactively keep the population low, which has seen a 37 percent drop over the last year.

"As of last Friday, the population of the jail I

think was 580 people, and 80 of those people were waiting transfer to state prison, so our organic county population was 500," Hart said. "The reason we're having these conversations is because the historic trend is not the trend that we're dealing with today."

He expressed frustration that the sheriff's plans don't maximize the potential cost savings from a reduced jail population, money that could be used for mental health programs and to reduce recidivism.

"What we're advocating for is keeping the low level offenders from going back in, going back to business as usual that happened before COVID," Hart said. "The idea that, because the North County jail's more convenient, to put low level offenders back in—that's a problem. ... Operating the county jail with 37 percent fewer prisoners for a year, and not realizing any cost savings from that, and having no prospect going forward of realizing any cost savings from that—something is seriously broken in the system."

Aaron Fischer is a civil rights attorney and lead class counsel in *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara*, a jail conditions case that reached a settlement last year. He said the new jail opening presents "an enormous moment of opportunity" for the county to institutionalize some of the positive changes seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The settlement and federal court order in our case do not require a jail of a certain size or population," Fischer wrote in an email to the *Sun*. "But the court order does apply to *all* jail facilities that the county chooses to operate. What that means practically is that a smart and efficient system that incarcerates fewer people can mean a path to compliance with significant cost savings—and those savings can be invested in community-based solutions." ○

—Malea Martin

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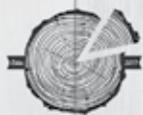
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# Cooking from home

Despite some opposition, home kitchen operations are now legal in Santa Barbara County—and local chefs are eager to get started

BY MALEA MARTIN

Santa Maria resident Bobbi Thompson was one of the first Santa Barbara County residents to obtain a cottage food permit back when they were first legalized eight years ago. It allowed her to bake cupcakes and cakes out of her home kitchen and sell them, a small business venture that Thompson found fun and fulfilling.

Today, Thompson has a new vision: She wants to cook warm meals out of her home, food she would deliver to elderly residents at nearby mobile home parks. She said the idea is inspired by her mom.

“As she got older, she cooked for herself less and less,” Thompson recalled. “I didn’t like some of the things she was eating—I didn’t think it was healthy. When I would visit her, I would cook for her. ... I thought, there’s got to be other people out there that are living by themselves that would like a home-cooked meal.”

Thompson already has a name for it: Chef’s Pick of the Day.

“It’s not going to be the same thing over and over,” Thompson said. “It’s going to be food that’s kicked up a notch, a little modernized.

Stuff that maybe your mom used to make, only it’s got a different twist on it.”

Beginning June 15, Thompson will be allowed to apply for a microenterprise home kitchen operation (MEHKO) permit in Santa Barbara County and, once approved, begin building her business. While cottage food permits, the kind Thompson obtained to sell her baked goods, allow people to make and sell shelf-stable items out of their home kitchens, these permits do not allow the sale of perishables, like a freshly wood-fired pizza or straight-off-the-stove tamales. Assembly Bill 626 changed that by adding a new type of permit for MEHKOs.

Effective beginning in 2019, AB 626 allows MEHKOs in California—but only if a jurisdiction opts in to the legislation. Unlike cottage food permits, which are legal throughout the state, hopeful chefs must wait until their county brings home kitchen operations to a vote. In 2019, Riverside County became the first to opt in. Now, two years later, several more jurisdictions have joined, including Santa Barbara County at a May 11 Board of Supervisors meeting.

It wasn’t a clean sweep, though: The board was split 3-2 on the decision, and public comment was similarly divided. Home cooking advocates and Santa Barbara County residents called in to voice their support for MEHKOs, while city elected officials and restaurant owners urged the board not to allow them. While Supervisors Gregg Hart, Das Williams, and Joan Hartmann ultimately voted to pass the ordinance allowing MEHKOs, Supervisors Bob Nelson and Steve Lavagnino, both of North County, did not support the motion.

Environmental Health Services (EHS) Director Lars Seifert gave the staff presentation, recommending that the board adopt the ordinance. He gave examples of home-based food businesses that EHS has received inquiries about from county residents: ideas that, without the adoption of the MEHKO ordinance, would not be allowed.

“A local farmer who wants to offer educational cooking classes and tasting events using his specialty produce,” Seifert said. “An entrepreneur who wants to try testing out their restaurant idea before signing the lease on a brick-and-mortar restaurant. A personal chef interested in preparing nutritious meals for senior citizens. Cottage food operators

who would like to expand their menus to include wedding cakes, filled doughnuts, or cupcakes with cream cheese frosting. Families who want to make and sell pumpkin pies, tamales, and other specialty foods during the holidays.”

Seifert’s local examples are just a few of the many forms that MEHKOs can take if a county opts in to AB 626.

“As intended by the state legislation, MEHKOs would expand home-based business opportunities, particularly for those who may lack access to capital, or face other barriers to entry into the formal economy, such as child or elder care responsibilities in a home setting,” Seifert said.

But multiple elected city officials who spoke at the meeting felt differently about the ordinance. They said cities would be forced to play a new enforcement role without getting a choice, that home kitchen operations might put too much grease into city sewer systems, and that such operations would create unfair competition to local brick-and-mortar restaurants.

Some speakers also raised concerns about health hazards of less regulated kitchen operations.

“I’m here to urge you not to approve the ordinance allowing microenterprise home kitchen operations,” Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino said at the May 11 supervisors meeting. “I’ve been in business in this town for over 30 years. I support entrepreneurs, but I think people have their head in the sky if they think that this is what this is all about.”

Patino specifically expressed concerns about grease blockages from home cooking.

“The EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] is not going to come after the homeowner or the resident, but they will come after the city of Santa Maria for the violation,” Patino said. “It’s going to be a big hit on our code compliance people.”

Peter Ruddock is the California policy and implementation director with COOK Alliance, a nonprofit that advocated for the state to pass the MEHKO legislation. From his perspective, there are already plenty of people operating home kitchen businesses illegally, and adopting a MEHKO ordinance would only encourage these operations to get permitted, educated, and regulated.

Ruddock estimates that before the pandemic, there were 50,000 people in California operating home kitchen businesses without a permit, and he believes those numbers have close to doubled during the pandemic, he told the Sun.

“They’re already doing this,” he said. “If we regulate them, not only do they not have to hide, they get education. The food safety will get even better. ... There are a lot of advantages.”

Still, some city officials feel the new allowances are being thrust upon them without a choice, and they’re concerned the onus will fall on them to regulate.

“We believe that this would be undue hardship imposed on the city,” Solvang City Manager Xenia Bradford said at the meeting. “We also are concerned with code enforcement efforts, that this would all fall onto the city, rather than the county.”

Third District Supervisor Hartmann commiserated with cities over this concern, but she ultimately supported the ordinance.

“The county is making a decision that affects cities. We often promote local self-control, city self-determination, and that’s a difficult one,” Hartmann



ADVOCATING FOR CHEFS: COOK Alliance is a nonprofit that sponsored Assembly Bill 626, which allows jurisdictions in California to legalize home kitchen operations.

said. “I think it has to be balanced against promoting opportunity for people within cities.”

Bradford also raised concerns about the competition home kitchen operations might bring against existing restaurants, who have been hard-hit by the pandemic.

First District Supervisor Williams had a different take.

“I think people are massively overestimating its potential competitive edge to the restaurant industry,” Williams said. “Time will tell, I could be wrong, but I think this is a slightly different niche. When I buy tamales from somebody, it doesn’t mean I go out to dinner less.”

MEHKOs are also limited in how much they can sell: Only 30 meals per day, or 60 a week are allowed, and annual gross sales must be under \$50,000.

Supervisor Lavagnino echoed some of Bradford’s concern, and added that he was against the ordinance because he found it hard to believe that the businesses already operating illegally would get permitted, since the permit process takes some time and costs money.

“Outside of the fact that there are people doing it, and we should get in there and educate and regulate ... if we’re not going to provide the money for enforcement, I just think this is a hope and a prayer,” Lavagnino said. “We have hundreds of people already selling tamales and these types of products, and pies and everything, and they are not going to fall under a MEHKOs ordinance.”

COOK Alliance Director Ruddock acknowledged that there are some operations out there that will never get permitted. But from his experience working with other counties that have legalized MEHKOs, there are some who will, he said. Plus, allowing home kitchen operations will encourage some folks to sell their culinary creations for the first time.

With the ordinance now passed in Santa Barbara County, that is certainly true for Santa Maria resident and chef Thompson, who has also volunteered with COOK Alliance for the past few years, leading the effort to pass MEHKOs in Santa Barbara County. She’s eager to bring her food delivery service for the elderly to life.

“I’ll probably be the first to fill in the application,” Thompson said. “I want to be able to give some of the older folks options, maybe to eat something that they know from their past, that [they] just don’t want to cook anymore or are unable to.

“It’s going to be a way to have a little business out of your home.” ○

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



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# Should we go al fresco?

As the pandemic winds down, Central Coast cities consider the future of pandemic-era outdoor dining

BY KASEY BUBNASH

As Californians become increasingly vaccinated and COVID-19 restrictions ease, cities and business owners throughout the Central Coast are trying to figure out what to do with outdoor dining parklets. But things look different for Santa Maria.

While cities like San Luis Obispo helped businesses set up dozens of outdoor dining parklets in streetside parking spaces throughout the pandemic, Santa Maria Community Development Director Chuen Ng said the city's streets just aren't set up for that kind of usage.

Both of Santa Maria's core streets, Main Street and Broadway, are owned and maintained by Caltrans, which Ng said would have had to approve any parklets or other expanded dining options at restaurants on either of those streets. So while there are a few restaurants in town with tables and chairs set up on sidewalks, Ng said there aren't any street parklets. The rest set up dining spaces in their private parking lots, which are allowed through relaxations to the city's zoning regulations that Santa Maria passed in May 2020 in response to COVID-19.

Now, some business owners and community members are hoping to see those rules continue indefinitely.

"I think as the pandemic winds down we'll need to reengage with the business community and talk about whether we'll continue those accommodations into the future or not," Ng said.

Ng said he's hearing mostly from business owners who want to keep the banners and temporary signs advertising their hours of operation and available services. Businesses aren't normally allowed to display temporary banners except under specific circumstances, he said, because the city wants to encourage businesses to invest in permanent signs. That changed in response to COVID-19, too, and Ng said some businesses want it to stay that way.

There's no specific end date for Santa Maria's new signage or outdoor dining rules, and Ng said staff haven't formally discussed how they'll move forward. But he said it's likely that some allowances from the pandemic could carry over into the future, including outdoor dining.

"We're open to the idea because it allows for greater visibility for the businesses but also opportunities for our customers to enjoy a meal outside," Ng said. "And we have great weather on the Central Coast, so why not take advantage of it?"

Other cities on the Central Coast are grappling with similar issues.

In Grover Beach—where roughly 22 businesses have obtained temporary use permits for expanded outdoor dining on sidewalks and in parking lots, and only two have streetside parklets—City Council expressed interest in permanently relaxing its minimum parking requirements at a meeting on May 24. But several council members said they were concerned about the proximity of street parklets to fast-moving traffic and lacking disability accessibility on sidewalks where restaurants have set up expanded dining areas.

Pismo Beach City Manager Jim Lewis said his city has lost an estimated \$200,000 in parking fee revenue due to its six parklets downtown. But, more importantly, he said the loss of those parking spots also equates to more difficulties accessing the coast, which is generally considered a big no-no for cities in the coastal zone. Lewis said city staff are still researching whether permanent parklets would violate coastal zone regulations.

For San Luis Obispo, parklets helped resolve a number of pandemic-specific problems, but city officials say they also create others, including reduced parking capacity, accessibility issues, and intensified needs for already hard to find restaurant employees.

Roughly 38 businesses have parklets in street parking spots in San Luis Obispo, along with around 10 sidewalk dining spaces, and another handful of private parking lots, according to Transportation Manager Luke Schwartz.

The city also removed a lane of traffic on Higuera Street and replaced it with a bike lane, and made the last stretch of Monterey Street going into Mission Plaza a one-way street, making room for street dining outside Giuseppe's and Finney's. Other outdoor spaces, like Mission Plaza or private parking lots across the city, became new hubs for dining. But, Schwartz said, none of that was intended to be permanent.

"It's been a real noticeable challenge to our parking division," he said.

The city is missing more than 60 public parking spots due to parklet dining, Schwartz said, at an estimated cost of around \$230,000



**PARK IT AT A PARKLET:** As part of its pandemic response, SLO made the last stretch of Monterey Street going into Mission Plaza a one-way street, making room for street dining outside Giuseppe's and Finney's.

in lost parking meter revenue each year. SLO allocated about \$600,000 in general and CARES Act funds to the Open SLO program, which allowed restaurants to build dining areas in public street parking spots, parking lots, on sidewalks and in alleyways. The money was spent on building parklets, modifications to Monterey Street, and public health signage. There are also additional city maintenance costs associated with outdoor dining that aren't fully captured in that \$600,000, Schwartz said.

One way the city could offset some of those costs, he said, is through the creation of an annual parklet permit fee. Businesses are already required to get Open SLO encroachment permits and insurance before building parklets, but, as of now, the permits themselves are free.

SLO City Council is slated to discuss that possibility and others at a public study session on outdoor dining on July 20, where Schwartz said members will consider making parklets and other features of the city's pandemic response permanent fixtures. A decision has to be made before the end of this year, when SLO's relaxed outdoor dining and parking measures are set to expire.

When the city of San Luis Obispo rolled out its Open SLO program in July of last year, Novo jumped at the chance. Samantha Welch—director of operations at Blue Mango

Restaurant Management Services, the group that operates Novo, Luna Red, and a few other San Luis Obispo County restaurants—said Novo almost immediately applied for an Open SLO encroachment permit, which the city is still giving out free of charge to businesses hoping to operate outdoors due to COVID-19.

The city helped Novo install a standard parklet, which Welch said spans two street parking spaces and includes flooring, railings, and, most importantly, around eight additional tables.

"I'm grateful to the city for making the changes that they did," Welch said, "and for us it's been super beneficial."

Novo put some of its own money into the parklet too, enclosing it in lattice fencing for a little extra security from passing traffic, stringing up lights, adding some potted plants, and hauling out umbrellas and propane heaters whenever necessary. But—unlike restaurants like Eureka!, which has everything from Plexiglas barriers between tables to roofing on its parklet—Welch said Novo refrained from putting too much into the potentially temporary space. Although Welch said she loves the bustling atmosphere parklets create downtown, it's still not clear whether they're here to stay.

"But if it were something that became a full-time thing, then we'd absolutely invest further into it," she said. ○

Staff Writer Kasey Bubnash can be reached at [kbubnash@newtimeslo.com](mailto:kbubnash@newtimeslo.com).





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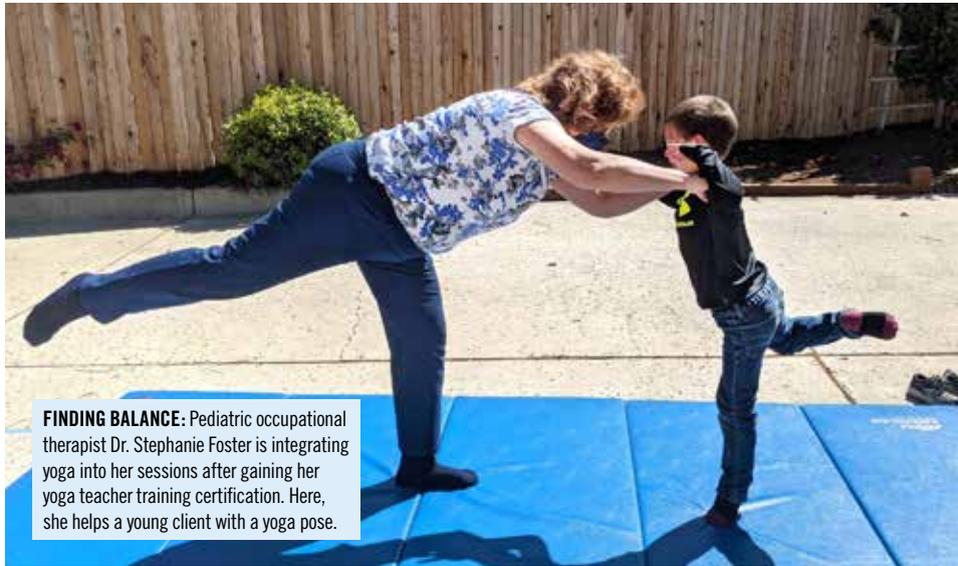
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PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. STEPHANIE FOSTER



**FINDING BALANCE:** Pediatric occupational therapist Dr. Stephanie Foster is integrating yoga into her sessions after gaining her yoga teacher training certification. Here, she helps a young client with a yoga pose.

## Happy and healthy

*Kid's Work Therapy uses yoga and other interventions to help kids with developmental challenges to find their balance*

BY MALEA MARTIN

The goal of Kid's Work Therapy, founded by occupational therapist Dr. Stephanie Foster, is simple: to help kids have fun, learn, and live to the best of their abilities.

"I've been doing private, small, pediatric practice out of my home since 2002," Foster said of Kid's Work Therapy, located in Santa Maria. "I started to practice because I saw a real gap in what's being offered. I was working in the school systems ... Sometimes the rules of the school system work, but for the kids that have special needs, and specifically difficulties paying attention all day long, a lot of times their educational setting doesn't serve them well."

Foster's practice focuses on kids who have special needs, behavioral problems, or developmental delays, and her goal is to find alternatives to medication for them, and allow them to achieve self-regulation. Her most recent offering is yoga-based therapy, which Foster said can improve attention, focus, and behavioral functioning: all important facets of self-regulation.

More than half of her clients now participate in yoga as a part of their therapy plans, and Foster said their parents have reported decreases in problem behaviors. The yoga-based therapy can be especially helpful for kids with attention deficit disorder or autism spectrum disorder, Foster said. She focuses on deep breathing and flexibility training to improve coordination, balance, and fine motor skills.

"These are all beautiful, happy children who are just struggling to get along," Foster said. "The yoga [helps] kids to find their bodies and find peace."

Foster sees children from birth all the way to age 16. Some of her patients are preschoolers who are having trouble following the rules of a rigid classroom setting for the first time. Others are infants born prematurely or with in-utero trauma or drug exposure. Some might be struggling with their handwriting in elementary school because they can't sit still at their desk. Foster said she individualizes her therapy offerings to fit the needs of every child.

"We have one kid who's graduating this week.

He's a kid who has been with me for the past year, came in with lots of control issues—just didn't want to be told what to do," Foster said. "We came up with a plan, and [now] he's been able to use his words when things are getting really hard."

In addition to yoga sessions, Kid's Work Therapy is restarting its annual summer play groups, something that had to be put on pause last year due to the pandemic. Foster said the play groups will help kids get ready to socialize again after more than a year of social distancing. The "Let's Play" groups have been offered for the past 15 years, and will run this year from June 15 through July 22.

"We have pretty much done just telehealth during the pandemic, and then also within the last six to eight months we've been doing in-person services, one-on-one," Foster said. "But we are about to launch in two weeks our playgroup summer session, where kids come for an intensive hour-and-a-half period with one or two peers."

Foster calls it "Super Flex Academy."

"That's all about being flexible and learning to think about what other people are thinking," she said. "That's a super fun way to help kids with self-regulation and getting along with other people."

The goal of all her specialized therapy options, Foster said, is to achieve health and happiness for her clients.

"We can help kids get along and have fun and just enjoy this time of their life."

### Highlights

- Cottage Health opened a new Urgent Care Center in Santa Maria on May 25, located at 3596 Skyway Drive, which is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The center has a goal to provide complete care within 45 minutes, according to the health care company. Cottage's other Santa Maria Urgent Care locations include one on North Broadway and another in the Orcutt Hills Plaza. The health care company also has Urgent Care locations in Buellton, San Luis Obispo, Goleta, Oxnard, Camarillo, and Ventura. Walk-ins are welcome, and online appointments are available.

- Lompoc Public Library kicked off its annual Summer Reading Program on June 1. The program theme this year is Reading Colors Your World, and it's open to all ages, according to city officials. Community members can register for the program on the Beanstack Tracker app or at cityoflompoc.beanstack.org, or by calling the Lompoc library at (805) 875-8781. "In addition to the opportunity to read for fantastic prizes, the Lompoc Library Summer Reading Program offers craft kits for children, teens, and adults," according to the city. Once local readers register for the Summer Reading Program, they can pick up a take-and-make craft kit from the Lompoc Library, while supplies last. ○

Staff Writer Malea Martin wrote this week's Spotlight. Send business and non-profit news to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

## DEATH NOTICES

**ABRAMSON, PAUL**, 89, of Paso Robles passed away 6/3/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**BAKER, BOB**, 56, of Orcutt passed away 5/29/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BARRAGAN, BEATRIZ**, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 5/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**BOWDISH, SCOTT**, 65, formerly of Oceano passed away 5/20/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**CARNEVALI, CHERYL**, 63, of Paso Robles passed away 5/20/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**CHRISTENSEN, THERESA**, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 6/7/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

**CHURCH, JOHNNY ROBERT**, 67, of Paso Robles passed away 5/26/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**CLAUDE, BRANDON, JOSEPH**, 29, of Lompoc passed away 5/30/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**COONS, MICHAEL LEE**, 78, of Paso Robles passed away 5/31/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**COSIO, DORA ARMIDA**, 59, of Santa Maria passed away 6/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DAVID, JAMES**, 98, of Nipomo passed away 5/28/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**DEROSA, JAMES**, 59, of Paso Robles passed away 5/28/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**FROST, ERIK M.**, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 5/30/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**FROST, FORREST "FROSTY"**, 101, of Grover Beach passed away 5/27/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**GEIER, WILLIAM**, 66, of Oceano passed away 5/31/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**GETTY, DONALD EUGENE**, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 5/30/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**GRIGG, ERVIN DEAN**, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 6/5/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**HANSEN, LAURA MILLIS**, 52, of Arroyo Grande passed away 5/29/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**HERNANDEZ, CORA**, 93, of Nipomo passed away 5/29/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**HILLYER, TAMMY**, 57, of Nipomo passed away 6/6/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

**HUNSBERGER, MARY RUTH**, 94, of Bradley passed away 5/24/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**LINDSEY, JUDITH ANN**, 76, of Santa Maria passed away 5/31/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

**LUM, DORA**, 91, of Santa Maria passed away 5/28/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

**MARSH, JOSETTE**, 93, of San Luis Obispo passed away 5/28/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**MCCORMACK, BENNIE**, 88, of Guadalupe passed away 5/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MICHEL, CHERYL DENISE**, 58, of Santa Maria passed away 6/5/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

**MUNDEN, GWENDOLYN**, 74, of Arroyo Grande passed away 5/28/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**OLIPHANT, NICOLETTE**, 37, of Santa Maria passed away 5/16/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PADUGANAN, ARSENIO**, 65, of Santa Maria passed away 5/26/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**RAUSCH, MARIE**, 84, of Templeton passed away 6/6/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**ROGERS, JOANNE**, 99, of Nipomo passed away 6/5/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

**SMITH, CODY ANDREW**, 18, of Templeton passed away 5/29/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**STARNATER, CATHERINE "KATE"**, 104, of Santa Maria passed away 6/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**SUDDARTH, GAVIN DOUGLAS**, 44, of Arroyo Grande passed away 5/12/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**TERRY, FLORENCE ALDINE**, 96, of Atascadero passed away 5/26/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**VALLE, JOSE CAMPOS**, 75, of Paso Robles passed away 6/2/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**WOLGAMOTT, NADINE AGNES**, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 6/1/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home and Crematory

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## Online Poll

### Did you go to the first of 2021's Downtown Fridays?

- 54% No, but I plan to in a future week!
- 31% I don't live in Santa Maria, but I'm glad to hear things are starting back up.
- 15% Once they start the live music back up again, I'm there.
- 0% Yes, it feels so good to see things returning to 'normal.'

13 Votes

Vote online at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com).


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## Recognizing our needs

*When tragedy strikes, let's come together instead of drawing more dividing lines*

**BY JIMMY PAULDING**

**O**n May 20, I attended the funeral service for SLO Police Detective Luca Benedetti, who was tragically shot and killed while serving a search warrant on May 10. Along with our community, I grieve for Detective Benedetti's wife and two young girls, who will now grow up without their dad. It's heart-wrenching.

The details of what happened on May 10 and the weeks and months leading up to it are part of an ongoing investigation, but it's been reported that the shooter, Eddie Giron, was experiencing severe mental illness, and that his friends and family had unsuccessfully been trying to help him for months. It's unclear if Mr. Giron would ever have been

receptive to mental health support, but it is clear that our community's resources were not enough to prevent him from turning to violence.

The fact that Mr. Giron was experiencing a mental health crisis in no way excuses his decision to ambush the police officers serving the search warrant. But the facts of this story require us to take a long, hard look in the mirror and recognize that we are failing to keep our community safe, including first responders like law enforcement, if we know our friends and neighbors need mental health support, yet we can't provide it to them.

When tragedy strikes a community, it can serve as an opportunity to bring people together to grieve as a community and lend support to each other. It can be a chance to temporarily put aside our differences to work together to find solutions so that such tragedies do not befall our community again. Unfortunately, that isn't happening like it should. Much of the conversation so far seems to be finger pointing.

Some in our community have used divisive rhetoric that seeks to inflame rather than heal, insinuating that Detective Benedetti's killing should be linked to past protests of police. As the proud son of a police officer, I will always stand up for good law enforcement officers. But I also believe that creating a dichotomy between "pro-police" and "pro-social

services" is a false choice driven by national political antagonism. We need to move beyond the divisive politics that pit us against one another at the expense of practical solutions. Most people recognize that developing support networks for those experiencing acute mental health deterioration combined with better training for first responders in mental health support and addiction-related challenges makes all of us safer, including police officers. Now is the time to both support law enforcement and expand mental health resources so we can reduce the number of senseless deaths in our community.

I know that we are far more united on issues of public safety than what we see on TV or read on Facebook. Last summer, the Arroyo Grande City Council updated its police use of force standards with the support of both our police department and our community. And we did it with unanimous, bipartisan support from our council.

A commitment to working together, in support of both law enforcement and those experiencing mental illness, is what we need right now, not dividing into camps and exploiting tragedy for political gain. ○

*Jimmy Paulding is an Arroyo Grande City Council member. Send comments for publication to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

## Tough issue

*We must prevent deadly mental decline*

**BY JOHN DONEGAN**

**W**hat do we do about crazy people? The recent murder of a local police officer and shooting of another by a person whose mental illness had allegedly been previously reported to law enforcement highlights the difficulty of responding to reports of mental illness.

On May 10, 2021, Edward Giron killed SLO Police Detective Luca Benedetti and wounded Detective Steve Orozco by lying in ambush as they executed a search warrant seeking stolen property. Detective Benedetti left a wife and two young children. Detective Orozco is expected to recover.

In comments to this paper's sister publication, *New Times*, Giron's mother indicated that he had been in a "declining mental state," including displaying paranoia ("Deceased shooter who killed SLO police officer had a mental health crisis, his mother said," May 13). She reported that she had fruitlessly contacted authorities numerous times advising them of his deterioration, and had even requested that he be placed in a 5150 mental health hold, which the authorities declined to do.

What should have been done? Of course, in hindsight it is obvious that Giron was dangerously deranged and should have been locked up. Still, Giron's criminal record was reportedly limited to "nonviolent drug, alcohol, and property offenses," and no threats of violence were reported. Giron's criminal record was similar to that of many of our local homeless and other residents, and recent laws and edicts have ordered the release of many such offenders. Many of our more extreme political partisans are paranoid. Behavior is difficult to predict. Who do we lock up?

If we knew the answer to that question, Detective Benedetti would still be alive.

In the absence of serious criminal acts or threats, law enforcement is prohibited from intervening and placing anyone into care, unless they can show that they are an "imminent danger to others or themselves." In practice, this is a difficult standard to meet. Even then, the "hold" is for a very limited time. Otherwise, no one can be forced to get treatment, and many of the mentally ill refuse it.

These limitations are the result of our society's ambivalence and conflicting demands. We want to

be safe, and we want the ill to be helped, but we also respect a person's autonomy and right to choose their own lifestyle. Much of the problem comes from the fact that mental illness is subjective. We often celebrate eccentric and quirky behavior.

We no longer want to be judgmental. A person engaged in a loud and angry argument with themselves is no longer a raving lunatic, but instead is a "nontraditional conversationalist" or merely "inwardly referential." What is more judgmental than calling someone crazy?

So we have defaulted to a standard requiring that a person must be about to kill someone else, or be perched on a ledge ready to jump, to enable the law to intervene. We have chosen to wait until an individual actually commits or threatens violent crimes before we act.

The question of official policy on mental health interventions also is a central part of other issues.

Should the authorities be able to force treatment on the addicted and mentally ill homeless? Should an unproven allegation of domestic violence be enough to seize someone's guns under a red flag law?

Intervention comes down to a very difficult choice between public safety and our personal freedoms. Before you quickly respond with some glib, ideologically driven proposal, please conduct an experiment: First, read Detective Benedetti's obituary, and consider the loss to his widow and children, and the countless others who have lost loved ones to the criminally insane. And then go on down to the DMV and decide if you would entrust the government to determine the state of *your* mental health. ○

*John Donegan is a retired attorney in Pismo Beach who knows that he is sane because his parents had him tested. Send comments for publication to [letters@santamariasun.com](mailto:letters@santamariasun.com).*

MAYFIELD

# CRIME IS UP!

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# Discriminatory sensitivity

If a federal agency told you one of your policies was discriminatory, would you keep it?

Well, if you're **Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino**, the answer is, "Hell yes!"

"For the feds to say we're being discriminatory really, really bothers me," she said.

Yeah, it totally sucks when your city passes an ordinance that potentially violates discrimination policies after it spent a year's worth of time and tax dollars trying to create something that pleases all sides. And then two years later, a federal agency pops up and says you might want to change that.

That's what happened with the city's "employee housing" ordinance that requires a conditional use permit to house H-2A agricultural workers in single family houses. I guess the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** saw right through the term "employee housing," which was used in the ordinance as a way to say "H-2A worker housing" without actually saying it. The ordinance definitely targets agricultural workers who come to the area to legally pick our fruits and vegetables.

That's specifically what residents were complaining about at the time: H-2A workers who they were worried would wreak all kinds of havoc on single family residential neighborhoods.

In May, HUD notified the city that it "must" repeal the ordinance.

So at a June 1 City Council meeting, council members voted to do just that! Not.

They actually voted to keep the ordinance, thanks to Patino and **Councilmember Carlos Escobedo**, who voted against repealing it. With

**Councilmember Gloria Soto** absent, it was a tie vote—which anyone who's been serving as a public official should know means the status quo stays as is.

Although, Patino, who's been the city mayor forever, seemed surprised that the vote meant Santa Maria kept the ordinance in place. So, was she trying to save face and do the right thing at the same time?

I guess it backfired because HUD responded with the threat of a \$400,000 fine!

How's that for you, Patino? Way to take a stand! Now the city has to talk about the ordinance again—more time spent on it, more taxpayer dollars—on June 15 and hope to repeal it.



Not only that, HUD is requiring the whole City Council has to complete sensitivity training because of the discriminatory ordinance.

"Don't forget, we're going to have to take diversity training," Patino reminded everyone on June 1. "We've got five of us with Hispanic ethnicity, and we're gonna have to do diversity training."

Clearly not understanding that classism is a form of discrimination, as is discriminating against immigrants for being immigrants—regardless of whether they come from Mexico or somewhere else. Which is exactly what the "employee" housing ordinance does.

Why do you believe your heritage means you can't make discriminatory policies? As a relatively well-off American citizen who grew up in the United States, Patino, your life experience isn't the same as the "employees" you'd like to stay out of single family residential areas in your city.

It sounds like sensitivity training is exactly what you need. ○

*The canary is sensitive but sassy. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.*

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# HOT STUFF

JUNE 10 – JUNE 17  
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!



## NO PAINT, NO GAIN

Art Spot on Wheels hosts its next *Painting in the Vineyard* class on Saturday, June 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Ca' Del Grevino Estate Winery. Admission to this outdoor pop-up workshop is \$75, which includes necessary art supplies and a complimentary wine tasting. Ca' Del Grevino is located at 2510 E. Clark Ave., Santa Maria.

Visit [artspotonwheels.com](http://artspotonwheels.com) to find out more about the event.  
—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF ART SPOT ON WHEELS

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

#### ART FROM THE TRAIL: EXPLORING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Celebrates the Central Coast with 38 artworks by 27 local artists from the Oak Group, SLOPE (San Luis Outdoor Painters for the Environment) and SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment). Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through Oct. 3 \$5 General Admission; ages 17 and under are free. 805-688-1082. [wildlingmuseum.org/news/art-from-the-trail](http://wildlingmuseum.org/news/art-from-the-trail). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**BIO/MASS: CONTEMPORARY MEDITATIONS ON NATURE** Invites viewers to engage with art through the eyes of the artists as observers and interpreters of the world around them. The exhibition highlights eleven contemporary artists who create work in series, exploring some element of nature. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through Sept. 5 \$5 General Admission; ages 17 and under are free. 805-688-1082. [wildlingmuseum.org/news/biomass](http://wildlingmuseum.org/news/biomass). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**HOLLI HARMON: THE NATURE OF CLOUDS** 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 Nov. 1 [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

**SOLVANG SCHOOL: BIRD STUDIES** A collaboration with educator Erin Dunkle and middle school students enrolled in Solvang School's Art and Science elective class to explore birding and the art of John James Audubon. Through Sept. 12 [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

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

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**2021 LESTER B. HAYES PROJECT GRANTS: APPLICATIONS OPEN** Open to applicants and projects located in Santa Maria, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Cuyama,

Guadalupe, and Sisquoc. Visit site for more info. Through June 20 [surveymonkey.com/2021SMAC](http://surveymonkey.com/2021SMAC). Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

**JUNE CAMPS: WINE AND DESIGN** Check website for more info. **June 14-18**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Admission varies. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt, [wineanddesign.com/orcutt-ca/](http://wineanddesign.com/orcutt-ca/).

**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. 805-925-0464. [coelhomusic.com](http://coelhomusic.com). Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

**OUTDOOR UKULELE LESSONS** For individuals 50 years and up, at no charge. Participants will learn to play chords, melodies, and familiar songs. Five baritone ukuleles are available to borrow, or class members may bring one of their own. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. [cityofsantamaria.org/register](http://cityofsantamaria.org/register). Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

**SONGS, SONNETS, AND SPRINGTIME (VIRTUAL)** Enjoy poetry readings with selections from Shakespeare to Edna St. Vincent Millay to jubilant songs from musical theatre, along with original songs all presented by PCPA's Resident Artists. Through June 27 Free to stream. [pcpa.org/Springtime/](http://pcpa.org/Springtime/). The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

**SUMMER CAMPS AT WINE AND DESIGN** Offered during various weeks of June and July (check site for full list of camps). **June 14-July 23** Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt, [wineanddesign.com/orcutt-ca/](http://wineanddesign.com/orcutt-ca/).

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

**VALLEY ART GALLERY: FEATURED ARTIST DENISE GIMBEL** The Valley Art Gallery's new art exhibit at the Santa Maria Airport opens June 8 and runs through July. Featured artist Denise Gimbel displays her recent collection of contemporary, colorful, abstract paintings of giant kelp, manzanita and mushrooms. Other local artists' work on view also. Through July 1 Free. 805 550-8449. [valleygallery.org](http://valleygallery.org). Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

**YOUTH ART PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Pick up an art pack to create a masterpiece at home. Art packs include projects that guide students in learning basic principles of art. These packs are geared towards aged 6 to 12. **June 12, June 14, June 15, June 16, June 17, June 18 and June 19** Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**YOUTH ARTS ALIVE CLASSES** The City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department and Youth Arts Alive will be offering youth arts classes, at no charge, for youth and teens ages 8 to 18 years of age. Classes held outdoors. **June 15-July 2** Free. [youthartsalive.org](http://youthartsalive.org). Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**INTRO TO IMPROV** Looking for something new in 2021? Intro to Improv classes are now in-person and they're a casual and fun way to build confidence and develop your improv skills. Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. through July 14 \$150. [centralcoastcomedytheater.com](http://centralcoastcomedytheater.com). Broad Street Public House, 3590 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-439-3055.

**MIXED MEDIA FOR AGES 5-6 AND 7-12** For ages 5-6 (Mondays) and 7-12 (Tuesdays). Mondays, Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. 805-668-2125. [lila.community](http://lila.community). LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

**OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS** Call to reserve. All materials included. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. and Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. [lila.community](http://lila.community). LiLA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

**ATMOSPHERES DEEP** SLOMA presents a multimedia exhibition exploring themes of ecology and environmentalism. Through Aug. 1 [sloma.org/exhibition/atmospheres-deep/](http://sloma.org/exhibition/atmospheres-deep/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**CONTROLLED CHAOS** Art Central is proud to present Judy Maynard in a solo exhibit featuring her latest alcohol ink paintings. Please stop by the gallery to view this colorful exhibit during store hours. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through June 28 Free. 805-747-4200. [artcentralslo.com](http://artcentralslo.com). Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**COURAGE THROUGH STORIES WITH AUTHOR TRACEY HECHT** Kids 5-7 learn courage through stories with author Tracey Hecht featuring her nocturnals book. **June 12**, 9-9:30 a.m. Free. 805-781-5775. [sloblibrary.org](http://sloblibrary.org). 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.

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**MASTERING CREATIVE ANXIETY** In examining psychological barriers that could prevent a person from succeeding. Dr. Eric Maisel explores both the deepest and the most superficial problems that could make an unwelcome appearance at any stage in life, inhibiting innovation and disrupting performance. Registration required. **June 11**, 10 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5775. slolibrary.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**PLAYING WITH SHARKS** A National Geographic film, screened by CCSPA. Takes place in-person and virtually on website as well. **June 12**, 8:30 p.m. \$18 in-person; \$10 virtual. slomotionfilm.com. There Does Not Exist Brewery, 4070 Earthwood Lane, Suite 110, San Luis Obispo, 805-351-2664.

**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.

**SNAIL MAIL PRINTS: THE CENTRAL COAST PRINTMAKERS** The Central Coast Printmakers started an art project during quarantine to stay connected, they took inspiration from the Exquisite Corpse Project popularized by 1920's surrealists. In their version, each began an original print and mailed it to the next member to add to it. Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Aug. 30. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/portfolio/central-coast-printmakers/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**SUMMER CAMP: VIDEO GAME CODING, CARTOONING, CLAYMATION, AND MORE** Ray Mullikin (of Raytoons Cartoons) will be teaching his online classes through Outschool this year instead of Cuesta College For Kids. He will be teaching classes in Cartooning, Claymation, 2-D Animation, Video Game Coding, Comic Book Making, and much more. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 6 \$40. 805-590-7334. outschool.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**TEEN ART CLASSES WITH AMY WICKS** Get artsy with art instructor Amy Wicks via Zoom (for teens). Materials available while supplies last (contact your local branch). See website for registration. Thursdays, 2-3 p.m. through June 17 Free. 805-781-5775. slolibrary.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

**EQUALITY MURAL PROJECT FUNDRAISER: LIVE MUSIC AND FILM SCREENING** An outdoor evening of live music by Wordsauce, a film screening, and a panel discussion. **June 18**, 6-9 p.m. 805-674-6817. equalitymuralproject.com. Atascadero Printery Building, 6351 Olmeda Ave., Atascadero.

**READING ROCKS: A MUSIC, BUBBLE, AND COMEDY SHOW (VIRTUAL)** Register for link. A live sensory/autism-friendly show that encourages reading. Appropriate for all ages. Part of the 2021 Summer Reading Program. **June 17**, 11 a.m.-noon Paso Robles City Library, 1000 Spring St., Paso Robles, 237-3870.

#### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ARDELLA SWANBERG: FINE ART WATERCOLOR** Ardeella's painting inspirations have been the subjects found in the many places she has lived—from living on a cattle ranch north of Cayucos to the beautiful harbor of Morro Bay. Through June 29 Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**ARTIST SALON 2021 EXHIBIT** This special exhibit celebrating 70 years of MBAA will feature MBAA Member Artists and their choice of artwork that best represents their personal artistic journey. Artwork will be accompanied by the artist's photo and brief bio. All art media and artistic approaches will be represented. Through July 12, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**NANCY JENSEN: FINE ART WATERCOLOR** In her watercolor paintings, Jensen honors the fruits of the harvest in local vineyards, the springtime surprises of bright wildflowers and blooming gardens, the fresh produce of local farms, and the gifts of the sea scattered on local sandy beaches. Through June 29 Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**OPENING RECEPTION FOR ARDELLA SWANBERG AND NANCY JENSEN** Come by and meet the artists and explore the gallery. **June 12**, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

#### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT** Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. ongoing partnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

**BABY STORY TIME PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Register to pick up a pack with activity ideas, a list of suggested books, rhymes, and supplies to create a rainbow ribbon sensory toy. **June 15, June 16, June 17, June 18** and **June 19** 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.

**FUN IN THE SUN JUNE TEEN PROGRAM** Local teens are invited to participate in a free outdoor event series with various activities to kick off a season of summer fun. The four-week program is open to all 7th through 12th grade students. Wednesdays, 4 & 5:15 p.m. through July 1 Free. cityofsantamaria.org/register. Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

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

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Sign up for the Summer Reading Program at your local library branch. There is a special reading program for every age level from toddlers to adults. Each program offers activities and challenges as well as prizes for reading, based on age level. Through July 31 Free. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.beanstack.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN STEAM MAKER SPACE PACKS (KIT 1)** Teens get a free STEAM Pack from any SMPL branch. This project was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. **June 10, June 11** and **June 12** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**TEEN STEAM MAKER SPACE PACKS (KIT 2)** Teens, get a free STEAM Pack from any SMPL branch. This project was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. **June 19** 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, unwindstamaria.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.

**YOUTH LEGO PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** SMPL is offering a take-home Lego program for children aged 6 to 17. Register to pick up your Lego Pack at the sidewalk window. **June 10, June 11** and **June 12** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**AMPSURF KIDS SUMMER SURF CAMP (WEEKLY JUNE TO SEPT)** All children with all abilities invited to participate. Early signups can use promo code KIDSURF21 for \$50 off. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. through Sept. 3 \$0-\$350. 805-441-5271. ampsurf.org. Addie Street Surfer Parking Lot, Addie Street, Pismo Beach.

**BRAIN AND BODY BOOTCAMP FOR KIDS** For ages 9-15; attend 1 day; 3 days; or 9 days. 6/15-7/1; 7/27-8/12.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 14

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7/11 Earls of Tuesday  
7/17 Jill Knight  
7/18 Shameless  
7/24 Rockin Bs  
7/25 Spanky Paul  
7/31 Rough house



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Session 1 June 14 - June 25  
Session 2 July 5 - July 16  
Session 3 July 26 - August 6

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Avila Beach



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Walnut Creek Crawdads**  
TUES & WED, JUNE 15 & 16  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



**Chakra Meditation and Breath Work**  
SEE WEBSITE FOR JUNE DATES  
Aurora Adventures, Morro Bay



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Solano Mudcats**  
FRI, SAT, SUN, JUNE 18, 19, 20  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Coastal Cubs**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 22  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Humboldt Crabs**  
FRI, SAT, SUN, JUNE 25, 26, 27  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



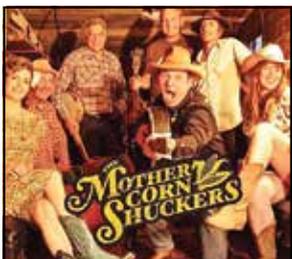
**Benefit Drag Show**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 26  
Santa Maria Civic Theatre,  
Santa Maria



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Conejo Oaks**  
FRIDAY, JULY 2  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Arroyo Seco Saints**  
SATURDAY, JULY 3  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



**The Mother Corn Shuckers**  
SATURDAY, JULY 10  
Point San Luis Lighthouse,  
Avila Beach



**SLO Blues Baseball vs. Orange County Riptide**  
SATURDAY, JULY 17  
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



**Patriot Cruise of San Luis Bay**  
SUNDAY, JULY 18  
Point San Luis Lighthouse,  
Avila Beach



**The FrenZ**  
SATURDAY, JULY 24  
Point San Luis Lighthouse,  
Avila Beach



**Yoga at the Lighthouse**  
SATURDAY, JULY 31  
Point San Luis Lighthouse,  
Avila Beach

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Tuesdays-Thursdays, 1:15-2:45 p.m. through July 1  
550. 805-295-9505. [mpspost.wordpress.com/applied-neurology-2/](http://mpspost.wordpress.com/applied-neurology-2/). Central Core, 1160  
Price Street, Pismo Beach.

**GRAND OPENING OF EXPLORATION DISCOVERY CENTER** Help celebrate the grand opening of this children's interactive discovery center. **June 15**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Exploration Discovery Center, 867 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach, 805-698-7351.

**SUMMER CAMP (GRADES 1-6)** Held at different elementary schools in Nipomo. Camps feature games, arts and crafts, movies, STEAM activities, and more. Through Aug. 13 805-929-5437. [nipomorecreation.org](http://nipomorecreation.org). Nipomo, Citywide, Nipomo.

**VILLAGE VINTAGE POP-UP** A pop-up featuring vintage clothing from the 1940s to Y2K. Please join us for a fun evening with vintage clothes, shopping, and music. **June 11**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-459-8149. [thevillagevintage.com](http://thevillagevintage.com). Historic Village of Arroyo Grande, Branch and Short St., Arroyo Grande.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**C.A.R.E.4PAWS' VIRTUAL HAPPY TAILS CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER** This virtual gala highlights our work in the community. The event features heartfelt Happy Tails from pet owners whom we've helped, and a live auction with exciting packages to bid on. RSVP and details on website. **June 13**, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-968-2273. [care4paws.org/happytails](http://care4paws.org/happytails). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**CIRCUS VARGAS: MR. V'S BIG TOP DREAM** A must-see, show-stopping spectacular certain to spark the imagination and indulge the senses. Described as two unforgettable hours of nonstop action, thrills, excitement, and adventure. **June 17-July 5** Admission varies. [CircusVargas.com](http://CircusVargas.com). Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, 877-468-3861.

**CITY FARM SLO'S YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM** Check site for more info on programming and summer camps. [cityfarmslo.org](http://cityfarmslo.org). Citywide, San Luis Obispo.

**HEARST CASTLE VIRTUAL TOURS** Enjoy a virtual tour with a State Park tour guide and learn fascinating stories behind the art (6/18) and architecture (6/25) of Hearst Castle. Great for all ages. Registration required (see link). Part of the 2021 Summer Reading Program. **June 18**, 11:15 a.m.-noon Free. 805-781-5775. [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**MEDITATION COURSE VIA ZOOM** Learn to meditate from the comfort of your home from an experienced, certified meditation teacher. For beginners as well as those seeking to extend an existing practice. Email ([info@theartofsilence.net](mailto:info@theartofsilence.net)) or text for more info. Wednesdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-noon and Sundays, 6-7 p.m. Donation based. 559-905-9274. [theartofsilence.net/events](http://theartofsilence.net/events). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**MEET AN AMAZING ANIMAL EACH WEEK (LIVE VIA ZOOM)** Each Tuesday, meet a different animal through Zoom, and learn about the people who work with them. Part of the 2021 Summer Reading Program. Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through July 27. 805-781-5775. [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SLO BLUES BASEBALL** Come see the Blues take on various teams at the ballpark. Tickets are limited; early purchases recommended. Visit site for more details. **June 15**, 6 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Sinsheimer Park, 900 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, 805-781-7222.

**STEAM EXPERIMENTS LIVE** As part of the SLO County Library's Summer Reading Program, join a Zoom STEAM class on making slime, kitchen science, and more. Pick up a free science kit at your local library the week before (while supplies last). Registration required. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. through June 30 [slolibrary.org](http://slolibrary.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

## FOOD & DRINK

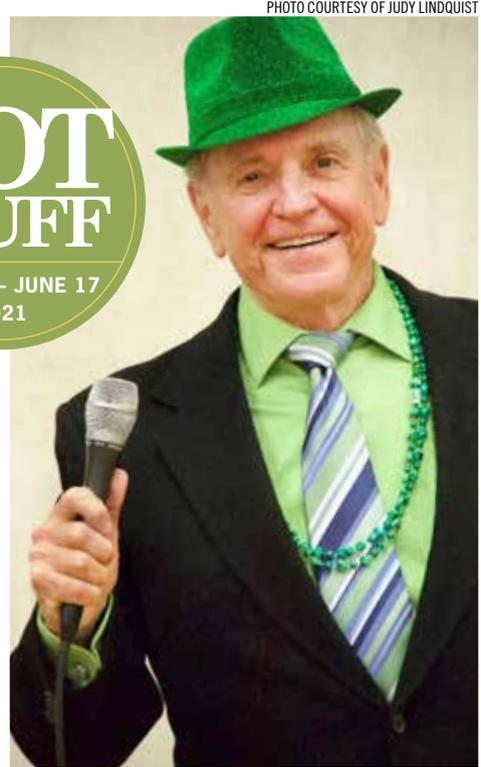
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS** Offering varieties from all over the world. Tuesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. 805-693-8864. [kalyrawinery.com](http://kalyrawinery.com). Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**PRESQU'ILE WINERY: WINE CLUB** Call or go online to make a reservation to taste at the winery or find more info on the winery's Wine Club offerings. ongoing



## NATIONAL TREASURE

*The Riptide Big Band, featuring vocalist Bob Nations (pictured), will be presenting a special drive-in concert at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on Monday, June 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A donation of \$10 per car is suggested, and proceeds of the event will benefit the Alzheimer's Association. This concert was made possible thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of SLO County. The Elwin Mussell Senior Center is located at 510 E. Park Ave., Santa Maria. For more info, visit [riptidebb.com](http://riptidebb.com).* —C.W.

[presquilewine.com/club/](http://presquilewine.com/club/). Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET** Saturdays, 12:25-2:25 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.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**SLO GRILLED CHEESE FESTIVAL** Community members and visitors are encouraged to visit participating restaurants, try the grilled cheese sandwich, take a pic, post a Yelp review, then go to the website to vote: Best SLO Grilled Cheese 2021. Through June 30 Prices vary. [slogrilledcheese.com](http://slogrilledcheese.com). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

## MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**JAZZ AND BEYOND: SITARASON** Concert held in the Patron Garden. Visit site for more details. **June 20** [solvangfestivaltheater.org](http://solvangfestivaltheater.org). Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**CENTRAL COAST BEAT SOCIAL: COURTYARD CULTURE** An ongoing series of outdoor music events at different venues in Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and other cities along the Central Coast. Hosted by Central Coast Beat Social. ongoing [centralcoastbeatsocial.com/](http://centralcoastbeatsocial.com/). Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CAL POLY SYMPHONY SPRING CONCERT: VIRTUAL** The Cal Poly Symphony concludes its first full season as a hybrid ensemble, with members playing together both in-person and virtually. The program includes music for winds and brass, music for string orchestra, and music with everyone together. **June 11**, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 805-756-4849. [music.calpoly.edu/calendar/symph](http://music.calpoly.edu/calendar/symph). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

## Arts Briefs

### Los Alamos Theatre Group presents new musical, *TRASH*

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE LOS ALAMOS THEATRE GROUP



Tickets are now on sale for the Los Alamos Theatre Group's upcoming production of *TRASH*, which is scheduled to premiere on Friday, July 2, and run through Sunday, July 11 (with performances every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and one matinee on Sunday, July 11, at 2 p.m.).

Described as "a courtroom musical about a very untidy death," this production marks the group's fourth and features a cast of 14 actors performing 12 original songs. Tickets start at \$25, and cocktails and wine will be available to purchase before and after each performance. Proceeds from the production will benefit the Friends of the Los Alamos Public Library, Olga Reed School, and other organizations.

Performances will be held at the Depot Mall and Bar, located at 515 Bell St., Los Alamos. Call (805) 344-1144 or follow the Los Alamos Theatre Group on Facebook or Instagram for more info.

### Central Coast Film Society announces winners of 'Never Stop Creating' competition

The winners of the Central Coast Film Society's inaugural "Never Stop Creating" competition, which was open to high school students across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Monterey counties, were announced at the end of May.

Morro Bay High School student Ella Stoneman won Best in Show for her film, *Life is Beautiful*, and was awarded with a scholarship from The Good People Association.

Additional scholarships were awarded to the top applicants from each category (film, screenwriting/storytelling, film editing/reel, photography, and podcasting), including Central Coast New Tech High School student Keira Prazanowski (for her photograph, *Forks*, pictured) and San Luis Obispo High School students Ian Hammons, Ian McKay, Zarian Schick, and Douglas Troy.

According to the Central Coast Film Society, the competition was proposed and initiated in order to celebrate local student artists who found safe ways to continue creating media during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The past year, these student creators have endured the unthinkable with lockdowns, remote classes, and canceled events from school to sports and recreation. We wanted to give them an opportunity to do something positive," Raiza Giorgi, president of the Central Coast Film Society, said in a statement.

The judges who chose the winners of this competition were Skye McLennan, the festival director for the SLO Film Festival; Chris Lambert, the creator and producer of *Your Own Backyard* podcast; Sheryl Franciskovich, the publisher and creative director for *SLO Life Magazine*; Randi Barros, an instructor at Cal Poly; Ken Napzok, an author and podcaster; Chris Burkard, a photographer and filmmaker; and Josh Ernstrom, a digital media producer for PG&E.

For the full list of contest winners and more info on the competition, visit [centralcoastfilmsociety.org](http://centralcoastfilmsociety.org).

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

COURTESY PHOTO BY KEIRA PRAZANOWSKI



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBORAH BREEDON

**FROM THE GARDEN TO THE GALLERY:** Friends and frequent collaborators Deborah Breedon (pictured) and Kris Buck painted poppy landscapes together on location at the Santa Ynez Valley Botanical Garden. Their works are now on display in a new duo show, *Summer Bloom*, at Gallery Los Olivos.

## Plein pair

Local pastelists Kris Buck and Deborah Breedon capture the great outdoors in *Summer Bloom* at Gallery Los Olivos

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

No matter what Kris Buck is currently painting, that piece tends to be her favorite—in the moment at least.

"Picking a personal favorite painting is like choosing your favorite child, it can't be done," Buck said. "But while you're in the process of painting that painting, it gets your full attention, patience, and affection."

This year marks the return of Buck's biennial collaboration with her friend and fellow pastelist Deborah Breedon; their show, *Summer Bloom* at Gallery Los Olivos, highlights both studio and plein air paintings created by the duo. Both artists are longtime members of the gallery as well as the Pastel Society of the West Coast and the Pastel Society of America.

One of the reasons Breedon said they both consistently embrace the summer theme for this particular show is their mutual admiration for not only the season itself, but the transitions that bookend it.

"There's that transition from spring into summer and summer into fall that attracts me, and my paintings for this exhibit will show all of it. I love how the landscape changes from one beautiful view to the next," Breedon said. "Looking at the colors of summer change into fall, from greens, reds, and yellows to burnt orange, browns, and ochre, and there's dryness and straw-colored weeds."

"In other words, you don't have to paint the perfect poppy or green tree—a fallen tree trunk with its bare branches lying in the sand or grass can also

be beautiful," she added.

For Breedon, the biggest difference between organizing this year's exhibition compared to 2019's was the added challenge of discerning when and how to paint together during the pandemic. But these complications also resulted in a new, diverse range of subject matter, she explained.

"It took a few months to figure out where to safely paint outdoors. Once we did, it was lovely, as being able to do something outside your home after being sequestered was heaven," Breedon said. "Kris and I live about an hour from each other so one of us would travel to the other, or meet somewhere in the middle. I think this made a difference because it expanded our painting territory, providing lovely new views of south and central Santa Barbara County."

Buck said her and Breedon's painting expeditions over the past several months provided a much welcomed escape from the turbulent atmosphere of 2020.

"I'm really proud of this show and what we accomplished during a very difficult year," Buck said. "When we were able to go out and paint together, it just felt so normal, when things were far from normal."

"One of the new things we did for this show [compared to 2019's] was to take one of the wall panels and assemble a salon-style collection of small field-study paintings, which is really fun," Buck added. "And on another panel, we combined three of our paintings, which are all about poppies. I love that panel."

Buck and Breedon had the opportunity to paint these poppy pieces together on location at the Santa Ynez Valley Botanical Garden, "when the poppies were in their full glory and begging to be painted," Buck said.

Once painting in group settings outdoors became gradually more feasible during 2020, Buck and Breedon began to meet up with other members of Gallery Los Olivos as well, including Neil Andersson, Morgan Green, Linda Mutti, Terri Taber, and Carol Talley.

"During the pandemic, it was so great to have contact with them and be able to paint—masks on

### For bloom the bell tolls

Gallery Los Olivos presents *Summer Bloom*, a duo show highlighting plein air and studio paintings by local artists Kris Buck and Deborah Breedon, through June 30. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except Tuesdays and Wednesdays) and is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit [gallerylosolivos.com](http://gallerylosolivos.com) for more info.

COURTESY IMAGE BY KRIS BUCK



**POPPY PERFECTION:** Local pastelist Kris Buck said she felt grateful she was able to paint one of her latest poppy landscapes on location during a time "when the poppies were in their full glory and begging to be painted."

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRIS BUCK



**ON EACH OTHER'S TEAM:** Once painting in group settings outdoors became gradually more feasible during 2020, Kris Buck (pictured) and Deborah Breedon began to meet up with other members of Gallery Los Olivos.

and social distancing," Breedon said.

*Summer Bloom* premiered at the gallery on June 3 and is scheduled to run through June 30. The duo's paintings on display are also available to purchase, but prospective buyers better hurry.

"One of Deborah's paintings sold as we were hanging the show, even though the gallery was closed," Buck said. "An out-of-town couple was watching us through the windows and asked if they could come in for a peek. The painting reminded them of the Central Coast, and they had to have it." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is a proud summer baby. Don't forget to wish him a happy birthday in August at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

### Whodunit?

**Craig Zobel** directs this story by **Brad Ingelsby** about Marianne “Mare” Sheehan (Kate Winslet), a detective sergeant in Easttown, a suburb of Philadelphia. The former high-school basketball star and local hero for the game-winning shot in a state championship 25 years ago now finds her life in a shambles—a son lost to suicide, a divorce, and an ex-daughter-in-law with a drug problem battling for custody of Mare’s grandson. She’s investigating the murder of an unwed teenage mother while she’s been unable to resolve the case of another missing teenager who’s been gone for a year, leading many in the town to doubt her abilities. (seven 58- to 76-min. episodes totaling 403 min.)

**Glen:** You know you’re onto something that’s struck a chord with the public when *Saturday Night Live* is lampooning your miniseries before it’s even finished airing (See “Murder Durdur” on YouTube). Mare is such a compelling and tragic character, and Winslet is wonderful in the role of the stoic detective who can never let her guard down. Winslet has to pull off the impossible task of communicating her deep pain while actively hiding it from others, and watching her work here is a reminder of just how gifted this Oscar winner can be with the right material. Thanks to creator and screenwriter Brad Ingelsby (*Out of the Furnace*, *Run All Night*, *The Way Back*), we’ve got a cracking good mystery afoot. Like any good crime thriller, there are plenty of red herrings to misdirect you, and just when you think you have

it figured out, you don’t ... right up till the very end. Now that all seven episodes are out, prepare yourself to get sucked in. We’ve been watching week by week, but I bet if I started it today, I’d let it eat up the whole day. It’s that engrossing. The characters feel so authentic, and the series is grounded in a real sense of place and a sense of community. This could be any small town and anyone’s tragedy.

**Anna:** Winslet is utter perfection for this gritty and twisty thriller. What a stunning reminder of her force of talent. She’s so adept at finding the realness in her characters, and Mare gives her plenty to work with—a flawed and tough character who can’t bear to deal with the pain of losing her son and pushes it far below the surface. It’s inevitably going to surface though, and watching this character not only work through her calculated and honed skills as a detective but also make incredibly rash and terrible decisions in her personal life is a delicate balance, and Winslet pulls it all off beautifully. The entire cast deserves recognition, from Jean Smart as her mother, Helen, who is a constant but ultimately caring thorn in Mare’s side to her partner in the investigation, Detective Colin Zabel (Evan Peters), who we learn is trying to earn the bravado he has taken credit for in the past. Everyone here is fantastic, and whoever the dialect coaches were for this crew did a phenomenal job. It felt and sounded authentic all around.

**Glen:** This series really proves the power of long-form television. For years, the movie biz was the big kahuna and TV was low rent, but now we’re seeing big movie stars like Winslet, Amy Adams (*Sharp Objects*), Nicole Kidman (*Big Little*

#### MARE OF EASTTOWN

What’s it rated? **TV-MA**  
When? **2021**  
Where’s it showing? **HBO Max**  
What’s it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
What’s it worth, Glen? **Full price**

*Lies*), Hugh Grant (*The Undoing*), and Chris Evans (*Defending Jacob*) in these richly developed, thoroughly engrossing stories that can do things you just can’t do in 90 minutes or two hours. The murder of Erin McMenamain (Cailee Spaeny) may have provided *Mare of Easttown* with its plot, but this is also a character study of mothers and an examination of motherhood. Mare’s mother, Helen, must confront her former neglect of Mare. Mare’s ex-daughter-in-law, Carrie (Sosie Bacon), must admit her inability to care for her son—Mare’s beloved grandson. Finally, Mare’s best friend, Lori Ross (Julianne Nicholson), must learn to live with her decisions regarding her children and husband. We get to vividly know these characters, and their sadness becomes palpable. They’re imperfect, sometimes downright terrible, but they’re tangibly real.

**Anna:** It really is a heartbreaking journey into the worlds of these everyday people who are just trying to get through the daily slog and find some peaceful resolution. We’re drawn in by their stories and the talent behind the characters, and intrigued week by week as the story unfolds,



**TROUBLED:** Kate Winslet stars as small-town detective Mare Sheehan, who’s investigating the murder of an unwed teenage mother while her life falls apart around her, in *Mare of Easttown* on HBO Max.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME BOX OFFICE AND MAYHEM PICTURES

refolds, and eventually falls open. The community around Mare is almost like one big family, but a dysfunctional and difficult one. While this is bingeable now as all episodes have been released, I loved watching the story drawn out over time and looking forward to Sunday night episodes. There’s a lot of meat here, and it’s worth it to give the story time to breathe—who doesn’t like a whodunit and a twisty-turny plot line? I’ve heard this series talked about anywhere and everywhere, so I doubt it hasn’t already fallen on most people’s radars, but if you haven’t jumped in yet, now is the time. It’s totally worth every heartbreaking moment. ○

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

### Film Reviews

#### PLAYING WITH SHARKS: THE VALERIE TAYLOR STORY

What’s it rated? **Not rated**  
When? **Saturday, June 12, doors at 7 p.m., program at 8:15 p.m.**  
Where’s it showing? **There Does Not Exist Brewery in SLO; tickets at [slomotionfilm.com](http://slomotionfilm.com)**

Writer-director Sally Aitken (*Warrior Empire: The Mughals of India*, *Getting Frank Gehry*) directs this 2021 National Geographic film about pioneering scuba diver Valerie Taylor, who went from famous female spearfishing champion to advocate for sharks. Thanks to SLO Motion Film, the biopic will be screened as a benefit for the Central Coast State Parks Association on June 12.

The documentary benefits from a trove of fantastic archival footage. Taylor is extremely famous in her native Australia, and her early career as a spearfisher was well chronicled. This early footage is amazing—almost as amazing a Taylor’s life story, which we hear from her own mouth in contemporary interviews. She was a brave and beautiful young woman, which made her a star. Her conscience made her a hero.

The inspiring story is one of personal growth and ecological

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILDBEAR ENTERTAINMENT AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



**FROM SLAYER TO ADVOCATE:** Pioneering female diver Valerie Taylor’s story is captured in the National Geographic documentary *Playing with Sharks: The Valerie Taylor Story*, screening June 12 courtesy of SLO Motion Film.

revelation about the importance and beauty of all sea life, including sharks. She—perhaps more than any other diver—helped demystify sharks and demonstrate that they’re not the mindless killing machines they’ve been made out to be. It’s a remarkable piece of filmmaking and a wonderful tribute to a pioneering woman. (95 min.)

—Glen

#### THE NEW MUTANTS

What’s it rated? **PG-13**  
When? **2020**  
Where’s it showing? **HBO Max**

Co-writer/director Josh Boone (*The Fault in Our Stars*) helms this confused sci-fi, fantasy, horror, romance, drama, and unintentional comedy about five young mutants forced to live together in a secret facility overseen by the Nurse Ratchet-like Dr. Reyes (Alice Braga), whose job is to help the mutants discover and control their powers apparently so her superiors can use them as weapons.

Our protagonist is Native American teen Dani Moonstar (Blu Hunt), who in the opening set piece we see survive some kind of horrible storm that kills her father (Adam Beach). She awakes to find herself trapped with mean girl Illyana Rasputin (Anya Taylor-Joy), country bumpkin Sam Guthrie (Charlie Heaton), shallow hunk Roberto da Costa (Henry Zaga), and deeply religious Rahne Sinclair (Maisie Williams). Together, they must exorcise their past sins and join forces to save themselves while with straight faces reciting inane dialogue.

It’s quite atrocious, with a story so cliché that it even busts out the old Native American analogy of two wolves—one good and one evil, fighting inside us all, and the one we feed

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS



**REAL WORLD: X-MEN:** *The New Mutants*, now available on HBO Max, traps five immature mutants in a weird living situation and watches them interact.

wins—except with bears. An offhand lesbian romance between Dani and Rahne signals that the film wants to be woke, but these characters are cookie-cutter and this story borders on the stupid. Watch it for fun! (94 min.) ○

—Glen

**A brief story, fifty-five words or less, with a headline no longer than seven words.**

**Entries for this year’s contest are due by 5pm on Monday, June 28, 2021.**

The winning stories will be published on July 29, 2021.

55  
Fiction

*New Times*

For more details: [bit.ly/55Fiction](http://bit.ly/55Fiction)

Sun



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**JAZZ & BEYOND**  
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### SitaraSon

Hot, Spicy Cuban and Latin Jazz  
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4:00 pm Start Time



### Holy Crow Jazz Band

Roaring 20's music  
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**Sunday, July 11**  
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### TrioKAIT

Grooving Trio of Keyboards,  
Electric Bass and Drums  
**Sunday, July 18**  
3:00 pm Start Time



### Cattus Quartet

Rich, Jazzy Twist on  
classical chamber music  
**Sunday, August 8**  
3:00 pm Start Time



### Brass Brothers Show Band

Brassy Funk & Blues  
**Sunday, August 22**  
3:00 pm Start Time



### Classic Rock in the Garden

### The Molly Ringwald Project

Ultimate 80's Band  
**Saturday, June 26**  
6:00 pm Start Time



### T Bone Ramblers

Rockin' the Valley For Decades  
**Saturday, Aug. 14**  
3:00 pm Start Time



Ticket Prices for these two shows are **\$25 per show**

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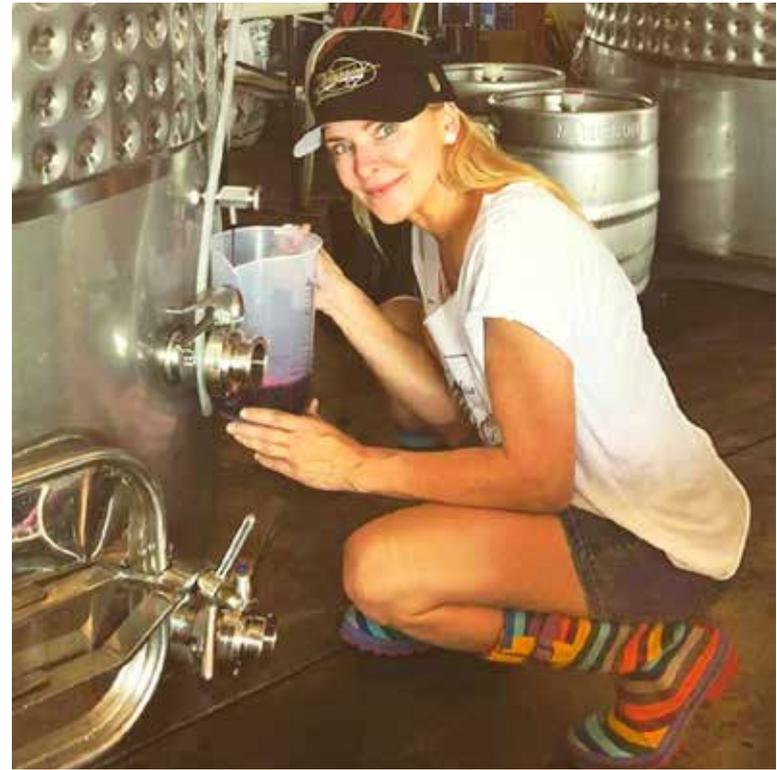
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FUTURE PERFECT WINE



**PAST, PRESENT, AND PERFECT:** Future Perfect Wine owner and founder Sunny Doench Stricker (pictured) celebrated the grand opening of her new tasting room in Los Olivos during Memorial Day weekend.



**FROM LA TO LO:** After moving from Los Angeles to Los Olivos a few years ago, actor Sunny Doench Stricker (pictured) quickly embraced the local wine scene and befriended local winemakers who became her mentors, eventually creating her own label.

## The future is now

Actor and budding winemaker Sunny Doench Stricker opens Future Perfect tasting room

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

On the back of every bottle at Future Perfect Wine, a dedication reads: “For the fearless, dreamers, scallywags, dazzlers, explorers, and incurable romantics. We are all connected and this is for you.”

These are the deities Sunny Doench Stricker, founder of the label, aims to please with her newly released libations. The public was invited to enjoy Stricker’s wines for the first time over Memorial Day weekend, which marked the grand opening of her tasting room in Los Olivos.

“People were very enthusiastic and excited that we were finally open,” said Stricker, a nearly lifelong film and television actor (*Beverly Hills, 90210*; *Las Vegas*; *Remember the Daze*) who quickly embraced the wine scene after moving from Hollywood to the Central Coast.

“When my husband had a job opportunity to relocate to Los Olivos 3 1/2 years ago, we jumped at the chance. We bought a little farm with goats and chickens, just two blocks from the center of town,” Stricker said. “When we had just moved to our little farm, we hosted a dinner with a handful of winemakers, and at the end of the meal, we went around the table and each

person said one thing they wished they could be or do. When it got to me, I said, ‘I would love to be a winemaker,’ and immediately felt absurd for saying such an outrageous thing.

“But everyone was very encouraging and kept saying you *can* do that,” she continued. “If you had told me that day that I would eventually *be* a winemaker and have my own label and tasting room, I would have never believed you.”

Prior to the move though, Stricker was already passionate, and eagerly studious, about wine and various aspects of winemaking. She passed the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) (Level 2) while still living in Los Angeles.

Shortly after moving to Los Olivos, Stricker gained both a friend and mentor upon meeting Jessica Gasca, winemaker and owner of Story of Soil, who she’s been collaborating with over the past three years. Stricker credits both Gasca and the husband-and-wife team behind Holus Bolus, Peter Hunken and Amy Christine, for fanning her winemaking passion “into flame,” she said.

“They [Peter and Amy] invited me to make my wine at their winery and made the time to give me hands-on mentorship, from the vineyard to the bottle,” Stricker explained. “Amy relentlessly encouraged me to have a tasting room, and she gave

### The time traveler’s wine

To find out more about Future Perfect Wine, call (805) 697-7162 or visit [futureperfectwine.com](http://futureperfectwine.com). The winery is located at 2933 San Marcos Ave., suite 101, Los Olivos.

me the confidence and courage to be hopeful and just go for it.

“Future Perfect Wine would not be opening if it weren’t for Amy—she’s a unicorn,” added Stricker, who described the journey of starting her own label and tasting room as “one of the most extraordinary and fulfilling adventures I could have ever hoped for, truly a dream come true.”

To celebrate the tasting room’s grand opening, Stricker enlisted one of her friends from down south, the owner of the De Luxe Balloon Company, to drive up and install a plethora of biodegradable balloons around the venue, including a giant rainbow arch, based on Future Perfect Wine’s rainbow logo, over the front door.

“Lots of photos were taken under the rainbow arch by all the guests throughout the weekend,” Stricker said. “It was so exciting to see people leaving with bags of bottles of wine and merchandise. I’m so grateful that the response to the wine has been so encouraging.”

A few of Stricker’s current favorite wines are her sauvignon blanc, which she’s nicknamed her “breakfast wine,” and her rosé.

“I’m drinking a lot of rosé these days. One of the focuses of my wine is to keep it lower in alcohol and my rosé comes in



**COLORFUL DEBUT:** To celebrate the tasting room’s grand opening, Future Perfect Wine enlisted the De Luxe Balloon Company to install a plethora of biodegradable balloons around the location, including a giant rainbow arch, based on the venue’s rainbow logo, over the front door.

at 12.4 percent ABV,” she said.

To any aspiring winemakers who might be reading this—or those aspiring to leap into any industry, for that matter—Stricker’s advice is similar to that of fellow actor Shia LaBeouf: Just do it.

“If you love it, if you have a passion for it, I always say, ‘Go for it.’ Go and do what you love, what sets your soul on fire, what keeps you from sleeping and yanks you out of bed before dawn. The thing that thrills you and scares you. Do not let that go,” Stricker said. “What is life if not to live fearlessly and with great hope?” ☺

Send your fearless hopes and breakfast wines to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).



### THINK PINK:

A few of Sunny Doench Stricker’s personal favorite wines at the moment are sauvignon blanc and rosé (pictured). “I’m drinking a lot of rosé these days,” she said. “One of the focuses of my wine is to keep it lower in alcohol, and my rosé comes in at 12.4 percent ABV.”

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1. High Time for Conservation: Adding the Environment to the Debate on Marijuana Liberalization. BioScience 2015; 65 (8): 822-829. doi: 10.1093/biosci/biv083.

2. "Forget Almonds: Look at How Much Water California's Pot Growers Use." Washington Post. 26 June 2015.

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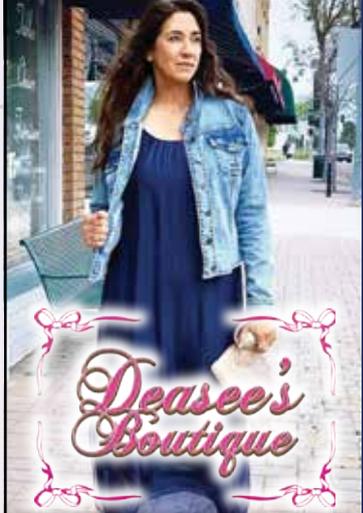
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