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AT THE MOVIES



Old: New story, old tricks [21]



55 Fiction

Find winners of the shortest story contest ever inside [6]

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ARTS PCPA's songs bring folks *Together* in Solvang [20]

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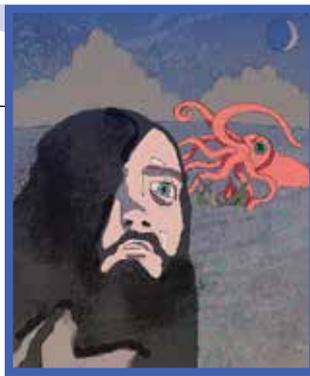
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JULY 29 - AUGUST 5, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 22

Every year, it comes, through COVID-19, drought, heat waves, or downpours. Without fail our annual 55 Fiction contest delivers the world's shortest stories submitted by amateur authors from around the world. You can have a short attention span and still read about murderers, lovers, adulterers, and surprisers. It only takes a quick glance to read the stories that won in 2021 [6].

You can also read about a veteran forced to leave Santa Maria every year during fireworks season [4]; PCPA inspiring audiences with a musical revue in Solvang [20]; and Flying Goat Cellars' latest medals and art displays [22].

Camillia Lanham
editor



STORY TIME: Pull up a chair to read plot twists that take place in 55 words or less.

Cover image by Leni Litonjua > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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Political Watch

• On July 19, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) announced that his Assembly Bill 841 was signed into law. The legislation aims to help keep foster children and families together by ensuring that “children cannot be removed from the care of their parents in a child welfare proceeding solely because a parent did not sue for custody,” a statement from Cunningham’s office explained. Existing laws established a juvenile court, which can intervene if a child is found to be harmed or neglected, according to the bill. But the law also has safeguards in place to ensure that families that lack resources aren’t separated from their children solely for those reasons. Cunningham’s bill adds that if a child’s parents fail to seek court orders for custody of the child, this alone cannot amount to neglect. “Children should not be taken away from their family solely because the parents lack the resources to hire counsel and sue for custody,” Cunningham said in the statement. “Our goal must be to keep families together as long as it is safe for the child, and this bill will help accomplish that goal.” The statement said that “infrequently, but enough to be a problem, county welfare departments allege that a parent not initiating custody litigation alone constitutes a ‘failure or inability’ or a ‘willful or negligent failure’ to adequately supervise their child.” **Ed Howard**, senior counsel of the Children’s Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego School of Law, commended the law. “With his signature, **Gov. Newsom** just made it easier for children to remain with living parents and harder for families to be ruptured based on no other reason than they are poor,” Howard said in the statement.

• The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department announced on July 26 that **Flood Control District Engineering Manager Jon Frye** won the 2021 Award for Excellence from the Floodplain Management Association. The award recognizes “outstanding floodplain management projects, programs, activities, and individuals that epitomize the best in floodplain management,” according to the county. The Floodplain Management Association is an organization for professionals who are dedicated to reducing flood risk and creating sustainable floodplains, according to the county. After the devastating Thomas fire and Montecito debris flow, Frye led efforts to establish a Federal Emergency Management Agency Recovery Map to ensure future structure resiliency, according to the county. “Frye engaged with affected landowners and building professionals to guide them through the higher standards of the new construction requirements. He also led the effort to initiate a capital improvement program to add new facilities and modifications to four existing basins in the burn area, including the new Randall Road Debris Basin currently under construction.” **Public Works Deputy Director Tom Fayram** said Frye has distinguished himself in public official roles for many years. “He is respected at the Flood Control District for his high level of ethics, knowledge, and commitment to the community he serves,” Fayram said in a statement. “The key to his success is his personal touch, compassion, and his availability to help. Jon also guides and mentors his relatively new development review staff to ensure consistency and good customer service.”

• The Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project, known as MICOP, was chosen as the 2021 Nonprofit of the Year by **State Sen. Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara). She congratulated the organization in a July 22 Facebook post. “Thank you [MICOP] for all the work you do for the communities of Senate District 19,” Limón wrote. “Your dedication to serving others, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, is truly remarkable and admirable. Therefore, it is with great pleasure to recognize you as the Nonprofit of the Year for Senate District 19—and a big congratulations on your 20th anniversary.” MICOP’s mission is “to support, organize, and empower the indigenous migrant communities in California’s Central Coast,” according to the organization’s website. ○

SCREENSHOT FROM SANTA MARIA CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING



HARD ON VETS: During the July 20 Santa Maria City Council meeting, local veteran Matthew Woody said that fireworks season seriously impacts his well-being.

Veterans say fireworks affect them beyond July 4

Local veterans say fireworks are a multi-month ordeal in Santa Maria.

Matthew Woody, a local resident and veteran, spoke during public comment at a July 20 Santa Maria City Council meeting where Fire Chief Todd Tuggle presented a fireworks report to the council members. Woody said he started hearing fireworks as early as May this year, and it’s still impacting him now, nearly a month after Independence Day.

“I’ve noticed that every year, these fireworks seem to be getting worse, and worse, and worse,” Woody said. “Now, as a veteran with PTSD, it’s very all-encompassing, and pretty much takes over your life. ... We had fireworks going off when I was trying to work from my home yesterday.”

Woody said that every year, he leaves town and rents a hotel room to get away from the loud firework booms that can trigger his PTSD.

“I would just like some peace and quiet in this neighborhood,” he said.

Santa Maria started the “Safe and Sane” fireworks program to mitigate some of these issues. The Fire Department grants permits to local nonprofits, this year 23 of them, to sell legal fireworks that can only be used between the hours of 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. on the Fourth of July.

Woody said that if it was only an issue on the Fourth of July holiday, he wouldn’t be standing before the council. Per the city’s rules, any firework usage outside of the specified hours on the Fourth is illegal.

This year, according to the fireworks report, 16 citations were issued for illegal fireworks usage, 14 of which were dealt a \$1,000 fine. This is down from previous years, according to Police Department data shared with the *Sun*: In 2020, 27 citations were issued, and 32 in 2019. The city’s fireworks hotline received 63 reports this year, compared to 81 last year and 71 the year before.

“The police up-staffed for fireworks enforcement for the period from June 29 through July 5, including a two-person patrol unit, plainclothes officer, a sergeant, and a dispatcher to take the additional call volume,” Tuggle added at the July 20 meeting.

But despite these efforts, local veterans are still being affected.

“Most veterans don’t care if it’s just July 4, but it goes on for sometimes weeks at a time,” said Joseph Skoda, commander of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 82, the local chapter based in Santa Maria. “A lot of us are afraid of the loud bangs and lights and noises that we’re unsure of. ... We can be afraid to go out in our own communities. We have pride, we want to see the fireworks—but just on the Fourth.”

Skoda told the *Sun* that he thinks the city should designate a place for people to be able to set off their fireworks so that those who don’t want to hear them can stay in their homes.

“I personally think we should open up the Fairpark and allow everyone to shoot their fireworks

off there in a safe environment,” he said. Mayor Alice Patino acknowledged at the City Council meeting that illegal fireworks are still out of hand in the city of Santa Maria, and resolved to continue to work on the issue.

“It’s a community problem, and I think we need to solve it as a community,” Patino said. “We just need to be more aggressive on how we’re going to do this. ... We will continue to work on this.”

—Malea Martin

Dignity ends Anthem contract after other insurance disputes

As of July 16, Central Coast residents insured by Anthem Blue Cross lost in-network coverage at Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, and French Hospital Medical Center in San Luis Obispo, which are part of the nonprofit Dignity Health system.

“Dignity Health and Anthem Blue Cross have been negotiating new contracts in good faith for six months,” Dignity Health Medical Foundation President/CEO Dr. Robert Quinn said in a statement emailed in response to questions from the *Sun*. “We remain in active discussions and hope to reach a responsible new agreement soon that will protect patients’ access to the care they need.”

In the meantime, an Anthem spokesperson said, patients can still access Dignity Health facilities for emergency medical services, as those are always considered a covered health benefit. Anthem is also providing transition assistance to those who are pregnant, are undergoing a course of treatment, or have prior authorization for Dignity Health Services to ensure a continuum of care.

Anthem said it’s continuing negotiations with Dignity to reach an agreement that brings the nonprofit health care provider back into its insurance network.

“The problem is Dignity’s rates are sometimes the highest among all health systems in California, making it almost 30 percent more expensive than other health systems in the state,” Anthem’s spokesperson said. “We don’t think our members and customers should pay substantially more for health care at Dignity when they can receive quality care from the many other providers in our network, and we are working to fix that.”

According to previous *Sun* reporting (“Big Health: A look at how the Central Coast’s two hospital systems shape local health care costs,” Sept. 10, 2020), Dignity Health hospitals on the Central Coast set their prices about five times higher than what Medicare determined their costs to be in 2017. However, for-profit Tenet Healthcare’s Central Coast hospitals’ prices were even higher than that, at more than seven times the Medicare determined costs.

Health care experts told the *Sun* that integrated health care systems such as Dignity and Tenet use market leverage to receive higher reimbursements from private insurance providers.

In an April post on the California Medical Association’s (CMA) website, the CMA said that the contract dispute between Dignity and Anthem came “on the heels of a similar contract renegotiation involving Dignity and Aetna.” Dignity and Aetna insurance company reached a three-year agreement in April that resulted in no lapse in coverage.

On Jan. 1, 2020, Dignity’s contract with Cigna insurance company in California expired, leaving thousands without in-network coverage at Dignity Health centers.

Cigna told the *Ventura County Star* that Dignity wanted Cigna customers to pay “more than what is normal in the region.” At the time, Dignity Senior Vice President for Payer Strategy and Relationships Tammy Wilcox told the *Star*: “At a time when many

nonprofit community hospitals are struggling, Cigna is making billions of dollars in profits each year. ... Yet Cigna is demanding that it pay local hospitals even less.”

Dignity and Cigna eventually reached an agreement announced in September 2020 that returned the nonprofit system to Cigna’s network as of July 1, 2020.

In the statement Dignity sent to the *Sun*, President/CEO Quinn said that the nonprofit offered Anthem a proposal with rates that don’t even cover hospital inflation costs and are below increases included in prior agreements.

“Dignity Health is a nonprofit health care system and California’s largest Medicaid provider and has lost money in recent years, while Anthem is a for-profit insurance company that earns billions of dollars in profits,” Quinn said.

Anthem told the *Sun* that it recognizes the fact that costs do increase, which is why it’s offered Dignity increases over current rates. But, it doesn’t believe Anthem members should pay “substantially more for health care at Dignity,” adding that the majority of its customers are on self-funded plans that pay for medical costs directly.

“That’s why we continue to work with Dignity in addressing the high prices it charges so we can protect affordability, and ensure quality for consumers,” Anthem’s spokesperson said.

Anthem members can search the Find a Doctor function at anthem.com/ca/find-care or call the number listed on their member ID card to locate an in-network hospital.

—Camillia Lanham

Public Health pleads with locals to get COVID-19 vaccine

Public health officials urged community members to get vaccinated as Santa Barbara County experiences soaring COVID-19 case rates, hospitalizations, outbreaks, and deaths. The county also reported one of the youngest local COVID-19 deaths so far in the pandemic: a Santa Maria individual between the ages of 18 and 29 who was unvaccinated and had no underlying health conditions.

As of July 19, positive cases in the county were five times more likely to be unvaccinated individuals than vaccinated, Santa Barbara County Public Health Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso said at a July 27 press conference.

“As of July 26, our case rate stands at 8.8 cases per 100,000 residents. To put it into context, that’s a 400 percent increase in a month, since June 25,” Do-Reynoso said.

Both active cases and people hospitalized have seen about a 70 percent increase, she said, within the span of two weeks.

Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg said that while breakthrough cases—when a fully vaccinated person catches COVID-19—do occur occasionally, these cases are typically either mild or asymptomatic, and virtually never end up in the hospital or dying.

“Let me be clear, this new surge ... is affecting the people who do not get vaccinated,” Ansorg said. “We now experiencing a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

Do-Reynoso said there are currently eight active outbreaks in the county, the largest ones being at Good Samaritan’s Emergency Shelter in Santa Maria and among students at a South County school.

While the state’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy reopening system is no longer in use, public health officials are still referencing the tiers to gauge how bad COVID-19 spread is. Do-Reynoso said the county is currently approaching purple-tier metrics. She said if the county gets into the “deep purple,” Public Health would consider reinstating a mask mandate. ○

—Malea Martin

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55 Fiction

Our annual short story contest winners include tales about death, money, and love

It doesn't sound like much, but 55 words can cover a lot of ground. The shortest stories in the universe tie up loose ends, surprise people, kill people, and love people. This year's stories were cheesy, mushy, dark, funny, and sad—some talked about Trump, COVID-19, aliens, time travel, and God. But out of the hundreds and hundreds of stories that were submitted, only two handfuls of stories were good enough to get published! Each year, *New Times* and the *Sun* bring you the best reader-submitted stories for our annual 55 Fiction contest, which is now more than three decades strong. Our 2020 judges include Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood, Staff Writer Malea Martin, Associate Editor Andrea Rooks, and *New Times* Senior Staff Writer Glen Starkey. So get ready for tall tales, short turnarounds, and a laugh or two.

—Camillia Lanham

Mija

Grandma used to steal horses. She talks about it in her sleep. She cries when the men catch her and screams when they put the rope around her neck. Every night before she hangs, I wake her up. I hand her the crumpled photo of her childhood horse, Mija, and watch her escape them again.

Terek Cy Hopkins
Cambria

Real freedom

Freedom's unattainable on Earth. James learned that in prison. The government tells us we're free, they feed us the illusion of an American dream ...

They lie. Bars can be invisible.

James slung blankets over razor wire, scaled the chain-link, and fell to muddy ground.

A shotgun cocked, a muzzle flashed.

Finally free.

Miles Wallace
Federal Correctional Institution
Cresson, Pennsylvania

Alarmed

Startled, heart racing, I glared angrily at the dark, diminutive beast. Its fiery red eyes flashing back at me. Its piercing, incessant screeches racking my every nerve.

But looks do not, in fact, kill. Unfolding my fist with a violent burst, I slapped the unwelcome intruder into a silenced submission.

Nine more minutes ...

Jenn Lawrence
Grover Beach

Serious fantasy

"You're yawning a lot."

"I had trouble sleeping last night."

"Did you try counting sheep?"

"No. I got up and read fantasy."

"Fantasy? Sorcerers, princesses, and magic potions?"

"No. That's way too realistic for me. This is about a couple with three teenagers. All five of them are extremely happy together, and they never argue."

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

This just in: God cancels holy days

In an announcement this morning, son and spokesperson J. Christ said his family cannot support the ongoing racism and hatred parading around as patriotism within its supposedly "good Christian" client base, adding: "Easter is out, forget about Christmas, too, if you don't like it, feel free to go to hell."

Chris Risk
Orcutt

Stacked against

It seemed like hard work but I needed the money.

The ad read: "\$25 a cord for stacking wood."

I figured I could make a few hundred a day without too much effort.

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I signed.

The company name—Toothpicks Galore.

Bernard Paquette
Jericho, Vermont

Domestic demons

Goodnight fever,

Goodnight snot.

Goodnight rotten children who whine a lot.

Goodnight flooded toilet;

Goodnight missed girlfriend dates.

Goodnight grouchy husband who works way too late.

Goodnight barking dog,

Goodnight rotten cat (who just knocked over my water—thanks for that).

Goodnight Advil PM (and Tylenol, too).

Tonight I'm so thankful each day is new.

Elizabeth McDermott
Atascadero

Palm to face

"I respect your medical judgement, doctor, but this isn't medical. Speaking as your financial advisor, don't do this. It's a Ponzi scheme. You'll lose everything."

"Thank you. Speaking as your physician, do get vaccinated. This is medical, not financial."

"Never! Any idiot knows COVID's a hoax!"

"True. Any idiot knows that. Don't be an idiot."

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

Run

Panting breath. Muddy shoes. He ran and ran and ran. Snap!

Fear filled his eyes as the sweat dripping down his face seeped into his clothes, burning his skin with the dangers of what was yet to come.

"I can't get caught."

"Tag, you're it!" said 6-year-old Jake.

Joanna Orda

Thanksgiving dinner

As Tom tightened his grip around his brother-in-law, he could see he was turning a nice shade of blue.

He hated him as long as he could remember.

Knowing he would not regret following through with it, his only worry was, would his sister forgive him?

He decided to do the Heimlich anyway.

Kelly Lindsay
Atascadero

Designated driver?

Marie loved big cities. Even tonight, driving her drunk husband to the hotel after the party, she had fun.

Bright lights flashed in her mirror.

She pulled over, rolled down her window. "Officer, you can breathalyze me? Only my husband drank."

"I believe you ma'am. But here in Dubai, women don't drive, even sober."

Zach Lindsay
Atascadero

Can I request substitutions?

"And what can I get for you?"
"That depends. Can I request substitutions?"
"Absolutely. We always welcome creative substitutions."
"Thanks. I'd like the lamb burger, but with basil pesto instead of garlic aioli. And coleslaw instead of fries."
"Certainly. Anything else?"
"Yes, please. Could you substitute the gentleman from the next table for my husband?"

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

News

She slumped on the couch, exhausted. "The doctor says it's growing fast."
"We're going to have to change some things," he said.
"I know. I've been putting it off."
"The kids have to be told. We should do it together."
"Yeah. But let's wait a week. Then we'll know for sure. Boy or girl."

Jim Carns
Kansas City, Missouri

Strife

The child moved frantically. She hurried through her room, picking up her toys strewn across the floor.
"This will fix it," she thought, tears streaming down her cheeks. A glass crashed against a wall in the kitchen. A father roared and a mother screeched.
"I can fix this," she whispered. "I can fix this."

Kip Lorenzetti
San Luis Obispo

Unhinged

Drenched from an illicit dip in a country club pool, in skivvies and cowboy boots, we strolled through 7-Eleven, tossing a packet of Ring Dings, calling each other babe. I was drunk, and he was bipolar. Apart we learned to hide it better. Lately I've craved a nosedive, but I remember the pavement

Jennifer Alessi
Burbank

A deadly deed

She chooses her victims carefully before slaughtering those whose screams are inaudible in these silent fields. She smiles as she kills, peacefully humming as she strips them of their beauty. And at the sound of a dinner bell, she skips out of the field with the lifeless corpses resting in her woven basket.

Amanda Yun
Laguna Niguel

Space invaders

Alien evidence littered our world, but never with lifeforms. Everyone feared the worst.

The monstrous spaceship's platform descended. Menacing organisms were standing as if their godly rite.

"How did they find us?" "What's their intention?" "Is this the end?" Collective breaths were held.

Finally, the apparent leader spoke. "Greetings from Earth! I'm King Elon Musk."

Dwaine Nelson
Morro Bay

A final tea

Jenny ate with delicate bites. Chewing slowly and deliberately, keeping her mouth closed just as Ms. Wharton taught them at this wretched school. Leaving the tray out for the others, she retired to her room. The biscuit's flavor lingered, buttery and sweet. "Why," she thought, closing her eyes, "you can't taste the cyanide at all."

Aron Egelko
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Just ask Grandma

"You haven't seen her for over a year. She's only 15, but looks 23. The dress she bought is all cleavage and thighs! She looks like she's on the prowl! Will you talk to her, Mom?"

"I asked your grandmother the same question about you 35 years ago."

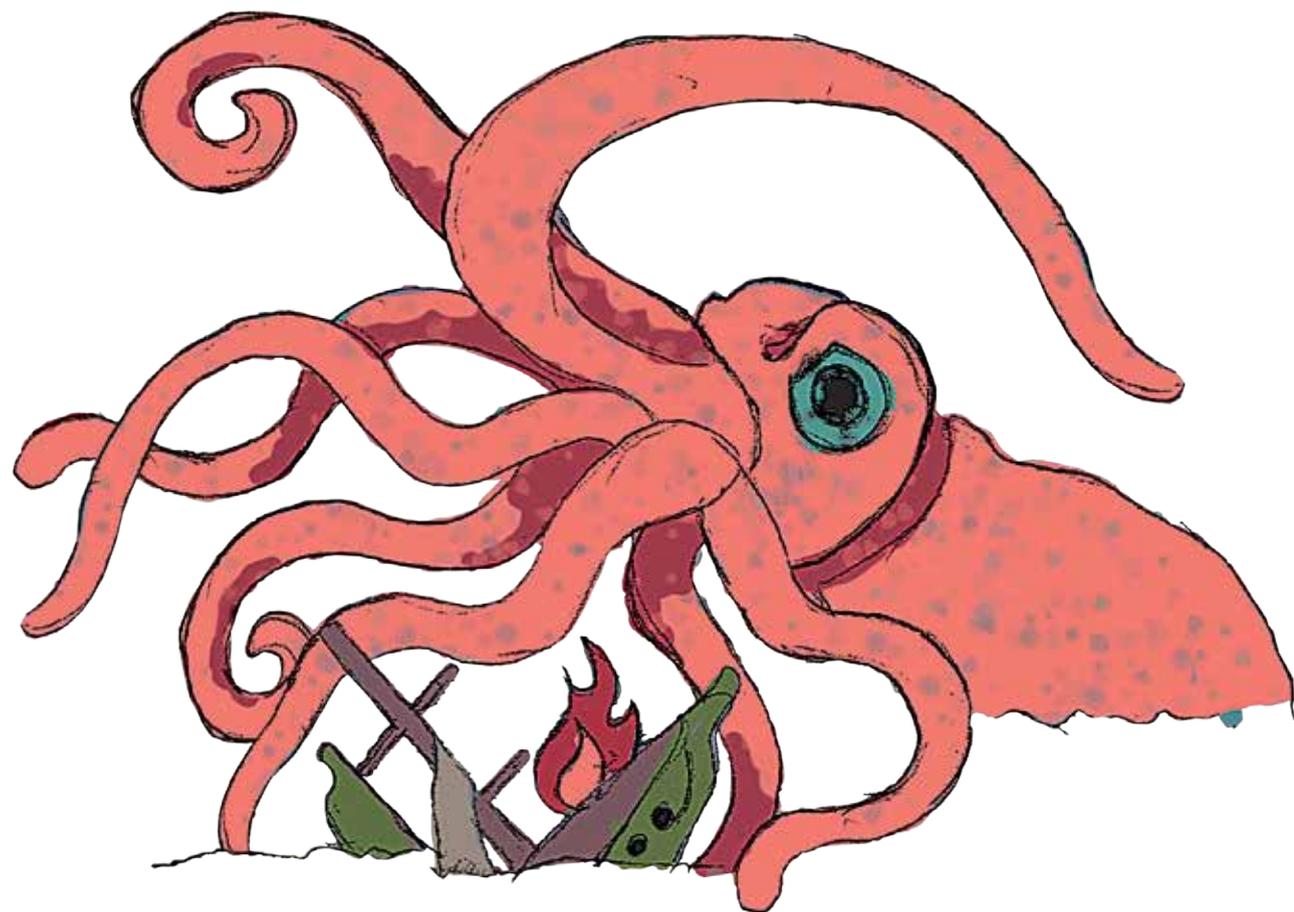
"What'd she say?"
"Payback's a bitch. Bye."

Steve Recchia
Reno, Nevada

Fighting fire with fire

He's become totally paranoid. Keeps saying there's a plot against him. ... Total madness ... I definitely had to get rid of him. I told him there was a conspiracy against me and it'd be unwise to keep in touch. ... That scared him off. Funnily, it got him thinking too ... I think he thinks I'm paranoid.

Edwin Vartany
Glendale



Fill 'er up

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project opens program to help build charging stations

BY CAMILLIA LANHAM

San Barbara County has close to \$5 million available as part of a \$12 million effort to get roughly 1,000 new electric vehicle (EV) chargers installed in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and SLO counties.

On Aug. 5, the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP) will start accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis. And the money goes fast, according to Vince Kirkhuff, an air quality specialist with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), which contributed money to the fund alongside the APCDs from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, Central Coast Community Choice Energy (3CE), the California Energy Commission, and other local agencies.

"In the last few programs that they have opened, sometimes the funding is gone within hours," Kirkhuff said. "What seems to be the best course of action is for potential site hosts, if someone wants to put a charger on their property, that they contact a vendor ahead of time, ... get all of their ducks in a row before the program launches."

The goal is to help sprinkle 433 new chargers around Santa Barbara County, although Kirkhuff said the number of chargers will depend on the

size of the rebates that get awarded.

Level 2 chargers, which charge electric vehicle batteries more slowly and would be a better fit for something like an office parking lot or an apartment building, are eligible to receive program rebates between \$3,500 and \$6,000. While DC chargers, which can take a vehicle battery from a 20 to 80 percent charge in less than an hour and would be a good fit for a grocery store or restaurant, are eligible for between \$30,000 to \$80,000, Kirkhuff said.

Higher rebate amounts will be allocated to chargers in low-income areas or multi-family buildings, he said, adding that around 50 percent of the money will go toward low-income areas of the county.

"One of the problems with getting the chargers out is something like 90 percent of EV charging currently happens at home, so people who have electric cars charge them at home," Kirkhuff said. "This is a problem for people who don't have a garage or a driveway, people who live in an apartment building. ... so that is something that needs to be filled."

Giving people who don't have an opportunity to charge at home a place to get their cars charged up should help get California to its electric vehicle goals, he said. The state's currently aiming to have 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road and 250,000 EV chargers around California by 2025, according to a press release from the Santa Barbara County APCD, which contributed money to the program for Santa Barbara County. By 2030, California wants 5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road.

The South Central Coast Incentive Program will be the 11th that CALeVIP has launched since December 2017, CALeVIP spokesperson Laura Rehrmann said. The California Energy

Commission is providing \$200 million in funding for the program, and funding partners have already added nearly \$34 million to that total, Rehrmann said.

3CE contributed \$1.75 million to the South Central Coast program, 3CE spokesperson Shelly Whitworth said. It's the second EV charger program 3CE has collaborated on. In 2019, 3CE, CALeVIP, and local agencies offered \$7 million for EV chargers in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties.

Whitworth said the money was provisionally subscribed within an hour of the program opening. Rehrmann said that after all the applications were reviewed, there is still some money available.

"Any disadvantaged communities, anyone who is looking to be a part of this, really needs to have their application ready to go, refreshing the site and hitting submit pretty much in that first 10 minutes," she said, adding that 3CE has a couple of other EV programs available through September.

Those who want to apply for the CALeVIP program, should visit calevip.org/incentive-project/south-central-coast to learn more. 3CE customers can apply for Electrify Your Ride—\$2,000 to \$4,000 for new or used electric vehicle purchases—and Charge Your Ride—meant to cover up to 80 percent of the costs and electrical work needed to install chargers at home—at 3cenergy.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALeVIP

CHARGE IT: On Aug. 5, CALeVIP will start accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis from those who want to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

"It's kind of the last hurdle for people to adopt electric vehicles. They're wondering where [they're] going to charge if they don't have a charger at home," Whitworth said.

Highlight

• The First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission is accepting applications for an alternate community member, the organization announced. The commission is made up of nine regular members and four alternate members, all appointed by the county Board of Supervisors, according to the commission. County residents interested in being considered must complete an application at sbcounty.granicus.com/boards. ☉

Editor Camillia Lanham wrote this week's Spotlight. Send business and nonprofit tips to spotlight@santamariasun.com.



World Day Against Trafficking in Persons July 30th

North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

KNOW MORE | DO MORE | NO MORE!



It Happens Here

Many people think that human trafficking happens somewhere else, never here on the Central Coast, but it does, and at alarming rates. Situated on the corridor between northern and southern California, tucked away where they think no one will notice, traffickers use the Central Coast as a hideaway to line their pockets. They trap children, women, and men into the life. The lucrative business of buying and selling people must stop, but it takes each of us being proactive and knowledgeable. People of any age and race are trafficked and it is up to each of us to be aware of the red flags.

July 30th may be recognized as an International Day to bring awareness to this subject but prevention efforts happen every single day in **YOUR** community. To learn more, call the Center at 805-736-8535 and ask for a presentation on Human Trafficking Prevention. We all have the power to do something that quite possibly could save a life.

24-Hour Support Line (805)736-7273
www.sbcountyrapecrisis.org

DEATH NOTICES

ALLEN, EUGENE LAWRENCE, 79, of Santa Maria passed away 7/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BEAULIEU, JEAN, 87, of Santa Maria passed away 7/20/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

BOHL, ISABEL CHRISTINE TANORE, 84, of Santa Maria passed away 7/21/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

COSTA, KATHERINE, 85, of Santa Barbara passed away 7/15/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

CRUZ, PATRICK SOTERO, 75, of Taft passed away 7/15/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

CUELLAR, FRANK "PACO" SR., 65, of Oceano passed away 7/22/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CURRY, WELDON, 101, of Arroyo Grande passed away 7/13/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

DIXON, NANCY JO, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 7/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DOMINGUEZ, JOSEPH "JOE" HENRY, 84, of Atascadero passed away 7/17/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ECHAVARRIA, CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY, 36, of Santa Maria passed away 7/23/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

ESCAMILLA, ISSAC JAMES, 46, of Atascadero passed away 7/25/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

EVANGELISTA, MICHAEL, 57, of Santa Maria passed away 7/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FRANKLIN, DONNA J., 79, of Santa Maria passed away 7/15/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GOODRICH, RUSSELL CARDWELL, 68, of Santa Margarita passed away 7/19/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

GUERRERO, KAREN DELL, 68, of Santa Maria passed away 7/23/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

JACOBSEN, JAKE "J.J.J." 35, of Santa Maria passed away 7/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LLAMAS, DAVID E., 72, of Santa Maria passed away 7/23/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

LOPEZ, JOHNNY DANIEL, 56, of Santa Maria passed away 7/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MARTIN, STACEY RENEE, 43, of Los Osos passed away 7/15/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MEANS, THERESE, 84, of Lompoc passed away 7/19/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

MERTEN, MARTHALEE, 79, of Arroyo Grande passed away 7/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MOORE, RICHARD EDWARD, 85, of Santa Maria passed away 7/15/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

NOLAN, BERNARD, 61, of Templeton passed away 7/18/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

ORR, GARLAND, 71, of Paso Robles passed away 7/20/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

PADGETT, ANDA, 82, of Arroyo Grande passed away 7/24/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

PINON, KEAN ARDIE SAN JUAN, 35, of Santa Maria passed away 7/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

REYES, ANTONIO HERNANDEZ, 47, of Santa Maria passed away 7/22/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SCHULZ, ALLEN EDMUND, 79, of Atascadero passed away 7/25/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

SOTO, SHARON MAXINE, 75, of Creston passed away 7/19/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

TESTA, ALICE YVONNE, 102, of Lompoc passed away 7/24/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

VILLA, JOHN "PUNKY" A. JR., 76, of Guadalupe passed away 7/18/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

WEBSTER, DANIEL PAUL, 77, of Creston passed away 7/13/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

WOODARD, DONALD JOSEPH, 66, of Atascadero passed away 7/25/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

ZALE, ERWIN, 92, of Cambria passed away 7/20/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

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The Santa Maria Cemetery District will begin its next cleanup of the cemetery grounds Monday, August 2nd, with cleaning scheduled to last until Friday, August 6th.

All items will be discarded. If you desire to keep any item, please have your item picked up prior to Monday, August 1st.



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Online Poll

What's your favorite way to save water?

- 50% Taking shorter showers.
- 32% If it's yellow, let it mellow.
- 12% Gray water recycling.
- 6% Letting my lawn or garden die.

16 Votes

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Broken windows

Neglected minor crimes lead to larger quality-of-life crimes that rot the core of society

BY RON FINK

In September 2017 in a locally published commentary, I observed “Broken windows; Lompoc is full of them”; this commentary was based on a theory by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982 that used broken windows as a metaphor for disorder within neighborhoods.

Expanding on the theory, they wrote: “If the first broken window in a building is not repaired, the people who like breaking windows will assume that no one cares about the building and more windows will be broken. Soon the building will have no windows.” They argued that if minor crimes are not addressed, then criminals would be emboldened to commit more serious crimes.

There are several examples of the broken window theory in Lompoc and statewide, and I don’t mean just broken glass. They are so called quality-of-life crimes that can rot the core of society.

Shopping carts, stolen from markets, are scattered all over town and are frequently left at recycling drop-off points or near homeless encampments. In 2016 the Lompoc City Council approved a shopping cart ordinance that required business owners to contain the carts on their property, declaring that it was unlawful to abandon them on any sidewalk, street, or other public area, or upon private property or a vacant lot.

Without any consideration of the blighted impact this was having on the community, a future City Council majority discouraged enforcement of the law, so the number of abandoned carts increased. The carts can still be seen all over town.

The attitude of a previous City Council majority was especially troubling because they publicly refused to take any action to help resolve the

problem, instead relying on personal responsibility, which appears to be an endangered concept.

The homeless population has been growing in Lompoc, and no one seems to know why. Some of these folks are mentally handicapped; others have criminal backgrounds and they have made little “camps” in commercial areas, parks, the riverbed and in alleys. Some can be seen wandering down the middle of busy city streets, sleeping near businesses, panhandling, and causing disturbances in commercial areas.

While politicians ponder how to deal with this situation, it only grows until the more aggressive homeless folks begin to break into abandoned houses and businesses, shoplift, commit assaults, set fires, and generally make a nuisance of themselves.

The level of disorder and incivility within our community is increasing every year. Since enforcement activity can’t keep up with the number of violations, and a previous council majority didn’t support an aggressive enforcement program, it caused the cancer to grow.

There are many forms of crime that evolve from these conditions; just knowing that community leaders don’t care about “minor violations of established laws” can lead some to keep pushing the envelope and commit increasingly brazen crimes.

Lawmakers in Sacramento have reduced penalties for shoplifting and released thousands of convicted felons onto our streets, and some district attorneys are refusing to prosecute many serious crimes. This leads people who may be prone to ignoring the common rules of an orderly society to think that the absence of any punitive action for minor offenses means that it’s OK to commit more serious crimes.

An example is shoplifting, aka petty theft. Thieves who steal from retail businesses know that they won’t go to jail if they steal property that doesn’t exceed the limit established by state

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

lawmakers. Some use the calculators on their cellphones to make sure what they are taking doesn’t exceed the magic number. Even if caught, they will likely only be issued a ticket, which is the same thing you get if you run a stop sign.

Shoplifting is a daily occurrence; public drunkenness, disruptive behavior, spousal abuse, burglaries, and a host of other “minor crimes” impact neighborhoods daily. Youth gangs are prone to “prove themselves” at the expense of other gang members, and frequently their encounters involve the injury or death of innocent bystanders.

... just knowing that community leaders don’t care about ‘minor violations of established laws’ can lead some to keep pushing the envelope and commit increasingly brazen crimes.

Moving forward to 2021, there have been 42 shootings in the city of Lompoc since Jan. 1; which is a significant increase over the previous years.

Is this a result of “broken windows”? State law says that it’s a crime to challenge a person in a public place to fight, but the penalty is minimal. Police will tell you that a verbal altercation can rapidly escalate from mere words or pushing and shoving to a shooting. There are numerous examples of “road rage” shootings, shootings resulting from family disputes and gang conflicts.

The other night, someone was going down the street on bicycle in a low-income area with a ball bat breaking out car windows. He didn’t hurt anyone, but all of the victims will now have to come up with some cash for an unexpected repair while the scofflaw goes free.

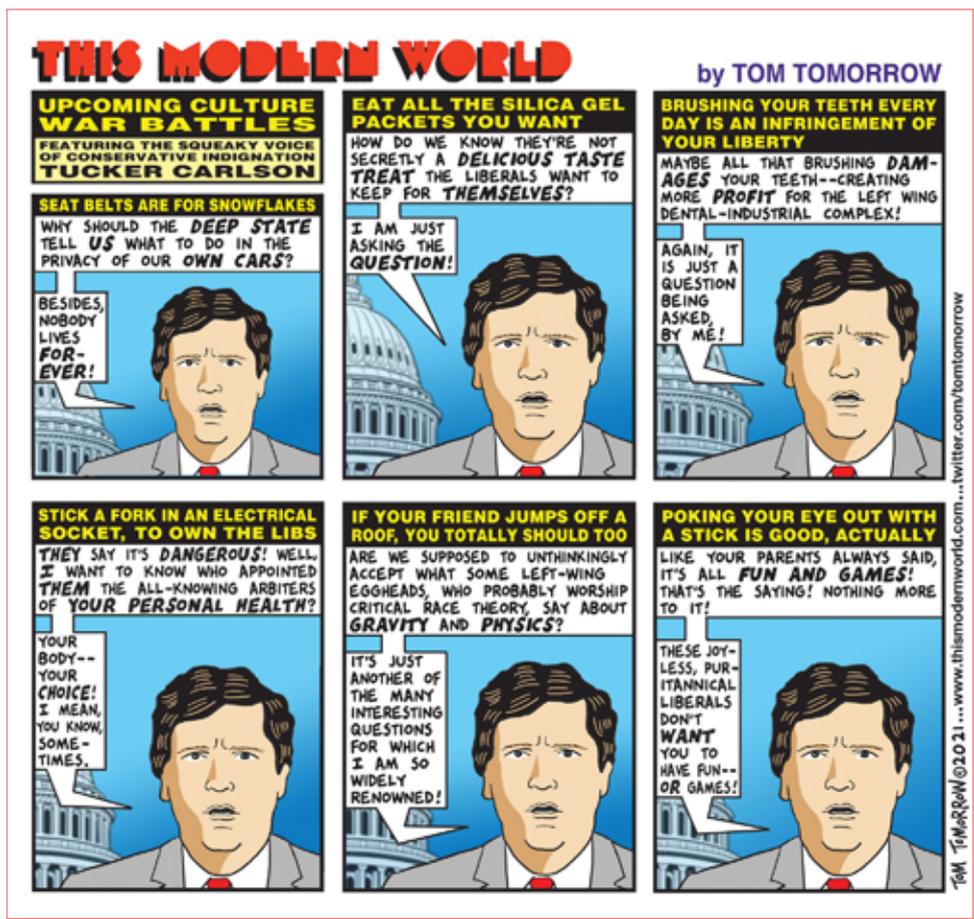
The failure to take care of thefts, illegal camping, assaults, malicious property damage, and other crimes some people consider to be “minor” seems to have led to a lack of concern by some people for the impact of their lawlessness.

It may seem like a small and insignificant effort, but in the past, service organizations and faith-based groups served to eradicate graffiti, clean up alleyways and medians, and help make a difference in our community. Why can’t the City Council and city manager invest in the relationships that can bring these efforts back and enable the community to receive the benefits of these good-hearted servants and their free labor? They have even helped return shopping carts for free!

The police chief recently set a special enforcement team in place; they have already made arrests for assaults and a felon in possession of a gun. But this small team will be pressed hard as the mountain of crime, violence, and gang activity gets higher and higher.

When will all this mayhem stop? Only when those who we elect begin to realize that all of the broken windows their predecessors have allowed to exist are now leading to a gradual destruction of a once peaceful town. ○

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



Public parody

If I could point out one thing that's wrong with our health care system right now, it's this: A health care system that essentially has a monopoly on providing services in **Santa Maria** just terminated its contract with one of the largest health insurance providers in California—and it's legal.



In fact, it happens all the time. And customers just have to deal with it. Which, as the French would say, is complete bullshit.

Dignity Health—which runs the biggest hospital around, **Marian Regional Medical Center**, among other health care facilities in the area—wants more money from **Anthem Blue Cross** customers in California, and Anthem doesn't want to give it to them. And now the two are locked in an epic battle of telling the public one thing and negotiating the rest behind closed doors.

Dignity is accusing Anthem of pocketing billions of dollars in profits while nonprofit hospital systems like it are forced to swallow increased costs of care. Anthem is accusing Dignity of being the most expensive health care system around. And I'm just sitting here rolling my eyes thinking: Haven't I seen this fight before!?

Cigna and Dignity Health had a similar battle last year—with almost the same exact arguments and everything (Shocked? Nope, nope.). And **Aetna** battled with Dignity earlier this year, but those blows didn't go public before getting nipped and tucked into a tight little contract between the insurance company and the health care provider. Gosh, I wonder who's next?

It's a public relations battle, and the only loser will be **Joe and Jane Public**, whose out-of-pocket costs will most definitely increase no matter what's decided because American health care is broken. Hoorah! And in the meantime, the Publics get to stress out about where they can go to receive in-network health care while the giant health care corporations battle over bucks and bottom lines.

See. Bullshit!

Meanwhile, we've got unvaccinated people running around like idiots catching COVID-19 and ruining our chances of a **Hot Chick Mask Free Summer** because they can't seem to believe that it's real! Let's take one of our favorite right-wing commentators. Just last week he—**Jan Lipski**—asked if anyone knew *anyone* who died from COVID-19.

And I answered, "Yes! Yes! Yes! I do." And he responded just like I knew he would.

"People die every day of all kinds of things," he said.

True, man. It's just that local people started dying from COVID-19 in 2020—which is not part of the "all kinds of things" you seem to be referring to.

Lipski demanded stats. Well, Lipski, here's a stat for you: 461 people have died in **Santa Barbara County** due to COVID-19 complications—note, this is in addition to the "all kinds of things" people die from every day—since the onset of the pandemic. And it's not just old people. One of the most recent deaths attributed to the virus was of an unvaccinated person between the ages of 18 and 29 with *no underlying health conditions*.

As of March 31, more than 2,400 residents have been hospitalized in this county due to COVID-19 with more than 35,000 positive cases recorded. More than 1 percent of our recorded COVID-19 cases resulted in a preventable death. And boy, Lipski, that sure is enough for me. ○

The Canary is a fan of facts not fiction. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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HOT STUFF

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2021



DANCING IN THE LIMELIGHT

The Classical School of Ballet (CSB) presents Dancefest 2021 at the Lompoc Civic Auditorium, with performances on Friday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m., and on Saturday, Aug. 7, at 1 and 6 p.m. Ballet, lyrical, jazz, tap, and other dances will be performed during this five-act recital. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Visit classicalschoolofballet.net for more info. The auditorium is located at 217 S. L St., Lompoc.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY PHOTO BY MASON MILL

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. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

ART IN THE GARDEN Painters, photographers, poets, and other practitioners of the arts are welcome to gather once a month for a free, self-directed happening described by art therapist Stacey Thompson as “an outlet for people during this difficult time.” Last Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. santaynezvalleybotanicgarden.org/. Santa Ynez Botanic Garden, 151 Sycamore Drive, Buellton.

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. 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. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE Gallery Los Olivos presents artists Renee Kelleher and Jim Tyler in an exhibit of pastel and oil paintings. The pair share their passion for rich color, lighting, composition, and strong value contrasts. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays. through July 31 805-688-7517. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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 Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082, wildlingmuseum.org.

TOGETHER: A MUSICAL JOURNEY A celebration of sharing experiences through story and song, helmed by director Katie Fuchs-Wackowski, with musical direction by Michael Wilkins, from an original script by Erik Stein. Through Aug. 7 pcpa.org. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

CENTRAL COAST NATIVES ART SHOW Featured artist Diane Atturio will be showcasing her watercolor work, during Central Coast Natives. Fridays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Aug. 29 Free. Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, 805-705-5328, lompcart.org.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

FEATURED ARTIST: MARILYN DOVER BENSON

On display now through the end of July, at the Shepard Hall Gallery at the Santa Maria Public Library. Exhibiting the works of Central Coast artist Marilyn Dover Benson. Through July 29 Free. cityofsantamaria.org. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - S.M. Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0994.

JULY CAMPS: WINE AND DESIGN Check website for more details. Through July 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Admission varies. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt, 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. ongoing 805-925-0464. 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. 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. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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

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

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

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.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT: SUMMER PROGRAMS AT PCPA Features programs for ages 9-12, 13-17, and 8-17. Through July 30 \$250 per student. pcpa.org. PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313.

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. Through July 30 Free. youthartsalive.org. Abel Maldonado

Community Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

YOUTH WRITING PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Designed for students through age 17 and includes a journal as well as a variety of activities to both ease the pressure of writing and inspire amateur authors. Limit of one pack per household; available while supplies last. **July 31, Aug. 2, Aug. 3, Aug. 4, Aug. 5, Aug. 6 and Aug. 7** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. S.M. Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ART IN THE PARK AT DINOSAUR CAVES An outdoor art festival featuring more than 40 artists/vendors. Located at Dinosaur Caves Park in Shell Beach, overlooking the ocean. Selection includes glass, pottery, jewelry, textiles, furniture, sculpture, paintings, photography, beauty products, food, plants, and more. **Aug. 1**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 559-907-7538. artintheparkshellbeach.com. Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

COMEDY TONIGHT A two-act vaudeville revue filled with puns, parodies, song, and dance starring some of your Melodrama favorites. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. through Sept. 12 \$25-\$32. 805-489-2499. americanmelodrama.com/. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

MIXED MEDIA FOR AGES 5-6 AND 7-12 For ages 5-6 (Mondays) and 7-12 (Tuesdays). 3:15-4:15 p.m. 805-668-2125. 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/. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., San Luis Obispo.

CALL FOR ART INSTRUCTORS: ART CENTRAL Seeking local artists with teaching experience to lead live in-person workshops and demos at Art Central. Mondays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through July 30 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/workshops-events/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) SLO REP returns with a madcap comedy, which features 3 actors who weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you

ARTS continued page 17

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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Special Olympics
Southern California



WE'RE BACK

Special Olympics Southern California



Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) empowers hundreds of athletes in Santa Maria and Lompoc through sports training and competition, health and wellness, and leadership programs. All programs are provided at no cost to athletes or their families.

By partnering with us, you can help prepare people with intellectual disabilities, one of the most vulnerable populations in the world, to succeed at life.

MAKING COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER & MORE INCLUSIVE

The relationship between sedentary lifestyles, chronic illness, and disability is well documented. Individuals with intellectual disabilities experience multiple disadvantages from the beginning. These include being more likely to...

- Have physical and mental health issues
- Have fewer support networks
- Lack a voice in the community
- Be unemployed long term



“Sometimes athletes get upset, and that is when you need to comfort them. I love Special Olympics. I can meet people and socialize with everybody. My teammates are my family.”

Maria Sandoval
SOSC Athlete of Santa Maria

Fortunately, SOSC gives athletes and their communities the tools, training, and skills to shatter these disadvantages and the challenges of life. For some, Special Olympics is their lifeline and their only support system. Additional benefits include:

- Athletes who participate in our programming are twice as likely to be employed and live independently.
- Schools that offer our curriculum see a 94% reduction in bullying and teasing.
- SOSC’s programming prepares the athletes to reach their goals and dreams.

The voice and skills athletes gain with Special Olympics gives them the confidence to spread acceptance and inclusion to people of all abilities. Their impact in their communities and schools is far reaching and truly limitless.

We will continually invest in the athletes until we reach our goal of providing programs in every community, in every school, and to every person with intellectual disabilities throughout Southern California.



“I got attached quickly knowing this volunteer work is all for a better cause. It’s super fun to watch the athletes compete. Even with how competitive they are, no matter whether they win or lose they always end with a great attitude. That pushes me to have the same attitude. They’re just having the time of their life.”

Officer Nick Sanchez
Santa Maria Police Department

WILL YOU JOIN OUR TEAM

Together, we can empower athletes and their communities so they can live an active, healthy, and fulfilling life. There are many more athletes out there who need our programming. Will you help us provide our current and future athletes with the skills and knowledge so they can reach their dreams?

BECOME A COACH OR VOLUNTEER

We are working hard to start new programs and in order to accommodate more athletes we can use more coaches

NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED, JUST A WILLINGNESS TO HELP OUT.

Our volunteers repeatedly share that they gain far more from the experience than the athletes! They also express their appreciation for their role in the global movement that is Special Olympics. Join our team today, and we promise that your life will be changed for the better.

Please contact Chasen Eddow at 805-662-2380 or ceddow@sosc.org for more information on how you can get involved!

SPONSOR AN ATHLETE

If your time is limited at the moment, you can still transform an athlete’s life by making a donation.

\$35.....will provide a uniform for an athlete

\$50will provide new sports equipment

\$100will sponsor an athlete’s training and participation in Athlete Leadership

\$250will sponsor an athlete for an entire sports season

\$500will sponsor an athlete for one year

Every dollar counts and makes a difference! Donate today by contacting Jody Watty at 805-544-6444 or jwatty@sosc.org.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Come out and cheer on local law enforcement at the upcoming SOSC Torch Run in November! Learn more about our largest fundraiser and awareness event at www.sosc.org/torchrun.



**LET ME WIN.
BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,
LET ME BE BRAVE
IN THE ATTEMPT.**

Special Olympics Athlete Oath

Thank You Santa Maria Recreation & Parks Department

Special Olympics Southern California athletes have thrived in Santa Maria and Lompoc for the past 44 years under the leadership and support of the City of Santa Maria Recreation & Parks Department. We thank their dedicated staff and numerous volunteers for their role in building and maintaining this partnership for nearly five decades. SOSOC looks forward to working together to support continued programming in the community.

Our Contributors

A special thank you to the Hutton Parker Foundation and the Santa Maria Sun for their support.



**Special
Olympics**
Southern California

www.sosc.org

breathless and helpless with laughter. Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. through Aug. 8 \$20-\$35. 805-781-3889. slorep.org. San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre, 888 Morro St., 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. and Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 30 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/portfolio/central-coast-printmakers/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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 WAREHOUSE Free art space and supplies provided for teens, Monday and Friday afternoons. Photography corner for photo shoots and videos. Also features painting, collaging, sewing and more. Mondays, Fridays, 12-1 p.m. through Aug. 20 Free. 805-270-3346. t-mha.org. Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

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

WESTERN TRADITIONS The West conjures up images of cowboys, Native Americans, ranching, and open plains. For some, the west represents a rough lifestyle that hasn't changed in over 100 years. Through Aug. 30 Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800, studiosonthepark.org.



NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

THE GREAT OUTDOORS Morro Bay Art Association is proud to present The Great Outdoors. Features artworks inspired by the beautiful scenery and colorful wildlife found in San Luis Obispo County from their respective studios. View nature inspired scenes in all media. Through Sept. 6 Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

2021 SUMMER DROP-IN Features outdoor games, movie days, arts and crafts, sports, and more. For ages 6 to 12. Sibling discount offered. Presented by the City of Lompoc Recreation Division. Mondays-Fridays, 12:30-5:15 p.m. through Aug. 13 Admission varies. 805-875-8100. andersonrecreationcenter.com. Anderson Recreation Center, 125 W. Walnut Ave., Lompoc, cityoflompoc.com/parks_rec/anderson.htm.

LOMPOC VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY ANNUAL RHIZOME SALE Lompoc Valley Iris Society hosts its annual Rhizome Sale. Most rhizomes are \$1 to \$5. Ready to plant. **July 31**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 805-291-2912. CoastHills Credit Union Parking Lot, 1320 N H Street, Lompoc.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

ANDROID PHONE CLASS First Thursday of every month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB Open to Corvette owners and enthusiasts. First Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Free. 805-934-3948. Home Motors, 1313 E. Main St., Santa Maria.

THE DUNES CENTER'S REOPENING CELEBRATION AND BARBECUE Experience an entertaining afternoon of lively, toe-tapping jazz, libations, and Santa Maria style barbecue while celebrating the beauty of the Central Coast. **July 31**, 1-4 p.m. 805-343-2455. my805tix.com. Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 1065 Guadalupe St, Guadalupe.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HARRY POTTER YOUTH PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Host a birthday party for everyone's favorite wizard with a Happy Birthday Harry Potter Youth pack. Pick up a pack from the Youth Services desk at the Santa Maria Public Library. Limit of one pack per youth; available while supplies last. **July 29, July 30 and July 31** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. S.M. Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLASS Tuesdays Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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.

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. S.M. Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN STEAM MAKER SPACE PACKS (KIT 5) 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. **July 31, Aug. 2, Aug. 3, Aug. 4, Aug. 5, Aug. 6 and Aug. 7** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. S.M. Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN STEAM MAKER SPACE PACKS (KIT 5)-THE SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY 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. **July 31, Aug. 2, Aug. 3, Aug. 4, Aug. 5, Aug. 6 and Aug. 7** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. S.M. Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS OVER ZOOM Visit site or call to learn about various virtual workshop offerings. 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.

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. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 1:15-2:45 p.m. through Aug. 12 \$50. 805-295-9505. mpspost.wordpress.com/applied-neurology-2/. Central Core, 1160 Price Street, Pismo Beach.

PECHO COAST TRAIL PLANT LIFE Learn about the native plants that thrive along the Pecho Coast Trail and discover their medicinal uses. General admission ticket includes hike, tour and lunch. **Aug. 1**, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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. Nipomo, Citywide, Nipomo.

UNITY FIVE CITIES WEEKLY SERVICE Unity Five Cities offers a friendly, welcoming environment for those seeking a positive path for spiritual living. Music and lesson followed by pot luck social time every Sunday; frequent concerts in the garden and other fun activities. Sundays, 10-11:15 a.m. Free. 805-440-9461. unity5cities.org. The Victorian, 789 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande.

VETSURF FRIDAY Veterans encouraged to join us for these weekly VetSurf programs to share the camaraderie. Surfers and non-surfers are welcome; enjoy coffee and snacks on the beach or paddle out to share some waves with fellow Veterans. Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free admission. 805-441-5271. ampsurf.org. Addie Street Surfer Parking Lot, Addie Street, Pismo Beach.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 18



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Virtual Lighthouse Tours ON DEMAND
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



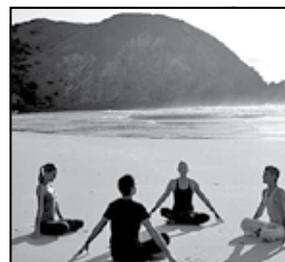
In-Person Lighthouse Tours WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



SLO Blues Baseball vs. Conejo Oaks FRIDAY, JULY 30
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



Dunes Center Reopening Celebration & BBQ SATURDAY, JULY 31
The Dunes Center, Guadalupe



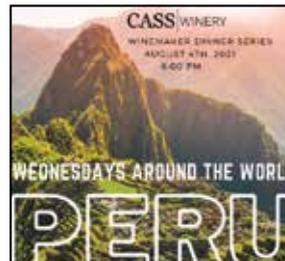
Yoga at the Lighthouse SATURDAY, JULY 31
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



SLO Blues Baseball vs. MLB Academy Barons SAT & SUN, JULY 31 & AUG 1
Sinsheimer Park, SLO



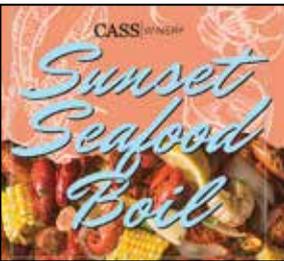
Pecho Coast Trail Plant Life SUNDAY, AUGUST 1
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



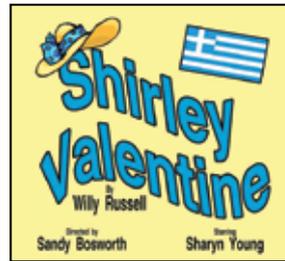
Wednesdays Around the World Dinner: Peru WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Central Coast Guitar Show SATURDAY, AUGUST 7
SLO Guild Hall



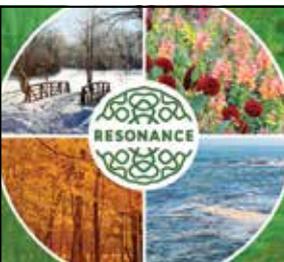
Sunset Seafood Boil FRIDAY, AUGUST 13
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Shirley Valentine FRI, SAT, SUN, AUGUST 13-15
By the Sea Productions, Morro Bay



Zongo All-Stars SATURDAY, AUGUST 14
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach



Resonance presents: Seasons SATURDAY, AUGUST 14
Mission San Luis Obispo



Chakra Meditation and Breath Work AUGUST 18 & 19, 25 & 26
Aurora Adventures, Morro Bay



805 Wave Comedy Event: Bringing Smiles Back SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
Willow Ranch, Nipomo

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! info@My805Tix.com



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21ST ANNUAL

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Sun

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 17

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.

YOGA AT THE LIGHTHOUSE As part of the 130th Anniversary celebration of the Point San Luis Lighthouse, there will be a one-time day of yoga. **July 31**, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CAL HOPE SLO GROUPS AT TMHA Visit website for full list of weekly Zoom groups available. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays calhopecoconnect.org. Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND BOUNDARIES Have your communication skills gotten a little rusty during the shutdown? How can you improve your relationships and workplace communication skills? This is important, and so is allowing others to express themselves. Tuesdays, 9-10:30 a.m. through Aug. 17 Free. t-mha.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

DEALING WITH OVERWHELMING EMOTIONS: ONLINE STRESS SUPPORT (ZOOM) Feelings got you dazed and confused? Not dealing well with yet more changes? We have some awesome, kind, caring, and wise folks from FEMA Crisis Counseling team and TMHA who can try and help the stress get less. Mondays, 5-6:30 p.m. through Aug. 30 Free. zoom.us/j/85989402573. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION (ONLINE MEETING) Zoom series hosted by TMHA. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT GROUP Open to the public at no charge. The group, led by a trained facilitator, offers a safe space to share experiences with challenge, change, grief, loss, and resilience with peers. Mondays, 4:30-6 p.m. hospiceslo.org/support-groups. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE The library's first monthly book sale for 2021. Come join us in the Library Atrium where we will be offering children's books, and fiction and nonfiction books. Hardcover are \$2 and trade/paperbacks are \$1. Cash and checks only. **July 30**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and **July 31**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

SPORTS SUMMER CAMPS: VOLLEYBALL Hosted by SLO Classical Academy, for grades 5-8. Beginners and experienced players alike will thrive at our sports camps as they experience the basics and rules of play, learn foundational team building, and hone new and developing skills. **Aug. 2-6**, 1-3 p.m. \$160. 805-548-8700. sloclassical.org. SLO Classical Academy, 165 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

SUMMER SUPER CAMP-A-PALOOZA Summer camps for ages 4 and up. Each week has a different theme with special guests and fun activities. Through Aug. 18 805-549-8408. iflipforccg.com. Central Coast Gymnastics Sports Center, 21 Zaca Lane, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

2021 CALIFORNIA MID-STATE FAIR The California Mid-State Fair is held annually and runs for 12 days at the end of July. The Fair has hosted some of the biggest names in the music industry. Check site for updates and full list of featured entertainment, live music, and more. Through Aug. 1 midstatefair.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles, 805-238-9607.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

STANDING SUN: CELLAR CLUB Visit site for Cellar Club details and more info. Mondays-Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. 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 presquilewine.com/club/. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

SIMPLY SOURDOUGH First Thursday of every month Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt, 805-937-9750.

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. 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.

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET: CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY Celebrating National Farmers Market Week with a Customer Appreciation Day. Features lots of prizes and giveaways, including sunflower plants to give out while supply lasts. **Aug. 4**, 8:30-11 a.m. Smart and Final parking lot, 1464 E. Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

JEWISH DELI DAY FUNDRAISER AT AMY AND JAIME'S PLACE Find your deli favorites at Amy and Jaime's Place in Templeton on Wednesday, Aug. 4. Deli meals include a sandwich, Israeli salad, a Kosher pickle, and a sweet macaroon. All proceeds go to benefit Jewish Family Services of SLO and NC NeighborAid. **Aug. 4**, 1-5 p.m. \$27 for each deli meal box. 805-426-5465. jccslo.com/north-county-deli-day.html. Amy and Jaime's Place, 1255 Las Tablas Road, Templeton.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CATTUS QUARTET LIVE Part of the Jazz and Beyond Series. **Aug. 8** Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS Sundays, 2-5 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, brickbarnwineestate.com.

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/. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

CONCERT FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT OASIS CENTER

Enjoy Santa Maria-style barbecue with live music from The Molly Ringwald Project. **July 31**, 8 p.m. oasisorcutt.org. CMT Ranch, 5200 Dominion Rd, Orcutt.

SANTA MARIA PHILHARMONIC: FIRST FRIDAYS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

EASTON EVERETT DUO LIVE A live performance of neo-folk pop. **July 30**, 5-7:30 p.m. Branch Street Deli, 203 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9099, branchstreetdeli.com.

FESTIVAL MOZAIC: GABY MORENO Born and raised in Guatemala, Gaby Moreno grew up inspired by artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, and Aretha Franklin. Her original blend of jazz, soul, blues and 1960s rock has earned her the appreciation of audiences in Latin America, Europe, and the US. **July 29**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$49-\$85. 805-781-3009. festivalmozaic.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo.

GROVER BEACH SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Features Unfinished Business (July 4), Stevie Nicks Illusion (July 11), Dark Desert Highway (July 25), Careless Whisper (Aug. 1), Scratch (Aug. 8), and Rock Odyssey (Aug. 15). **Aug. 1**, 3-6 p.m. and **Aug. 8**, 3-6 p.m. Free. grover.org. Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach, (805)473-4580.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

FESTIVAL MOZAIC: CHAMBER SERIES FINALE Featuring Louise Farrenc (Sextet for Piano and Winds in c, op. 40), Bridge (Sextet in E-flat major, H. 107), Robert Schumann (Piano Quintet in E-flat, op. 44). **July 31**, 8-10 p.m. \$10-\$80. 805-781-3009. festivalmozaic.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

WAY TOO HIGH FOR THIS TOUR Their first full length record entitled "The Hookup" reached #2 on both the Billboard and iTunes Reggae Charts and the band began touring nationally. **July 29**, 8-10 p.m. \$12. kashdout.com/tour-dates. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843. ○

2021 NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS



Entry period is from July 29 through Monday, Aug. 16, 2021 by 5pm

Enter your songs online at www.NewTimesSLO.com

OR FOLLOW THE STEPS AND FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW

ENTER UP TO 13 SONGS & 1 ALBUM

ATTENTION ALL LOCAL BANDS, MUSICIANS, SINGERS, & SONGWRITERS!

Become a legendary New Times Music Award recipient! Enter to win amazing prizes including the custom NTMA Newtie, your name/band name on all NTMA merch, and a performing spot at the New Times Music Awards & Showcase at SLO Brew Rock!

1

SONG ENTRY BY GENRE

(please check one box per song title to indicate song genre)

SONG TITLE #1 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #2 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #3 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #4 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #5 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #6 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #7 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

SONG TITLE #8 _____

Name of performing artist(s) EXACTLY as it should appear on CD _____

(band name, stage name, etc.) _____

Rock/Alternative County/Americana/Folk R&B/Blues
 Hip-Hop/Rap Open Youth

2

SONGWRITER CATEGORY ENTRY

Upload (or include) a .doc file of lyrics with your entry.

Song Title #1 _____

Song Title #2 _____

Song Title #3 _____

BEST ALBUM ENTRY (only 1 total)

Album Title _____

3

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES _____ x \$20 = _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED

I certify that I am the writer or co-writer of the song(s) or lyrics submitted. I also certify that I have read, understood, and accept the rules and regulations of the New Times Music Awards. If entrant is under 18 years old, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Signature _____

Date _____

4

LOCAL LEGEND AWARD NOMINEE

The Local Legend Award recognizes an individual or group who has contributed to help enrich, support, and further music's reach in our community; someone whose ideas, inspiration, and dedication to this art scene have helped nurture and grow the music scene—whether it's bringing new sounds to the area or

giving people the tools they need to create their own. We would love your input! Please use this space to nominate an individual, group, or organization, you feel should be considered for this award:

ONLINE ENTRIES ARE PREFERRED, BUT YOU MAY ALSO MAIL OR DROP OFF SUBMISSIONS AT EITHER OF OUR OFFICES.

Additional entry forms are available at either of our offices or on our website: www.NewTimesSLO.com.

**NEW TIMES: 1010 MARSH STREET, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
SUN: 2540 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE A, SANTA MARIA CA 93445**

GENERAL RULES

- All entries must be received by 5pm on Monday, August 16, 2021, to be considered for the 2021 New Times Music Awards (NTMAs).
- Entries are \$20 for each song and for the Best Album award.
- Participants may enter a maximum of 13 songs (10 genre category, 3 songwriting category) and 1 album.
- ONLINE ENTRIES ARE PREFERRED.** Please fill out the entry form, upload songs, and pay for your entries with a credit card at www.NewTimesSLO.com.
- If you wish to pay with cash or check, you may drop off your entries at either the *New Times* or *Sun* offices (addresses listed below). Bring your music entries on a CD or USB drive along with your completed entry form. Checks should be made payable to "New Times."
- All entrants must reside primarily in San Luis Obispo County or

Northern Santa Barbara County.

- All entrants must be able to play at the showcase event in November. Official date to be determined.
- All entrants under 18 years of age must select the Youth category and must have a parent or guardian sign the entry form.
- By entering the contest, all entrants give permission to New Times Media Group to reproduce submissions on compact disc and on the web. All entries remain the property of performers.
- New Times Music Awards is not responsible for lost, damaged, incomplete, or late entries.
- The top 3 songs in each category need to provide high-quality versions of their songs (16 Bit, 44.1 Sample Rate).
- Songs may have multiple co-writers, but please designate one contact name only on entry form.
- Winners will be chosen by a select panel of judges.

- Songs will be judged on overall performance.
- Live performers will share the 'Back Line'.
- Check NewTimesSLO.com or contact NTMA@NewTimesSLO.com for more information.
- The New Times Music Awards Showcase and Competition is an all-ages show. Performers agree to eliminate explicit lyrics during their performance.

GENRE CATEGORIES

- The Youth category is for anyone entering music who is under the age of 18.
- The Open genre includes reggae, world beat, jazz, classical, new age, electronic, etc.
- Each song submission must have a genre selected. If nothing is selected, the song will go into the Open genre.

- If judges determine a song to be a better fit with a different genre category than what was originally submitted, they reserve the right to recategorize it.

SONGWRITER CATEGORY

- You may enter up to 3 songs in the Songwriting genre, which is being judged separately.
- Upload (or include) a .doc file of lyrics with your entry.

ALBUM CATEGORY

- Albums must have been released between July 1, 2020 and August 16, 2021 to be eligible. Please deliver a hard copy to either the *New Times* or *Sun* office along with a completed entry form by 5pm on Monday, August 16, 2021 for consideration. The entire presentation will be judged, including quality of songs, sound, and packaging.
- Only 1 album per entrant total.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY LUIS ESCOBAR REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

Arts Briefs

Elwin Mussell Senior Center hosts upcoming dance concert

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST



The Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club presents Let's Dance, a special dance concert featuring live music from the Riptide Big Band and vocalist Bob Nations, at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center on Sunday, Aug. 15, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Admission to the concert is free, thanks to grant funding from the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County.

Find out more about the event and other upcoming concerts featuring the Riptide Big Band at riptidebb.com. This popular, local ensemble is best known for performing a variety of dance, jazz, and swing numbers, ranging from the 1920s to the '70s.

The Elwin Mussell Senior Center is located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria. Call (775) 813-5186 for additional details.

805 Wave hosts comedy, barbecue fundraiser supporting United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County

805 Wave is hosting a special comedy night fundraiser at Willow Ranch in Nipomo on Saturday, Aug. 21. Doors open at 6 p.m. A portion of the event's proceeds will be donated to United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County. Guests of the event can look forward to comedy acts, live music, prize giveaways, drinks, and Santa Maria-style barbecue.

Admission to the fundraiser is \$99, which includes food and beverages. Call (909) 242-5687 or email 805waveevents@gmail.com for more info. Tickets to the event can be purchased through Eventbrite.

SLO NightWriters hosts Zoom talk with local authors Wendelin Van Draanen and Mark Parsons

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDELIN VAN DRAANEN



Husband and wife Mark Parsons (author of *Road Rash*) and Wendelin Van Draanen (creator of the *Sammy Keyes* series) will discuss their respective careers in children's literature during the San Luis Obispo NightWriters' next virtual meeting, on Tuesday, Aug. 10, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Admission to join the meeting is free.

Call (805) 703-3132 or visit slonightwriters.org to find out more about the event and other upcoming programs hosted by the SLO NightWriters, a local nonprofit dedicated to providing local writers with resources to help support their writing and publishing ventures.

For more info on Parsons and Van Draanen, who currently reside on the Central Coast, visit markparsons.com or wendelinvand.com, respectively. Van Draanen was formerly a teacher at St. Joseph High School in Orcutt before becoming a published author. She also famously based the fictional town of Santa Martina (found in her *Sammy Keyes* novels) on Santa Maria. ○

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



GOT THAT GOOD SONG IN MY FEET: Annali Fuchs-Wackowski, Emily Trask, Kitty Balay, George Walker, Yusef Seevers, and Andrew Philpot (pictured from left to right) kick off *Together: A Musical Journey* by taking on Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling."

Raise your hopeful voice

PCPA returns to the Solvang Festival Theater with an uplifting concert revue, *Together: A Musical Journey*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

It's 8 p.m. and the sun is setting, but George Walker's got enough sunshine in his pocket to light up an amphitheater during his cover of Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling!" His peers in the cast of PCPA's *Together: A Musical Journey* can't help but join in and dance along. And let's be real, if I knew I could get away with it without being banned from the theater for life, I'd jump on the stage too. But I stay in my seat and tap my feet instead.

Marking its return to live, in-person performances after more than a year elsewhere, it's easy to tell why PCPA chose to showcase some of its most familiar resident actors in such a celebratory fashion. *Together: A Musical Journey* (currently showing at the Solvang Festival Theater through Aug. 7) works as an engaging concert revue, dividing its time between heartfelt anecdotes and elaborate song and dance numbers—all of which include live instruments played by the actors themselves (accompanied onstage by the show's pianist and musical director, Michael Wilkins).

The concert atmosphere reminded me of past theatrical productions I had seen of *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*; as an audience member, there's something unique and organic about getting to see where the music is actually coming from onstage. PCPA resident artist Erik Stein, who wrote the original script for *Together*, confirmed the live music aspect was a unique experience behind the scenes as well.

"We get to act and sing with each other a lot, but we've never all played instruments together," said Stein, who also performs as a cast member in the show. "George [Walker] on the guitar and the banjo, Emily [Trask] on the cello, Yusef [Seevers]

on the bass, with Michael [Wilkins] on the piano—they were so cool to watch."

Stein himself plays the cajón for many songs in the show, which he described as "living all of my Mumford and Sons dreams," and often lends his vocals as well, most prominently while leading a fun, memorable cover of Michael Bublé's "Haven't Met You Yet."

Together: A Musical Journey features a diverse selection of songs, ranging from rock, jazz, and soul hits to popular show tunes and film staples. Standouts include Yusef Seevers' rendition of Bill Withers' *Lovely Day*, which is pitch perfect, so perfect that it almost tops his powerful duet with Walker during my favorite number in the show, "Falling Slowly," from 2007's *Once*.

The song is already inherently moving, but there's a new layer to be discovered here in this particular post-2020 production, within the context of its two singers dealing with the stresses of separation and isolation directly caused by the pandemic.

"You have suffered enough/ And warred with yourself/ It's time that you won," the lyrics read. "Take this sinking boat and point it home/ We've still got time/ Raise your hopeful voice, you have a choice/ You've made it now."

Other memorable performances in *Together: A Musical Journey* include Kitty Balay's rockin' cover of Carole King's "I Feel the Earth Move," Andrew Philpot's suave tribute to Frank Sinatra's "The Best Is Yet To Come," and Katie Fuchs-Wackowski's (who also directed the show) stirring rendition of Sixpence None The Richer's "Kiss Me."

Whether it's an upbeat, bittersweet, or sorrowful tune, each performance has a certain glow to it, as if the cast members' endorphins are either contagious or in a symbiotic relationship with the audience's feedback.

"We can literally feel the audience's energy, and their presence is absolutely necessary," Stein said,



JUST ONE LOOK AT YOU: The first time Yusef Seevers (pictured) steals the show is during his powerful duet with George Walker, an uplifting cover of "Falling Slowly," from 2007's *Once*. His joyous rendition of Bill Withers' *Lovely Day* is just as memorable.



OUT OF NOWHERE AND INTO MY LIFE: *Together*'s writer, Erik Stein (pictured, center), also performs in the show, playing cajón for many songs, and often lending his vocals as well, most prominently while leading a fun, memorable cover of Michael Bublé's "Haven't Met You Yet."

who compared the feeling of returning to the stage as "finally being able to eat pasta after being on a diet for so long." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood could not go more than a year without pasta. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Out on the moonlit floor

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of *Together: A Musical Journey* through Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Solvang Festival Theater, located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. Tickets range from \$35 to \$50. Call (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org for more info.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

New flick, same trick

Writer-director M. Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*, *Split*) adapts Pierre-Oscar Lévy and Frederick Peeters' graphic novel, *Sandcastle*, for the big screen. The thriller focuses on a family on a tropical holiday who discovers the secluded beach they've visited is causing them to age rapidly—their entire lives slipping away hour by hour. (108 min.)

Glen: I'm not quite sure why I keep coming back for more M. Night Shyamalan. He's disappointed me so many times. I never saw his first two films, but when *The Sixth Sense* (1999) came out, I was floored! It was so great, and that final act twist was a revelation. Unfortunately, Shyamalan seems to have chased that success ever since with the same trick up his sleeve though he's never re-created the power of *The Sixth Sense*. I've seen most of his subsequent films and ... meh. They're well made and interesting but always end with a groan. In this case, he's adapting a graphic novel to the big screen, and I'm guessing he picked the story because—you guessed it!—a big final act twist. The film would have been far better without it. Like most of his films, the premise is promising. Guy (Gael García Bernal) and Prisca (Vicky Krieps) have brought their two kids—6-year-old Trent (Nolan River) and 11-year-old Maddox (Alexa Swinton)—to a tropical resort. The couple is trying to pretend everything is fine, but it soon becomes clear their relationship is on the rocks. At the encouragement of the resort manager (Gustaf Hammarsten), they agree to a day trip to a secluded beach, where they find a few other people: hip-hop artist Mid-Size

Sedan (Aaron Pierre); another couple named Jarin (Ken Leung) and Patricia (Nikki Amuka-Bird); and a doctor named Charles (Rufus Sewell), his trophy wife, Chrystal (Abbey Lee), their 6-year-old child, Kara (Kyle Bailey), and Charles' mother, Agnes (Kathleen Chalfant). Fast aging, horror, and weirdness ensues.

Anna: The premise is interesting enough, and I don't mind the progression the film took, but the very Shyamalan final act twist left me groaning too. The story didn't need it—and while I know this is based on a graphic novel, it feels thrown in at the end to inspire shock. The performances are laudable. I especially enjoyed young Nolan River who played Trent as a child—an odd yet endearing and curious 6-year-old—and Rufus Sewell as Charles, a pretentious doctor who we soon find out is battling his declining mental health and becomes violent. If they would have left off the final act and wrapped things up a bit differently, I think I would have enjoyed this flick more, but maybe that's just my taste. The core beach group is soon joined by nurse Jarin and his psychologist wife, Patricia, who realizes that there must be some sort of group psychosis going on and tries to connect the dots on what they all have in common. They're trapped by some sort of force field that won't let them escape the beach by land or sea, and as the children start to rapidly age and grow, they realize that half an hour of their time is like a year of regular life. I was excited over the premise of this film, and while I did for the most part stay engaged, I hope Shyamalan doesn't continue to rely on that final ending twist for all of his future movies—it doesn't do every film a favor.

OLD
 What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Regal Arroyo Grande, Regal Santa Maria & RPX**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Matinee**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Stream it**



GOING ... GONE: Various vacationers at a tropical resort discover their lives have sped up on a secluded beach, aging years every hour, in auteur M. Night Shyamalan's *Old*, playing in local theaters.

Glen: I agree, the acting was good, especially from teens Trent (Alex Wolff) and Maddox (Thomasin McKenzie), who though they're racing through puberty still have the minds of children. Because time is sped up, injuries heal quickly. Cut someone and the wound seals and is replaced by a scar—this can be both a positive and a negative. If you've seen the trailer, you know there's a lightning-fast pregnancy and decomposing corpses floating into swimming children, which are both disturbing, but other moments are even more horrifying, especially a scene with calcium-deficient Chrystal, whose bones break and set themselves into a twisted grotesquerie. The film manages to conjure moments of authentic emotion—Guy and Prisca are going through a lot and realize their love remains intact, and Trent and Maddox soon understand they have only each other to rely on. I might have come away liking this film and some of its soulful musings had it not made its last-minute pivot into another groan-inducing twist.

Anna: Agreed. In fact, I can immediately think of no fewer than three ways to end the film that would have been better for me as an audience member. Yet we know Shyamalan and his usual tropes, and he

doesn't stray from them—so what was I expecting really? The teenagers were great, and honestly the whole ensemble did a wonderful job and kept the tension palpable. Personally, I loved seeing Ken Leung back on an island with weird time twists happening because I'm a huge fan of *Lost*, and his character Miles was living through weird island/time/mystery moments there as well. I feel like Shyamalan is like a kid in a candy store, and even if you tell him he can only pick three things, he's still going to put his hands in every jar and stuff his pockets full—do us all a favor and pick a few things to do with your film, not all of them! There's a lot that I liked here, but it's a case of just pushing it a little too far. It's entertaining enough for a matinee or to catch at home, just don't be surprised if you find yourself groaning at the end like I did. ○

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

TV & Film Reviews

SWEET TOOTH
 What's it rated? **TV-14**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

BINGEABLE

Gus (Christian Convery) is a young boy being raised by his Papa in a post-apocalyptic world, hidden away from society for his safety because Gus isn't like a "normal" kid in one big way: He's half human and half deer, and there is no hiding his horns. If he's found out by the world at large, he'll be captured, experimented on, even killed for being who he is, but he isn't the only anomaly out there. The human race is morphing into a race of half-breeds, and scientists can't explain if the new race carries a virus that infected and wreaked havoc on the world or is merely protected from it.

When his world gets turned upside down and he's left on his own, Gus tags along with Tommy, who he calls "Big Man" (Nonso Anozie), who reluctantly becomes Gus' protector and guide. We also meet Aimee (Dania Ramirez) who runs a sanctuary in a shuttered zoo to protect her adopted daughter, Wendy (Naledi Murray), who's half human and half pig, as well as other lost vulnerable half-breed children. We also meet a group of young rebels who believe the "Great Crumble" (the virus and subsequent events) is Mother



SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS: Gus (Christian Convery), a human-deer hybrid, navigates a post-apocalyptic world in search of his origins, in the Netflix TV series *Sweet Tooth*.

Nature taking back the Earth, which is led by Bear (Stefania LaVie Owen), who soon becomes Gus' advocate and ally.

This show, based on a comic book series, is tender and sweet, visually beautiful, and filled with meaning and messages that go far beyond a simple story. The first season is eight episodes, and I binged right through them. Bring on season 2, Netflix! *Sweet Tooth* is a total winner. (eight 37- to 53-min. episodes)

—Anna

GUNPOWDER MILKSHAKE
 What's it rated? **R**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

Guilty PLEASURES

Co-writer and director Navot Papushado (*Rabies*, *Big Bad Wolves*) helms this action crime drama that's essentially a female *John Wick*. The story focuses on Sam (Karen Gillan), a female assassin who's assigned by her handler, Nathan (Paul Giamatti), to retrieve some stolen money. After that job goes awry, Nathan learns Sam also killed the son of a local gangster, and soon she has a target on her back.

While much of the action and combat lacks the bone-crushing intensity of the John Wick franchise, there's a bit of fun to be had in this stylized shoot-'em-up flick that features appearances by a number of badass female characters including Sam's estranged assassin mom (Lena Headey) and three of her former associates (Carla Gugino, Michelle Yeoh, and Angela Bassett). All that female energy is a blast, but the story doesn't capitalize on it as a commentary on male fantasy violence, which is unfortunate.

As a pure adrenaline rush of action and mayhem, it falls snugly into the *Smokin' Aces* (2006) and *Shoot 'Em Up* (2007) school of cartoon violence. There's also a little girl



KILLER ELITE: Female assassin Sam (Karen Gillan, left) has to retrieve kidnapped Emily (Chloe Coleman), in the female-centric shoot-'em-up *Gunpowder Milkshake* on Netflix.

(Chloe Coleman) for Sam to take under her wing. It's fun but forgettable, but it's also free with your Netflix subscription. So if action is your cup of tea, it's worth a watch. (114 min.) ○

—Glen

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLYING GOAT CELLARS



WINNING WINES: During the Orange County Fair's Commercial Wine Competition this year, one of Flying Goat Cellars' pinot noirs (2017 Pinot Noir Dierberg) took home double gold, while two of its other wines (2017 Blanc de Noirs Ampelos and 2017 Rosé Solomon Hills) each scored silver.



ART AFTER BARK: Guests of Flying Goat's tasting room can look forward to more than just wine tasting, as the venue is currently hosting a free art exhibition. The showcase premiered in June and features several acrylic paintings by Vicki Andersen. (Also pictured: the tasting room's "official greeter and top salesman," Cooper the Pinot Puppy).

Take flight

Flying Goat Cellars scores recent wine competition awards

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Founded in 2000, Flying Goat Cellars is technically, legally old enough to drink its own wine. While 2021 marks this local winery's 21st year in business, birthday wishes aren't the only cause for recent celebrations at its tasting room in Lompoc.

Among some big wins in multiple wine competitions over the past few months, one particular award pitted the winery side by side with an iconic musician's label.

"We're thrilled to be in the company of 50 Cent's \$160 champagne," said Flying Goat's co-proprietor Kate Griffith, referring to the results of the 18th annual Critics Challenge International Wine and Spirits Competition.

Flying Goat Cellars tied with Chemin du Roi (owned by rap artist and entrepreneur Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson) for Best in Show (Sparkling Wine) during this year's contest, winning for its 2016 brut cuvee, priced at \$44 a bottle. Entries from around the world were judged blind by a large group of wine and spirits journalists.

"We feel like we've got international validation," said Griffith, who added that this was the first year the winery had ever entered the Critics Challenge, which was founded by prolific wine critic Robert Whitley in 2003.

Flying Goat does however have a long history of competing in the Orange County Fair's Commercial Wine Competition, including in this year's event. One of the winery's pinot noirs (2017 Pinot Noir Dierberg) took home double gold, while two of its

You say stop, I say goat

Between now and September, Flying Goat Cellars visitors can enjoy a display of acrylic paintings by Lompoc artist Vicki Andersen. The tasting room will host a closing reception for Andersen on Friday, Sept. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Call (805) 736-9032 or visit flyinggoatcellars.com for more info on Flying Goat Cellars. Their regular hours are Thursday through Monday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The winery's tasting room is located at 1520 E. Chestnut Court, suite A, Lompoc.

other wines (2017 Blanc de Noirs Ampelos and 2017 Rosé Solomon Hills) each scored silver this year.

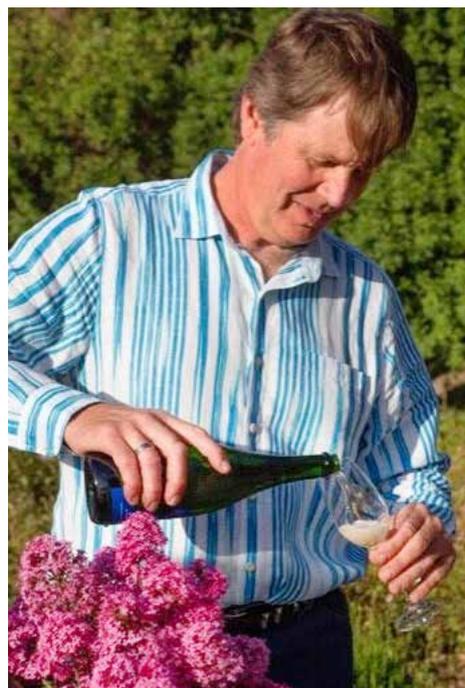
After the winery won its first Best of Show award at the fair back in 2002, founder and winemaker Norm Yost (Griffith's husband) was invited to serve as a judge for the following year's competition, a position he enjoyed reprising occasionally over the next two decades.

"He really likes the way the Orange County Wine Society makes all the judges feel special at the competition," said Griffith, who married Yost in 2010. "Plus, he enjoys the camaraderie of connecting with a lot of old winemaking buddies from Northern California."

Aside from reconnecting with old friends and peers in the winemaking community, Griffith said her husband also appreciates taking part in blind wine tastings when he's asked to be a judge in the competition.

"They taste over 160 wines in two days, which is great practice to hone wine tasting skills," said Griffith, who first moved to Lompoc in 2002, originally to work for the city as an experienced marketer, and later a planning commissioner.

For the past 11 years, Griffith has worked with her husband as Flying Goat's co-proprietor, helping him sell and brand his handcrafted wines. Prior to launching Flying Goat Cellars in 2000, Yost had worked as a winemaker for several vintners, including wine producers in California, Oregon,



BEHIND THE BARRELS: Prior to launching Flying Goat Cellars in 2000, winemaker and founder Norm Yost (pictured) spent his career working for several vintners, including wine producers in California, Oregon, and Australia. After he decided to start a label of his own in Lompoc, Yost began focusing on vineyard-designated pinot noir and sparkling wine.



BEST OF THE BEST: Flying Goat Cellars tied with Chemin du Roi (famously owned by rap artist Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson) for Best in Show (Sparkling Wine) during this year's Critics Challenge International Wine and Spirits Competition, winning for its 2016 brut cuvee, priced at \$44 a bottle (more than \$100 less expensive than the wine it tied with).

and Australia. After he decided to start a label of his own in Lompoc, Yost began focusing on vineyard-designated pinot noir and sparkling wine.

Out of the four wines recently recognized at the Orange County Fair and Critics Challenge, Griffith said the one she and Yost feel most proud of recommending to patrons is 2017 Blanc de Noir Ampelos Vineyard.

"We think this is the closest expression of French Champagne that we produce at Flying Goat. We are very proud of that," Griffith said of the award-winning wine, available by the bottle, glass, or tasting during Flying Goat's regular hours.

Guests of the tasting room can look forward to more than just wine, as the venue is currently hosting a free art exhibition for visitors to enjoy. The showcase premiered in June and features several acrylic paintings by Vicki Andersen, a Lompoc resident and founding member of the Cypress Gallery.

Andersen's work will remain on display in the tasting room's gallery through September. A special

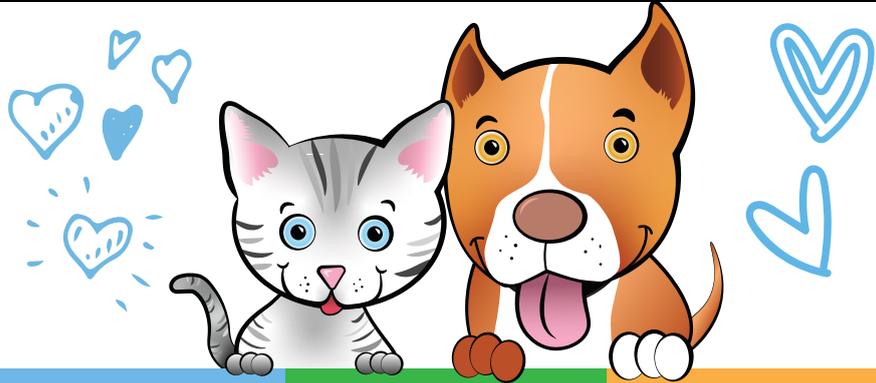
closing reception will be held that same month, and guests will have the opportunity to meet the local artist herself.

"All are invited to meet Vicki, toast her with a glass of wine, and purchase her original artwork or giclees," Griffith said of the event, scheduled to take place on Sept. 10.

Even if the art and wine isn't enough to spark a trip to Flying Goat's wood-paneled tasting room (which also features outdoor patio seating), the chance to meet the winery's "official greeter and top salesman" is hard to pass up.

"Just come by to relax and hang out with Cooper," Griffith said, referring to Flying Goat's official tasting room dog, Cooper, also known by his alias, the Pinot Puppy. "If you're in need of a puppy fix, swing by the tasting room and meet him." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is always in need of a puppy fix. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



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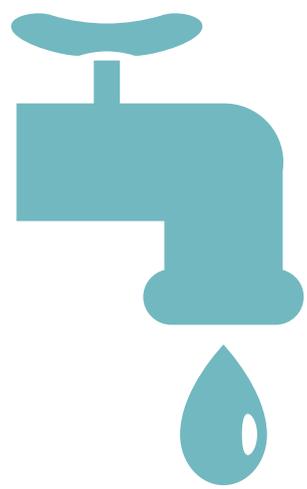
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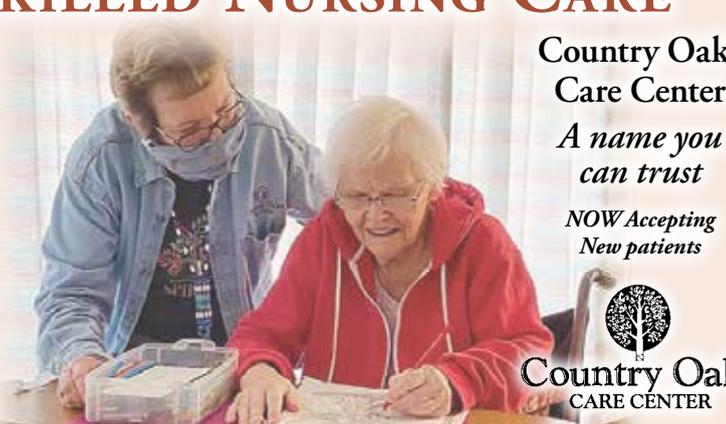
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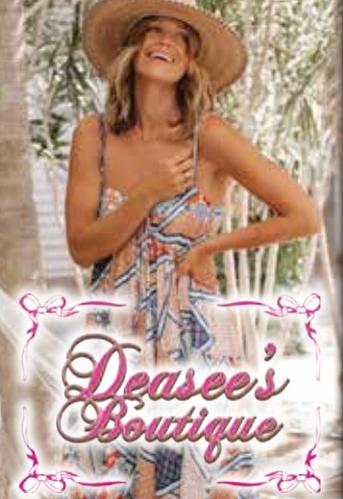


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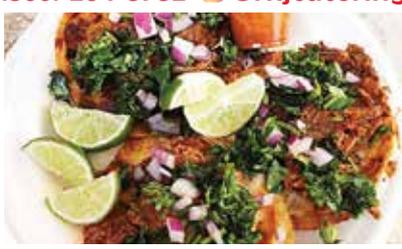
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