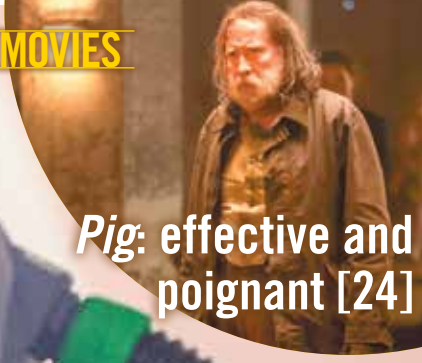


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AT THE MOVIES



*Pig*: effective and poignant [24]

# SUN



# Renewed trauma

*As the Central Coast's doctors and nurses face another COVID-19 surge, they're still dealing with the impacts of the last one [7]*

BY MALEA MARTIN

**NEWS** COVID-19 resurges, impacts hospitals [4]

**ARTS** Intuitive artists meditate on nature [22]

**EATS** Alma Rosa's got wine and views [26]

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AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 26

For many health care workers, the 2020-21 winter COVID-19 surge was one of the most difficult things they've faced in their professional careers. As the number of patients hospitalized with the virus starts to increase again, doctors and nurses lean on mental health resources as they struggle with emotional and physical exhaustion. Staff Writer Malea Martin talks to health care workers about how they're pushing forward [7].

You can also read about what's happening with COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County [4]; the Wildling Museum's virtual artist spotlight series and group show [22]; and Alma Rosa's hiking and wine tasting fundraiser for mental health organizations [26].

Camillia Lanham  
editor



COVID-19, AGAIN: Health care workers deal with a new influx of COVID-19 patients.

Cover courtesy photo from Dignity Health > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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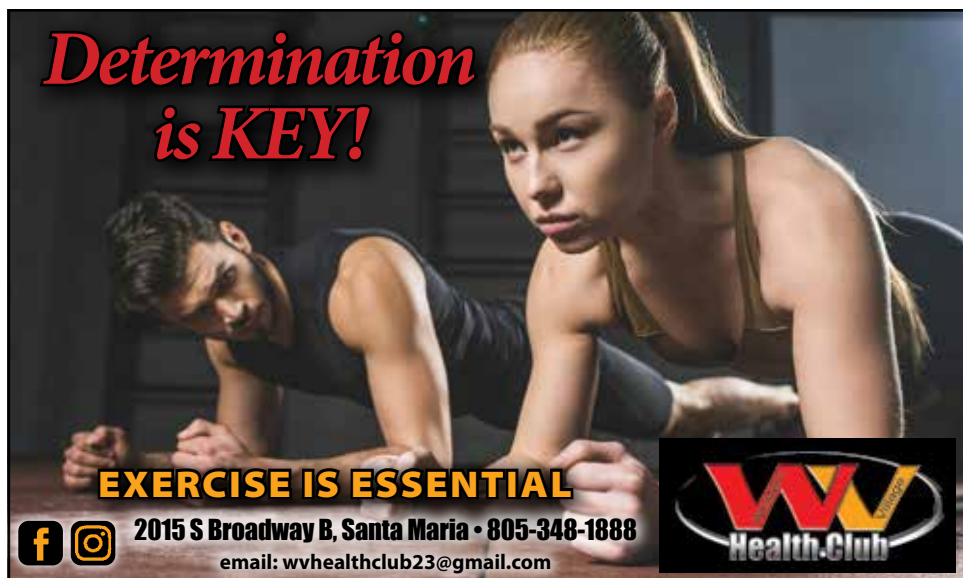
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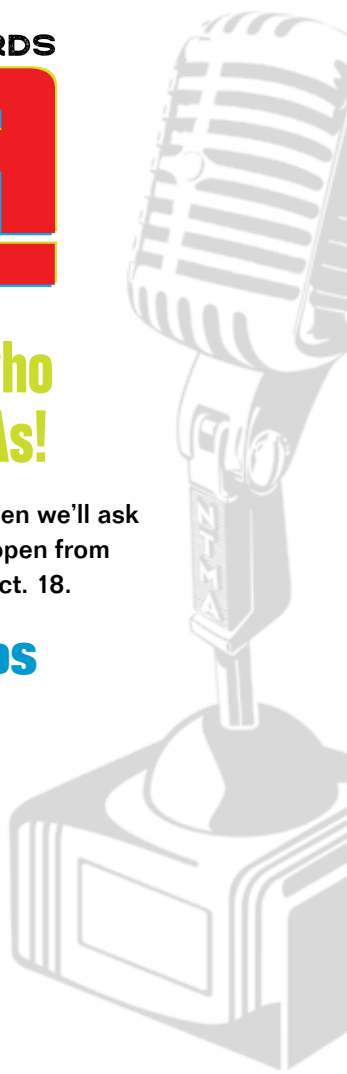


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## Political Watch

- On Aug. 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for those 16 and older, meaning it is fully authorized and no longer under emergency use authorization. The vaccine is still under emergency use authorization for those aged 12 to 15, as well as for the third doses recommended for immunocompromised individuals. "The FDA's approval of this vaccine is a milestone as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. While this and other vaccines have met the FDA's rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product," **Acting FDA Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock** said in an agency statement. "While millions of people have already safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill additional confidence to get vaccinated. Today's milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this pandemic in the U.S." **Gov. Gavin Newsom** issued a statement commending the approval. "The FDA's full approval further confirms that the Pfizer vaccine meets a rigorous, scientific standard for safety and efficacy, protecting against serious illness, hospitalization, and death," the governor said. "With COVID-19 cases rising across the nation due to the Delta variant, I encourage all Californians to trust the science and protect themselves and their community by getting vaccinated. With more than 80 percent of Californians 18 and up having received at least one dose, our work continues to close the gap in our most impacted communities and bring an end to this pandemic."

- California added thousands of jobs last month, and the state's unemployment rate was the best it's been since the pandemic started, according to an Aug. 20 statement from **Gov. Gavin Newsom's** office. The July jobs report showed that the state added 114,400 new jobs last month, while in June California added 71,500 jobs. This month's increase amounts to "more new jobs than any other state, and the fourth time this year of six-figure job gains," Newsom said in the statement. "We'll continue to lead with the science and data, prioritizing vaccinations and supporting those workers and small businesses hit hardest by this pandemic, to create the conditions for a robust economic recovery." July's unemployment rate of 7.6 percent is the lowest since March 2020, according to Newsom's office. Santa Barbara County's unemployment rate in July sat even lower than the state's at 5.8 percent, according to data released by the Employment Development Department. Every industry in the county either gained employees or stayed stagnant last month, with the exception of governmental jobs.

- With **Gov. Gavin Newsom's** recent signing into law Assembly Bill 130, the education omnibus budget trailer bill, all students will now be eligible to receive free meals at school, regardless of family income. "The undertaking, made possible by an unexpected budget surplus, will be the largest free student lunch program in the country," according to a July 20 NPR article. "School officials, lawmakers, anti-hunger organizations, and parents are applauding it as a pioneering way to prevent the stigma of accepting free lunches and feed more hungry children." Erin Primer, director of food services for the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, told NPR that the program is "so historic. It's beyond life-changing," according to the article. "The recently approved universal meal program will benefit many families across our state; it will be specifically meaningful for communities from the Central Coast," state **Sen. Monique Limón** said in an Aug. 20 Facebook post. "The universal meals program will provide breakfast and lunch for K-12 schools, ensuring that students are better prepared and able to learn." ○

PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN BRANDS



**GROWING TOGETHER:** Autumn Shelton, owner of Autumn Brands and president of CARP Growers, said she was happy to reach an agreement with the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis and to see the organization withdraw its appeal against her company's approved cannabis grow.

## Coalition for Responsible Cannabis resolves odor concerns with local grows, withdraws appeal

The Santa Barbara County Coalition for Responsible Cannabis withdrew an appeal on Aug. 16 that it made against the county-approved Autumn Brands and Ocean Hill Farms cannabis project, after reaching an agreement with cannabis growers.

After the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission approved the Carpinteria-based cannabis operation in April 2021, the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis appealed the project over odor control and environmental impact concerns. With the appeal withdrawn, the project can move forward.

The coalition's mission is to "promote the development of a cannabis industry in Santa Barbara County that respects surrounding land uses and existing businesses," Marc Chytilo, the coalition's attorney, wrote in the appeal letter. "[The coalition's] members live and operate various businesses within the vicinity of the project, and are concerned about the enforceability of permit conditions to address odor impacts of the project to adjacent land uses."

County Planner Ben Singer said these odor concerns were resolved, leading to the coalition's withdrawal of its appeal. CARP Growers, a group of Carpinteria cannabis farmers, came to an

agreement with the coalition on a Model Odor Abatement Plan, which will now go through an approval process with the county's Planning Commission. Singer said the county was consulted by the two parties at various stages of the plan's development, so he expects that approval to go smoothly. He said the plan will be implemented by individual growers and projects.

Autumn Brands Owner and CFO Autumn Shelton is also the president of CARP Growers. She told the *Sun* in an emailed statement that she was thrilled to see the coalition's appeal withdrawn.

"We have been working with the appellant, Coalition for Responsible Cannabis, over the last several months to reach an agreement that not only includes our farm, but also the other member farms in CARP Growers," Shelton wrote. "Autumn Brands has always been a leader in the cannabis industry, and we are excited about this partnership with the coalition, which will strengthen our odor complaint response protocols."

The resolution is groundbreaking, Shelton continued, because CARP Growers worked side by side with the coalition to reach an agreement.

"It's a comprehensive program to solve the odor issues in Carpinteria," coalition lawyer Chytilo said. "It's the product of nearly a year's worth of work to develop the science of advanced odor control technology and odor detection methods."

In addition to the odor abatement plan, the coalition and each member of CARP Growers agreed to community odor guidelines that go beyond what the county's ordinance can enforce, Chytilo said. The most significant component,

he said, "is that we have expanded the area where odors will not be tolerated to include all publicly accessible areas," such as schools, parks, or businesses. The county ordinance limits odor enforcement to residentially zoned areas.

The coalition filed a number of appeals to approved cannabis projects in Santa Barbara County before the most recent one against Autumn Brands. In some cases, the organization went further by initiating litigation.

The Planning Commission's 2019 approval of Busy Bee Organics in Santa Ynez was appealed by the coalition to the Board of Supervisors. The board unanimously approved the plans despite the appeal, so the coalition took things to court in April 2020.

More than a year later in May 2021, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Thomas P. Anderle sided with the cannabis grow and the county, denying the coalition's claims that the grow violated the California Environmental Quality Act. At the time, the *Sun* reported that the decision could affect the coalition's future attempts to sue local cannabis grows and the county.

Singer wasn't sure whether the lawsuit had any affect on the recent appeal withdrawal, but he said the agreement reached is a positive thing for both Carpinteria growers and the Coalition for Responsible Cannabis.

"The withdrawal of the appeal is something that has been a work in progress on all fronts, and it's nice to see that work come together, and people agree on this method and this project," Singer said.

—Malea Martin

## Santa Barbara County to consider requiring vaccine or frequent testing for county workers

On Aug. 24, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to discuss vaccine or frequent testing requirements for Santa Barbara County employees at its next meeting.

Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart made the suggestion following a presentation on COVID-19's resurgence.

"It's very good news that the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] has completed their evaluation and given their full approval of the Pfizer vaccine. Vaccination and frequent testing will promote safety for the community and safety of the public we serve," Hart said in the meeting.

The FDA approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for those 16 years and older on Aug. 23. County Public Health Department Director Dr. Van Do-Reynoso and county Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg presented current COVID-19 data and testing updates: The county has had 473 total deaths and a 38,302 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic. From May to July 2021, 88 percent of the 100 hospitalized patients with COVID-19 were unvaccinated, Do-Reynoso told county supervisors.

Now, she said, the department is looking into the background and demographics of the fully vaccinated population. Sixty-seven percent of the county's hospital beds are in use, Do-Reynoso said. The Public Health Department is concerned about the Delta variant spreading due to unvaccinated individuals, she added. County hospitalizations increased from 35 to 77 over a two-week period.

The department's data also highlights that 54 percent of the county is fully vaccinated. Do-Reynoso said she's hoping that the FDA's approval of the Pfizer vaccine will aid in increasing the county's vaccination rates, citing a poll that found that 31 percent of unvaccinated people would be more likely to get vaccinated after approval.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino said that he didn't want to act on this discussion that day and wanted more research done on the number

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NEWS from page 4

of vaccinated county workers. Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson agreed.

Fourth District Supervisor Das Williams and 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann supported a vaccine mandate for county employees.

"If we want to explore this path, we would want to start sooner rather than later. All county workers are emergency workers. Vaccines today are a part of emergency preparedness," Hartmann said. "If we are in a situation where people are in need of major support and we have a COVID crisis on top of it, it will make it harder to serve our community."

County Counsel Rachel Van Mullem said the board had two options for mandating vaccines. One is mandating the vaccine, which the state did for health care and institutional workers. The other option is asking county employees for proof of vaccination or subjecting them to county-provided testing. The county's Human Resources Department said it would be ready to act on this route in about a month.

The Board of Supervisors will further discuss vaccine requirements on Aug. 31.

"My intent is to start the dialogue and another hearing to adopt something and this conversation will help us proceed. The conversation of getting vaccinated has taken on a sense of urgency and I want to help add to that urgency" Hart said.

—Taylor O'Connor

## Local community colleges push students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated

At its Aug. 10 meeting, the Allan Hancock College board of trustees voted 5-0 to require

students, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Oct. 1.

This new mandate puts the college in line with other higher education institutions including the California State University and University of California systems and more than 20 California community colleges, according to Hancock officials.

"When talking about the mandate, the board of trustees felt that the best thing we could do for the community was set more rigid guidelines that would push people to get vaccinated," Hancock Superintendent Kevin Walthers said. "We're an organization built on science and research. For us not to follow the science and research would be irresponsible."

Until all on-campus students are vaccinated, the college will have symptoms screening points and students will eventually receive vaccine ID cards, Walthers said.

To encourage student vaccinations, Hancock College is also doing a vaccine drive that will give fully vaccinated students a \$250 cash gift card.

Walthers said the college put its federal CARES Act funds toward this process, which is a way to incentivize vaccinations and for students to get extra dollars in their pocket.

Cuesta College in SLO is also going this route. The college announced that it would be applying those federal dollars toward cash gift cards on Aug. 23.

"We tried to encourage the vaccine, but have options in our community in order to choose," Cuesta Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Coira said. "We would love to get 100 percent of our students vaccinated and hope to find out the ratings in the next couple of weeks."

Cuesta has not yet decided on a vaccine mandate, but it currently has indoor mask

requirements, a daily self-report system to monitor symptoms for both students and faculty, temperature screenings, and a student health center that focuses on the physical and mental health impacts of COVID-19.

"Community colleges as a whole have not been mandated; different institutions have taken different approaches to the vaccine requirements," Coira said.

Cuesta's vaccine policy may change after a special board meeting on Aug. 25 (after the Sun's press time), where they planned to discuss the possibility of requiring a vaccine for those who want to be on campus.

—Taylor O'Connor

## Unarmed Guadalupe resident killed in officer-involved shooting

A Guadalupe man died after being shot by a police officer on Aug. 21, when a gunshot intended for a wanted suspect struck him instead, according to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.

At about 9:40 p.m., Guadalupe police officers recognized a wanted subject with an outstanding no-bail felony arrest warrant at the intersection of Birch and Obispo streets in Guadalupe, according to the Sheriff's Office, which is assisting with the investigation of the shooting.

"At this early stage of the investigation, the details that are available for release are that an officer fired his service weapon at the wanted suspect, but instead struck

an uninvolved resident who was sitting in a vehicle in the 100-block of Obispo Street," according to the Sheriff's Office.

Juan Luis Olvera-Preciado,

the victim, was 59 years old. He was pronounced dead just after 10:10 p.m. The suspect that the gunshot was intended for was arrested uninjured at the scene, and the officers were also not injured. Neither the name of the apprehended suspect nor the involved officer is being released.

"Sheriff's Office detectives and forensics technicians responded to the scene at the request of Guadalupe Police Chief Michael Cash to conduct the investigation into the incident," Sheriff's Office officials said in a statement. "Detectives quickly realized that this incident met the criteria of AB 1506, which requires the Attorney General's Office to investigate incidents of officer-involved shootings that result in the death of an unarmed civilian."

California Department of Justice investigators will conduct the criminal investigation with assistance from the Sheriff's Office. The Santa Maria Police Department will conduct the administrative investigation, per the request of Guadalupe Police Chief Cash.

A GoFundMe organized by Olvera-Preciado's family members had raised more than \$2,000 as of Aug. 24.

"On behalf of the Family Olvera with heavy heart and in disbelief and severely hurting are trying to put Juan Luis Olvera Preciado to rest," the GoFundMe organizers wrote. "We are honoring his wishes for the funeral he would like. We ask for [your] help in honoring his wishes."

When asked for a statement on the events that transpired, Guadalupe Mayor Ariston Julian could not give additional comment and said all information regarding the incident will be from a joint law enforcement briefing. ○

—Malea Martin

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# Reliving the trauma

Health care workers are still grappling with the trauma of the past year as COVID-19 surges again

BY MALEA MARTIN

As an infectious disease specialist for Cottage Health, Dr. Lynn Fitzgibbons is no stranger to witnessing suffering and death. But nothing, she said, could have prepared her for what she saw during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I don't think you ever get used to seeing your patients suffering," Fitzgibbons told the *Sun*. "What happened during the last year and a half has taken that to a very different magnitude, a very different level of intensity."

In Santa Barbara County, Fitzgibbons quickly became a prominent voice in communicating what was happening with the virus. The Public Health Department frequently invited her to speak at press conferences to share what the medical community was learning about this new disease.

But what Fitzgibbons doesn't speak about as frequently is her personal experience of treating patients during the winter surge, when she became the attending physician for a team of doctors who were caring for the sudden overflow of COVID-19 patients. She worked seven days a week for more than three months straight.

"This last winter was by far the most difficult thing I've ever been through professionally," she said. "I think that maintaining balance during those darkest days was very, very difficult."

As the world began to reopen in the spring, bringing some normalcy back to average people's lives, health care workers everywhere were still stuck processing the horrors they endured and the trauma they now live with. And as the number of hospitalized patients is ticking back up, Central Coast health care workers are preparing to do it all over again. Nurses and doctors say getting through it requires leaning on mental health resources—and each other.

## Unprecedented isolation

Something that distinguished caring for patients during the pandemic from the past was hospital visitation being largely curtailed. Health care workers not only treated their patients, but also offered company in the absence of family and friends.

"There was a period of time where family members weren't allowed in," said Melissa deBacker, MSN, Lompoc Valley Medical Center chief of quality improvement, risk management, and infection prevention. "So the nurses and our case managers as well had to do what they could to be that liaison, to keep family members informed, and it was really difficult. It was very difficult on our physicians."

In the thick of the winter surge, Fitzgibbons said her team of internal medicine residents devoted time to sitting with patients, holding their hands.

"In place of their vacation and their elective time, [they] were spending just those extra few minutes sitting down with patients and being their company," she said.

French Hospital in San Luis Obispo telemetry nurse Tamara Astorga said it was hard to see her patients be so secluded.

"In order to support people, you have to put them on so much oxygen. It's hard to breathe, you can hardly talk," she said. "And the other thing is that we have to isolate those people. They're just alone in a room. There was a striking loneliness to the isolation of it."

Also striking was the length of COVID-19 patients' stays.

"The more difficult ones were the cases where a patient perhaps didn't very quickly deteriorate, but rather worsened over a small number of weeks, and ultimately didn't leave the hospital," Fitzgibbons said. "Those cases, I think, I will never forget."

Brittany Martinez, an ICU nurse at French Hospital, said "relentless" is the word that best sums up her experience. "Typically I think that we are able

to get through traumatic experiences in the ICU because there's usually an ebb and flow," she said. "We have periods that are hard, but then periods that have a lot more success stories and people do better. ... But I think throughout the course of the year it sort of slowly built up."

The winter surge months were the hardest for Martinez.

"A lot of COVID patients, when they get sick, they are with us for months at a time," she said. "But when you're critically ill like that, the issues sort of compound, they pile on top of each other, until eventually the person you're looking at is sort of a shell of who they once were. ... It was very defeating, and I felt very helpless."

For Dr. Alicia Gonzalez, medical director of Marian Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department, one of the hardest parts of COVID-19 is not being able to escape work outside of the hospital.

"It was so much more than just seeing sick people," she said. "It was arguments about masking or vaccination or 'is this even real?' And I think for our staff, the reality of having to see what we saw at work, and then leave the building into communities where maybe people questioned that it was real, or if we were telling the truth—that took a way bigger emotional toll on all of us."

## Prioritizing mental health

From June to September 2020, Mental Health America hosted a survey of health care workers to see how COVID-19 was affecting them.

"Ninety three percent of health care workers were experiencing stress, 86 percent reported experiencing anxiety, 77 percent reported frustration, 76 percent reported exhaustion and burnout, and 75 percent said they were overwhelmed," the results said.

The majority of workers also reported feeling emotionally exhausted, having trouble sleeping, physical exhaustion, and work-related dread.

Because of the nature of health care workers' jobs, hospitals already had a slew of mental health resources available to employees pre-pandemic. Lompoc Valley Medical Center, Cottage Health, and Dignity Health all have an employee assistance program and counseling options for



**NOTHING CAN PREPARE:** COVID-19 was unlike anything health care workers had experienced before, and the pandemic has had a big impact on their mental well-being.

staff. But what health care workers were experiencing with COVID-19 required more.

DeBacker leads the Lompoc Valley Medical Center Healing the Healers initiative, which stemmed from the hospital's COVID-19 task force. The hospital invited a local licensed therapist who was available to talk with any employee who needed to. It was completely confidential and free to all staff.

DeBacker said, from her observations, health care workers leaned on these services more after the worst surge had ended, rather than in the thick of it.

"You don't realize in the moment: Your adrenaline's going, you're doing what you need to do," she said. "Later on, some of our staff started struggling with being able to sleep; started having scenarios repeating that upset them. It was later that people began understanding, 'I might need to talk to somebody.' That's absolutely normal."

## It's still here

As cases start to flare up again and hospitalizations increase, a lot of the trauma from the past year and a half is coming back to the surface for health care workers.

"You become burnt out, and it takes time to mentally and emotionally recover from that," French Hospital ICU nurse Martinez said. "So I think

now that cases are surging again, it's definitely scary, but it's also just disheartening. It's hard not to just continue to feel like the burnout hasn't really gone away."

And with the vaccine widely available, nurses and doctors said it adds a new layer of frustration that people are still ending up in the ICU and dying when these outcomes are now largely preventable.

"It's such a difficult debate because most of these people just want more information, but how long are you going to wait?" French hospital nurse Astorga said. "It's an interesting stretch in compassion that we hadn't really had to deal with prior to COVID either."

But at the end of the day, Astorga continued, being a health care worker is about staying neutral and doing everything you can to care for the human in front of you.

Dr. Fitzgibbons said this mindset is crucial to getting through it all, day after day.

"A sick patient is a sick patient, and we're tasked to provide care," she said. "The job is caring for the person in front of us, while in parallel, making sure that we do whatever we can to prevent that next sick patient from coming in next week. ... At the end of the day, no one deserves to have this disease." ○

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

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**A new  
playbook**

*New Lompoc Fire Chief Alicia Welch discusses her plan and strategy for the improvement and the future of the fire department*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

While working at the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department early in her career, Alicia Welch turned over her pay stub to see that the city's fire department was recruiting females. Immediately she knew she wanted to become a firefighter.

More than three decades later, she continues to pursue her calling as Lompoc's new fire chief. Welch was sworn in on Aug. 17 with several of her colleagues and loved ones by her side. This is Welch's 30th year serving in a fire department, and said she has a lot of confidence in her experience. She moved to Lompoc from Colorado, where she was the Golden Fire Department's chief.

"I want to leave a legacy of safety by making sure our firefighters go home safely and that we take care of them. I want to demonstrate a care that will carry on to the care of customers in order for us to go out there and do the best we can," Welch said. "I'm trying to get face time and engage with my team. I want to be approachable and at ease. I was a firefighter, too; I haven't forgotten what it means. I engage, listen, and encourage team ideas."

Upon stepping into her new role, she held a crew meeting to understand both the strengths and weaknesses within the department and in the community. She learned that the city's been in a financial crisis for quite some time now, but the fire department is scheduled to get new trucks, and, Welch said, she is hoping for infrastructure improvements on stations that are more than 100 years old.

Chief Welch said she's done a complete SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis along with putting together 30-, 60- and 90-day plans for department improvements. She's gained input from all 30 crew members, and now she has to synthesize that information into a strategic plan.

"It's like a playbook," Welch said regarding her plan.

Being a firefighter is like being on a sports team, she said. Team members learn their positions and practice drills in order to be prepared for any situation. Once that bell rings, it's game time, and everything the team practiced goes into action—but nothing will make sense without a playbook.

"Once a plan is in place, we have to budget after the plan. If we don't have adequate resources, we cannot achieve our goals," Welch said.

With the 2020-21 budget cycle having ended in late June, Chief Welch needs to study what the department budget looked like in the past and what's needed today.

Budget items at the top of her list include updated uniforms, modernized radio equipment, and a reevaluation of emergency medial services



**NEW LEADER:** New Lompoc Fire Chief Alicia Welch was sworn in on Aug. 17. She brings more than three decades of fire department experience to the Central Coast, most recently from Golden, Colorado.

funds due to higher call volumes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In 2021, it felt like we were rounding a corner and coming out of COVID-19, but there was a step back in terms of vaccination rates. Now, there are pushes for firefighter health and safety, both on and off duty. It's been hard, a rough roller-coaster the past year and a half," she said.

By 60 to 90 days, Welch said she would like to get a clear sense of direction and meet with the city manager and mayor to have a data conversation, specifically focusing on call volume from neighboring communities.

"We have the largest wildfire burning in California history. [Lompoc] firefighters are on 14-day deployments to help with the fires. That being said, do we have enough resources and firefighters on-site to handle the issues within their own community?" she said.

Welch said she wants to put an emphasis on mental wellness by providing team support, counseling support, and other mental health services, as well as better reflecting the community the team serves by focusing on the diversity, equity, and inclusion of fire department personnel. Currently, there are only two women in the department.

"We all need to care about inclusion and to be mindful of the makeup of our community," she said. "I want people of color, people of different backgrounds and gender to see they can do this, like I saw on the back of my pay stub."

**Highlight**

The city of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department is hosting a free star gazing party at Los Flores Ranch Park, 6271 Dominion Road. Telescopes will be provided by the Central Coast Astronomy Society, the Astronomy club of Lompoc, and the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit. Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment as well as chairs, and registration is required for either of the two available sessions at [cityofsantamaria.org/register](http://cityofsantamaria.org/register). On-site, viewers

must wear masks and only use red lights. No flashlights or dogs are allowed. ○

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor can be reached at [toconnor@santamariasun.com](mailto:toconnor@santamariasun.com).

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# DEATH NOTICES

**ANDRADE, JENNIE LOUISE**, 70, of Paso Robles passed away 8/8/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**BOGATZ, BETSY L.**, 67, of Santa Maria passed away 8/15/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**BOTELHO, JOAN**, 74, of San Luis Obispo passed away 8/15/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**BROUGH, IVAN D.**, 76, of Lompoc passed away 7/29/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**CAMBRON, DIANA WASKETT**, 83, of Lompoc passed away 8/8/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**CLUTTER, ELORA ANN**, 80, of New Cuyama passed away 8/19/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**DEGERING, CHARLES HARVEY**, 101, of Santa Maria passed away 8/16/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**ENGLISH, CHRISTINE ELIZABETH**, 63, of Atascadero passed away 8/13/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**INGRAHAM, ANNETTA JEAN**, 74, of Templeton passed away 8/8/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**JAMES, LEWIS WILIAM SR.**, 83, of Paso Robles passed away 8/11/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**JANKOSKI, DONALD GERALD**, 60, of Paso Robles passed away 8/15/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**LEE, JO ANN**, 81, passed away 8/5/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**LINDSEY, DALLAS RAYMOND**, 76, of Atascadero passed away 8/4/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**MARCY, MARIE L.**, 64, of Santa Maria passed away 8/16/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MARTIN, WILLIAM "BIG WILL,"** 33, of Santa Maria passed away 8/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**MCKINLEY, DIANE BALLING**, 82, of Paso Robles passed away 8/9/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**PARSONS, JAMES DEAN**, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 8/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**PETERSON, WILLIAM**, 92, of Santa Maria passed away 8/16/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**QUIROZ, EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ**, 19, passed away 8/14/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**RIVERA, GUADALUPE TERESA**, 53, of Santa Maria passed away 8/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**STOAKES, SUSAN T.**, 93, passed away 8/14/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

**STRAWN, LORI CRISTINE**, 2 months, of Templeton passed away 8/5/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**SWABB, MORGAN ANDREW**, 55, of Atascadero passed away 8/2/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**TAYLOR, THOMAS ELLIS**, 74, of Paso Robles passed away 8/8/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

**TORRES, TERRY**, 66, of Santa Maria passed away 8/18/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**WARD, RACHELLE**, 54, of Atascadero passed away 8/10/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**WARD, KEITH JEROME**, 66, of Lompoc passed away 7/23/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

**WATZ, SHEILA**, 72, of Atascadero passed away 8/14/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**WEATHERLY, MARK ALLEN**, 60, of Santa Maria passed away 8/16/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**WEEMS, PAUL TAYLOR JR.**, 73, of Atascadero passed away 7/30/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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## Maralyn O'Neil

Beloved wife, mother, sister, teacher and friend, Maralyn O'Neil, age 81, of Arroyo Grande, passed away August 16, 2021, in her sleep from natural causes.

Maralyn lived on the Central Coast for over 50 years and was an elementary school teacher in Orcutt for over 30 years. She lived life with generosity and no regrets exactly how she wanted. She loved and lived with her whole heart and with complete assuredness.

In her family, community, and classroom, she made everyone feel welcome and accepted. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, two children, and four siblings. She is to be buried at the Arroyo Grande

cemetery. Maralyn liked things simple and meaningful so her services will be private for immediate family members only.

Friends wishing to honor Maralyn are invited to make a donation in her name to St. Jude's Hospital. A donation fund has been setup in her honor through St. Jude's Hospital at: <https://bit.ly/3mhtr2n>



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### Online Poll

#### Are you keeping up with the county's redistricting process?

- 50%** I've heard about it and I know why it matters, but I'm not super involved.
- 30%** What's redistricting?
- 20%** I don't really care about county redistricting.
- 0%** Yes, I've attended public meetings and I know who my commissioners are.

10 Votes

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



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# A winner

*Don't miss your chance to vote on Lompoc's cannabis manufacturing tax—it's a win-win proposal for the city*

BY RON FINK

Recently every registered voter and city resident received two important pieces of mail; I'll bet some of you just threw them away, but they were both very important documents, and you should have read them carefully.

The first was the Santa Barbara County Voter Guide. There are two important issues on this special election ballot: One concerns the recall of the governor, and the other asks whether voters in Lompoc want to tax cannabis manufacturers.

You can decide for yourself about the governor, but you may want to know more about Measure Q2021, the cannabis tax measure.

The city of Lompoc sent out the second important document, an informational answer to frequently asked questions; who asked these questions is unclear but judging from the content I am sure that these questions may have been on many people's minds who were unfamiliar with this proposal.

I have written on these pages that Lompoc has some serious funding issues. Over the last decade, City Council majorities have eliminated the reserve fund, and the city now budgets paycheck to paycheck, so to speak, hoping that their revenue estimates are accurate. The current budget is already in a deficit condition, and there are still 23 months left in this budget cycle.

Some might ask, "Why did the council approve employee raises if the funds are so low?" Well, it's simple. As the cost of living soars beyond tolerable limits, our employees need

the raises just to keep up. The same thing is happening in the civil sector—the cost of labor is going up, and the cost of goods and services is rising along with wage increases.

Lompoc is in a fiscal funk; there is very little revenue available for infrastructure or rolling stock upgrades in the general fund. We need fire equipment; we must relocate fire station 2 and bring fire station 1 up to current seismic, mechanical, and electrical code standards for the safety of the crews who work there. These improvements would cost millions of dollars.

The police department needs to upgrade its rolling stock, renovate the main police station, and improve evidence storage capability. It also needs a very expensive body camera program, including the sustained cost of video/audio storage, system management, and retrieval for response to legitimate requests for information—these improvements would also cost millions of dollars.

Then there are the parks and roads. Every park and recreation facility in the city requires significant upgrades. Our roads, specifically the roads in all the neighborhoods, need improvement—and in some cases a complete rebuild. The lack of maintenance and the condition of these roads means that these improvements would cost tens of millions of dollars.

Some people may be skeptical and think that the City Council could once again use the new revenue for purposes other than tangible improvements to public services. There is a different crew in charge these days, and if their last budget hearings were an example of how they would manage the new revenue, then we shouldn't worry.

Others, specifically customers of cannabis products, might think that the cost per item will be increased because of the new tax. They should consider this: The manufacturers in our city distribute their products all over the state of California. The cost associated with this tax would be included in tens of thousands of

items leaving their warehouses, thus it would be people from Oregon to the Mexican border and from the Pacific Ocean to the Nevada border who would be paying for services in Lompoc—I say that's a good deal, and any price increase attributed to this tax would be considerably less than a penny per item.

The FAQ information brochure explains that the proposed tax is less than in any other area in the county, so anyone who would argue that this tax would discourage future manufacturing ventures is probably wrong.

## You can decide for yourself about the governor, but you may want to know more about Measure Q2021, the cannabis tax measure.

What's most telling about Measure Q2021 is that there were no arguments against the tax in the Voter Guide, and no one from the cannabis industry opposed the measure when any of the several public hearings were conducted to place the matter on the ballot.

Taking all these things into consideration, I recommend voting yes on Measure Q2021. ☉

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send a response via the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).

**WRITE NOW!** We want to know what you think about everything. Send your 250-word letter to Sun Letters, 2540 Skyway Drive, suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93455. You can also fax it (1-805-347-9889) or e-mail it ([letters@santamariasun.com](mailto: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](http://santamariasun.com).

## LETTERS

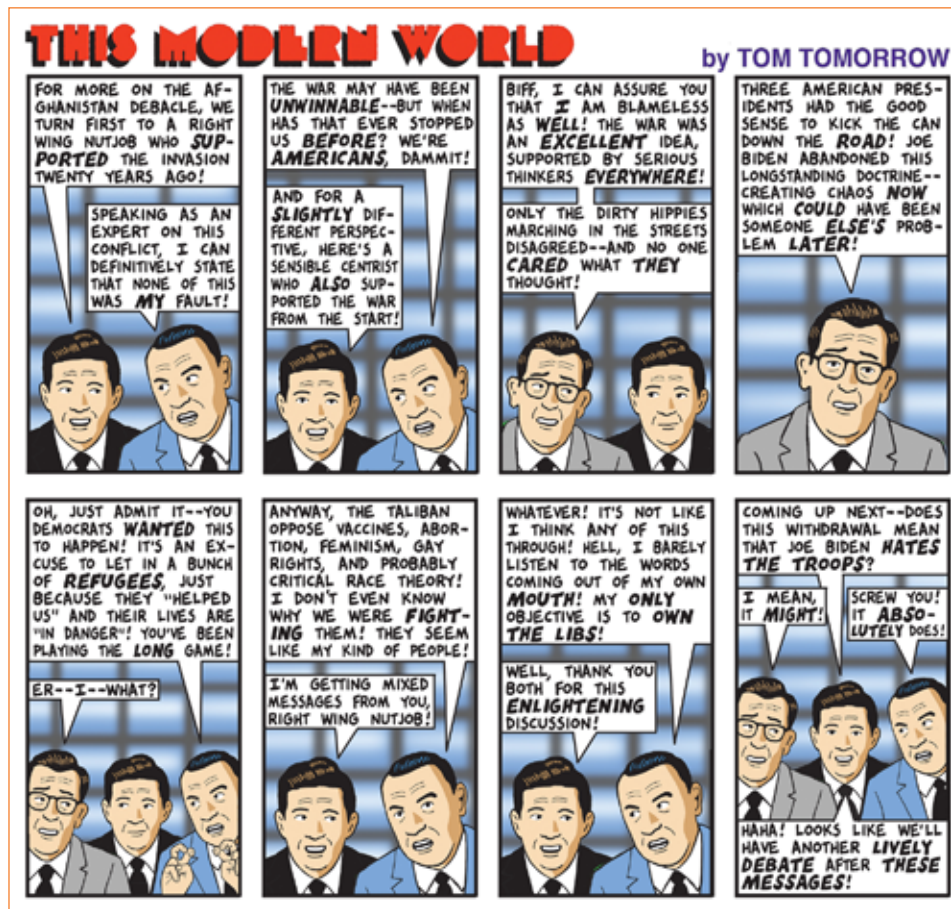
### Biden has bumbled

There's something wrong with Joe Biden's thinking. The United States became energy independent under President Trump for the first time in 75 years, and we no longer bought oil from foreign countries. Now Biden is crushing domestic oil and gas production while pressuring OPEC to boost their production so we can buy theirs. We do not need their oil—there is plenty here.

Also, why are Biden and Harris ignoring our southern border and not stopping the invasion of illegals and drug traffickers, some of whom are bringing the Wuhan virus to our cities? During the time Donald Trump was our president, the southern border was rapidly being walled and well controlled.

Additionally, the decision to withdraw our troops from Afghanistan was probably a wise one. However, Biden's failure to take his generals' advice on how to orderly accomplish that exit proved to be a grave mistake. Under Biden's direction the removal of our military happened hastily and chaotically, leaving some of our military equipment, technology, and Afghan friends behind to be seized by the Taliban.

Alan Fox  
Santa Maria



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**Absurd arguments**

**V**accine mandate. Whoa, whoa, whoa! Calm down. Before you start yelling at me for daring to write those two words, let me get to the point. The **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** is going to consider vaccine mandates at its next meeting—Aug. 31.

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Calm down. It's not for everyone! It would be for county employees.

After **2nd District Supervisor Gregg Hart** brought up the possibility at the board's Aug. 24 meeting, the crazies came out. And while I can understand arguments such as "my body, my choice" (cough, cough, that's an argument straight out of the pro-abortion playbook), I have no basis for understanding the genocide comments that spilled out of people's mouths during public comment.

Anti-vaxxers railed against mandating vaccines, equating it to "cleansing" the population, unfairly separating vaccinated and unvaccinated members of the population—where unvaccinated people are shunned (Gasp! Shunned!). And yes, they did equate vaccine passports to those gold stars that **Jewish** people were forced to wear in **Nazi Germany** during the **Holocaust**.

Yes, I'm going to agree with those of you whose mouths are hanging open alongside my gaping beak. Individual white people feel oppressed by talk of societal well-being! Quick! Somebody take away their internet privileges. They're doing their own "research" and falling down the black hole of false equivalency and fake news. What in the actual name of Satan are these people talking about?

Cleansing and genocide both refer to populations of people who are targeted to be wiped out, killed, obliterated due to their ethnicity, color, religious affiliations. These are truly oppressed populations, minorities forced to go into hiding to save their own lives because of something they have no control over.

What cleansing, genocide, and the Holocaust are *not* about are American citizens who have a choice, who can speak out at public Board of Supervisors meetings about their displeasure with the potential for government rules, who can push back on society's new norms that they disagree with, who can protest in the streets with signs expressing their First Amendment rights without fear of being jailed, beat up, or killed because of their views.

And comparing the COVID-19 vaccine to those things shows that you understand very little about oppression.

An employer does have the right to mandate vaccines in the workplace. Nobody is required to work for their employers, the county included. If you don't like it, find another job. Isn't it easy? Aren't you the same people who think it's so easy for unemployed individuals to find work? So do it. Go find that new job. And yes, you might be shunned for making choices.

That's what life's all about, choices.

You know: Your body, your choice.

And guess what? The county hasn't yet made a decision about mandating the vaccine.

You, the unoppressed, unvaccinated people of Santa Barbara County, can choose to make your voices heard at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. You can choose to do your damndest to show off the amount of crazy that lives inside of you. You can choose to express your displeasure with the folks you elected to make decisions on behalf of the community you choose to live in.

Sounds pretty oppressive, doesn't it? ☹

*The canary thinks you're oppressed by choice. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).*



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# HOT STUFF

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**NOTE: Most venues are canceling or postponing events due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Please check with venues to make sure that scheduled events are still, in fact, happening, and most of all, stay safe!**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SWAN

## POLAR ADDRESS

Odd Fellows Hall in SLO hosts *Leadership on the Edge*, a special talk with renowned polar explorer Robert Swan (pictured), on Thursday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. Swan will be outlining strategies and solutions for the Climate Force Challenge Campaign during the event, which follows an opening reception for local polar photographer Linda Drake, starting at 6 p.m. Attendees are asked to mask up and a donation of \$10 is suggested for entry. Visit [2041.com](http://2041.com) for more info. The Odd Fellows Hall is located at 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo. —Caleb Wiseblood

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**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/](http://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](http://wildlingmuseum.org/news/biomass). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang.

**HOLLI HARMON: THE NATURE OF CLOUDS** Chandelier crystals, spider plants, and various succulents are among the items suspended by invisible threads, all under a ceiling designed to resemble a cumulus-cloud-filled sky, in artist Holli Harmon's window installation inspired by the water cycle. Through Nov. 1 [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

**LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL** Witness one of Billie Holiday's last performances with more than a dozen of the jazz legends' songs that are interlaced with salty, often humorous reminiscences in this riveting portrait of Holiday and her music. Through Sept. 5 [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org). Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

**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](http://wildlingmuseum.org).

### 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](http://lompcart.org).

**COAST AND CARS ART SHOW** Featured artist is acrylic painter Elizabeth Alvarez. Fridays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Sept. 26 Free. Cypress Gallery, 119 E Cypress Ave., Lompoc, 805-705-5328, [lompcart.org](http://lompcart.org).

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**LIFE'S A BEACH: AVILA TO VENICE** Showcasing art by local artist Taffy French-Gray. Presented by the Valley Art Gallery. Through Sept. 30 [valleygallery.org/](http://valleygallery.org/). Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

**MARILYN DOVER BENSON: ART EXHIBIT** Local artist Marilyn Dover Benson has a variety of paintings and miniatures on view and available for purchase. The exhibit was extended through August 28. Come see her abstracts, flowers, country scenes, people, and more. Through Aug. 28, noon Free. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org](http://cityofsantamaria.org). Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**OUTDOOR UKULELE LESSONS** For individuals 50 years and up, at no charge. Participants will learn to play chords, melodies, and familiar songs. Five baritone ukuleles are available to borrow,

or class members may bring one of their own. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. [cityofsantamaria.org/register](http://cityofsantamaria.org/register). Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**OMEDY 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/](http://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). Mondays, Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. 805-668-2125. [lila.community](http://lila.community). Lila Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**ACTOR'S EDGE: ACTING CLASSES** Actor's Edge offers film and television acting training in San Luis Obispo, plus exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. \$210 per month. [actorsedge.com](http://actorsedge.com). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**BRUCE EVERETT: OPEN STUDIO ART TOUR** Small to large local landscapes. Open daily. Call or email for address and information. ongoing 818-384-6125. [bruceeverett.net](http://bruceeverett.net). Private home, Private address, TBA.

**CENTRAL COAST SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL** Bring your own picnic and lawn chair and enjoy a wild and woolly romp through some of your favorite plays and characters. Join us for sword fights and slapstick, tyrants and fools, lovers and madmen, resulting in unfettered shenanigans. Saturdays, Sundays, 6-7:30 p.m. through Sept. 5 \$20 General; \$18 Student/Senior; \$12 for 12 and Under. [centralcoastshakespeare.org](http://centralcoastshakespeare.org). Filippini Ranch, 1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo.

**COLLEEN GNOS: OPEN STUDIOS ARTIST** Call or email for private tours of Gnos Art Studio. 805-441-8277. [gnosart.com/store](http://gnosart.com/store). Private home, Private address, TBA.

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

**THE LITTLE PRINCE: PRESENTED BY SLO MOVEMENT ARTS CENTER** Experience in movement the timeless characters and charming themes of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic story. This original ballet for both children and adults follows the prince as he looks at our world with the wisdom of a child, finding beauty in the ordinary. Aug. 28, 7-9 p.m. and Aug. 29, 2-4 p.m. \$20-\$35. 805-756-4849. [pacsllo.org/Online/article/littleprince](http://pacsllo.org/Online/article/littleprince). Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

**MACRAMÉ AIR PLANT HANGER WORKSHOP AT SAN LUIS OBISPO BOTANICAL GARDEN** Spend a relaxing evening learning the basics of macramé. Master the basic knots and make your very own macramé air plant hanger using local driftwood and natural cotton rope. Taught by Lindsey Altman of Tied and True Goods. Aug. 26, 6-8 p.m. \$55 for Garden Members; \$65 for public. 805-541-1400. [slobg.org/calendar/macrame-airplant-hanger](http://slobg.org/calendar/macrame-airplant-hanger). San

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](http://newtimeslo.com). You may also email [calendar@newtimeslo.com](mailto:calendar@newtimeslo.com). Deadline is one week before the issue date on Thursdays. Submissions are subject to editing and approval. Contact Calendar Editor Caleb Wiseblood directly at [cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com](mailto:cwiseblood@newtimeslo.com).**

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Santa Barbara County Food Action Network  
Red de Acción Alimentaria del Condado de Santa Bárbara

# Strengthening local food systems

Formed in 2019, SBCFAN **connects, aligns, and activates** a network of food system changemakers – farmers, ranchers, fisherfolk, nonprofits, businesses, cooperatives, and consumers – to develop a robust local food economy, a healthy and just community, and a well-stewarded, resilient foodshed.

Our network supports efforts to advance goals of the 2016 Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan by coordinating and co-facilitating working groups that bring together individuals from across the food system to collaborate on projects that result in the activation of one or more of these goals.



PHOTO  
ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE  
SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

### FOOD ACTION PLAN ACTIVATION IN SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Santa Maria  
Joint Unified School District  
*Farm to School Program*  
Allan Hancock College  
*Food Share Because We Care*  
Allan Hancock College  
*Nutrition and Wellness Club*



PHOTO  
AUSTIN HOLLAND  
SANTA BARBARA BUCKET BRIGADE

### SBCFAN CURRENT PRIORITIES

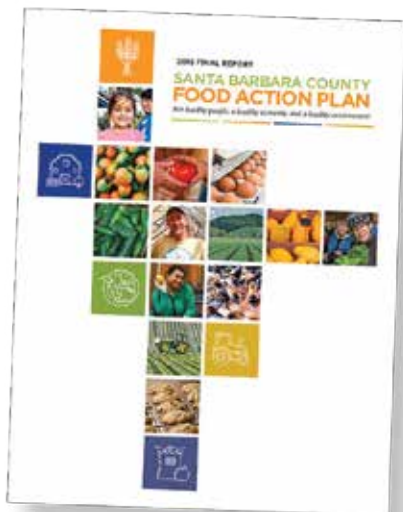
Working Groups  
*Community Generated Agriculture*  
*Community Kitchens*



PHOTO  
J ANDREW HILL  
PHAROS CREATIVE

### SBCFAN NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT

Working Groups  
*Farmers Markets*  
*Seed Sovereignty*  
*Cooperative Meat Processing*  
Advocacy  
*Drought Tolerance/Resistance*  
*County Agricultural Ordinance*



## Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan

- WHO** 200+ community members  
1200+ volunteer hours
- WHAT** a countywide, community-driven strategic plan that assessed and provided recommendations for how we grow, distribute, consume, and dispose of food
- WHEN** published in 2016
- WHY** to increase prosperity and health across the community and insulate ourselves from future uncertainties
- MORE** [sbcfan.org/food-action-plan](http://sbcfan.org/food-action-plan)

SBCFAN's **Working Groups** bring together individuals working across the food system to address one or more Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan goals.

Learn more at [sbcfan.org/working-groups](http://sbcfan.org/working-groups).



PHOTO  
ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE  
SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

### Assessing food insecurity

FOOD ACTION PLAN GOALS ACTIVATED

6

8

11

SBCFAN's **Higher Education Working Group** was formed to assess and address food insecurity on higher education campuses across Santa Barbara County. Together, working group members have conducted surveys and collected data across their campuses that helps to inform how each campus responds to this critical need. The next phase is to expand beyond their campuses by collaborating with Cottage Health and other health research organizations to share information, eliminate duplication of efforts, and align surveys to paint a complete countywide picture of availability of food and need. This team is also working to expand CalFresh participation of college-aged youth.

#### SANTA MARIA-BASED WORKING GROUP MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Allan Hancock College in collaboration with UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara City College, Westmont College

Did you know that CalFresh provides financial assistance for purchasing food to residents who earn as much as 130-200% of the federal poverty level? Learn more and apply at [getcalfresh.org](http://getcalfresh.org).



*Want to start or join an SBCFAN Working Group?  
Become a member at [sbcfan.org/join](http://sbcfan.org/join) and let's get to work.*



| INVEST IN OUR FOOD ECONOMY                                                   | INVEST IN OUR HEALTH & WELLNESS                                                               | INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY                                                             | INVEST IN OUR FOODSHED                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Train the next generation of farmers and food system entrepreneurs. | <b>6</b> Support peer-to-peer health education and empowerment for food insecure communities. | <b>10</b> Establish community food access centers.                                  | <b>13</b> Increase the food system's climate resiliency.                                          |
| <b>2</b> Build access and encourage entry into the local food economy.       | <b>7</b> Facilitate the adoption and implementation of workplace wellness policies.           | <b>11</b> Increase affordability and accessibility to locally grown food.           | <b>14</b> Protect existing and potential farm and ranch land.                                     |
| <b>3</b> Develop a local food purchasing policy.                             | <b>8</b> Integrate food literacy into school campuses.                                        | <b>12</b> Support fair compensation and affordable housing for food system workers. | <b>15</b> Reduce food waste.                                                                      |
| <b>4</b> Strengthen distribution systems for local produce.                  | <b>9</b> Establish "Food as Medicine" programs.                                               |                                                                                     | <b>16</b> Promote and incentivize Best Management Practices for farms and food system businesses. |
| <b>5</b> Facilitate investment in food systems development.                  |                                                                                               |                                                                                     |                                                                                                   |



## Expanding access to healthy food

PHOTO  
J ANDREW HILL  
PHAROS CREATIVE

By building a proactive coalition of countywide CalFresh advocates, organizing for adoption of CalFresh in new locations, and expanding community access to and affordability of locally produced fruits and vegetables, SBCFAN's **FRESA (CalFresh Access in North County) Working Group** and **Higher Education CalFresh Access Working Group** are ensuring that local, nutritious, and culturally sensitive food is accessible to all Northern Santa Barbara County community members.

**SANTA MARIA-BASED WORKING GROUP MEMBERS INCLUDE**  
Allan Hancock College, MICOP, Center for Employment Training, Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

FOOD ACTION PLAN GOALS ACTIVATED

- 1
- 2
- 4
- 5
- 10



## Leveraging kitchens to build food hubs

PHOTO  
ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE  
SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

SBCFAN's **Community Kitchens Working Group** identifies community kitchens that can be further activated as food hubs to provide commercial kitchen space for food producers and charitable feeding organizations, educational programming, shared resources, and entrepreneurial support. These community hubs support a resilient and vibrant local food system while also seeking to reduce food insecurity.

**SANTA MARIA-BASED WORKING GROUP MEMBERS INCLUDE:**  
Allan Hancock College, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

FOOD ACTION PLAN GOALS ACTIVATED

- 2
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 10
- 13
- 15

*We invite you to grab a seat at our table so that together, we can **invest in and build** a more vibrant, equitable, and resilient food system that:*

**Supports a robust regional food economy**

where local farmers, ranchers, fisherfolk, and food businesses thrive.

**Promotes health and wellness** by ensuring

that local, nutritious, and culturally sensitive food is accessible to *all* community members.

**Equips our community** by establishing

a place-based food system that supports affordable access to locally grown food and fairly compensates and affordably houses the food workforce.

**Strengthens our foodshed** by protecting

farm land, reducing food waste, and building resilience in the face of disruptions stemming from disasters like extreme weather and pandemics.



Santa Barbara County Food Action Network  
Red de Acción Alimentaria del Condado de Santa Bárbara

[www.sbcfoodaction.org](http://www.sbcfoodaction.org)  
(805) 203-6234



**BECOME A MEMBER AND LET'S GET TO WORK!**

Membership includes access to:

- Working Groups
  - Community Calendar
  - Funding and Financing Opportunities
  - Invitation to Member Events
  - Food System Resources
- Join at [sbcfan.org/join](http://sbcfan.org/join)

**CALENDAR**

View and submit upcoming Santa Barbara County Food System events at [sbcfan.org/calendar](http://sbcfan.org/calendar)

**DONATE**

SBCFAN is a hub for food system information, resource sharing, and activation.

Your donation will directly support the coordination and co-facilitation of SBCFAN Working Groups and other food system connections, alignments, and activations. Together, we can build equitable solutions for long-term resilience in Santa Barbara County and ensure everyone has access to fresh, healthy, local food.

Make a contribution today at [sbcfan.org/donate](http://sbcfan.org/donate)

Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

**RETURNING HOME: SCULPTURES BY KRISTIN LINDSETH** This series of sculptures explores the idea of home through miniature houses mounted on top of metal armatures. Reflecting on her experiences regarding the California wildfires of August 2020, Lindseth considers the implications of vulnerability, loss, and hope. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. 26 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**THE SHOW WILL GO ON** Performed as an anthology. 20 stories that are waiting to be told. A show that allows you as the audience to see the stories that don't get to be seen on stage. **Aug. 27-29** my805tix.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SNAIL MAIL PRINTS: THE CENTRAL COAST PRINTMAKERS** The Central Coast Printmakers started an art project during quarantine to stay connected, they took inspiration from the Exquisite Corpse Project popularized by 1920's surrealists. In their version, each began an original print and mailed it to the next member to add to it. Sundays, 12-4 p.m. 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.

**THREE PERSON ART SHOW** An art exhibition of work by Linda DeRosa, Blaire Kilbey, and Charlotte D'Aigle, three SLO artists, featuring abstract paintings and collage. Reception: Sept. 3, 5 to 6 p.m., COVID protocols permitting. Mondays-Sundays, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. through Sept. 26 Free. 805-541-5888. linnaeas.com. Linnaea's Cafe, 1110 Garden St., San Luis Obispo.

#### NORTH SLO COUNTY

**LUMINOUS LIGHTSCAPES** Glass art celebrates the drama of light, color and form, making it luminous by its very nature. Luminous Lightscapes showcases many disciplines of glass art created by Rod Baker, Theresa Buccola, George Jercich, Kelly Johnson, Richard Mortensen, Carolyn Niblick, Brenda Steffensen, and Stephanie Wilbanks. **Aug. 31-Nov. 1**, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org/events/luminous-lightscapes/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

**MOSAIC WINE BOTTLE WALL ART** You bring the creativity, and we'll provide the wine. All materials are provided to create a colorful mosaic masterpiece. Great for beginners. Preregistration required. **Aug. 26**, 6-8 p.m. Various. 805-238-6300. CreativeMeTime.com. Derby Wine Estates, 525 Riverside Ave, Paso Robles.

**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

**CALL FOR 2022 FEATURED ARTISTS** CCA is currently accepting applications for Featured Artists for our 2022 season. We are seeking both two-dimensional and three-dimensional artists who can fill 50 linear feet of gallery wall, either as a solo exhibitor or paired with a second artist. See our website for details. Through Sept. 30, noon 805-927-8190. cambriaarts.org/call-artists/. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

**COASTAL LIFE PERSPECTIVE THROUGH THE ARTS** Recently new owners of the gallery have revamped the interior and recreated an art show showcasing more than nine new painters and assorted ceramicists and jewelry artisans. Current oil paintings by Michael Mote and many other artists along the Central Coast and California. First Thursday of every month, 4-8 p.m. and Mondays-Wednesdays, Fridays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Sept. 23 Bronze Silver Gold Gallery, 786 Main Street, Cambria, 805-927-5421, bronzesilvergoldgallery.com.

**FOREVER STOKED PAINT PARTY** Join us at the gallery, for a few hours to travel on a creative paint journey guided by a member of the fun loving FS crew. You will receive as much or as little instruction as you prefer. No artistic experience is necessary. Saturdays, 7-9 p.m. \$45. 805-772-9095. Forever Stoked, 1164 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

**FOREVER STOKED SUMMER ART SHOW** Join the artists of Forever Stoked and friends as we unveil our latest paintings. New work from Charlie Clingman, Chris Pedersen, Peter Pierce and more. We will also have some amazing tunes from Jon Millsap and the Cimo Brothers. **Aug. 28**, 12-8 p.m. Free. 805-772-9095. foreverstoked.com. Forever Stoked, 1164 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay.

#### 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.

**MOSAICS FOR BEGINNERS** Learn mosaic basics from cutting, gluing, grouting and cleaning to create a masterpiece. Choose your project on website. Great for beginners. Everything provided to complete project. Preregistration required.

**Aug. 29**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Various. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**PATRICIA NEWTON: FEATURED ARTIST** "My style is representational, my current body of work has been inspired by the powerful movement of the sea and magnificent coastline," Newton said in an artist statement. Through Aug. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**THE REBOOT: STORYTELLING REIMAGINED RETURNS** The fresh ocean breeze in Top Dog's garden theater under the stars keeps the air circulating. Come vaccinated, bring mask to wear when you choose, and dress warm for this enchanted celebration of true stories, good food and drink, creativity and community. **Aug. 27**, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-772-9225. facebook.com/the.reboot4u. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

**ROSEMARY PISCIOTTA RETROSPECTIVE: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** Cambria Center for the Arts is thrilled to reopen its gallery doors on July 24. The current show is a retrospective honoring Rosemary Pisciotto's life-drawings/paintings. Please consult website regarding gallery hours and other details. Through Aug. 29, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-927-8190. cambriaarts.org/gallery-exhibits/. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

**THOMAS BROWN: FEATURED CRAFT ARTIST** Working with crystalline glazes has become Brown's passion, while working as an Art Instructor during the past 20 years. His constant endeavor is in the subject of ceramics and creating exciting pieces for your home. Through Aug. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

**VIRGINIA MACK: FEATURED ARTIST** "I have been immersed in studying birds and painting them for the last decade. With this show, I am celebrating my outdoor journeys in discovering birds, wild animals, and more," Mack said in an artist statement. Through Aug. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

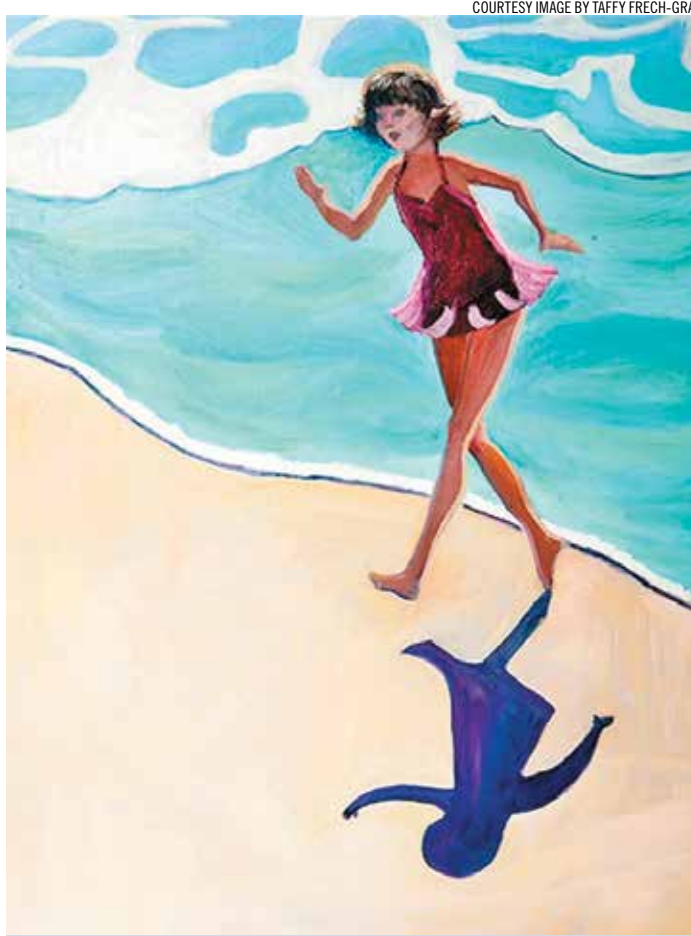
## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

#### LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

**AMPSURF: LEARN TO SURF CLINIC** All clinics are closely supervised and each participant is assigned a certified AmpSurf instructor and at least one water assistant. AmpSurf provides all necessary surfing equipment, gear, and beach access wheelchair if required. **Aug. 28**, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. \$0-50. 805-441-5271. eventbrite.com. Jalama Beach County Park, 9999 Jalama Road, 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. Citywide, Santa Maria.



### SEA FOR YOURSELF

The Valley Art Gallery presents its latest showcase at the Santa Maria Airport, an exhibit of beach-themed oil paintings by local artist Taffy French-Gray, through Sunday, Sept. 19. French-Gray will host a special artist talk and guided tour of the exhibit on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. Visit valleygallery.org to find out more about the show. The Santa Maria Airport is located at 3217 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria.

—C.W.

**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.

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

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

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

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

**TEEN ANIME CLUB PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Register to pick up a Teen Anime Club Pack, which will include something bookish, crafty, and of course, something yummy. When you register, you will also be invited to a Zoom meeting on August 30. **Aug. 26, Aug. 27** and **Aug. 28** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL MINDFULNESS PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Create important moments of mindfulness with the Back-to-School Mindfulness Youth Pack. This pack will contain activities to help create a moment of stillness, design a Zen garden, and yoga cards to stretch and learn breathing exercises. Pick up a pack from the Youth Services desk. **Aug. 26, Aug. 27** and **Aug. 28** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

#### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR** Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of

Point San Luis Lighthouse. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

**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.

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

#### SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BIRDS AND BOTANY MONTHLY WALK AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN** The Garden is excited to present a monthly bird walk series on the fourth Thursday of every month which explores the intersection of birds and botany. Fourth Thursday of every month, 8-11 a.m. \$10 for Garden Members; \$40 for general public. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

**CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS TEXAS A&M** The Mustangs are looking to extend the nation's longest home-winning streak as they take on Texas A&M at Mott. **Sept. 1**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY WOMEN'S SOCCER VS MONTANA** Come watch Cal Poly Women's Soccer take on Montana in a non-conference match at Spanos Stadium. **Aug. 26**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY WOMEN'S SOCCER VS SAC STATE** It's Youth Day, so all kids ages 13 and under receive free admission to the match. **Aug. 29**, noon gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**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.

**END OF SUMMER SOIREE** Hosted by Slow Money San Luis Obispo. Please join us for an evening of local bites and sips for this happy hour-style event. **Sept. 1**, 5-7 p.m. my805tix.com. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo, (805) 544-9096.

**THE GRIEF RECOVERY PROGRAM: 8 WEEK CLASS ONLINE** This class is a step-by-step action program for unlocking and respecting our emotional experience of our grief, both immediate or past. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. through Sept. 28 \$59.99 includes book and all 8 weeks. 714-273-9014. facebook.com/grief.loss. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**LEADERSHIP ON THE EDGE WITH ROBERT SWAN** An uplifting presentation outlining strategies and solutions for the Climate Force Challenge Campaign, featuring polar explorer Robert Swan, the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles. A 6 p.m. reception for local polar photographer Linda Drake precedes the event. Attendees are asked to mask up. **Aug. 26**, 7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. 2041.com. Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION** A safe place to experience reality through mindfulness and meditation practices. Learn about benefits of mindfulness; being aware of what you're doing, thinking and feeling in the moment. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon through Aug. 26 Free. 805-270-3346. t-mha.org. 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.

**MODERN DANCE FITNESS CLASS FOR ADULTS** Rhythmic and exploratory movement rooted in expressive modern dance style. This class is suitable for all levels. Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. World Rhythm and Motion Studio, 3422 Miguelito Ct., Studio #3, San Luis Obispo, 805-596-0609, worldrhythmndmotion.com.

**CULTURE & LIFESTYLE** continued page 20



**In-Person Lighthouse Tours**  
WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS  
**Virtual Tours ON DEMAND**  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Chakra Meditation and Breath Work**  
AUG 26, SEPT 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Aurora Adventures, Morro Bay



**SLOasis: Float the Dream Camping Experience**  
FRI & SAT, AUGUST 27 & 28  
Franklin Hot Springs, Paso Robles



**The Show Will Go On: Behind Closed Doors**  
FRI, SAT, SUN, AUG 27, 28, 29  
Santa Maria Civic Theatre



**Live at the Lighthouse: Carbon City Lights**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Sail, Pedal, Paddle Team Relay Race**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28  
Morro Bay Yacht Club



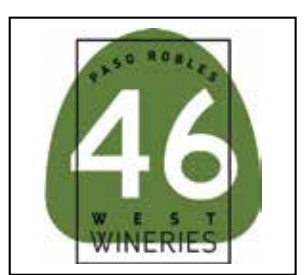
**Tiny Porch Concerts: Abby Posner**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28  
Sunland Vintage Winery, Thousand Oaks



**Cherished Chamber Music**  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29  
Symphony of the Vines at Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Back in the Saddle Again**  
SEPT 3-5 & SEPT 10-12  
Harris Stage Lines Event Center, Paso Robles



**46 West Wineries Harvest Block Party**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4  
Midnight Cellars, Paso Robles



**Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Plate Ribs**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Live at the Lighthouse: Back Pages Band**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11  
Point San Luis Lighthouse



**Heroic Beethoven**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12  
Symphony of the Vines at Atascadero UMC



**Barrel Room Concert: Moonshiner Collective**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12  
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Family Fun Bingo Night**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
Avila Beach Community Center

Interested in selling tickets with My805Tix? Contact us for a demo today! [info@My805Tix.com](mailto:info@My805Tix.com)



## CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

**SLO OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY EVENT** A time for remembrance and learning. Free trainings; learn how to easily administer this overdose reversal medication. Features information tables from a wide range of community resources, and a candle-lighting ceremony, hosted by Hospice SLO County to remember our loved ones. **Aug. 31, 5:30-7 p.m.** Free. [facebook.com/SLOCountyODAwareness](https://facebook.com/SLOCountyODAwareness). Mitchell Park, 1445 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**SUNRISE ZUMBA WITH CHRISTIANA** SLO's ultimate dance party for early risers. An amazing total body work out, combining cardio and muscle conditioning set to today's hottest Latin beats. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. 805-305-5609. DanceClubSLO, 3422 Miguelito Ct. Studio 3, San Luis Obispo, ChristianaEnriquez.Zumba.com.

**VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE JACK HOUSE** Public virtual tours via Zoom of the famous Jack House of San Luis Obispo. Access to the house is extremely limited and this is your best opportunity to get the inside view. Thursdays, 2 p.m. \$5 suggested. 805-543-0638. [historycenterslo.org/jack-tour.html](https://historycenterslo.org/jack-tour.html). Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

FILE COURTESY IMAGE BY DIANE ATTURIO



**HOT STUFF**  
AUG. 26 - SEPT. 2 2021

## FLOWER POWER

The Lompoc Valley Art Association presents its latest solo exhibition, *Central Coast Natives*, at the Cypress Gallery through the end of August. This exhibit showcases a collection of watercolor paintings by featured artist Diane Atturio. Guests can view the show during the gallery's regular hours (Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.). Call (805) 705-5328 or visit [lompoart.org](https://lompoart.org) for more info. The Cypress Gallery is located at 119 E. Cypress Ave., Lompoc.

—C.W.

## WALKING TOURS OF MISSION PLAZA: THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

The History Center offers free, one-hour guided tours of Mission Plaza every Saturday at 10 a.m. through Labor Day weekend. The tour reveals the story of the 1858 Committee of Vigilance, when seven Californios were hanged without a trial. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. through Sept. 4 Free. 805-543-0638. [historycenterslo.org/walking-tours.html](https://historycenterslo.org/walking-tours.html). History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.

**YOGA IN THE PARK FOR CANCER SURVIVORS, PATIENTS, AND LOVED ONES** These special classes, which are designed for survivors to go at their own pace and boost energy, are provided by Tenet Health Central Coast. Participants are asked to bring their own yoga mats or blanket, and wheelchair participants are welcome. First Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. through Dec. 4 805-401-1940. [tenethealthcentralcoast.com/services/oncology](https://tenethealthcentralcoast.com/services/oncology). Meadow Park, 2251 Meadow St., San Luis Obispo.

**ZUMBA WITH CHRISTIANA** SLO's ultimate dance fitness party. A total body work out combining cardio, muscle conditioning set to Latin rhythms and today's hottest music. Tuesdays-Thursdays, Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. 805-305-5609. ChristianaEnriquez.Zumba.com. DanceClubSLO, 3422 Miguelito Ct. Studio 3, San Luis Obispo.

## FOOD & DRINK

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

**RHS WARRIOR GOAT PROGRAM: TRI-TIP FUNDRAISER** Proceeds benefit special needs students who work alongside their peers (mainly FFA students) to raise and show donated goats at the county fair. **Aug. 28, 1-4 p.m.** [smjuhsd.org](https://smjuhsd.org). Orcutt Presbyterian Church, 993 Patterson Road, Orcutt.

**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. [wineanddesign.com/orcutt](https://wineanddesign.com/orcutt). Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**16TH ANNUAL TASTE OF PISMO** Invites local wineries, breweries, and restaurants, as well as the public to participate in this fun-filled event. Enjoy some of the best eats and drinks on the Central Coast while you enjoy the beautiful ocean views from Dinosaur Caves Park. **Aug. 28, 12-4 p.m.** [pismochamber.com](https://pismochamber.com). Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

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

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

### NORTH SLO COUNTY

**2021 AUGUST WINE SEMINAR: TASTE LIKE A PRO** Sample an array of wines from around the world and gather the knowledge of how to taste like a pro. **Aug. 29, 1-3 p.m.** [my805tix.com](https://my805tix.com). Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

**TAPAS ON THE HILL** Enjoy traditional tapas and award-winning wine with panoramic sweeping vineyard views from our hilltop patio while the sun sets over the vineyard. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. through Oct. 29 805-434-3333. Kick off your weekend on our hilltop patio with traditional tapas, award-winning wine, and stunning panoramic vineyard views. Call or email to reserve your table. Fridays, 5-7 p.m. through Oct. 29 805-434-3333. AronHill Vineyards, 3745 West Highway 46, Templeton, [aronhillvineyards.com](https://aronhillvineyards.com).

**TWILIGHT RESERVE TASTING** Semi-private sunset rooftop tasting experience. Includes a flight of limited release and reserve wines paired with a complimentary cheese and charcuterie board. Advanced 48-hour booking required. Fridays, Saturdays, 6 p.m. through Oct. 30 \$120 per person. 805-369-6100. [toothandnailwine.com/](https://toothandnailwine.com/). Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles.

**VIRTUAL WINE TASTING PACKAGES AT CASS WINERY** Wine by the glass and bottles are also available for purchase. Check site for specific virtual tasting packages. ongoing Free. 805-239-1730. [casswines.com/](https://casswines.com/). Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

## MUSIC

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS** Sundays, 2-5 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, [brickbarnwineestate.com](https://brickbarnwineestate.com).

**WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS** Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. Brick Barn Wine Estate, 795 W. Hwy 246, Buellton, 805-686-1208, [brickbarnwineestate.com](https://brickbarnwineestate.com).

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**CENTRAL COAST BEAT SOCIAL: COURTYARD**

MUSIC continued page 21

**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. ongoingcentralcoastbeatsocial.com/. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

**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**

**FOREVER GREEN BAND** Twin sisters Cara and Christi Brown will be playing their original eclectic folk rock with a twist at Puffers for the early show opening for singer/songwriters Alan Vogan and Jeff Cannon of Surfeza. **Aug. 27**, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 805-773-6563. facebook.com/events/557101162304527/. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach.

**SURFEZA TRIO AT HUMDINGER** Surfeza Trio brings their original central coast music back to Humdinger Brewery. **Aug. 29**, 2-5 p.m. Free. Humdinger Brewing, 116 W Branch St, Arroyo Grande, (805) 619-0808.

**SURFEZA TRIO AT PUFFERS** Surfeza will be playing their original central coast style surf music. **Aug. 27**, 7-9 p.m. Free. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563, puffersofpismo.com.

**THE WAVEBREAKERS BAND: LIVE AT STONE SOUP MUSIC FESTIVAL** Enjoy pop hits from the 1950s to '80s. **Aug. 28**, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-489-4196. facebook.com/StoneSoupMusicFair. Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**BRASS MASH (FIRST FRIDAYS)** Seating will be extremely limited so make sure to get here early if you want a seat. First Friday of every month, 6 p.m. through Oct. 1 liquidgravitybrewing.com/. Liquid Gravity, 675 Clarion Court, San Luis Obispo.

**THE BROTHERS COMATOSE** Comprised of brothers Ben Morrison (guitar, vocals) and Alex Morrison (banjo, vocals), Scott Padden (bass, vocals), Philip Brezina (violin), and Greg Fleischut (mandolin). **Aug. 26**, 7 p.m. \$22. 805-543-1843. slobrew.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

**EVERYDAY KINDNESS: ZONGO ALL-STARS BENEFIT DANCE CONCERT** Estero Bay

Kindness Coalition is raising funds to support their efforts in serving those living on the margins in the Estero Bay community (Los Osos, Morro Bay, and Cayucos). **Aug. 27**, 6:30 p.m. my805tix.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

**LIVE MUSIC WITH GRAMMY AWARD-WINNER LOUIE ORTEGA** Enjoy live music with Louie Ortega every Wednesday, while sipping your favorites in the Wine Bar and Craft Beer Garden. No cover. Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m. Free. 805-544-9463. slowineandbeerco.com/events. SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera Street, Suite 250, San Luis Obispo.

**LIVE MUSIC WITH LOCAL LEGEND PAT PEARSON** Enjoy live music with local phenom Pat Pearson, while sipping your favorites in the Wine Bar and Craft Beer Garden. No cover. Saturdays, 4-7 p.m. Free. 805-544-9463. slowineandbeerco.com/events. SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera Street, Suite 250, San Luis Obispo.

**MIRAGE: A NEW ALBUM FROM C. HITE** A new album available for streaming and download. Artist statement: "Visually captivating orchestrated music reminds listeners, 'If the Sky Were the Sea', there would be whales swimming in the shimmering phenomenon known as 'Mirage.'" Through Sept. 2 carolbethhite.bandcamp.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SLOASIS SOAK** Musical acts include: Bendalf Breath Beats, Casey Ball, Erin English, Francis Dawson, Galaxy Rider, Joey Benjamin, Molly McCabe, Nok Nok, Samba

Loca, Scott Marlin, SLO Vibe Trio, Sun-1, Streams to the Ocean, Zen Mountain Poets, and more. **Aug. 27-28** my805tix.com. Franklin Hot Springs, 3015 Creston Rd., Paso Robles, 805-712-5372.

**NORTH SLO COUNTY**

**THE DELTAZ AT HALTER RANCH** Come enjoy the "Americana Blues Brother Duo", The Deltaz live on the scenic back patio of the Halter Ranch Tasting Room. Free event, but reservations are required. **Aug. 27**, 1-4 p.m. Free. 805-226-9455. halterranch.com/events/. Halter Ranch Vineyard, 8910 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles.

**LIVE DJ AND FOOD TRUCK** Live DJ starts at 6 p.m., food truck available starting at 5 p.m. **Aug. 27**, 5-9 p.m. Ancient Owl Beer Garden, 6090 El Camino Real, suite C, Atascadero, 805-460-6042, ancientowlbeergarden.com.

**PIANO TRIO** Presented by Symphony of the Vines. **Aug. 29**, 5:30-7 p.m. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

**SATURDAY IN THE PARK: SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** Enjoy the sounds of summer at Atascadero's 2021 Summer Concert Series, to be held weekly at the Atascadero Lake Park Bandstand. Concerts will be every Saturday, from late July through mid-September with a few exceptions. **Aug. 28**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and **Sept. 4**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. visitatascadero.com. Historic City Hall, 6500 Palma Ave., Atascadero, 805-461-5000.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WINE COUNTRY THEATRE



**SADDLE UP**

Wine Country Theatre presents its production of *Back in the Saddle Again* at the Harris Stage Lines Event Center, Friday, Sept. 3, through Sunday, Sept. 12. Performances will be held on every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening, starting at 7 p.m. each night. Tickets to the show are \$30, and are available in advance at my805tix.com. For more info, call (805) 610-0786 or visit winecountrytheatre.com. The Harris Stage Lines Event Center is located at 5995 N. River Road, Paso Robles.

—C.W

**SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES ARIELLE SILVER AND CYNTHIA FORD** Songwriters at Play host Steve Key shares the garden stage with L.A. based balladeer Arielle Silver, and country singer Cynthia Ford. **Aug. 28**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

**SURFEZA AT CAL COAST BEER** Surfeza brings the full band and their original central coast music to Cal Coast Beer. **Aug. 28**, 7-9 p.m. Free. California Coast Beer Company, 1346 Railroad St., Paso Robles, 805-369-2347, calcoastbeer.com/.

**NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY**

**FLAVOR PACKET** Enjoy a performance of contemporary jazz. **Aug. 29**, 1-4 p.m. Castoro Cellars, 1315 N. Bethel Rd., Templeton, 805-238-0725, castorocellars.com. ○

**Spread the word!**  
Send event information to calendar@santamariasun.com.

**WHERE THERE'S A WALK, THERE'S A WAY.**



The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia. It's time to add your flower to the fight.

Join us at alz.org/walk



Walk to End Alzheimer's  
Santa Maria  
Rotary Centennial Park  
Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021

2021 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS



**Can I crash on your couch for awhile?**  
Ask us about our Foster Program  
**FOSTER • SPONSOR • VOLUNTEER • DONATE**  
*Anyone can help!*

**Penny is an 8-month-old shepherd mix puppy** with megaesophagus, which means she needs to eat her meals in an upright position; but otherwise, she is an active and playful pup, and a lot of fun. Penny is adorably sweet and very intelligent, and learns new things very quickly.

The veterinary specialists needed to diagnose Penny came to an extremely high cost, and we sure could use some help!

**Donations for her care would be gratefully welcomed.**

Donations can be mailed to our PO Box, or thru PayPal on our website.



**CCSPCA, Inc.**  
Central Coast Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
PO Box 2952, Orcutt, CA 93457  
Email: centralcoastspca@yahoo.com  
**centralcoastspca.org**  
(805) 937-1766

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The Maxim in Real Estate  
(805) 878-0807

**2021 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

**FEATURING**  
Central Coast bands, BBQ,  
and beer on our outdoor  
patio from 12-4pm

**AUGUST**

8/28 Cocktail Shorty  
8/29 Rough House

**SEPTEMBER**

9/4 Jill Knight  
9/5 Spanky Paul  
9/6 Roughouse  
9/11 Dulcie Taylor  
9/12 Charlie Parker  
[Neil Young tribute]  
9/18 Noach Tangeras  
9/19 Terry Lawless

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## Arts Briefs

### County Arts Commission opens grant program, Arts Making Impact, to local arts and culture organizations

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION



The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission is currently accepting grant applications designated for arts and culture nonprofit organizations, as part of its Arts Making Impact (AMI) grant program. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, Sept. 1.

The AMI program was developed to “support artists and arts and cultural organizations by funding projects and a variety of activities that enrich the lives of residents in communities throughout Santa Barbara County,” according to the Arts Commission. Past grant recipients have included Youth Arts Alive in Santa Maria and the Santa Barbara Dance Institute.

“This year, we are really hoping to maximize the available funding to support smaller groups that may not have as many resources,” Ruben Espinoza, Arts Commission chair, said in a statement.

As a collaboration between the Arts Commission and the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation, the AMI grant program is funded through ticket sales to concerts at the Santa Barbara Bowl (50 cents per ticket, up to \$50,000 annually).

Grant applications and guidelines are available online at sbac.ca.gov/county-grants. All nonprofit organizations that apply must be based in Santa Barbara County and provide services to Santa Barbara County residents.

### PCPA invites young performers to audition for upcoming production, *The Secret Garden*

IMAGE COURTESY OF PCPA



The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) is holding auditions for its production of *The Secret Garden* on Friday, Sept. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. The company is seeking to cast young performers (ages 12 and older) in the roles of Mary Lennox and Colin Craven, a boy and girl who both look to be around 11 years old. Auditions will be held in the Marian Theater, located on the Allan Hancock College campus in Santa Maria.

Audition attendees are asked to prepare roughly 60 seconds of a song from any musical (song must be memorized). Performers should bring sheet music for their chosen song in the correct key. An accompanist will provide live music during the auditions. Masks are required inside the audition area, except while performers are singing.

Hancock and the Actors Equity Association are requiring that all cast and crew members working in the upcoming production must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Proof of vaccination must be provided before the show's first rehearsal on Saturday, Sept. 11.

To find out more about the audition process, visit pcpa.org. The Marian Theater is located at 870 S. Bradley Road, Santa Maria. ☉

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



**ZOOM DUO:** In conjunction with its Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature group exhibition, the Wildling Museum has been hosting a virtual artist spotlight series via Zoom. The next entry (Wednesday, Sept. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m.) features San Luis Obispo-based artist Sommer Roman (left) and Santa Barbara-based artist Maria Rendón (right).

## Hybrid hues

Wildling Museum in Solvang showcases Central Coast artists during its Summer Open House while continuing to offer virtual programming

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

For SLO local Sommer Roman, the decision to join one of the Wildling Museum's current group shows—Bio/Mass: Contemporary Meditations on Nature—was “a no-brainer.” Following an invitation from the exhibit's curators, the prolific sculptor and illustrator jumped at the chance to participate.

“I love the Wildling Museum's mission of using art to foster conservation and awareness of our natural world,” Roman said. “The natural world is a constant inspiration to my practice. My work shares a natural kinship with the mission of the museum, as well as the show's curatorial intent.”

Roman is one of 11 featured artists (many of whom call San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura counties

their home) included in the nature-themed exhibit at the Solvang venue. Over the past few months, some of the show's participants have been highlighted in the Wildling Museum's virtual artist talk series.

Joined by fellow Central Coast artist Maria Rendón from Santa Barbara, Roman will take part in the series' next entry, offered on Wednesday, Sept. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. Topics of discussion will include both artists' backgrounds, studio practices, and artistic processes.

If Roman had to choose one word to describe her own process, it would be intuitive, she explained.

“A lot of it is an intuitive process and a dance between myself and the materials. They lead as much as I do,” said the local artist, who uses a mixture of media to create her unconventional,

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hybridized sculptures, described as “beings that exist somewhere between real and imaginary.”

So what's the trick to capturing abstraction and reality simultaneously?

“There's no real formula of maintaining that balance, but it's something I'm definitely conscious of,” Roman said. “Sometimes, all it takes are small shifts here or there in color, material, form, scale, or orientation that can help preserve some ‘strangeness’ and keep it from becoming too representational or predictable.”

Bio/Mass will remain on display at the Wildling Museum through Sunday, Sept. 5, and hopeful viewers are encouraged to take advantage of free exhibit admission on Sunday, Aug. 29, during the museum's Summer Open House festivities. Some of the exhibit's featured artists will be present to discuss their artworks. This celebratory event is also slated to offer children's activities for younger attendees to enjoy.

“I'm happy to see how family-friendly they're making it,” Roman

#### I THINK, THEREFORE:

Sculptor and illustrator Sommer Roman uses a mixture of media to create her unconventional, hybridized sculptures, described as “beings that exist somewhere between real and imaginary.” Roman's reclaimed fabric piece, *Sighting no. 179*, is pictured at the center of this installation.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LAUREN SHARP

COURTESY PHOTO BY CRAFT AND CLUSTER



#### LOOK WHO'S INSIDE AGAIN:

The public is encouraged to take advantage of free exhibit admission on Sunday, Aug. 29, during the Wildling Museum's Summer Open House festivities. Some of the Bio/Mass exhibit's featured artists will be present to discuss their artworks during the free event. Attendees are required to wear masks while inside the museum.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WILDLING MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURE

#### Online lineup

The Wildling Museum's next virtual artist talk, featuring SLO-based artist Sommer Roman and Santa Barbara-based artist Maria Rendón, will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. The museum also hosts its Summer Open House event on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 2 to 6 p.m. Call (805) 688-1082 or visit [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org) for more info. The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, Solvang.

said. “I hope to attend with my husband and our two kiddos in tow, with masks.”

While keeping a close eye on local COVID-19 case numbers, the Wildling Museum has adjusted some of its original plans for the upcoming event, Assistant Director Lauren Sharp explained.

“Parties and Paint by Kate will now be providing a special ‘princess experience’ with temporary tattoos and stickers for kids and families to take home, instead of our original on-site face-painting plans,” Sharp said. “Masks are also required inside the Wildling Museum at this time.”

A lot of the festivities will be held outside the museum though, including food truck offerings, which Wildling Museum Executive Director Stacey Otte-Demangate said is a first that she's looking forward to.

“We've never had a food truck at any of our events before, and we're excited to have A/R Catering here with us that afternoon. I sampled their sliders at Sunstone Vineyard last month and knew we had to have them,” Otte-Demangate said. “We also felt it was a safe way to have food while keeping it outside with the added bonus of supporting an area business too.”

But even as the museum cautiously “tiptoes” back into hosting in-person events, its organizers plan to continue producing a diverse range of virtual programming, Sharp added.

“We've truly embraced Zoom programming over the last year and a half and plan to continue providing special offerings,” Sharp said. “Our artists and guest speakers have enjoyed the flexibility of being able to present anywhere with Zoom, and our guests have likewise enjoyed being able to participate from throughout the county and beyond. While the Wildling Museum is a smaller museum, virtual programming allows us to widen our reach.” ☉

Reach out to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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## Love and loss

**C**o-writer Michael Sarnoski directs this dramatic thriller about Rob (Nicholas Cage), a truffle hunter living a solitary existence in the Oregon wilderness, whose beloved foraging pig is kidnapped, forcing him to return to his past in Portland in search for her. (92 min.)

**Glen:** I think it's pretty common when someone experiences a profound sense of loss to reevaluate one's priorities. Things you might have thought were important suddenly seem trivial. *Pig* is an elegiac, multilayered rumination on loss and what it does to people. Rob lives a hermit-like existence. His only connection to the outside world is Amir (Alex Wolff), a young man who supplies some of Portland's upscale restaurants with truffles—the pungent, hard to find underground fungus, certain varieties of which sell for as much as \$1,500 per pound. He arrives every Thursday to Rob's remote forest cabin to trade him essentials such as batteries, flour, and other cooking supplies. One evening after Amir's most recent visit, two people—Bree (Julia Brey) and Scratch (Elijah Ungvary)—break into Rob's cabin, assault him, and steal his pig. What follows is a mystery story as Rob, with Amir's help, works to find who stole his pig. It brings Rob back into the scene he left, including the dark underbelly of the restaurant world. As the tale unfolds, we discover more about Rob's past in this foodie world, the loss that drove him out of the scene and into his solitary existence, and most importantly, what kind of a man he is and the lengths to which he'll go to recover his pig.

**Anna:** What also unfolds is a deeper look into who Rob is and who he was in the Portland food scene. While he may at first be unrecognizable, once people in the business know who they're dealing with, they're in awe. One scene that was particularly compelling is when Amir gets them a table at a very pretentious, upscale restaurant. When served two deconstructed scallops under a dome of smoke and over a huckleberry foam, he asks to speak to the chef (David Knell), who it turns out actually worked for Rob for a very brief period way back when. One thing Rob has in spades is memory—he recalls to the shaken chef his long forgotten dream of owning a real English pub, subtly yet piercingly leading chef Finway to question everything that has led him to where he is now and the food he's offering. Knell is fantastic in this small but meaty role, and his performance of maddened frenzy is laudable. There are a lot of really great characters and actors who fill their roles well. Brey and Ungvary are wonderful with their brief time on-screen as loser meth-heads looking for a fix, and Adam Arkin as Darius—Amir's estranged father—turns out a gripping performance as well. Rob seems like the kind of guy who could be a loose cannon and react with violence, but we soon learn that vengeance is not his goal—he just wants his friend back.

**Glen:** That is a standout scene, and by then it's clear that Rob, though menacing, isn't a violent person. He uses his emotional intelligence to force those he meets to confront their own choices. He does it with Amir, chef Finway, and Amir's father, Darius, another high-end food supplier. The performances are universally excellent, including Cage's, who—let's face it—isn't especially

discerning in the roles he chooses. Dangle a paycheck, and he's there. I mean, consider this: The three years before the pandemic hit, he did six movies a year, most of which were utter trash. *Pig*, on the other hand, is deeply heartfelt—a small, well-crafted, heartbreaker of a film. It really sneaks up on you. In the beginning, Rob comes off as a dick—his relationship with Amir is wholly transactional, and he's uninterested in any real connection. We learn, however, that Rob is in self-preservation mode. He has no interest in the trivial. Amir thinks of Rob as a homeless loser, but as they enter the Portland scene and Amir witnesses the deferential treatment Rob receives, he realizes he's underestimated him. By the end of the film, my deep affection and respect for Rob made his loss *my* loss. This one will stick with me.

**Anna:** Cage really owned this role. His Rob is someone living every day with his past tragedy, and the loss of his companion pig is just another blow to an already broken man. We get a glimpse of his past loss when early on in the film he puts a cassette labeled "For Robin" in his player and we hear a woman's voice come on, but he switches it off before we get past a few sentences. It's far from a happy-go-lucky film, and it seems that Rob's pain may be never-ending, but it's a compelling story and a perfect Palm Theatre movie—art house-y and quiet, beautiful and

### PIG

What's it rated? **R**  
When? **2021**  
Where's it showing? **Palm Theatre of SLO**  
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**



**DRIVEN:** Nicholas Cage stars as Rob, a former top chef who left the scene to live a solitary existence as a truffle hunter. When his prized foraging pig is stolen, he heads to Portland in search of her, in *Pig*, screening exclusively at The Palm Theatre of SLO.

nuanced. Our screening was pretty empty, so this one may not be on the radar for many yet, but it's definitely worth watching in the darkness of a movie theater. Hopefully Cage will get offered more films like this. He did a fantastic job, and this is a really great reminder that despite some questionable choices with the roles he accepts, the man is a wholly talented actor and has more to give after decades in the business. ○

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

## Film Reviews

### CODA

What's it rated? **PG-13** When? **2021**  
Where's it showing? **Apple TV Plus**

Writer-director Sian Heder helms this American version of French and Spanish language film *La famille Belier*. It's a touching family tale that has all the trappings of a cheesy, saccharin-filled flick, but *Coda* quickly rises above that status and is a wonderful, joy-filled yet tear-inducing watch that leaves us buoyant with light and hope.

Emilia Jones is wonderful as the loyal and overtaxed Ruby, the only hearing member of the Rossi family. They live in a small town whose economy relies on the fishing industry, and the Rossi family is having trouble making ends meet with their small production. The mongers are squeezing the fishermen, and the Rossi family is forced to think about selling their boat. As the only one able to communicate with those around them, Ruby is relied on to be her family's advocate and interpreter. She's frustrated with the fact that this may mean she's doomed to never leave home, but Ruby has dreams and a beautiful voice that could carry her far away.

When she signs up for choir after witnessing her crush do the

PHOTO COURTESY OF VENDOME PICTURES AND PATHÉ FILMS



**CHILD OF DEAF ADULTS (CODA):** Ruby (Emilia Jones, left) is a gifted singer from an otherwise deaf family—(second from left to right) mom Jackie (Marlee Matlin), dad Frank (Troy Kotsur), and brother Leo (Daniel Durant)—who must decide whether to stay and be her family's hearing interpreter or have a life of her own, in *Coda*.

same, Ruby meets teacher Bernardo Villalobos (Eugenio Derbez), who sees incredible potential in Ruby and doesn't intend to let her waste her talents. This film is funny and sweet and overall a really heartwarming story of how a family can stay together even when they

**NEW FLICKS**

have to be apart. This is absolutely worth watching! (111 mins.)  
—Anna

### SWEET GIRL

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

Brian Andrew Mendoza directs this action thriller about Ray Cooper (Jason Momoa), whose wife, Amanda (Adria Arjona), dies from cancer because a lifesaving generic version of an expensive treatment is pulled from the market. In a moment of pique, Ray promises to kill the greedy people responsible, but instead, a hitman tries to kill him and his daughter, Rachel (Isabela Merced).

What follows is a predictable and generic revenge tale with what is undoubtedly one of the dumbest and least effective third-act twists in recent memory. I literally groaned out loud and wondered why there were still 20 minutes left on this clunker. It's pretty bad even by straight-to-video standards.

On the positive side, there're some good action and fight sequences. Its Pittsburg setting is a love letter to the city. Momoa is engaging here and definitely proves he can act, and the chemistry between him and Merced as his daughter is believable. Still,

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASAP ENTERTAINMENT



**OUT FOR JUSTICE:** After his wife dies thanks to Big Pharma greed, Ray (Jason Momoa, right) searches for the culprits while protecting his daughter, Rachel (Isabela Merced), in *Sweet Girl*.

this is basically a weak family drama punctuated by fight sequences, leading to the eye-rolling reveal that will have you shaking your head. If I had missed it, I wouldn't have felt the worse for it. (96 min.) ○

—Glen

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*Alma Rosa Winery raises more than \$175,000 to benefit mental health organizations during annual fundraiser hike*

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Find out more about Alma Rosa Winery by calling (805) 691-9395 or visiting [almarosawinery.com](http://almarosawinery.com). The winery's tasting room is currently located at 181 Industrial Way, suite C, Buellton.

**TRAILBLAZERS:** More than 150 participants took part in Alma Rosa Winery's second annual fundraiser hike, Peace of Mind: 10,000 Steps in the Right Direction. This year's event raised \$177,896 to benefit two mental health nonprofits.

COURTESY PHOTO BY LENA BRITT PHOTOGRAPHY

COURTESY PHOTO BY CIRO COELHO

### BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Cold water, iced tea, and protein bars weren't the only refreshments awaiting hikers at the summit of their uphill journey through Alma Rosa Winery's 628-acre property, during the estate's second annual fundraiser hike—Peace of Mind: 10,000 Steps in the Right Direction.

While participants had wine tastings to look forward to at both the halfway point and the end of their 4.5-mile trek, they were cautioned that the event wouldn't be "a walk in the park," said the winery's general manager, Debra Eagle.

"We had to communicate that clearly with people, it wasn't going to be flatland. They'd have to come and have some physical stamina," Eagle said. "You're not just walking around an oval at a high school track or something."

"There's literally a lot of ground to cover, but I think people were really excited," added Eagle, before commenting on the unique, panoramic views of the property, which is situated on the north-facing slopes of the Santa Rosa Hills.

"Those views aren't generally available if you drive down the road and visit other wineries—the tasting rooms are on the valley floor, you're not getting up into the hills the way you can from our property," Eagle said. "Our furthest vineyard's about 800 feet in elevation."

Sweeping views and sparkling wine (Alma Rosa's 2018 estate sparkling brut, to be precise) aside, the real incentive for hikers to take part in the 2021 Peace of Mind fundraiser was the chance to hike for a great cause—or two. Proceeds of this year's event, which took place at the end of July, were dispersed between two beneficiaries—One Mind and the Mental Wellness Center—in support of both organizations' dedication to mental health awareness.

"The funds raised from the event will make a significant difference in the fight against anxiety and depression in our local community and beyond," Alma Rosa Winery's co-owner, Bob Zorich, said in press materials.

Of the \$177,896 in proceeds raised during this year's event, \$70,000 came from matching funds contributed by Zorich and his wife and winery co-owner, Barb.

"Bob's work is very involved in supporting mental health organizations around the country," Eagle said of Zorich, who currently serves as the chairman of the Hope and Healing Center and Institute in Houston.

Zorich and his wife have been Alma Rosa's owners since 2014, about a decade after the estate was founded by its original owner, Richard Sanford, aka "the godfather of Santa Barbara pinot noir."

Sanford's name alone was one of the big draws for Eagle, who moved from the Napa Valley to the Central Coast in 2018 to join the Alma Rosa team as its general manager.

"I've had the opportunity to work for two very well-known pioneers in the industry—Robert Mondavi and Bill Harlan. And Richard Sanford is one of the last remaining California wine pioneers," Eagle said.

Although he's no longer the estate's owner, Sanford, widely known as the first vintner to plant pinot noir in the Sta. Rita Hills in 1971, was present during the Peace of Mind fundraiser's closing reception, where he casually chatted with participants who had just



**TEAM LEADER:** Debra Eagle (pictured) moved from the Napa Valley to the Central Coast in 2018, the same year she took the job as Alma Rosa Winery's general manager. Eagle said she fell in love with the area right away, especially "the warmth and the proximity to the beaches."

returned from the hike.

The reception took place at Alma Rosa Winery's historic ranch house, where winemaker Samra Morris was on hand treating guests to pours of her latest releases, including grenache rosé and chardonnay.

Near the end of August, Morris released a new line of 2019 pinot noir, which is available to taste at the Alma Rosa tasting room on Industrial Way in Buellton.

Come October though, the tasting room is moving to a brand new location on Mission Drive in downtown Solvang.

"It hasn't been an easy decision. We have a beautiful tasting room on Industrial Way. But we wanted to get into an area with high traffic," Eagle said. "We'll be in the heart of Solvang."

No matter which urban street the tasting room moves to though, guests aren't likely to find the same kind of foot traffic they might have encountered at Alma Rosa's estate, where the big hike took place, Eagle explained.

"There is a fair amount of wildlife on our property. We've got



**CHEERS:** Aside from the chance to enjoy sweeping views and sparkling-wine tastings, the real incentive for hikers to take part in the 2021 Peace of Mind fundraiser was the opportunity to raise proceeds for two beneficiaries—One Mind and the Mental Wellness Center—in support of both organizations' dedication to mental health awareness.

COURTESY PHOTO BY LENA BRITT PHOTOGRAPHY



**BETWEEN THE WINES:** At the end of the fundraiser hike, guests made their way to Alma Rosa Winery's historic ranch house for a closing reception, where winemaker Samra Morris (pictured) was on hand treating guests to pours of some of her latest releases.

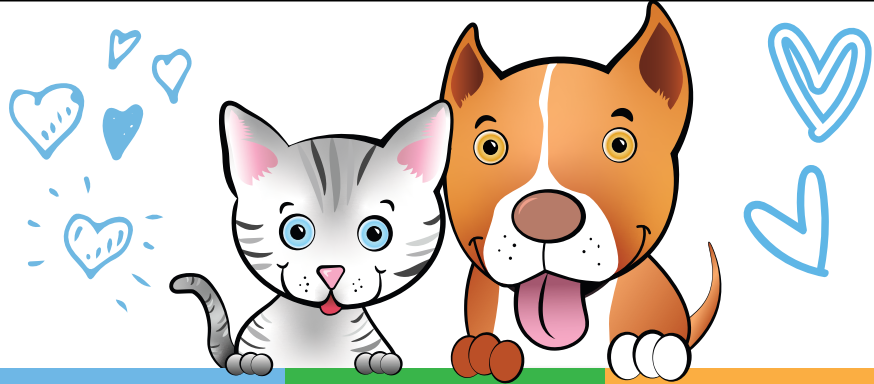
at least three bobcats, and one mountain lion, and snakes," said Eagle, who recommended that hikers not wander far from the trail during the fundraiser. "I didn't want to be responsible for somebody running into a mountain lion, or a boar." ○

Stay on track with Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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