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AT THE MOVIES

Misha and the Wolves:
engrossing [22]



Temporary home

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Good Samaritan gets ready to open a Pallet sheltering program in Lompoc with the help of county partners. The 90-day program connects homeless individuals with services and an 8-by-8 shed equipped with a bed, access to a shower and bathroom, and more. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with Good Sam and its county partners about what to expect and previous success in Isla Vista [8].

You can also read about what Guadalupe is doing to make room for 50 percent more residents [4]; a standout performance in PCPA's *Lady Day* [20]; and a delicious, rustic dinner in Los Alamos [23].

Camillia Lanham
editor



PLACE TO LAY YOUR HEAD: Pallet shelters equipped with a bed and private space aim to get homeless individuals into more permanent housing situations within 90 days.

Cover photo by Taylor O'Connor > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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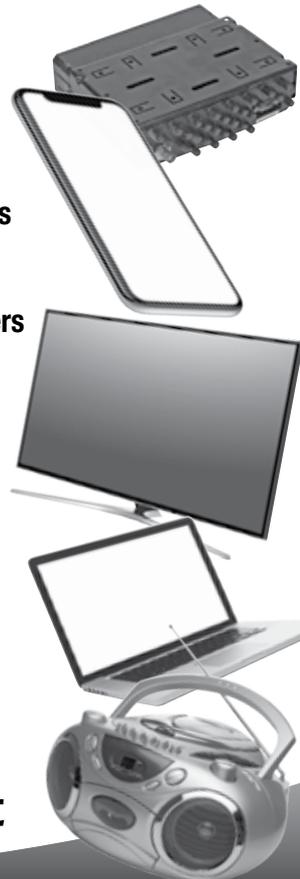
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Political Watch

• California legislators released statements on the U.S. service members killed in Afghanistan, including those who were California residents. On Aug. 27, **U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla** (D-California) honored **U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui** and **Cpl. Hunter Lopez** of California, who were killed in a bombing. “Our hearts are heavy with the tragic news of these two young heroes who died courageously serving their country,” Padilla said in the statement. “Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui and Cpl. Hunter Lopez served their country with honor, and we all owe a debt of gratitude for their selfless and ultimate sacrifice.” A day later, Padilla released another statement on the 13 total service members killed in the Aug. 26 Kabul attack, including 10 who were based at Camp Pendleton and four California residents. “I remain committed to advocating for the safe and expedited evacuation of Americans, our allies, and vulnerable Afghans,” Padilla said. “I am also thinking of the close-knit community surrounding Camp Pendleton. This is a devastating loss for a community that has welcomed so many brave American daughters and sons with open arms.” On Aug. 28, **Gov. Gavin Newsom** also released a statement honoring the 13 service members. “California joins the nation in mourning the tragic loss of 13 U.S. service members, including those from California, and many other innocent victims in this heinous attack,” Newsom said. “Our heroic troops gave their lives to protect others amid harrowing and dangerous conditions, and we will never forget their bravery and selfless sacrifice in service to our nation.” The governor ordered flags at all state buildings to be flown at half-staff in honor of the victims, according to the statement from Newsom’s office.

• On Aug. 23, **Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham** (R-San Luis Obispo) announced that he voted in favor of Senate Bill 10, a piece of legislation that seeks to cut red tape for housing projects. The bill “allows a city or county to increase the number of housing units allowed on a residential parcel, or upzone, without having to conduct an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act,” according to Cunningham’s office. “We need to make sure our state is affordable for all generations. Without an increase in housing supply, we risk an unaffordable future,” Cunningham said in a statement. “Market-based solutions like SB 10 cut red tape and make it easier to build new units, and give an important tool to our local governments.” According to a California Department of Housing and Community Development report, the state needs 1.8 million new housing units by 2025 to meet projected demand, according to Cunningham’s office. Since 2015, the state has averaged 80,000 new units a year, making supply lower than demand. “The Central Coast is already unaffordable. Without an increase in our local housing supply, it will be impossible for the next generation to stay here,” Cunningham added in an Aug. 26 Facebook post. “Specifically, this bill gives local city councils the ability to rezone residential parcels for more units without having to conduct expensive and onerous regulatory studies.”

• The California League of Conservation Voters recognized state **Sen. Monique Limón** (D-Santa Barbara) for her legislative efforts to protect the climate and mitigate climate change. She thanked the organization in an Aug. 27 Facebook post. “Thank you, California League of Conservation Voters for the recognition,” Limón wrote. “Now more than ever, we must continue protecting our environment and at-risk areas. Climate impacts affect human health, and we must do our part for ourselves and the future of our loved ones.” The California League of Conservation Voters has been around since 1972, protecting “the land, air, water, and health of all California communities by electing environmental champions, advancing critical state and federal legislation, and holding policymakers accountable to combating the effects of our catastrophic climate crisis,” according to the organization’s website. ○



GETTING BIGGER: Guadalupe’s draft general plan proposes ways to accommodate population growth in the coming years. The city expects to grow by about 50 percent.

Affordable housing, zoning density addressed by Guadalupe’s draft general plan

Guadalupe is planning for future population growth of more than 50 percent, and looking to accommodate that swell with higher density housing.

The city released its draft 2021 general plan update in late August, and the City Council discussed it at an Aug. 26 meeting. The council gave staff direction to move forward with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, City Planning Director Larry Appel said, so the plan can be finalized.

Appel said the general plan is updated every 20 years, and this time around, the draft lays out a plan for moderate growth in Guadalupe. From the current population of just more than 8,000, the city expects to increase to about 12,500 in the coming years. But, Appel emphasized, the plan does not suggest expanding the urban boundary of Guadalupe.

“The city of Santa Maria is going through a general plan update, and they are wanting to expand eastward to incorporate hundreds of acres for future expansion,” Appel said. “Guadalupe is surrounded by prime agricultural land and the City Council didn’t think it was appropriate to expand.”

Instead, Guadalupe’s draft plan proposes changing the zoning and designations so the city can have higher density in certain areas. For example, land to the west of the central business district is currently zoned for general commercial, but the plan recommends changing this area to high density residential zoning, Appel said.

The draft plan also increases the maximum housing unit allowances for the three different categories of residential zoning—low, medium, and high.

Increasing housing and making room for expansion, what Appel called upzoning, are efforts in pursuit of meeting the city’s regional housing needs allocation.

“The state says, ‘Santa Barbara County, you

need to give us X number of affordable units over the next housing element cycle,’ which runs for eight years,” Appel said.

The next cycle starts in 2023.

The current cycle required Guadalupe to make room for 49 new affordable housing units, something the city was able to achieve. But in the next one, that number is increasing to 431. Appel said the proposed zoning and density adjustments will be enough to reach that number, but whether those affordable units actually get built is largely out of the city’s hands.

“It’s important to understand the city doesn’t have to develop the units but must have adequate land and densities so these units are possible,” Appel said. “It’s totally up to the developers, it’s up to the economy.”

Appel said there are a few local developers with family roots in Guadalupe who want to build affordable housing. There are also large developments in the works, like the Pasadera homes, that are approved to add hundreds of units once fully built out. But, this project isn’t considered affordable by state standards, so it doesn’t count toward the city’s regional housing needs allocation.

California also mandates that jurisdictions allow people to add an additional unit to their property if they desire, called an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). These units don’t contribute to density numbers, but they do increase the strain on parking, city water and sewer supply, and other infrastructure.

If the ADUs are affordable, “we can get credit for them,” Appel said. “But the impact that they’re having on the city may catch up with us at some point because of the parking issues and providing utilities.”

Despite some of the anticipated utility challenges the city may face as it expands, compounded by the ongoing drought issues, “the city of Guadalupe is well on its way to meeting all state and regional requirements related to water, wastewater, solid waste, and drainage facilities and is well positioned to accommodate the future growth anticipated,” the draft general plan states.

—Malea Martin

County to target encampments as a way to address homelessness issues

On Aug. 31, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to move forward with a plan to get individuals out of homeless encampments by providing needed services and coordinating across cities and the county.

Department of Housing and Community Development Homeless Assistance Program Manager Kimberlee Albers and Deputy Director Dinah Lockhart presented a plan to the board that would resolve 45 camps over the next three years with 60 percent of participants accessing alternative shelters through an encampment response protocol and team, increased access to shelters, long-term rental subsidies, mental health assistance, new permanent housing units and sustained adequate funding.

“It is not safe or healthy for people to live unsheltered. Concerns for health, sanitation and safety should be addressed. This outreach will be released on county properties with intense one-on-one engagement and increased housing in a three-year effort,” Albers said.

In the past six months, the county gained 339 rapid re-housing units, 137 temporary housing beds, 46 permanent housing units and saw an overall increase of people transitioning out of homelessness, but Albers said there is an overarching need to completely end homelessness in Santa Barbara County.

“We looked at previous strategies in other communities, and received input from stakeholders and task forces. This is a resolution strategy that benefits all jurisdictions,” Albers said.

Housing and Community Development asked the board to adopt the plan, provide direction on resources, and give a budget of \$1.9 million for a new encampment response coordinator, a new data entry system using infrared technologies to track encampment populations, training the response team, and new transitional housing issues.

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“The availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, as well as secured and anticipated state and federal funding initiatives through COVID-19, present a unique opportunity to respond to the increased presence of encampments, and to assist the unsheltered population,” a county staff report states.

Even with funding for the first three years of the program, the problem is the “funding cliff,” Albers said. Funds addressing homelessness are often one-time state grants, so the project can get off the ground but there is nothing to sustain it. Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart said that the county needed to express the need for predictable, accountable funds to state and federal entities.

“We need them in a timely manner to get solutions. There are logistical constraints that will require patience and just can’t roll with it and clean it up,” Hart said. “We are engaging and doing the work that needs to be done to build a path to end homelessness.”

Part of the long-term solution includes collaboration with other jurisdictions, private entities, and residents. First District Supervisor Das Williams specifically called for collaboration with lot owners in order to gain lots and space for housing facilities.

“If people want to do this faster, we need 14 more sites to make this happen. Don’t be more afraid of the solution than you are of the problem. Don’t rely on government sites, but allow us to rent your sites from you for you to make money and help in solving this issue,” he said. “We need to do more, we can do more.”

Although he is concerned about finances, Hart said it was really important for the community to understand the information presented at the meeting.

“We’ve all been concerned with homelessness for decades,” he said. “There is an urgency to take bold action, change lives, and see a long-term reduction in homelessness in the county.”

—Taylor O’Connor

Carbajal requests millions of dollars in funding for local projects

Community projects from Santa Barbara to Cambria stand to gain millions of dollars in funding thanks to Congressman Salud Carbajal’s requests in House-passed appropriations bills.

Earlier this year, the House appropriations committee announced it would accept requests from Congress members to fund specific projects in their communities. Each member could submit up to 10 projects for potential inclusion in a dozen different appropriations bills the committee was considering. The House of Representatives voted to pass nine of those bills, which include funding for eight of the 10 projects that Carbajal submitted. Now, that legislation needs to get passed by the Senate before it can head to the president’s desk.

The House-approved projects span Carbajal’s entire district, and would deliver nearly \$12 million of funding to the Central Coast. The projects range from refurbishing water tanks in Cambria, to adding affordable housing in San Luis Obispo, to restoring LeRoy Park in Guadalupe, to a seismic upgrade for the Santa Barbara County Veterans’ building—and more.

“This is a new opportunity that both Republicans and Democrats agreed on to look at funding community projects like the ones that I was able to submit,” Carbajal said. “I want to underscore the bipartisan nature of this approach. ... This is the first time Congress has done this in decades.”

Carbajal said the projects had to illustrate broad community support, be

feasible to implement, and be within a certain cost parameter. These criteria helped Carbajal decide which projects to submit for funding.

The two projects not yet approved by the House include a \$5.6 million public safety communications system in SLO County, and a \$1.2 million Santa Maria intersection signalization project.

The Santa Maria intersection project, Carbajal said, “is one of the projects that Sen. [Dianne] Feinstein has also put forward, so it still has a lifeline, and I’m still hopeful that it will be considered.”

The SLO County public safety communications system could also still get funded in one of the three still-pending appropriations bills.

None of it is final until the Senate passes the bills, too, and President Joe Biden signs them in, but Carbajal is confident that will happen.

“This is a major step forward in the House, and now it’s up to the Senate,” Carbajal said. “We have every indication and hope that the Senate will continue to include these.”

—Malea Martin

Santa Maria to experience temporary road closures and water shutoffs

Starting on Sept. 6, Santa Maria residents could experience temporary water service interruptions as the city replaces water line valves and other water distribution system facilities along Broadway.

“This equipment is likely decades old and at the end of its expected life. We are going to go through different intersections and replace 51 valves,” said Santa Maria Public Information Manager Mark van de Kamp. “The new and modern water valves and related equipment will ensure continuity of reliable water service for decades.”

This project coincides with the Caltrans Pavement Rehabilitation Project, which is scheduled for spring 2022. Broadway has been on the radar of Caltrans for quite some time, van de Kamp said.

“Anyone who’s been on Broadway knows it is in really bad shape. Caltrans is aware, and they’ve been waiting to do this project,” he said.

The water project had to begin before the road was repaved so the city wasn’t drilling into a freshly paved road, van de Kamp said. The water valve project, valued at \$675,000, is funded by the city’s water fund, an enterprise fund that accounts for all resources used to provide water services to the city, van de Kamp said.

It will begin at the intersection of Taylor and Broadway and will extend down to McCoy Lane. Instead of shutting multiple water valves off during the day, the city will work on individual sections of the road.

Residents and businesses will be notified at least 48 hours in advance of the exact date and estimated timeframe when they can expect water service to be interrupted on their properties.

Water service will be interrupted between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and will be restored at 4 p.m. unless there is an unexpected issue. Betteravia and Broadway will potentially have night work due to the number of valves being serviced, van de Kamp said.

The city of Santa Maria advises residents and businesses to prepare for the day by taking the appropriate steps to save water as well as to plan ahead for road closures in the area, according to the city.

Direct questions about the project to the Department of Public Works, Engineering Division at (805) 925-0951, Ext. 2225, or follow cityofsantamaria.org/ Broadway for updates. ○

—Taylor O’Connor

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A collaborative spirit

The Good Samaritan Shelter works with Lompoc and Santa Barbara County to provide Pallet sheltering for homeless in the community

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Outside the Bridgehouse Homeless Shelter in Lompoc, 18 8-by-8-foot sheds sit on freshly laid asphalt in a circle. Beds, flowers, a bag of snacks, and water inside each welcome their guests. Picnic tables sit under the shaded middle of the neighborhood with potted plants scattered around.

The white buildings—which will be painted purple, red, and orange—are part of the Good Samaritan Shelter's 90-day Pallet sheltering program designed to help the homeless population with mental illnesses or social anxieties, among other issues. The 64-square-foot shelters are made by Pallet, a Washington-based company, and are designed to be set up quickly—some in less than an hour.

"It's the perfect opportunity to reach an unreachable cross-section of homeless that would not come into a shelter," said Brian Halterman, Good Samaritan's Lompoc homeless and housing program director.

Halterman and his team hosted a preview of the Pallet shelters on Aug. 26. The program will begin in mid-September and will stay in Lompoc for the long term, Halterman said at the event.

Good Samaritan executive board member Tom Jenkins said that working with partners in the county enables the organization to help the community.

"We really appreciate all the county work that went behind this," Jenkins said. "This really is a great opportunity, and it will have a major impact."

Good Samaritan has served the homeless population in Santa Maria since 1987, with its Lompoc shelter opening in 2006. Its mission is to provide emergency, transitional, and affordable housing along with support services to the homeless and those in recovery throughout the Central Coast.

Lompoc's new Pallet sheltering program follows a similar program in Isla Vista that had 20 shelters and assisted 40 people through the 90-day program, with 24 of its residents moving into permanent housing and the others moving to Hedges House of Hope.

Halterman said Good Samaritan's team and county partners wanted to continue the use of the Pallet shelters and turned to Lompoc because the city has dealt with recurring issues within the Santa Ynez Riverbed.

In 2018, Lompoc City Council approved a half-million-dollar contract to clean up the riverbed by removing more than a million pounds of debris and providing 90-day eviction notices to the large homeless population residing there, said Lompoc Mayor Janelle Osborne.

"The problem is that the prior council did not choose to maintain the cleanup," she said. "You can't do a cleanup and eviction project without enough housing."

Four years later, numbers are climbing again, Osborne said.

According to 2020 Santa Barbara County data, the city of Lompoc has a total of 211 unsheltered people in the area.

Osborne said there will be another cleanup that follows the 2018 model, but this time around there's a Pallet sheltering option provided.

Pallet sheltering funding came from the state-initiated Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), said Santa Barbara County Homeless Assistance Programs Manager Kimberlee Albers. The dollars went through Santa Barbara County to Good Samaritan to pay for the 20 shelters from Isla Vista, a shower and bathroom

trailer, its transportation to Lompoc, and other miscellaneous services, such as electricity and pavement, for the Lompoc site.

Although Albers said she believes Pallet housing is a step in the right direction, "It's not good that people have to live in Pallets and not apartments. We have to realize the primary reason people experience homelessness is a lack of affordable housing."

Average rent in Lompoc is around \$1,613 per month, a 9 percent increase over last year, according to rentcafe.com.

"It's easy to point fingers and make it about the person, but it really is about a system that is spiraling and rents continuing to soar," she said.

Albers said she commends the Board of Supervisors for leading on this issue, identifying sites, and putting projects in the pipeline.

Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson was a key actor in this project, Halterman said.

Nelson spoke at the preview event, commending the project.

"The county is continuing to lean on the people of Good Samaritan more and more, and I'm just glad they have broad shoulders. There's a lot of money coming this way and we have to make sure we are effectively using that to get the most we can from this [program]," Nelson said. "This window is not going to be around forever, it's just the issue of the day. We need to strike while the iron is hot, make sure we fill capacity, change lives, and hopefully bend a curve that we've had in our community for a long time."

Nelson said Lompoc and the county are ahead of the game in terms of combatting this issue by providing Pallet sheltering and a group shelter on one campus, creating a unique community.

The Pallet sheltering provides the same number of resources and connections to individuals as those staying in dorm-like facilities, Halterman said. Those entering the shelter will speak with a base manager who will connect them with community partners that are critical to the 90-day program. The biggest service is getting everyone "document-ready."

Oftentimes, people don't have the appropriate paperwork to apply for housing once an

opportunity arrives, Halterman explained. Good Samaritan helps people get all of their information into one place so they can move into a permanent setting of their own as well as provides services to help their overall well-being, he said.

The county Department of Behavioral Wellness links each person to services like psychological and psychiatric assessments, medication management, therapy services, and case management. Each service—and the frequency of help provided—is individualized based on the person's needs, said Suzanne Grimmesey, a public information officer with the Department of Behavioral Wellness.

"Our partnership becomes critical to keep the flow of services and connections going to serve mental health needs," she said.

The array of services provided is important to Santa Barbara County Deputy Probation Officers Bonnie O'Neill and Monica Hernandez, who often work with people found in situations at the Santa Ynez Riverbed and make referrals to Good Samaritan.

The two probation officers visited the preview and said they are both pleased to see Pallet shelters coming to Lompoc.

"It's a great option when we have a clientele that needs help with permanent housing; specifically, those with mental health issues who

may feel overwhelmed or anxious in larger settings. This way, they can be alone and still in a safe space," O'Neill said.

O'Neill said they frequently find that clients who would rather be alone go into the riverbed, which isn't safe due to violence among other

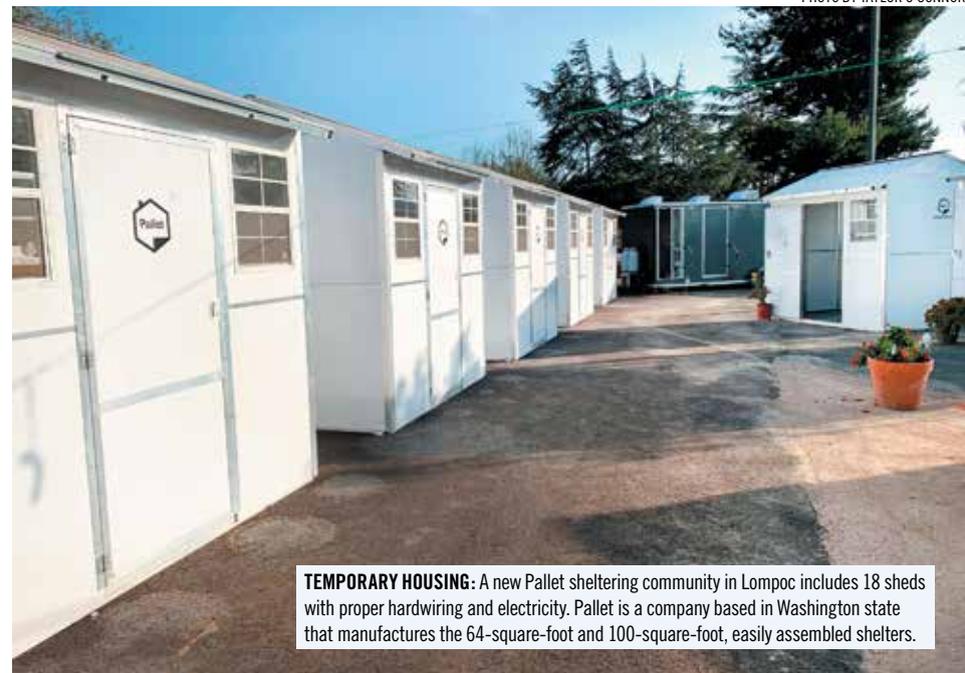
issues. By attending the Pallet sheltering preview, both probation officers said they feel equipped with enough information to point their clients in Good Samaritan's direction.

While probation officers can make referrals, the selection process has not been clarified yet nor have potential residents been selected for the Pallet shelters. Halterman said it will be an "equitable process," with low barriers decided in conjunction with community partners in order to find those best suited for this living situation.

"These Pallet shelters are going to give us the opportunity with Good Sam to serve 20 to 30 people in a way that many traditionally will not enter our shelter systems," Halterman said. "They may come in for those 90 days, engage with drug treatment and mental health services. We can help move through the process from being without a home to having a place to call their own." ○

Reach Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR



TEMPORARY HOUSING: A new Pallet sheltering community in Lompoc includes 18 sheds with proper hardwiring and electricity. Pallet is a company based in Washington state that manufactures the 64-square-foot and 100-square-foot, easily assembled shelters.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY RIDERS CLUB

Preserving horse country

The Santa Ynez Valley Riders hits the trails to enjoy the equestrian community

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

After months of lockdown and social distancing, Santa Ynez Valley Riders President Kathleen Rosenthal is eager to hit the trails once again and invites others to join the club, with half-priced memberships offered through the end of 2021.

"It's a good way to get outside and get exercise. It's really good for your health; it's really good for your mind and to get out with friends to enjoy the outdoors," Rosenthal said.

The riding club—which has promoted trail advocacy and rider safety since 1952—brings the riding community together with opportunities for trail rides with friends and family members through Central Coast landscapes.

"Our memberships, as I'm sure it is for many different types of nonprofits, are dwindling," Rosenthal said.

Prior to the pandemic, Rosenthal said club membership had a high of 75. But now it has about 25 members with a goal of gaining 25 more by emailing previous members and sending newsletters along with the offer of discounted membership plans.

Half-priced plans are \$50 per year for a family, \$30 a year for adults over 18, and \$20 for youth under 18. Day passes are \$20, and social passes,

which are for those not riding but who wish to join for lunch, are \$15 for a single person. The next riding event is on Saturday, Aug. 21, at Los Flores Ranch.

One of Rosenthal's membership goals is to attract younger riders either through a pony program that introduces young people to trail riding and its benefits or by adding horse camping to the club's programming.

Along with the membership growth, "We are trying to network with other riding groups here along the coast, particularly the San Luis Obispo and Monterey area to enjoy the trails and enjoy each other's company. We need to come together and pool our resources so that we can keep our club going," Rosenthal said.

The Santa Ynez Valley Riders is involved with the developing Santa Barbara County-wide recreational master plan. Rosenthal and her team are helping the county reach out to the equestrian community through a survey on the club's website.

"It's an effort by the county to solicit feedback from the communities on what they think is needed," she said. "This recreational management plan is going to be kind of a blueprint for recreation in the county for the next 30 years."

Most of the responses received ask for more trails and the need for a horse camp or some type of horse facility, Rosenthal said. The county follows a multi-use paradigm that makes trail riding more difficult than it used to be.

"We're trying to advocate for more equitable trails and make them safer because we are really an aging group as far as recreational users go. The largest trail riding group in the equestrian world right now is about ages 40 to 85," she said.

Rosenthal said she wants to see riders continue sharing their passion.

"I've been riding my entire life. Now, riders are no longer the top recreator like we once were,"



PRESERVING HORSE COUNTRY: Santa Ynez Valley Riders Club members hit the trails to spend time outdoors with a community of people with shared interests.

Rosenthal said. "We are in horse country, and we are trying to preserve what is left of our history."

Highlights

- Free COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered on Fridays at Santa Maria's Downtown Fridays through a partnership with the city and the county Public Health Department. A list of vaccination sites can be found at publichealthsb.org with appointments available at myturn.ca.gov. Santa Maria Area Transit is offering free rides to COVID-19 vaccination appointments for eligible ADA paratransit riders. Riders can schedule next-day services or up to 14 days in advance; residents are encouraged to book in advance. To schedule a ride, call (805) 928-5624.

- The Santa Maria Public Library's Valley Reads Book Club will begin its next book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, with the first meeting on Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. in Shepard Hall. The book recounts Skloot's investigation of Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman whose cells were cultured without her permission when she died of cervical cancer in 1951. The biography explores the long history of experimentation of nonconsenting Black people in American medicine. Those interested in participating can register by visiting cityofsantamaria.org/library or by calling (805) 925-0994. ○

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. She can be reached at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

UPCOMING SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

BACIU, GINA LYNN, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 8/25/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HARWOOD, CAROL ANN, 83, of Santa Maria passed away 8/24/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BAKER, MELDEEN PATRICIA, 82, of Atascadero passed away 8/19/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

LOPEZ, ERYKA DENISE, 23, of Santa Maria passed away 8/25/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BALDWIN, VIRGINIA E., 99, of Atascadero passed away 8/19/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MARSHALL, MARY, 94, of Morro Bay passed away 8/20/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CANDELARIA, DEBRA LYNN, 62, of Lompoc passed away 8/18/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

POLTA, HORTENCIA, 79, of Santa Maria passed away 8/27/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

CHAVEZ, LEANDRO "VEVE," 70, of Oceano passed away 8/25/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

PRONTO, NICHOLAS JR., 67, of San Luis Obispo passed away 8/24/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CLIFFORD, GLORIA, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 8/26/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

REICH, KEITH LARRY, 55, of Santa Margarita, passed away 8/23/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

COLBERG, REV.MSGR JAMES P., 92, of Santa Maria passed away 8/28/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

ROGERS, STELLA, 44, of San Luis Obispo passed away 8/19/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

COX, ANDY, 59, of Arroyo Grande passed away 8/26/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ROSENSTEEL, WILLIAM JR., 90, of Pismo Beach passed away 8/22/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CUELHO, ALVIN, 91, formerly of Oceano passed away 8/18/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ROSS, HELEN LURANA, 99, of Lompoc passed away 8/13/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

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SANTOS, EUGENE, 79, of Grover Beach passed away 8/24/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ESTRADA, LAZARO MIKE, 74, of Templeton passed away 8/19/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

SIMPSON, DAVID, 71, of Templeton passed away 8/20/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

FRASSICA, SHIRLEY, 85, of Grover Beach passed away 8/17/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

SORENSEN, LEE, 87, of Arroyo Grande passed away 8/20/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GARCIA, DANIEL, 25, of Santa Maria passed away 8/25/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TOBIN, RACHEL ALVARADO, 67, of Santa Maria passed away 8/17/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GASSER, LOREN WALTER, 80, of Santa Maria passed away 8/24/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

WAGNER, JENS, 89, of Arroyo Grande passed away 8/25/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GOAD, KELLY, 59, of Grover Beach passed away 8/16/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

WILEY, CLAIRE, 87, of Grover Beach passed away 8/20/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

GONZALEZ, DAVID, 54, of Santa Maria passed away 8/24/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

WILLCUTT, JAMES MILTON, 77, of Santa Maria passed away 8/23/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GRIFFIN, EDWARD F., 92, of Lompoc passed away 7/31/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

WILLIAMS, LUISA LAGUNZAD, 92, of Lompoc passed away 8/22/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

AUTUMN ARTS

BOOK ADS BY: September 17

PUBLICATION DATE: September 23

We're proud to present the annual Autumn Arts guide to everything arts-related happening on the Central Coast

AWARENESS

BOOK ADS BY: October 1

PUBLICATION DATE: October 7

Stories in this issue will focus on awareness of breast cancer and domestic violence

FALL/WINTER 2021

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FEATURE STORIES BY: September 24

BOOK ADS BY: October 8

PUBLICATION DATE: Late October

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 - 25%** It's the state's promise that never delivers.
 - 17%** State water? I barely know her.
 - 8%** It's helped California become one of the nation's leading agricultural producers.
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We welcome submissions. Please accompany them with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All letters to the editor become the property of the Sun.

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Vote no

Why you should vote in the recall election

BY GALE MCNEELEY

If Gavin Newsom does not receive more than 50 percent of the vote on Sept. 14, one of his opponents can become governor with as little as 5 percent of the vote.

That's right, a majority is needed to vote Newsom out of office, but a majority is not needed to choose his successor. The recall system is broken.

From the 46 candidates running, the one who gets the most votes out of the whole pack will become California's next governor, that is until the next election for governor a year from now.

Do we want to replace Newsom so badly that we will settle on someone who does not have broad public support? I don't. Especially when a majority of the voters can replace Newsom in

2022 with the candidate of their choice.

It seems crazy to vote a governor out because we don't agree with his policies. He has done nothing illegal. He has partnered with state senators and Assembly members who we elected with a majority of the vote to govern us fairly.

Republicans can't restrict the vote in California like they are doing in dozens of states. But they can twist the vote in California by using the "recall" to elect one of their own with a tiny minority of the votes.

Republicans, who can't win a statewide office like the governorship in a democratic election, are behind this recall. Nationwide they are spending millions of dollars to steal the election from the majority of the voters in California.

What can we do to save our state from these robbers?

There is an easy solution. On the ballot you've received in the mail there are two questions for you to answer. The first: Shall Gavin Newsom be recalled (removed) from the office of governor? Yes or no.

If you, and a majority of the voters, vote no, Newsom will complete his current term and have to run in the 2022 primary election against candidates of all

What '30 by 30' is not

Conservation plan is not a land grab

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE

The 30 by 30 plan is a big deal. The Biden administration's recognition of the need to conserve 30 percent of the nation's natural lands by 2030 to head off mass extinction and the worst effects of climate change entails a big plan, and it is an axiom of Newtonian political law that the announcement of any large-scale plan shall meet pushback.

A local specimen of that pushback is on view in the August issue of *Atascadero News Magazine*. The factually vague nature of the piece is telegraphed by multiple references to the 30 by 30 plan as "the bill" and "the Assembly bill." But the only 30 by 30

legislation extant is an attempt to overturn Biden's executive order, introduced by Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kansas) and U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colorado), based on the fear that "Biden's executive order would take working farm and ranch land out of production," as reported by *Brownfield - Ag News for America*.

"Our legislation . . . would stop that right there in its tracks and say 'no, you're not going to come take our land,'" Marshall said. "It's constitutionally protected, by the way. We don't want the government taking our land and we don't want them forcing productive land into conservation."

Two consecutive sentences in the *Brownfield* article underscore the disconnect between the whipped-up fears and the reality of the actual plan:

"During a press call in early May, Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack said the plan emphasizes and rewards voluntary conservation efforts. But Marshall said

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Gale McNeeley wrote to the Sun from Santa Maria. Send comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

using eminent domain to take private land is wrong."

"Eminent domain" appears nowhere in the administration's proposal, Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful. "Voluntary" appears 18 times. The report's eight foundational principles include "honor private property rights and support the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners and fishers," which notes that, "Efforts to conserve and restore America's lands and waters must respect the rights of private property owners. Such efforts must also build trust among all communities and stakeholders, including by recognizing and rewarding the voluntary conservation efforts of private landowners and the science-based approaches of fishery managers."

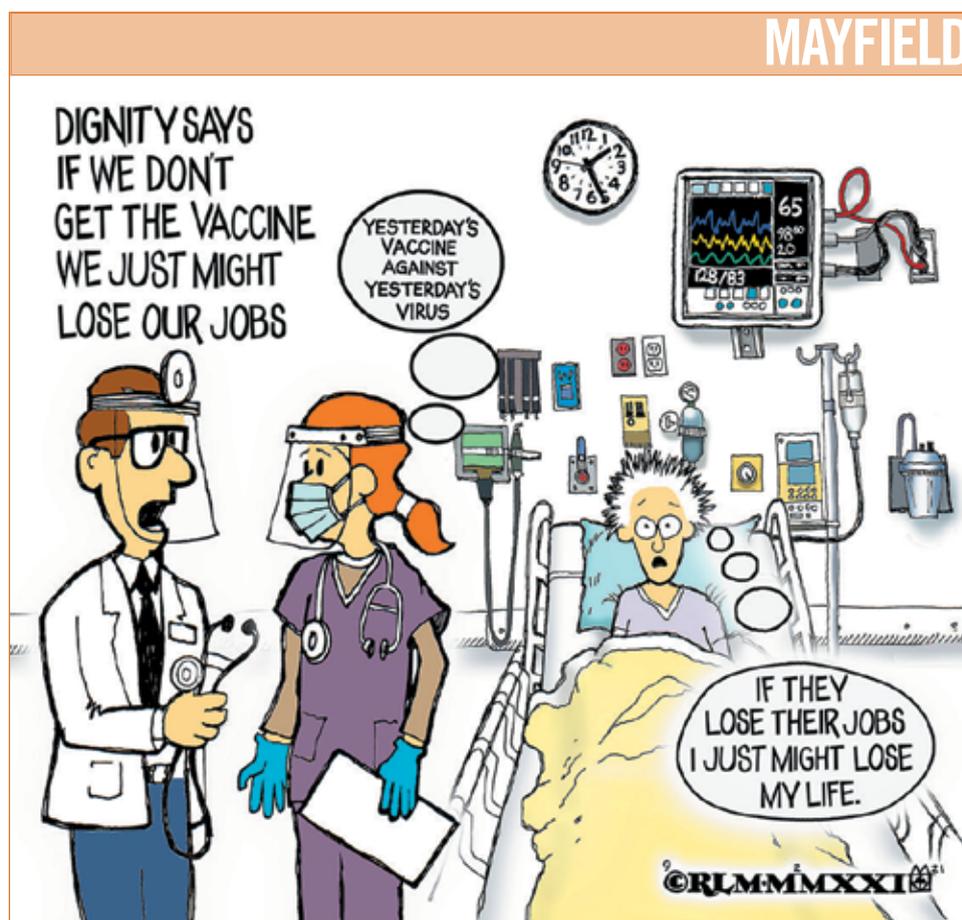
Which is why Sam Kieffer, spokesman for the American Farm Bureau Federation, said "The report goes out of its way to recognize the concerns raised by Farm Bureau and agriculture in general."

Meanwhile, California is advancing its own 30 by 30 plan, and has spent the last four months asking everyone in the state for input at online town halls. Here are a few local projects that could benefit from 30 by 30, based on what the plan really is and what it can really do:

• **Rehabilitate the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area:** The ODSVRA is part of one of the largest intact coastal dune ecosystems in the world, containing many rare habitats that support threatened or endangered plants and animals. That's largely why the California Coastal Commission has ordered the removal of off-highway vehicles from the park, giving the California Department of Parks and Recreation a deadline of Jan. 1, 2024, to do so. Several throw-everything-at-the-wall lawsuits from the off-road lobby aside, most residents are clear that it is time to look to the future, begin to restore the dunes, and turn the region into a prosperous, environmentally conscious California coastal community.

• **Preserve the Diablo Canyon Lands:** 12,000 acres of pristine, undeveloped California coastal land owned by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company will be up for grabs upon the shutdown and decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant a few years hence. The California Public Utilities Commission must be persuaded to require the attachment of a conservation easement to the lands. The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club is part of the coalition that drafted a framework for conservation of the Diablo Canyon lands and submitted it to the CPUC in May. ○

Andrew Christie is the director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Send comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.



Seeking solutions

I don't want to write about good news. It's no fun! But this week I have no choice. I have no choice but to give the county a pat on the back for its efforts on homelessness.

As **San Luis Obispo County** put forward a "safe parking area" on a dirt lot outside of its jail and moves to reinstate and reinforce its no parking ordinance, **Santa Barbara County** is working with community partners like the **Good Samaritan Shelter** to start a 90-day program that includes an innovative way to provide shelter to the houseless.



In the last year, Santa Barbara County and its community partners managed to improve the rate at which homeless residents are getting housed, according to an Aug. 28 presentation to the **Board of Supervisors**. The county made steps to increase the number of units that can be used as temporary or permanent housing in the last six months and has goals for where the number of available beds, units, and rentals need to be.

At the same time, though, the number of homeless encampments in the county has grown. But instead of just clearing out those encampments and hoping to connect individuals with services while county and city public safety agencies deal with evicting residents and cleaning up what they leave behind, the county **Department of Housing and Community Development** came up with a strategic plan.

Perhaps learning from past mistakes made in giant cleanups such as **Lompoc's** efforts in the **Santa Ynez Riverbed**—which cost the city half a million dollars in 2018 and didn't change much in the grand scheme of things—the strategy proposes to "resolve" (code for "clean up," just call it what it is) 45 encampments over a three-year period. And the county plans to place at least 60 percent of the individuals in alternative shelters, through outreach, long-term rental subsidies, mental health assistance, and new permanent housing units.

Recognizing that the key to keeping new programs going is sustained funding, **Homeless Assistance Program Manager Kimberlee Albers** told supervisors that the county needed to find more permanent funding for this program and others.

First District Supervisor Das Williams made a point to ask residents and lot owners to step up and help the county make this program happen—"We need 14 more sites to make this happen," he said. "Allow us to rent your sites from you so you can make money and help in solving this issue.

"We need to do more," he said.

We do need to do more, more than give lip service, more than complain about the homeless residents who you might have to look at as you drive to work or dinner. The residents who you might notice as they walk by you on the streets. You might be saddened by it, angry, or disgusted. But whatever you are, it's time to follow the county's example and do something about it.

Homelessness is not a new thing.

Anecdotally, the number of homeless residents may have increased during COVID-19, but because of the pandemic, there's also state and federal money available for innovative solutions. And those solutions are being offered up in your county.

That's something to be proud of. ○

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How do you feel about pallet housing in Lompoc?

- It's an awesome idea to get people sheltered and off the streets.
- I'm glad people are getting sheltered, but what happens next if it's only temporary?
- It doesn't attack the root problems causing homelessness.
- I need more data about whether temporary housing actually helps people get their feet under them.

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CA residents scramble to get last Walking Liberty Rolls

CALIFORNIA - Once California residents got wind that California State Restricted Bank Rolls filled with Silver Walking Liberties dating back to the early 1900's were being handed over, there was a mad dash to get them. That's because some of these U.S. Gov't issued silver coins are already worth hundreds in collector value.

"It's like a run on the banks. The phones are ringing off the hook. That's because everyone is trying to get them before they're all gone," according to officials at the National Mint and Treasury who say they can barely keep up with all the orders.

In fact, they had to impose a strict limit of 4 California State Restricted Bank Rolls. So, if you get the chance to get your hands on these State Restricted Bank Rolls you better hurry because hundreds of California residents already have and you don't want to miss out.

You see, the U.S. Gov't stopped

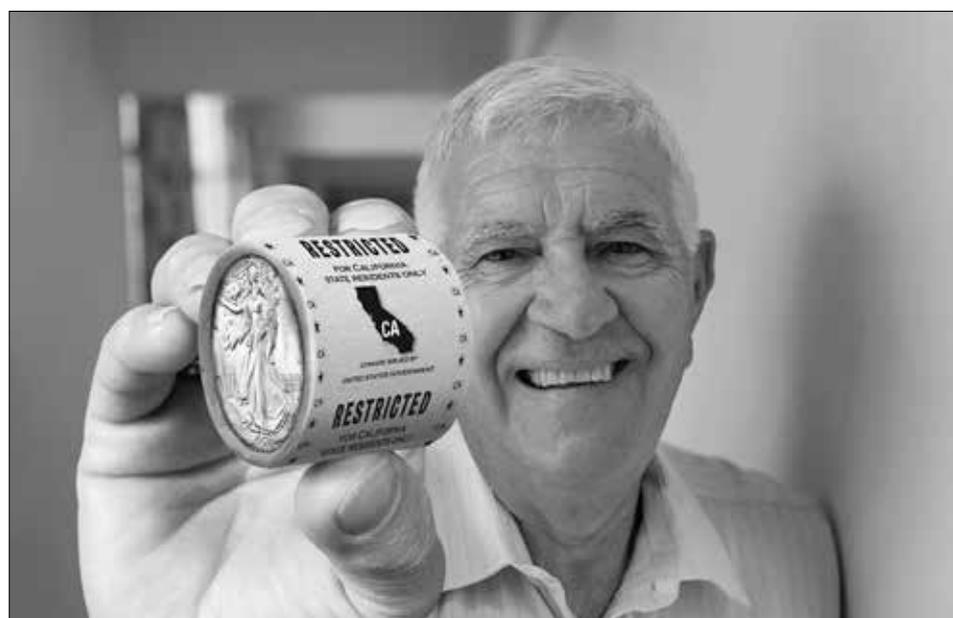
minting these Silver Walking Liberties in 1947 and there can never be any more which makes them extremely collectible.

And here's the best part. The rolls are unsearched so there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value.

That's why at just the \$39 state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury it's a deal too good to pass up.

But you better hurry because these California State Restricted Bank Rolls are the only ones known to exist and California residents are grabbing them up as fast as they can.

That's because they make amazing gifts for children, grandchildren and loved ones. Just imagine the look on their face when you hand them one of the State Restricted Rolls — they'll tell everyone they know what you did for them.



■ **GOT 'EM:** Residents all across California who get their hands on these State Restricted Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls are definitely showing them off. That's because they are the only ones known to exist. And here's the best part, these Bank Rolls are loaded with U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberty coins some dating back to the early 1900's and worth up to 100 times their face value so everyone wants them.

Last State Restricted Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls go to California residents

California residents get first dibs on last remaining Bank Rolls loaded with U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties dating back to the early 1900's some worth up to 100 times their face value for the next 2 days

► **STATE DISTRIBUTION:** A strict limit of 4 State Restricted Bank Rolls per CA resident has been imposed

CALIFORNIA - "It's a miracle these State Restricted Bank Rolls even exist. That's why Hotline Operators are bracing for the flood of calls," said Laura Lynne, U.S. Coin and Currency Director for the National Mint and Treasury.

For the next 2 days the last remaining State of California Restricted Bank Rolls loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties are actually being handed over to California residents who call the State Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's newspaper publication.

"I recently spoke with a numismatic expert in United States of America coins and currency who said 'In all my years as a numismatist I've only ever seen a handful of these rarely seen Silver Walking Liberties issued by the U.S. Gov't back in the early 1900's. But to actually find them sealed away in State Restricted Bank Rolls still in pristine condition is like finding buried treasure. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Bank Rolls had better hold on to them,'" Lynne said.

"Now that the State of California Restricted Bank Rolls are being offered up we won't be surprised if thousands of California residents claim the maximum limit allowed of 4 Bank Rolls per resident before they're all gone," said Lynne.

"That's because after the Bank Rolls

(Continued on next page)

SILVER: ONE OF THE LAST SILVER COINS MINTED FOR CIRCULATION

VALUABLE: MINTED IN PHILADELPHIA, DENVER & SAN FRANCISCO

ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL:
YEAR VARIES 1916-1947

RARELY SEEN:
MINTED BY THE U.S. MINT IN THE EARLY 1900'S

(Continued from previous page)

were loaded with 15 rarely seen Silver Walking Liberties, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade of very good or above, the dates and mint marks of the U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars sealed away inside the State of California Restricted Bank Rolls have never been searched. But, we do know that some of these coins date clear back to the early 1900's and are worth up to 100 times their face value, so there is no telling what California residents will find until they sort through all the coins," Lynne went on to say.

And here's the best part. If you are a resident of the state of California you cover only the \$39 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, that's fifteen rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties worth up to 100 times their face value for just \$585 which is a real steal because non state residents must pay \$118 per coin which totals \$1,770 if any coins remain after the 2-day deadline.

The only thing California residents need to do is call the State Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's newspaper publication before the 2-day order deadline ends.

"Rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued silver coins like these are highly sought after, but we've never seen anything like this before. According to The Official Red Book, a Guide Book of United States Coins many Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars are now worth \$40 - \$825 each in collector value," Lynne said.

"We're guessing thousands of California residents will be taking the maximum limit of 4 Bank Rolls because they make such amazing gifts for any occasion for children, parents, grandparents, friends and loved ones," Lynne continued.

"We know the phones will be ringing off the hook. That's why hundreds of Hotline Operators are standing by to answer the phones beginning at 8:30 am this morning. We're going to do our best, but with just 2 days to answer all the calls it won't be easy. So make sure to tell everyone to keep calling if all lines are busy. We'll do our best to answer them all." Lynne said.

The only thing readers of today's newspaper publication need to do is make sure they are a resident of the state of California and call the National Toll-Free Hotlines before the 2-day deadline ends midnight tomorrow. ■

HOW TO CLAIM THE LAST STATE RESTRICTED BANK ROLLS

FACTS:

If you are a California State Resident read the important information below about claiming the State Silver Bank Rolls, then call the State Toll-Free Hotline at 8:30 am: **1-800-979-3771 EXT: RWB1902**

Are these Silver Walking Liberties worth more than other half dollars:

Yes. These U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties were minted in the early 1900's and will never be minted again. That makes them extremely collectible. The vast majority of half dollars minted after 1970 have no silver content at all and these Walking Liberties were one of the last silver coins minted for circulation. That's why many of them now command hundreds in collector value so there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.

How much are State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls worth:

It's impossible to say, but some of these U.S. Gov't issued Walking Liberties dating back to the early 1900's are worth up to 100 times the face value and there are 15 in each Bank Roll so you better hurry if you want to get your hands on them. Collector values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees. But we do know they are the only California State Silver Bank Rolls known to exist and Walking Liberties are highly collectible so anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Silver Bank Rolls should hold onto them because there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.

Why are so many California residents claiming them:

Because they are the only State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls known to exist and everyone wants their share. Each Bank Roll contains a whopping 15 Silver Walking Liberties dating back to the early 1900's some worth up to 100 times their face value. Best of all California residents are guaranteed to get them for the state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury of just \$39 per Silver Walking Liberty for the next two days.

How do I get the State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls:

California residents are authorized to claim up to the limit of 4 State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls by calling the State Toll Free Hotline at **1-800-979-3771 Ext. RWB1902** starting at precisely 8:30 am this morning. Everyone who does is getting the only State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls known to exist. That's a full Bank Roll containing 15 Silver Walking Liberties from the early 1900's some worth up to 100 times their face value for just the state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury of just \$39 per Silver Walking Liberty, which is just \$585 for the full Bank Rolls and that's a real steal because non state residents are not permitted to call before 5 pm tomorrow and must pay \$1,770 for each California State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Roll if any remain.

NATIONAL MINT AND TREASURY, LLC IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. MINT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, A BANK OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. IF FOR ANY REASON WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM SHIPMENT YOU ARE DISSATISFIED, RETURN THE PRODUCT FOR A REFUND LESS SHIPPING AND RETURN POSTAGE. THIS SAME OFFER MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE OR IN A DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION. OH RESIDENTS ADD 6.5% SALES TAX. NATIONAL MINT AND TREASURY, PO BOX 35609, CANTON, OH 44735 ©2021 NATIONAL MINT AND TREASURY.

R1043R-2

HOT STUFF

SEPT. 2 – SEPT. 9
2021

NOTE: Local COVID-19 case numbers and changing health precautions may cause some event cancellations and venue closures. Please check with the venues directly, and most of all, stay safe!



HORSE SENSE

Festivities for the 78th annual Elks Rodeo and Parade are scheduled to start on Thursday, Sept. 2, and run through Sunday, Sept. 5. Rodeo performances start at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, and include bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, and other events. Visit elksrec.com to find out more. The Elks Unocal Event Center is located at 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

FILE PHOTO BY JEREMY THOMAS

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

BIO/MASS: CONTEMPORARY MEDITATIONS ON NATURE

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

HOLLI HARMON: THE NATURE OF CLOUDS

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

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. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang, 805-686-1789.

REMBRANDT ETCHINGS (CLOSING SEPT. 6)

Last chance to view Legacy of Decency: Rembrandt, Jews, and Danes, featuring 21 400-year old etchings, which will be closing on Sept. 6. **Sept. 2**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **Sept. 3**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **Sept. 4**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **Sept. 5**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Sept. 6**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. elverhoj.org. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

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.

THREE VIEWPOINTS AT GALLERY LOS OLIVOS

Featured artists are Morgan Green, Ellen Yeomans, and Carrie Givens. The exhibit showcases the varied styles and techniques and color palettes developed by these award-winning professionals to interpret California landscapes. **Sept. 2-30** Free. GalleryLosOlivos.com. Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

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, lompoart.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/. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., 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. ongoing 805-925-0464. coelhomusic.com. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

NEW DRAMEDY: STAGED READING Orcutt Community Theater presents a premiere staged reading of a dramedy by Kauai playwright Wil Welsh, which satirizes hard-sell tactics once common in the timeshare industry. **Sept. 10**, 7 p.m., **Sept. 11**, 7 p.m. and **Sept. 12**, 1:30 p.m. \$10. 805-268-5969. Orcutt Community Theater (Klein Dance Arts), 3546 Skyway Dr, Bldg. 1, Suite A, Orcutt, orcuttcommunitytheater.com.

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

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

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

PCPA: ACTORS TALKBACK

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

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

SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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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. 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. 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. ongoing \$210 per month. actorsedge.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

THE BEATLES: ROAD TO STARDOM This dynamic, multimedia Zoom presentation focuses on the band's early years and their rise as recording artists. It features many rare photos, in-concert video clips, and will close with a Q&A session. Features author Mark Brickley. Registration required. **Sept. 8**, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Free. slolibrary.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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. Filippini Ranch, 1850 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo.

KING DAVID'S MASONIC LODGE GEORGE WASHINGTON PORTRAIT UNVEILING Join History Center of SLO County local historians, art conservators from Fine Arts Conservation Laboratories, and national Masonic representatives as they unveil the newly conserved 1870 portrait of George Washington by French artist Leon Trousset, gifted to King David's at its inception in 1870. **Sept. 11**, 2-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-9291. King David's Masonic Lodge, 859 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

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

RETURNING HOME: SCULPTURES BY KRISTIN LINDSETH This series of sculptures explores the idea of home through miniature houses mounted on top of metal

ARTS continued page 17

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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.

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

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. 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

1975 PEOPLE PLACES THINGS: A PHOTO EXHIBIT Maureen Thompson and Larry Borges have restored black and white photos from Europe taken nearly 50 years ago while Maureen studied photography in Austria. Opening reception on Sept. 4. Exhibit continues through Dec. 1. **Sept. 4**, 1-3 p.m. and **Sept. 4-Dec. 1** Free. 520-730-9733. Joebella Coffee Roasters, 3168 El Camino Real, Atascadero, joebellacoffee.com.

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN An entertaining al fresco evening of western-themed Broadway show tunes plus other assorted musical selections. **Sept. 3-12** my805tix.com. Harris Stage Lines Event Center, 5995 N. River Road, Paso Robles.

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. Through Nov. 1, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org/events/luminous-lightscapes/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

MOVIES IN THE GARDENS Come see some movies with your family under the stars. Movies are free to the public. Food is available. Call for more details. **Sept. 4**, 8-11 p.m. Free. 805-470-3360. visitatascadero.com/events. Sunken Gardens, 6505 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

STUDIOS ON THE PARK: ONLINE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS Check site for a variety of virtual classes and workshops online. studiosonthepark.org. Studios on

Through Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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.

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: CAROLE MCDONALD, DOTTIE VISKER, AND MARY SUMMERS A trio exhibit, Fall Into Color, showcasing local artists and painters in various media. Through Sept. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., 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.

STEVIE CHUN: FEATURED CRAFT ARTIST Stevie Chun is a self-taught artist who works in several mediums and formats, and uses minimal outlines forms to create larger formats on canvas, paper, and more. Through Sept. 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

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.

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.

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN MELODRAMA



GUITAR HEROES

The Great American Melodrama in Oceano presents its production of *Comedy Tonight* through Sunday, Sept. 12. This original two-act show marks the theater's first post-pandemic production and features a cast of Melodrama regulars, including Toby Tropper and Mike Fiore (pictured, left to right). Tickets start at \$25. Visit americanmelodrama.com for more info. The theater is located at 1863 Front St., Oceano.

—C.W.

the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

VIRGO NEW MOON MANIFEST, MIMOSAS, AND ART WORKSHOP Please join local artist Sophia Brody and Oracle Owner/Intuitive Medium Tiffany Klemz for a creative collaboration of intention setting, painting, and more. Mimosas included. More info on site. **Sept. 5**, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$77. 805-464-2838. oracleatascaderoca.com. Oracle, 6280 Palma Ave., Atascadero.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

DEBBIE GEDAYLOO: FEATURED ARTIST Gallery at Marina Square presents Debbie Gedayloo, a self-taught fiber artist. Her primary medium is wool but she also incorporates other fibers into her art.

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.

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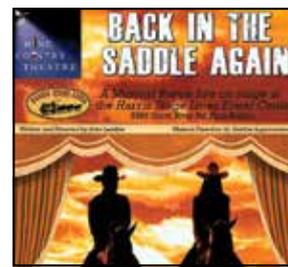


Supporting local journalism, one ticket at a time.

Tickets on sale now at My805Tix.com



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



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



Sunset Yoga SEPTEMBER 7, 11, 14
Aurora Adventures,
Morro Bay



Chakra Meditation and Breath Work SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29
Aurora Adventures, Morro Bay



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



5Cities Homeless Coalition Empty Bowls Fundraiser SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 18, 25
Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, Pismo



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



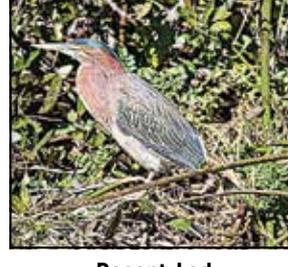
Barrel Room Concert: Moonshiner Collective SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Wednesdays Around the World: New Zealand WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



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



Docent-Led Bird and Nature Walk SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Oso Flaco Lake, Arroyo Grande



The Young Dubliners SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Sea Pines Golf Resort, Baywood-Los Osos



Live at the Lighthouse: 41k (Damon Castillo/Dave Becker) SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Point San Luis Lighthouse

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



POWERED BY: NewTimes & Sun

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

SANTA MARIA ELKS RODEO AND PARADE Elks Recreation presents its annual festivities. Visit site for more info, plus details on "You've Been Flagged," a fundraiser offering flag and sign packages to patrons in time for the Fourth of July. **Sept. 2-5** elksrec.com. Elks Unocal Event Center, 4040 Highway 101, Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

GREENER PASTURES FARM SANCTUARY SELF-GUIDED TOUR Meet the rescued residents up close and hear their amazing stories of triumph from volunteers who work with them weekly. You will meet goats, horses, lambs, potbelly pigs, donkeys, chickens, ducks, turkeys, and peafowl. **Sept. 4**, 12-1 & 1-2 p.m. \$10. 805-704-7327. eventbrite.com. Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary, 2148 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. \$10. 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, 5citysswimschool.com.

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 MEN'S SOCCER VS SAN DIEGO STATE It's Youth Night, so all kids ages 13 and under receive free admission to the match. **Sept. 3**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY MEN'S SOCCER VS USF Spend Labor Day enjoying Cal Poly soccer at Spanos Stadium and watch the Mustangs take on USF. **Sept. 6**, 4 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S SOCCER VS GONZAGA Come watch Cal Poly Women's Soccer battle Gonzaga in a non-conference match at Spanos Stadium. **Sept. 10**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

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.

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 (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, worldrhythmandmotion.com.

OUTDOOR YOGA CLASSES Hotel San Luis Obispo, Piazza Hospitality's first property on California's scenic Central Coast, offers outdoor yoga classes on its rooftop terrace. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays \$10-\$15; complimentary for hotel guests. 805-235-0700. hotel-slo.com. Hotel San Luis Obispo, 877 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

SOLOROLL: A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE A free pop-up roller skating event. Locations posted the day of at 4 p.m. Follow @thesoloroll. 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.

TRANS* TUESDAY A safe space providing peer-to-peer support for trans, gender non-conforming, non-binary, and questioning people. In-person and Zoom meetings held. Contact tranzcentralcoast@gmail.com for more details. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

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. Zoom, Online, Inquire for Zoom ID.

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. History Center of San Luis Obispo County, 696 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIANA ENRIQUEZ

RISE TO THE OCCASION

San Luis Obispo local Christiana Enriquez (pictured) hosts Sunrise Zumba sessions at World Rhythm and Motion Studio, every Wednesday, from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Early risers are invited to take part in this weekly workout that combines cardio and muscle conditioning. To find out more about the event, call (805) 305-5609 or email danceclubsl@gmail.com. The venue is located at 3422 Miguelito Court, studio 3, San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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. 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. 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. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

PRESQU'ILE WINERY: WINE CLUB Call or go online to make a reservation to taste at the winery or find more info on the winery's Wine Club offerings. ongoing presquilewine.com/club/. Presqu'ile Winery, 5391 Presqu'ile Dr., Santa Maria, 805-937-8110.

SIMPLY SAUNDERS 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. Varies. wineanddesign.com/orcutt. Wine and Design, 3420 Orcutt Road, suite 105, Orcutt.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 12:25 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

46 WEST HARVEST BLOCK PARTY A wine tasting event with the member wineries of the 46 West in a casual 'mini wine festival' atmosphere. This year's party will be held at Midnight Cellars and will be featuring 'Stellar' live on stage. **Sept. 4**, 6-9 p.m. my805tix.com. Paso Robles 46 West Wineries, Highway 46 West, Paso Robles.

BRUNCH IS BACK Celebrate the second Sunday of the month with brunch. Enjoy a two-hour cruise on the waterfront. Features fresh coffee, pastries, and more. Second Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50. 805-772-2128. chabliscruises.com. Chablis Cruises, 1205 Embarcadero, Morro Bay.

TACO TUESDAYS La Parilla Taqueria will be in courtyard serving up their delicious tacos and tostadas every Tuesday. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Ancient Owl Beer Garden, 6090 El Camino Real, suite C, Atascadero, 805-460-6042, ancientowlbeergarden.com.

TAPAS ON THE HILL 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. 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. AronHill Vineyards, 3745 West Highway 46, Templeton, 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/. 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/. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

DOUBLEWIDE KINGS: LIVE IN CONCERT Santa Barbara's Doublewide Kings bring their mastery of 70's rock to the Solvang Festival Theaterfest Garden for its final "send off" concert before pausing for a 10-month

MUSIC continued page 19

renovation. Gates open at 2:30 p.m. Concert starts at 3 p.m. Adult beverages and snacks for purchase. **Sept. 5**, 3 p.m. \$30. 805-686-1789. Solvang Festival Theater, 420 2nd St., Solvang.

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

BALD SPOTS TRILOGY CONCERT San Luis Obispo Doo-Wop group The Bald Spots to perform at Trilogy Monarch Dunes Club. **Sept. 10**, 7-10 p.m. my805tix.com. The Monarch Club at Trilogy Monarch Dunes, 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo, 805-343-7530.

SLO SONGWRITERS FEATURING MATTHIAS CLARK AND JIM CONROY A Nashville round-style showcase with Jim Conroy and Matthias Clark. Come early for a spot to listen up front (Puffers is jammed on the weekends). **Sept. 3**, 7-9 p.m. 805-215-4433. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, puffersofpismo.com.

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.

AN EVENING W/STEVE POLTZ Steve Poltz returns to SLO County to grace us with the wit, wisdom, and wonder that have made him a musical icon around the

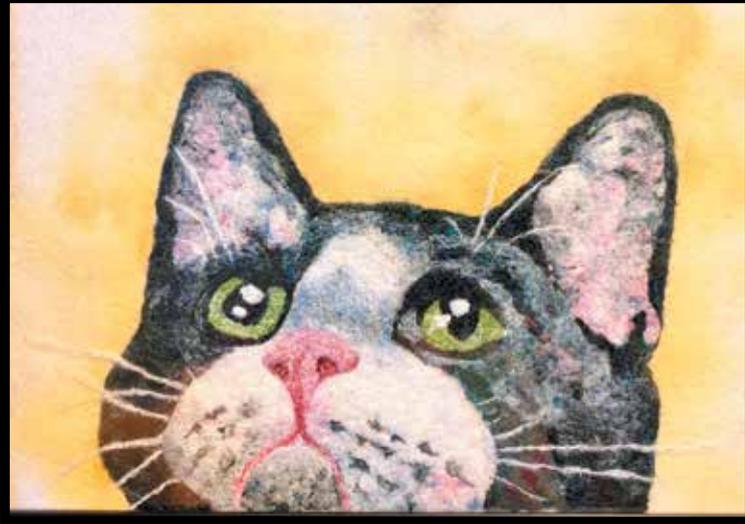
globe. Local star Hilary Watson opens the evening on the new stage of the gorgeous Bang the Drum Brewery. **Sept. 9**, 7-10:30 p.m. \$20-\$22. 805-888-7940. forthefolksmusic.com. Bang the Drum Brewery, 1150 Laurel Lane, suite 130, San Luis Obispo.

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 carolbethwhite.bandcamp.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.



FRISKY FIBERS

Gallery at Marina Square in Morro Bay hosts a special reception for its latest group of featured artists on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. The gallery is currently showcasing artworks by fiber artist Debbie Gedayloo (whose work is pictured here), crafter Stevie Chun, oil painter Mary Summers, and acrylic painters Carole McDonald and Dottie Visker, through Wednesday, Sept. 29. For more info on the upcoming reception, visit galleryatmarinasquare.com. The gallery is located at 601 Embarcadero, suite 10, Morro Bay.

—C.W

NORTH SLO COUNTY

FRIDAY DJ SERIES Features different DJ each Friday. Presented by Traffic Records. Fridays, 6-9 p.m. Ancient Owl Beer Garden, 6090 El Camino Real, suite C, Atascadero, 805-460-6042, ancientowlbeergarden.com.

KATIE CHAPPELL LIVE Local songwriter and performer Katie Chappell will be performing. **Sept. 5**, 4-7 p.m. Ancient Owl Beer Garden, 6090 El Camino Real, suite C, Atascadero, 805-460-6042, ancientowlbeergarden.com.

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



UP IN THE AIR AT CASTORO CELLARS Up in the Air will play it's upbeat music mixing in a few old favorites as part of the Lazy Locals Concert Series. **Sept. 5**, 1-4 p.m. Free. castorocellars.com. Castoro Cellars, 1315 N. Bethel Rd., Templeton, 805-238-0725.

PAT BENATAR AND NEIL GIRALDO LIVE Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo play Vina Robles Amphitheatre on Sept. 9 with special guest John Waite. **Sept. 9**, 7:30-10 p.m. \$49.50-\$79.50. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

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. **Sept. 4**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. visitatascadero.com. Historic City Hall, 6500 Palma Ave., Atascadero, 805-461-5000.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES CRIMSON CALAMITY Nashville duo Crimson Calamity is a badass, harmony-laced, folk/rock driven act inspired by Brandi Carlile, The Civil Wars, and Fleetwood Mac. Songwriters at Play host Steve Key shares the stage with special guests Lauren Hatcher and Rebecca Parks. **Sept. 4**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

TRAIN LIVE Multi-Grammy and Billboard award-winning band Train will perform. All previously purchased tickets will be honored on this new date. **Sept. 5**, 7-10 p.m. \$60-\$115. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

EASTON EVERETT DUO Enjoy neo-folk pop. **Sept. 4**, 6-8 p.m. eastoneverett.com. The Clubhouse Grill at Sea Pines, 250 Howard Avenue, Los Osos, 805-528-2333.

OPEN MIC NIGHT Come join us each Wednesday for Open Mic Night in the downstairs dining area. Grab some friends and show off your talents. Food and drink service will be available. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. 805-995-3883. schoonerscayucos.com. Schooners, 171 North Ocean Ave, Cayucos.

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- 9/19 Terry Lawless
- 9/25 Cocktail Shorty
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Arts Briefs

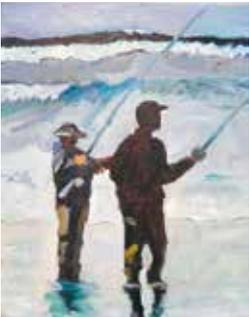
Valley Art Gallery showcases beach paintings by local artist Taffy French-Gray

The Valley Art Gallery presents *Life's a Beach: Avila to Venice*, a new solo exhibition at the Santa Maria Airport, which is scheduled to remain on display through the end of September. This exhibit showcases a collection of beach-themed landscapes, seascapes, and portraits by oil painter Taffy French-Gray, who will be present at the airport during a special guided tour and artist talk on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m.

French-Gray, who grew up in San Luis Obispo but currently resides in Santa Maria, said in her artist statement that she feels "happiest when putting color on paper or canvas or whatever is handy." She also said that one of her primary influences as an artist is watercolorist Charles Reid, "who was the best at using hard and soft edges" to maximize the medium's "juiciness."

For more info on *Life's a Beach: Avila to Venice*, visit valleygallery.org. The exhibit is currently available to view for free at the Santa Maria Airport, located at 3217 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria.

COURTESY IMAGE BY TAFFY FRENCH-GRAY



Santa Maria Concerts in the Park Series concludes with Steppin' Out at Robert Acquistapace Park

Steppin' Out, a Central Coast-based dance band, will perform during the final entry of the Santa Maria Concerts in the Park Series on Sunday, Sept. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Robert Acquistapace Park. Admission to this outdoor event is free, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own picnic lunches.

For more info, visit cityofsantamaria.org/recreation. The park is located at 1921 S. Western Ave., Santa Maria.

Gallery Los Olivos presents new group show, Three Viewpoints

COURTESY IMAGE BY MORGAN GREEN



A new trio exhibition, *Three Viewpoints*, premieres at Gallery Los Olivos on Thursday, Sept. 2. This collaborative exhibit showcases a collection of oil and pastel paintings by three local, award-winning artists, Morgan Green, Ellen Yeomans, and Carrie Givens. The show is slated to run through Thursday, Sept. 30.

All three of the exhibit's featured painters are based in Santa Barbara. Most of the paintings on display are landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes based on destinations throughout California. On Monday, Sept. 6, Green (whose painting, *Splash*, is pictured) will be present at the gallery to greet visitors and discuss her featured artworks in the exhibit.

For more info on *Three Viewpoints* and other updates from Gallery Los Olivos, visit gallerylosolivos.com. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. ○

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

A riveting tribute

Karole Foreman gives a powerhouse performance as jazz icon Billie Holiday in PCPA's *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*

SOMEBODY'S ON MY MIND: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre's (PCPA) production of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* stars Karole Foreman (pictured) as legendary singer Billie Holiday. The play is set during one of Holiday's final performances, just a few months before her death in 1959.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY LUIS ESCOBAR REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

"Disappears into a role" shouldn't be an easy compliment to throw around, but in Karole Foreman's case, the phrase feels like an understatement when talking about her role as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

I can't speak for the whole audience, but judging by the collective gasps during one scene, I'm not the only person convinced that Foreman was about to collapse on stage.

This happens at a particularly vulnerable moment near the end

of the show, and by now we've spent about an hour in Holiday's presence, as if we're patrons at a club she's performing at. Between each song we hear (from *God Bless the Child* to *Crazy He Calls Me* and other Holiday standards), the iconic singer takes a pause to reminisce about her life, gifting us with humorous and poignant glimpses of her past.

One prop to notice during these anecdotal breaks is the drink in Holiday's hand.

Holiday becomes gradually intoxicated and incoherent as the show progresses, from song to story

to song to story. But Foreman's performance feels so candid during this escalation. That's why during the moment she almost faints, we have to remind ourselves we're not inside a bar, we're at the Solvang Festival Theater.

The show's structure allows Holiday to speak to the audience directly, even referring to us as her friends rather than just bar patrons who happened to stumble in on one of her final performances before her death in 1959 at age 44. But she has one person onstage with her to confide in as well—her accompanying pianist, Jimmy Powers, played

phenomenally by Stephan Terry in PCPA's iteration.

At one point, Powers begs Holiday to stop performing and take a break,

What a little moonlight can do

The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* through Sunday, Sept. 5, at the Solvang Festival Theater, located at 420 2nd St., Solvang. Tickets range from \$35 to \$50. Call (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org for more info.

refusing to sit by and watch her well-being deteriorate any further. But the legendary singer declines. In a similar instance, we're even led to believe an actual intermission will take place, after Holiday abruptly walks off stage, but she returns just as swiftly to debunk the notion.

For anyone unfamiliar with most of Holiday's songs, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, a riveting one-act written by playwright Lanie Robertson, works as both an intriguing human drama and a powerful introduction to an icon's discography.

"Through her singing, Billie Holiday used everything that happened in her life to inform her art," the show's director, Wren T. Brown, said in press materials. "Many of the songs she performed and recorded have become standards and have caused audiences to feel her heart and soul, in a manner unlike any other artist."

For Brown, "the opportunity to explore and examine the life of one of the most transcendent artists of the 20th century" was one of the many rewarding aspects in helming the show.

And while the original play premiered in 1986, Brown also touched upon the show's timeliness in this day and age.

"Sixty years after her death, at a time in America when race, gender, and the opioid crisis are being discussed loudly on a daily basis, Billie Holiday's life and career are a great example of what it means to not just survive but triumph in the face of lifelong abuse and struggle," the director said. ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood wants an encore. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



SHOW AND TELL: Between each song we hear (from *God Bless the Child* to *Crazy He Calls Me* and other Billie Holiday standards), the iconic artist takes a pause to reminisce about her life, gifting us with humorous and poignant glimpses of her past.



PIANO MAN: Stephan Terry (pictured) portrays Jimmy Powers, Billie Holiday's accompanying pianist, in PCPA's iteration of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

LADY DAY

AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL



SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER
AUG 19 - SEPT 5

BY LANIE ROBERTSON

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Finding fraud

Documentarian Sam Hobkinson (*The Kleptocrats*, *The Hunt for the Boston Bombers*) directs this exploration of the events and circumstances surrounding the writing, publishing, and investigation of Misha Defonseca's infamous memoir, as well as the book's reception (both before and after the book was exposed for being fraudulent). (90 min.)

Caleb: It's hard to walk away from *Misha and The Wolves* without scolding its titular subject, Misha Defonseca, who spent several years impersonating a Holocaust survivor, while making millions of dollars from a fake memoir. This engrossing documentary made me question why I hadn't heard of this bizarre scandal prior to watching the film. Defonseca's 1997 novel, *Misha: A Mémoire of the Holocaust Years*, claims to recount her experiences as a 7-year-old Jewish girl living in Belgium during Nazi occupation. After her parents are arrested and deported, she flees into the forest where she befriends a pack of wolves, which she describes as becoming an adoptive family of sorts. Lying about being raised by wolves is one thing, but pretending to be a Jewish refugee during World War II is quite another. In 2008, after more than a decade of enjoying the book's financial successes (there was even a Disney movie in the works at one point), Defonseca became scrutinized after evidence disproving her tale came to light (including records showing that her family was actually Catholic, not Jewish). As the documentary shows, tracking down these documents was the result of a team effort between several individuals, including Belgian genealogist Evelyne Haendel, who herself is an actual

Holocaust survivor (hidden at a young age and adopted into a new family after her parents were deported to Auschwitz in 1942). Haendel playing an integral part in Defonseca's downfall feels like poetic justice to me.

Téa: *Misha and The Wolves* takes viewers on a whirlwind journey of emotions: first evoking sympathy for Defonseca's harrowing story of survival, and then, almost as quickly, eliciting revulsion for this imposter who we quickly learn has sought to profit off of the Holocaust, painting a picture of trauma and suffering she didn't actually experience. Doubt is first cast on Defonseca's story by the publisher of her memoir, Jane Daniel, who actively worked to debunk the story after she was sued by Defonseca to the tune of \$22.5 million (apparently for mishandling the book's marketing efforts). Documents uncovered by Daniel, as well as genealogists Haendel and Sharon Sergeant, ultimately expose Defonseca's elaborate web of lies. Far from a harmless fib, Defonseca's tale was an insult to true Holocaust survivors, a blaring falsehood that brought with it the dangerous possibility of drowning out genuine stories of survival and resilience.

Caleb: I'm glad some of the interviewees make a point to spell out how Defonseca's actions could lead to such dangerous consequences. I also appreciate that the documentary spends time with individuals from the author's own small-knit community in Millis, Massachusetts (where she and her husband moved to from Belgium during the late '80s), including friends and neighbors, who were affected by the scandal in less damaging ways, but hurtful nevertheless. "Everybody felt betrayed," says one of the author's next-door neighbors, Pat Cunningham, who first heard Defonseca's fabricated stories over tea one day, years before the book was written and

MISHA AND THE WOLVES

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 What's it worth, Téa? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Caleb? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

published. Decades later, after hearing the memoir was revealed to be fraudulent, and the author's after-the-fact defense that she always had trouble differentiating between reality and her imagination, Cunningham says she no longer feels comfortable speaking to Defonseca (who still lives in the same town to this day). As easy as it is to root against Defonseca though, I really wish documentarian Sam Hobkinson was able to get her on board for this film (the author refused to be interviewed, although an actress plays her in dramatizations). I want to hear more of her perspective, no matter how skewed. **Téa:** While Defonseca is the documentary's clear villain, her publisher, Daniel, does not escape scrutiny for her role in propagating such a bizarre and unbelievable story. Holocaust historian Debórah Dwork reveals that she received a letter and a manuscript of *Misha: A Mémoire of the Holocaust Years* from Daniel in 1996 (one year prior to the memoir's publication) and after reading, called Daniel and urged her not to go forward with publishing the story; as Dwork put it, "this narrative just did not work." So why did Daniel decide to publish the memoir? Perhaps the glimmering promise of being picked up by Disney and Oprah Winfrey were just too enticing to resist, particularly for an admittedly small and relatively



SYMPATHY AND SCRUTINY: Genealogist Sharon Sergeant (pictured) was one of the primary genealogists who investigated the timeline of events described in Misha Defonseca's memoir, *Misha: A Mémoire of the Holocaust Years*, as examined in the Netflix documentary, *Misha and The Wolves*.

obscure publishing company such as Daniel's Mt. Ivy Press. Still, the question remains: How could Daniel reconcile Defonseca's outlandish claims with an expert's clear assertion that this story could not possibly be true? Was Daniel blinded by the possibility of success that she chose to put all her eggs in Defonseca's dubious basket? Hobkinson subtly ventures to suggest that perhaps Daniel's blind faith in Defonseca's wild story was fueled by her hunger for success. While I'm not suggesting that the blame for this twisted hoax rests entirely with Daniel, I do believe that she chose to keep her head in the sand in the hope that it would result in the glory she so craved. Ultimately, Daniel's willful ignorance would be both her and Defonseca's downfall—because sometimes, a story is just too good to be true. ○

Sun Screen was written by Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood and freelancer Téa Main this week. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Film Reviews

REMINISCENCE

What's it rated? **PG-13** When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **HBO Max, and in theaters**
 (check local theater listings)

Lisa Joy (co-creator and executive producer of HBO's *Westworld*) helms this sci-fi thriller, which marks the writer-director's feature film debut. The film takes place in Miami, during a not so far-fetched future where climate change has caused the oceans to rise and flood the city.

The imagery is pretty neat, as the tops of Miami's skyscrapers are still visible over the ocean. It reminded me of the flooded New York scenery in Spielberg's underrated masterpiece, *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* (in fact, please go do yourself a favor and watch that instead). This semi-apocalyptic setting is the most interesting aspect of *Reminiscence*, but the script is unfortunately not on par.

The premise is intriguing though: Hugh Jackman plays Nick Bannister, who works for a company that allows customers to relive nostalgic memories from the past, as a way of escaping

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES



the dreary present. After the woman he loves, only referred to as Mae (Rebecca Ferguson, who also worked with Jackman in *The Greatest Showman*), goes missing, Bannister begins revisiting his own memories over and over in an attempt to find clues and track her current whereabouts.

I think I would have enjoyed *Reminiscence* more if it wasn't so exposition-heavy, especially within the dialogue and Jackman's constant narration (which feels unnecessary, and condescending at times). Maybe they'll release a cut without narration someday, a la the

director's cut of *Blade Runner*, which removed Harrison Ford's lambasted voiceovers.

While its visuals are certainly memorable, the overall experience of watching *Reminiscence* is ironically forgettable. (148 min.)

—Caleb

CRUELLA

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

Although its original "premium" release was in May, *Cruella* finally became free for Disney Plus users to stream starting on Aug. 27. Emma Stone plays the infamous villainess in this devilish origin story, taking place before the events of *101 Dalmatians*, in London during the age of '70s punk rock.

Before taking on the alias Cruella de Vil, Estella Miller (Stone) is an aspiring fashion designer and professional thief, working alongside her canonical cohorts Jasper (Joel Fry) and Horace (Paul Walter Hauser). The film explores Estella's gradual transformation into Cruella as a rivalry between her and a renowned fashion designer,

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES



Baroness von Hellman (Emma Thompson), escalates with chaotic consequences.

I was not expecting to love *Cruella*, but it truly won me over at nearly every turn. For a movie about an alleged dog-killer, I feel guilty for being comfortable enough to call it my favorite of the Disney live-action spin-offs. It's a gloriously over the top, family-friendly hodgepodge of films like *Joker*, *Amadeus*, *Phantom Thread*, and *The Devil Wears Prada*—what's not to love? (134 min.) ○

—Caleb

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RESTORED AND REPURPOSED:
The Maker's Son, a new restaurant in Los Alamos, sits on the property formerly known as the California Garage, a gas station established in 1926 that remained operational through the '80s.



BURGER BLURB: The restaurant's expansive menu is diverse enough to appease both meat lovers and veggie lovers alike, from The Maker's Burger (pictured) to vegetarian options like the mushroom trio risotto and grilled watermelon salad.

Meet your makers

Find out more about The Maker's Son by calling (805) 344-1926 or visiting themakersson.com. The restaurant is located at 346 Bell St., Los Alamos.



GETTING TOASTY: "As it gets darker and colder, the fire pits come on, the heaters come on, and this area really just glows, it's so beautiful," operating manager Don Conner said. "This is the kind of facility where you just don't eat and go somewhere else. You come here and you spend your night here."

History in the making

The Maker's Son in Los Alamos dishes out elevated comfort food in a rustic, nostalgic setting

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Repurposed from a Roaring '20s-era gas station, one of Los Alamos' newest hot spots feels old in all the right ways.

"The facility just has an authenticity to it," said Don Conner, one of the operating managers at The Maker's Son, which opened its doors to the public earlier this summer. "Legitimately, this building is 95-plus years old."

Formally known as the California Garage, the original gas station was established in 1926 and remained operational through the '80s, until the property "fell into disrepair and was abandoned for several years," Conner explained.

Near the end of 2020, the site's current owners

enlisted a team of operators, including Conner, to transform the space (which had already become gradually restored and renovated over the years) into a new restaurant.

Preserving a sense of reverence and nostalgia for the vintage location's original function—and commemorating the history of Los Alamos in general—was how The Maker's Son brand came about.

"We chose that because our focus was really to pay homage to the people who have come before us, building out these communities here on the Central Coast—everybody who is part of developing the community we live in," said Conner, an area resident for more than a decade. "The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker—everybody."

Outside the new eatery's front entrance, the California Garage's retro gas pumps remain standing, alongside a spacious patio for ample outdoor seating, to support the restaurant's nostalgic charm. People used to come here to fuel their cars, now they come to fuel their stomachs.

"It really is just an amazing space, and in an amazing town where you've got history next door with the 1880 Union Hotel, and on the other side of us you've got an old Victorian mansion, built in the late 1800s," Conner said, referring to the Yellow Victorian Bed and Breakfast in the latter instance.

Neighborhood surroundings and exterior decor aside, homages to the area's history can be found all throughout the restaurant's interior as well, including the walls, on many of which you'll find vintage maps of California dating back to the 1800s.

While the restaurant's rustic style and setting celebrate the region's past, the items found on its

menu seem to be looking toward the future. An easy way to sum up the venue's unique variety of food options is simply to call it comfort food, but never without a twist. Familiar dishes, made from locally sourced meat, fish, and produce, are lovingly infused with experimental, globally inspired flavors.

EATS continued page 24

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EATS

EATS from page 23

This approach is evident in every section of the restaurant's menu, starting with the appetizers. The ahi poke nachos, for example, is anything but your standard nacho fare. This large platter of wonton chips is adorned with sushi-grade ahi tuna, ginger ponzu, cucumber bell pepper relish, and other nontraditional nacho toppings.

These are the kinds of twists chef Matthew Wheeler loved to embrace during the menu's creation. Some of the menu items were inspired by homemade combinations from his own household, Wheeler said, including the grilled watermelon salad.

"My wife is a big fan of watermelon and feta, so it kind of played off of that. And one of my kids' favorite ingredients is arugula, so it all just kind of tied together," Wheeler said of the salad, which also contains pickled red onion, spiced pepitas, aged balsamic, and charred lemon vinaigrette.

The menu's main courses are equally inventive and diverse enough to appease both meat lovers and veggie lovers alike—from The Maker's Burger (featuring a half-pound patty of brisket/short rib blend) to the mushroom trio risotto (topped with smoked and marinated king trumpet, cremini, and wood ear mushrooms).

The restaurant's cocktail selection and dessert lineup follow suit as well. Even if you're full by the end of your meal, it's a shame to leave The Maker's Son without trying the smoked s'more mousse, a euphoric grouping of graham cracker crust, whipped chocolate mousse, and Italian meringue, drizzled with bourbon caramel sauce.

It's delicious no matter where



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAKER'S SON

DIVINE DESSERT: Even if you're full by the end of your meal, it's a shame to leave The Maker's Son without trying the smoked s'more mousse (pictured), a euphoric grouping of graham cracker crust, whipped chocolate mousse, and Italian meringue, drizzled with bourbon caramel sauce.

you're sitting at the restaurant, but the campfire s'more vibe can only be amplified out on the cozy patios (front or back) during the evening.

"As it gets darker and colder, the fire pits come on, the heaters come on, and this area really just glows, it's so beautiful," Conner said. "This is the kind of facility where you just don't eat and go

somewhere else. You come here and you spend your night here." ☪

Send your favorite campfire stories to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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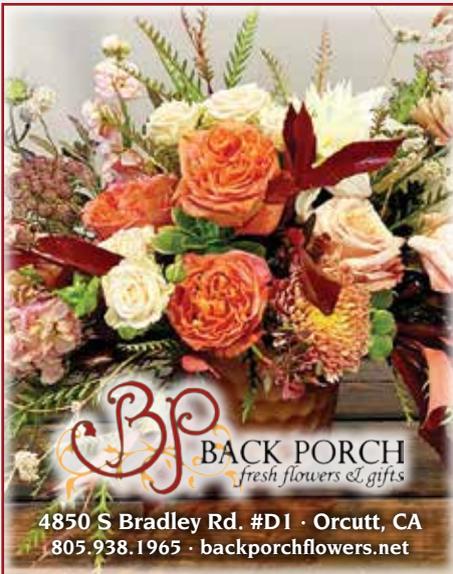
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