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is juicy [20]

# SUN



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# Every second counts

With fire response times slower than best practice standards, Orcutt needs more emergency resources to meet the demands of a growing community [6] BY MALEA MARTIN

**NEWS** County assesses climate change vulnerability [4]

**ARTS** Day trip to Cuyama [18]

**EATS** High-end casual cuisine in Santa Maria [21]

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SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 7, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 31

After Orcutt's fire stations moved under the county umbrella, some say the services provided to the community changed for the worse. Others say that's not necessarily the case, but everyone believes that emergency service response times in Orcutt need to improve. Santa Barbara County Fire Department officials point to plans for a regional dispatch center as the answer, while the Sheriff's Office disagrees. For this week's cover story, Staff Writer Malea Martin speaks with Orcutt community members, firefighters, and county officials about poor response times and plans for a new Orcutt fire station [6].

You can also read about what climate change could do to Santa Barbara County [4]; a trip to the Buckhorn and Cuyama [18]; and the Salty Brigade's upscale take on casual dining [21].

Camillia Lanham  
editor



**OLD TOWN, NEW NEED:** Santa Barbara County Fire Department Engineer Hugh Montgomery backs an engine into county Fire Station 21, located in Old Town Orcutt. Firefighters say a third station is needed to better serve the community.

Cover photo by Jayson Mellom > Cover design by Alex Zuniga

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## Political Watch

• **U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla** (D-California) and **Rand Paul** (R-Kentucky) introduced America's Children Act, bipartisan legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for children of long-term visa holders—documented Dreamers—who have been waiting for years for a green card, Padilla announced in a statement. This bill is cosponsored by **Sens. Dick Durbin** (D-Illinois), **Chris Coons** (D-Delaware), and **Susan Collins** (R-Maine). “We cannot turn our backs on the documented Dreamers who have spent most of their lives in this country, contributing to their communities and our economy but face continued uncertainty and risk deportation once they turn 21,” Padilla said. According to the statement, more than 200,000 children and young adults are living in the United States as dependents of long-term nonimmigrant visa holders, but their dependent visas expire at age 21, forcing many of them to self-deport. America's Children Act will provide a pathway to permanent residency for children who were brought into the United States as dependent children of workers admitted under approved employer petitions, maintained status in the United States for 10 years, and graduated from an institution of higher education. The act establishes age-out protections that provides work authorization for documented Dreamers over 16 whose green card applications are pending. “These young people deserve the opportunity to pursue their American dream and continue building lives in the country they call home,” Padilla said.

• **U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla** (D-California) and **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) sent a letter on Sept. 17 to **Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer** (D-New York), **Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell** (R-Kentucky), **Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick Leahy** (D-Vermont), and **Vice Chair Richard Shelby** (R-Alabama) asking them to include at least \$7.7 billion and targeted tax relief in a supplemental disaster funding package that California requested to support 2021 wildfire season recovery efforts. “California is employing all of the resources at its disposal to combat these fires, but the explosion of fire activity this season has resulted in an immense strain on California resources, and it is impossible for the state and local governments to obtain the necessary resources to adequately support survivors and recovery efforts,” the senators said in the letter. So far, wildfires have burned more than 2 million acres of land in 2021 and destroyed almost 3,000 buildings with 1,842 of them being homes, according to the statement. The Caldor, Dixie, and River fires burned 1.2 million acres alone, causing more than 50,000 residents to evacuate, and deploying more than 15,000 firefighters, the letter said.

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara), applauded **U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo's** announcement that the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$2.8 million grant to Paso Robles to install fiber optic cable that expands broadband access and increases reliability. “Millions of rural Americans are held back by slow broadband or a complete lack of access, and my district is no exception. Reliable broadband allows our economy to grow, expands access to online health and learning opportunities, and improves quality of life,” Carbajal said in a statement. The project will install approximately 11,500 feet of new fiber optic cable in new 2-inch underground conduit and will create an estimated 90 new jobs as well as employment opportunities once the project is complete. “This is a huge step to ensure every member of our community has what they need to succeed in the 21st century,” Carbajal said. ○



**CLIMATE CHANGE:** The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment analyzes Santa Barbara County areas for specific climate change risks, like sea level rise.

## The county wants your thoughts on the local impacts of climate change

Unemployed people, senior citizens, households in poverty, children, people in mobile homes, and overcrowded houses in northern Santa Barbara County are the most vulnerable to climate change, according to a recently released county assessment.

These frontline populations are going to experience climate impacts to a more severe degree, county Long Range Planner Whitney Wilkinson said.

“Because of their nature, they are already having a tough time. They are probably less equipped, have fewer resources, or not as up to date with the resources available to them. They do not have the ability to adapt or recover when climate impacts strike,” Wilkinson said.

A draft of the county Planning and Development Department's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA), which highlighted North County's most vulnerable populations, is now open for public comment. Called the One-Climate Initiative, the county

wants to hear community concerns about climate change's impact and ideas that could make residents' lives easier, Wilkinson said.

“Many of us are going to feel the effects of climate change. We are already seeing massive wildfires and smoke in our air, and we are experiencing another drought. It's incumbent upon us to be informed in order to be fully prepared,” she added.

The assessment is the result of a multi-year effort to improve local communities' ability to adapt to changing conditions. The planning department analyzed how climate-related hazards—like extreme heat or sea level rise—impact Santa Barbara County residents now and in the future, Wilkinson said.

“It can be hard to read this stuff; it can seem like this impending sense of doom, but there are things we can do,” Wilkinson said. “We want to make sure everybody is on the same page and everybody is operating off of the same information.”

The draft looked at county subregions and analyzed their assets: Populations, economic drivers, infrastructures, ecosystems and natural resources, and key services, Wilkinson said.

“Those are all things being impacted by climate change. Within each report, each asset is evaluated to how vulnerable it is depending on the environmental hazard,” she said. “The next step [for community members] is to get involved and make concerns known to decision makers that impact our communities. Let them know what you need to be safe and how to recover once those incidents occur,” Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson said the department will present the assessment to the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 9, and it plans to start implementing an adaptation strategy early next year for the 2030 Climate Action Plan. Submit comments to [climatechangeassessment@countyofsb.org](mailto:climatechangeassessment@countyofsb.org) by 5 p.m. on Oct. 22.

—Taylor O'Connor

## Solvang businesses now need permit to host live music

A new Solvang ordinance will require downtown businesses that host live music (whether indoors or outdoors) to apply for a conditional use permit. Intended for venues that provide music on a regular basis, the ordinance will not enforce limits on buskers performing in public spaces.

“Because the proposed ordinance is tied to existing business uses, someone who's busking wouldn't be attached to an existing business typically,” City Attorney Dave Fleishman said during the Sept. 27 City Council meeting.

Fleishman added that buskers “would be covered by different provisions of the municipal code.”

Solvang City Council members agreed to adopt the ordinance as part of the Sept. 27 consent agenda, and heard the first reading of it during the Sept. 13 meeting.

“In our review of issues related to code enforcement over the last year or so, we determined that there was a need to have some allowance for businesses in the TRC [Tourism-Related Commercial District] to have the ability

to play music indoors and outdoors at their establishments,” Fleishman said. “The best way to address that on a case-by-case basis is to allow it by conditional use permit.”

After a business applies for the music permit, the Planning Commission will “make certain findings as to whether or not the conditional use would be allowed,” Fleishman told City Council members on Sept. 13.

Fleishman added that once a property gets the permit, it will not be required to reapply on an “event-by-event basis,” although permits can be revoked if violated. One condition of the permit is that music “will not disturb the peace and comfort of the neighborhood,” which Fleishman said was “fairly well defined” despite how vague it might sound.

“It's not an individual's subjective standard of noise, it's a community-based standard,” Fleishman said. “If the Planning Commission makes a determination that for whatever reason a business is operating outside the bounds of its conditional use permit, then it can be revoked without having to go out on a code enforcement basis with a noise meter and prove it beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal case.”

During the Sept. 13 meeting, Mayor Charlie Uhrig expressed his concern that the ordinance might open “a can of worms” about noise pollution. Uhrig said he fears that allowing all downtown businesses to apply for the permit could lead to too much amplified music outdoors.

Fleishman explained that the Planning Commission's approval process would prevent that from happening.

“Well, I think that's what the Planning Commission would be examining,” Fleishman said. “They need to make a finding under the ordinance that the nature, scale, and operating characteristics of the musical entertainment is compatible with existing and future land uses in the vicinity of the use where the musical entertainment is going, and that's what the conditional use permit is for.”

—Caleb Wiseblood

NEWS from page 4

## Landsat 9 takes off from Vandenberg

NASA launched an Earth-observing satellite from Vandenberg Space Force Base on Sept. 27, continuing a 50-year land observation program and cementing a recently developed partnership between the space agency and Lompoc.

Lompoc's tourism district, Explore Lompoc, collaborated with NASA in a year-long effort to prepare for Landsat 9's launch, according to Explore Lompoc President Gilda Cordova.

"NASA wanted to provide activities the community members could take part of as well as all of the visitors that came into town for the launch," Cordova said.

Together, the two organizations hosted community activities and learning opportunities the week before the launch, Cordova said.

"For us, the roaring thunder of launches is an everyday thing, but we've established a great partnership and hope to continue inviting people into Lompoc," she added.

Lompoc's official partnership with NASA started during the 2018 Mission to Mars where the two hosted similar events for the community and more than 5,000 people attended the launch, Cordova said.

Several stations were set up at Landsat 9 launch where people could learn about the satellite's

structure, see temperature changes' impact in the arctic circle, create an arts and crafts collage, and pick up goodie bags to take home.

This type of satellite has launched from Vandenberg

Space Force Base since 1972, making Landsat the longest land-sensing program with more than 9 million photos captured, said Landsat 9 project scientist Jeff Masek.

The satellite is about the size of a bus or a minivan with two instruments on board that will capture 740 photos a day, he added. One of the devices will capture Earth's surface like a camera and the other is a thermal infrared sensor sensitive to surface temperature.

"Landsat itself doesn't sense climate change by taking the temperature of the atmosphere, but it does show us the impacts of climate change on ecosystems over the course of decades," Masek said. "Being in California, Landsat has a big application in looking at wildfires and forest fires. We are looking at the vegetation patterns and severity of the burns as well as long-term recoveries and how management approaches are helping or hurting that."

The satellite's information helps Lompoc City Council in its own environmental decision-making, Mayor Jenelle Osborne said.

"In particular, the satellite helps us really determine a lot of policies and decisions with land use," she said.

Osborne hopes the partnership with NASA will continue into the future.

"It's not only a partnership between all of the individuals putting the satellites into orbit, but it's been a partnership with the community," she said. "It isn't us and them, we are a part of this

global experience. There's a real opportunity for our local community to have careers, jobs, and be a part of the future."

—Taylor O'Connor

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# 'A better shot at living'

Stakeholders agree that building another fire station will help bring Orcutt's fire response times up to industry standards—but some say it should have happened years ago



**ON DUTY:** Capt. Josh Cazier, Brent McGill, Tosh Hebert, and Don Wilson (left to right) pose while on duty at Santa Barbara County Fire Station 26, located near Highway 101 in Orcutt. It's one of two stations serving the community, but firefighters say a third station is needed.



**FIGHTING FOR ORCUTT:** County Fire Station 21 Capt. James Klosek flips through a binder of photos and news clippings from the Orcutt Fire Protection District days.

The Old Town Orcutt station still operates today as county Station 21.

With shiny, modern fire trucks and equipment parked inside the station, remnants from the past still adorn the walls. A wooden sign carved with Station 21's official motto, "No Luck Needed," hangs above the station's office door, and inside the office, there's a framed black and white photograph of the Far Western Tavern (in its original Guadalupe location) with a billow of smoke rising above it.

Nailed to the outside of the station is a memorial plaque dedicated to Chief Ron Bennett, who died of a heart attack in 2007, right as things were changing for Orcutt and its fire district.

"Around 2006, the cost of business was outpacing the intake of money from the tax revenue," said Brett Pickett, who was appointed as the Orcutt Fire Protection District's interim fire chief after Bennett died and is currently a county firefighter. "The Orcutt Fire Protection District received a tax base from the residents within the district."

Orcutt tried to enact a benefit assessment—a fee property owners pay for a public service—to bolster the department's budget, but residents "didn't want a tax increase," Pickett said.

Meanwhile, county fire needed to find a new home for its station at the Santa Maria Public Airport. The Santa Maria Airport District acquired the airport in 1963, but an agreement allowed the county to build and staff a fire station there, which was completed in 1970 and served the Santa Maria Valley, including Orcutt, for decades.

"There was a fire engine and a crash truck with a three-man crew," Pickett said. "If there was a fire or a medical [emergency] in the Santa Maria Valley, that fire engine would go."

Around 2007, during the time of consolidation talks between the Orcutt Fire Protection District and county fire, Santa Maria was considering building a new city fire station on the airport property, which it had annexed. Though that station was never built, it prompted the county Fire Department to consider relocating its crew from the airport station, Pickett said.

Between the financial trouble Orcutt Fire Protection District was in and the county needing to move its airport station, "it all came together at the same time" for county fire to take over Orcutt's fire stations, Pickett said.

But, he added, there were mixed emotions about the change.

Former Orcutt Fire Chief Kirk Mang said the consolidation wasn't welcomed by everyone. Mang joined the Orcutt Fire Protection District in 1983 and was promoted to chief in 1990.

"It was more community oriented," said Mang,

similar types of responses in the local area."

Orcutt's fire stations, which once made up their own fire district, moved under Santa Barbara County Fire Department control in 2008, and some former and current firefighters feel that the resources allocated to Orcutt were reduced in the process. They also said they were concerned that the closest resource isn't always sent to emergency calls and point to instances when Orcutt's two fire stations are responding elsewhere in the county, leaving the community stripped of emergency responders.

The county Fire Department also needs to tackle its response times: According to a 2020 Citygate Associates study, county fire's response time—from answering a 911 call to arriving on the scene—is 2 minutes and 22 seconds slower than Citygate-recommended best practices.

Concerned locals and the county Fire Department agree that a regional fire dispatch center would solve some of these problems, and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors committed to building one earlier this year. But the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office,

which currently handles dispatch for county fire, thinks building a new \$10 million center doesn't address the root of the issue.

David said he supports centralizing fire dispatch but that adding fire resources in Orcutt is more pressing: The area just needs more options available to respond to emergencies. From his experience, it's a matter of life and death.

## Volunteer roots

Nearly a century ago, in 1928, the Orcutt Fire Protection District was formed. Prior to that, "fire protection was almost nonexistent in the Orcutt area," according to county fire's website.

"It was only after nearly all of the entire Orcutt business district was destroyed by a fire that the county Board of Commissioners approved and created the Orcutt Fire District," according to the county Fire Department. "Volunteers from the area then manned it. In 1966, a new fire station was built at 335 Union St. for Orcutt Fire Chief Ed Cox and his group of volunteers."

## BY MALEA MARTIN

In the years after one of the hardest moments of his life, longtime Central Coast resident and firefighter David has reflected on the events surrounding his dad's death.

David lost his father in 2004 to a heart attack. He experienced the major cardiac event at home in Orcutt, and though he didn't survive, the service he received from those who tried to save him was "incredible," David recalled. But if responders could have arrived earlier, David wonders if his dad's outcome would have been the same.

"The station that was near the house was a mile away. But the one that was sent was a mile and a half further away; it was two and a half miles away," said David, whose name was changed because he still works as a firefighter and requested anonymity. "I was in such a shock for so many years of losing my dad and trying to take care of my family afterwards, I never really got to think, 'Why wasn't the closest fire station sent?' ... Until recently, when I started noticing a lot of

who described an era of fire department-hosted block parties and a large presence in hometown parades. “Kids would stop by the department all the time. I always told the guys working, if any children show up [and] want to see the fire equipment, let them see it, let them climb on it.”

He served as chief for 13 years before retiring in 2003, when Bennett took over the post. After Bennett passed away unexpectedly in November 2007, Pickett became the interim chief for Orcutt, and John Scherrie was the county fire chief.

From Pickett’s perspective, the consolidation was “a win-win scenario for Orcutt and the county Fire Department.”

But for some, the move meant a loss of tradition.

“When it came time that we merged with county fire, we were told a lot of things by John Scherrie and his staff: ‘We’re going to keep the traditions, we’re going to do this, we’re going to do that,’” Mang recalled. “They immediately stopped doing the Christmas Parade. ... They stopped doing the other community things like the Halloween block party. A lot of things changed.”

## Under-resourced

David, the local firefighter who lost his dad to a heart attack, sees the consolidation as a turning point for the town’s fire resources. After the county moved in and the Santa Maria Airport station stopped responding to calls in the valley, David said Orcutt lost a station.

“[Taking that away] was a huge mistake on the county’s part,” David said. “The station’s still there but does not have a fire engine running calls at the north end of Orcutt. People still think [it serves Orcutt] to this day.”

Pickett said that, on paper, the consolidation reduced Orcutt’s stations. But in his eyes, the situation isn’t black and white.

As a combination volunteer and paid-call department, Orcutt fire stations weren’t staffed 24 hours a day before the consolidation.

“A trend was starting to develop that it was harder to man those pieces of equipment” in the stations, Pickett said.

When the county took over, the stations became fully staffed 24 hours a day. But at the same time, Pickett said, those fully staffed engines were also responding to emergencies outside of Orcutt, sometimes leaving the community with no local coverage.

Pros and cons aside, Pickett believes consolidation was inevitable: Orcutt Fire Protection District wasn’t financially sustainable anymore, he said.

“I don’t want to say the Orcutt Fire Department wasn’t serving their community: They were 100 percent dedicated to delivering the best service possible,” Pickett said. “But the writing was on the wall that it was going to get harder and harder.”

Mang doesn’t see it solely as a funding issue.

“We were working fine with the funding we had,” Mang said. “Obviously we could have used more; we were a small agency—one department, four pieces of equipment, 30 guys on the department. We were volunteer for the most part.

“I’ll be real honest, I think it was more of an ego thing: They didn’t like a volunteer fire department in Santa Barbara County.”

While people may disagree on what the 2008 consolidation meant for Orcutt, one point seems to resonate with everyone today.

“There does need to be another fire station in Orcutt, just due to the population,” Pickett said. “That’s a no-brainer.”

According to census data, Orcutt’s population grew by more than 3,000 people from 2010 to 2020.

A new station isn’t the only big plan on the docket: County fire also believes building a regional fire dispatch center—which would centralize fire dispatch, while splitting from the Sheriff’s Office—is another key piece to improving response times.

But Sheriff’s Office dispatch sees things differently.



**ANSWERING THE CALL:** A Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office dispatcher answers 911 calls. Right now, the Sheriff’s Office is responsible for dispatching county fire calls, but that will change when the county Fire Department builds its own regional dispatch center.

## Who answers the call?

When someone in the county’s jurisdiction calls 911 for a fire or medical emergency, the Sheriff’s Office dispatches the county fire resource. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department mans stations throughout the region, from Goleta to Orcutt to parts of the Santa Ynez Valley.

The sheriff’s dispatch department already uses a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system to assign the closest resource available to the emergencies. But dispatchers also have to follow district and agency boundaries. Local fire chiefs agree on these boundaries through memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that the Sheriff’s Office has no control over.

If there’s a vehicle accident on Highway 166, for example, and the closest resource is a Santa Maria city fire station, that doesn’t mean Santa Maria will respond.

“Highway 166 is within the county, and is an area where the service is provided by the county,” county fire Public Information Officer Capt. Daniel Bertucelli explained. “If engine companies

were pulled out of the city of Santa Maria in order to go out to Highway 166 for a vehicle accident, then that would be pulling resources out of the city where the taxpayers of Santa Maria pay to have their resources available for incidents within the city.”

However, through automatic aid agreements, sometimes city resources can get pulled into the county’s jurisdiction, or vice versa.

“An automatic aid agreement is an agreement between agencies that share borders,” Bertucelli said. “If there is a call that’s on the border of the two agencies’ district line, then a resource from the other agency will go across that line to respond and assist.”

Cities that have their own fire departments, like Santa Maria or Lompoc, also operate their own dispatch centers. If a call is right on the border between Orcutt and Santa Maria, but technically in Orcutt, the county would get the call and respond first with a county fire engine.

“Then our dispatch center would physically place a phone call to the Santa Maria city dispatch center, and advise them of a call that’s on the

border, and then Santa Maria city would, in turn, dispatch one of their engines,” Bertucelli said.

Robert, a former local firefighter who requested anonymity to protect his career, said the Saint Marie Mobile Home Park is a good example of automatic aid in a border area. Located at 1380 W. Main St., the park is just barely outside Santa Maria city limits.

Orcutt’s two engine companies—located at Station 21 in Old Town and Station 26 right next to Highway 101—both come equipped with paramedics, so they respond to medical emergencies. Currently, if a medical call comes in from the trailer park, “county engine 21 will go to that medical call, and then Santa Maria city will get a call to send an engine to that

call,” Robert said.

“To have two engines on scene of a medical call seems ridiculous to me,” Robert continued. “It seems that, even if this trailer park is in the county area, send Santa Maria city, because they’re closest.”

He added that when the Santa Maria Fire Department sends its engine, an ambulance goes with it, so any emergency medical needs on scene would still be covered. From Robert’s perspective, sending two engines to an incident that only requires one responder unnecessarily ties up an Orcutt resource.

In a worst-case scenario, if both Orcutt engines are committed to calls at the time of an emergency in Orcutt, resources from elsewhere in the county will have to come in, increasing that response time even more, Robert said.

## Dispatch debate

This is where the regional dispatch center comes in.

“It would essentially take away all the different little dispatch centers, which have to call each other when there’s a call on the border,” Bertucelli said. “There would be one regional fire dispatch center. That would alleviate this issue of calls that arrive on the borders, because it’s what we call borderless dispatching. The closest, most appropriate piece of equipment would respond to any given call that comes in.”

The center, which the Board of Supervisors approved design plans for in July, is expected to go live in January 2024, Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said.

But county Dispatch Manager Susan Farley said that building a regional fire dispatch center doesn’t change the fact that both an Orcutt county engine and a Santa Maria city engine respond to medical calls at a place like the Saint Marie Mobile Home Park.

“They are going to have to redo their MOUs, because right now, it’s an auto-aid situation,” Farley said. “If it’s in the county, county has to respond because they’re the one writing the report. And if it’s in the city, the city has to respond even if county is closer, because they have to write the report.

“That has nothing to do with who dispatches,” she continued, “that has to do with back-end decisions made by fire chiefs.”

Farley believes closest resource issues can be solved by rewriting the MOUs and auto-aid agreements, as well as upgrading the sheriff’s dispatch system. The Board of Supervisors recently approved the latter.

“Right now, we know their station address, and that’s what it recommends [the closest resource] based on,” Farley said.

The upgraded computer-aided dispatch, called a CAD to CAD link, will give the dispatchers the precise locations of engines when they’re not at their stations.

“It’s a lot cheaper to implement a computer system than it is to build a new dispatch center,” Farley said.

She estimates that the upgraded dispatch system will cost about \$56,000.

County Fire Chief Hartwig has served in his current position since 2019 and previously was the San Bernardino County Fire District chief. It was there that Hartwig saw how a regional dispatch operates and, from his perspective, its benefits.

Dropping boundary lines, Hartwig said, is the largest advantage.

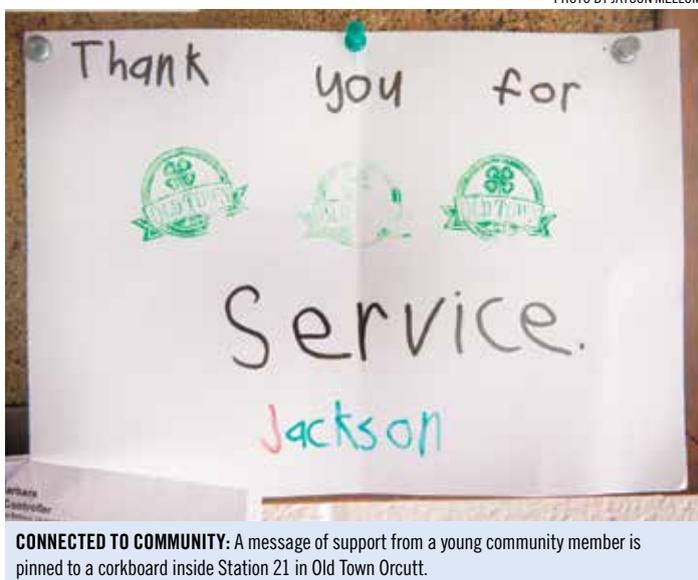
“It’s getting that fire, rescue, and EMS resource—which in many cases is time sensitive—[dispatching] that closest, most available resource for that 911 caller as soon as possible,” Hartwig said. “That’s really the value.”

Hartwig said that it’s “a much bigger issue than just MOUs,” and said the CAD upgrade is not enough.

“In order to do that, you have to rebuild the entire computer-aided dispatch software,” he said. “CAD to CAD is really best for seeing where another person’s resources are, if you want them. But it’s never been used, from what we can tell, to dispatch that other resource. ... The only place



**NO LUCK NEEDED:** Station 21’s official motto hangs above a door in the Old Town Orcutt station.



**CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY:** A message of support from a young community member is pinned to a corkboard inside Station 21 in Old Town Orcutt.

## 2021 NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS



# The judges have made their decisions – now it's YOUR TURN to vote!

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- BLTYHE BERG** "Noodles"
- BOB AND WENDY** "When I Needed You"
- CARBON CITY LIGHTS** "Dive in a River"
- GHOST/MONSTER** "Nice Guys"
- LOUIE & TALIA ORTEGA** "Mi Perro"
- LU LU & THE COWTIPPERS** "Just Begun"
- MISS LEO** "Desert Queen"
- MISS LEO** "Sparrow"
- NICOLE STROMSOE** "I Am Fine"
- PETE PIDGEON** "Wasted Child"
- RIO FLEMING** "Reach You"
- ROGUE STATUS** "Up in Smoke"
- ROGUE STATUS** "Whatitdo"
- THE BOGEYS** "Skelly Klater"
- THE FEARLESS MESSENGER OF LOVE** "Tennessee"
- THE SANTA CRUZ FAMILY BAND** "Mama"
- THE TIPSY GYPSIES** "Hunger"
- THE TIPSY GYPSIES** "Old Together"

## Listen and vote at [NewTimesSLO.com](http://NewTimesSLO.com)

Voting is open until 5 p.m. on Monday, October 18

## New Times Music Awards & Showcase:

### Friday, November 12, 2021 @ SLO Brew Rock



NEWS from page 7

that I and the other fire chiefs in the county have seen that done is in a joint regional center."

In 2019, without joint fire dispatch, the Santa Maria Fire Department responded to calls in the county's jurisdiction 213 times, and the county responded to Santa Maria city emergencies 116 times.

"That's calls that were either on the border, or that they didn't have resources available, and they called the other dispatch center and asked for help," Hartwig said.

With the joint dispatch center, Hartwig said those numbers will go up.

"Currently, we only reach out and ask for help when we don't have an engine available to respond, or we're on the border," Hartwig said. "The idea is that now, instead of picking up the phone and calling, or making decisions based on jurisdiction, we will be making the decision based on the need of the person calling, regardless of jurisdiction."

### Searching for a solution

Firefighter David, who lost his dad to cardiac arrest, believes that Orcutt's fire response needs more than centralized dispatch.

"We need more boots on the ground, more rigs rolling on the street," he said. "Dispatch is only part of the equation, but if you don't have the resources to dispatch, then we're not getting anywhere."

He also thinks the county should add an engine in Orcutt, "like, right now."

"Put it in service at one of the Orcutt stations currently, and then make civil accommodations for sleeping quarters and for the guys to operate at that station," he said.

County Chief Hartwig agrees that a new station is essential, and said the wheels are in motion to build one as soon as possible. A 2012 county-commissioned Citygate Associates study called for increased service in the Orcutt area, Hartwig said. A 2020 update to that study, this

time commissioned by county fire, specifically recommends an additional engine company.

County fire's average call-to-arrival response time in 2019 was 9 minutes and 52 seconds, while best practice is considered to be 7 minutes and 30 seconds, the report states. Orcutt Station 21's response time is higher than the county average, at 10 minutes and 9 seconds.

"In Orcutt, the existing stations serve a large urban and adjoining county area," the report states. "... In light of this, a third station in the Orcutt area will significantly increase response capacity."

Hartwig said the county already purchased land for the new station in the Union Valley and Orcutt Boulevard area, and it's in escrow right now.

David looks forward to the day the station is up and running, but it's hard for him to let go of the fact that it didn't happen sooner. As he experienced firsthand with the death of his father, every second counts in an emergency like a cardiac arrest.

According to the 2012 Citygate report, when the heart stops in a heart attack, the human brain starts to die from lack of oxygen in four to six minutes, with brain damage becoming irreversible at the 10-minute mark.

County dispatchers do give CPR instructions over the phone until professional help gets to the scene. But survival rates increase dramatically when an automated external defibrillator is administered early, and in most circumstances, that requires paramedics.

For fire emergencies, early response is also critical: A room can become engulfed in flames in as little as four to five minutes, the Citygate report said.

"You'll never understand it fully until it happens to you," David said. "The people deserve it. My dad deserved it. ... He did not get that care fast enough, and who knows what would have happened if the guys got there sooner. I think he would have had a better shot at living." ○

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



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PHOTO COURTESY OF NAMI



**MENTAL HEALTH:** NAMI's new North County location aims to connect with Santa Maria and southern SLO County residents to provide a peer-to-peer support network for families helping loved ones with mental illnesses.

## A light of hope

*NAMI offers parent-to-parent program to families helping loved ones with mental illness in northern Santa Barbara County*

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

National Alliance on Mental Health's (NAMI) parent-to-parent instructors have experience helping loved ones with mental illnesses, and they can provide insight to other families facing similar issues.

Santa Barbara County NAMI President George Kaufmann is one of the instructors for the parent-to-parent program at the national nonprofit's new Santa Maria location, which opened in early 2020 and serves northern Santa Barbara County and parts of SLO County. His son was diagnosed with schizophrenia more than 25 years ago and struggled with treatment.

"Family members often come to us often befuddled and frustrated because everywhere they've turned has not worked. Our mental health system works for those who accept treatment, but not so much for those without insight," Kaufmann said. "It took my son 10 years of going in and out of jails, in and out of hospitals, and resisting treatment every step of the way to develop insight."

The parent-to-parent program educates families about the science behind mental illness, communication techniques with their relatives, and peer-to-peer support, Kaufmann said.

"This is a great program for families; they'll probably be uncomfortable asking for help but they'll never regret it," Kaufmann said.

NAMI is the largest mental health services organization in the United States, and the Santa Maria location is one of its 600 affiliates that educates and advocates for mental health, Kaufmann said.

The current parent-to-parent program in North County runs through Nov. 10. Although enrollment is closed for it, participants can either sign up for the SLO County affiliate's program, which started on Sept. 29, or pre-register for Santa Maria's January session.

NAMI didn't have a physical northern Santa Barbara County location until a year and a half ago, and Kaufmann said the difficulty now is outreach.

"We worked very closely with our Board of Supervisors to try and

improve services, identify gaps, and improve them. We have been pretty successful over the years, but we are continuing to struggle in North County about awareness of the family class and NAMI in general," Kaufmann said.

The current parent-to-parent program includes three to four people from the Santa Maria area and others from SLO County and south of Santa Maria. NAMI hopes to provide information to those who are interested and to get more participants through word of mouth, he said. Kaufmann hopes this program gives families an understanding that treatment works and recovery is possible.

"Parents think their job is to make things easier and solve problems and then realize these are problems they can't solve. You can't do something for someone else when they need to solve it for themselves," he continued.

The program hands out mental health crisis information that includes details about county mental health resources and hospitalization procedures, Kaufmann said.

"We spend a lot of time helping families with what to do if anything goes south, which unfortunately happens," he continued.

Through all of this, the program teaches parents the value of self-care and the development of healthy coping mechanisms, Kaufmann said.

"We hope to change the way they respond to their situation . . . . We ask that family members take care of themselves—the whole idea of putting on your own mask before you can help other people. Don't try to do this without focusing on self-care," Kaufmann said.

To join the January waiting list, Kaufmann said to contact family support specialist Maria Perez at mperez@t-mha.org. To register for the SLO County program, families can call SLO County affiliate President Pam Zweifel at (805) 543-1825 or email namisanluisobispo@gmail.com.

### Highlight

• Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital is offering a free drive-thru flu vaccine clinic at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott Hotel at 555 McMurray Road in Buellton on Oct. 2 from 8 a.m. to noon. Free flu vaccines will be administered to those age 12 and over from the safety and comfort of their cars, and masks are required. Advanced registration is required for a specific time slot because vaccines are limited. To make a reservation and access the consent form, visit [cottagehealth.org/syflu](http://cottagehealth.org/syflu). ○

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. Send business and nonprofit tips to [spotlight@santamariasun.com](mailto:spotlight@santamariasun.com).

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October 1  
**PUBLICATION DATE:**  
October 7

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

FALL/WINTER 2021

# MENUS

**FEATURE STORIES BY:** September 24  
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**PUBLICATION DATE:** Late October

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**PUBLICATION DATE:** November 25

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**ARMIJO, BRYAN BUSTER**, 49, of Nipomo passed away 9/16/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**AYLA DE PEREZ, EVANGELINA**, 60, of Paso Robles passed away 9/14/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**BAXTER, SALLY ANN**, 84, of Atascadero passed away 9/21/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**BELLANCA, WINIFRED A.**, 98, of Atascadero passed away 9/16/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

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**SCOTT, BRANT NATHAN**, 63, of Pismo Beach passed away 9/3/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**SHAFFER, JUANITA IRENE**, 102, of Atascadero passed away 9/9/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

**SHEVLIN, MARY L.**, 92, of San Luis Obispo passed away 3/2/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

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**SWART, RONALD HAYES**, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 9/24/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

**TORRES, DENEVA**, 60, of Santa Maria passed away 9/23/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

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**VECENTE, ARTHUR**, 94, of Santa Maria passed away 9/23/2021 arrangements with Magner-Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

**VILES, ANGELA**, 50, of Atascadero passed away 9/25/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

**WARNER, DANIEL DOUGLAS**, 45, of San Luis Obispo passed away 9/4/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

**WILLIAMS, LEONARD FRANKLIN**, 73, of Shell Beach passed away 9/23/2021 arrangements with Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

**WRIGHT, ELIZABETH MARIE**, 93, of Lompoc passed away 9/11/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

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## Online Poll

**What are the most important conversations to be having right now when it comes to policing?**

- 43%** Mental health is where our dollars need to go, both in and out of the police department.
- 31%** We need to address how racial bias influences policing.
- 18%** We should focus on funding the police so they can do their job.
- 6%** As one Sept. 20 community input meeting attendee said, 'Let's get back to the Old West and treat people like they should be treated.' (Interpret how you will.)

16 Votes

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## Safety first

*PG&E's increased protection measures, while frustrating at times, are decreasing potential wildfire ignitions*

BY TERESA ALVARADO

The threat of wildfire in California and other Western states continues to grow. Severe drought conditions, dry fuels, and rising temperatures are driving unprecedented increases in the potential risk for wildfires. To combat this increased risk, PG&E is continuing to evolve our wildfire prevention efforts for the safety of our customers and communities.

One of the new steps that we have taken is adjusting the power line safety settings of protection devices on the grid to automatically turn off electricity more quickly if the lines experience an issue. These can include tree branches, mylar balloons, and even, unfortunately, wildlife striking equipment. By adjusting the sensitivity of these settings, power shuts off faster, reducing wildfire risk. Since these updated settings were implemented in late July 2020, PG&E has seen a decrease of more than 50 percent in ignitions that could have resulted in catastrophic wildfires, as compared to the prior three-year average.

While these settings make our electric system safer, they have resulted in more frequent, longer-duration outages for some of you. We have heard loud and clear the burden these outages are causing and that we must improve. Here are some of the steps we are taking right now for our customers:

- Fine-tuning the sensitivity of each protection device to match the wildfire risk on each circuit.

- Improving communication between equipment to automatically limit outage size.

- Enhancing restoration patrols to restore power more quickly when it goes out.

- Revamping the information that we are able to share with customers during an outage.

We recognize the hardship that these outages our causing, but we also know this safety measure is working.

On Sept. 7, a PG&E technician responding to an outage found an oak tree that had broken and fallen on a power line, taking down two poles and the power line with it. This occurred in an area at a high risk for wildfire, with difficult access for firefighters if a wildfire had started. While we can't predict where or when this might occur, community safety must come first.

As we work to make improvements to our system, there are programs available to support customers. For example, some customers may qualify for our portable battery and generator rebate programs. Visit [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety) to learn more. There, you can also find more information about why we're raising the sensitivity on our electric equipment

### PG&E has seen a decrease of more than 50 percent in ignitions that could have resulted in catastrophic wildfires, as compared to the prior three-year average.

in high fire threat areas. Just click on the tab titled, "Learn about enhanced power line safety settings."

We want to thank our customers for your partnership and understanding. We are committed to getting better and making our system safer for our hometowns while improving the reliability of our electric service. If you have any questions, please email us at [wildfiresafety@pge.com](mailto:wildfiresafety@pge.com).

Teresa Alvarado is PG&E's vice president of the South Bay and Central Coast region. Send a reply via the editor at [clanham@santamariasun.com](mailto:clanham@santamariasun.com).

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for you—you could try your hand at supporting them by advocating for them with things that may actually help our frontline workers—like bonus pay, loan forgiveness, subsidies to hospitals for crisis travel nurses, and fighting to keep the ratios in place.

If you can't do these things, maybe just admit that you're working for the highest bidder in campaign contributions.

Grace Miller  
San Luis Obispo

### Let's trounce voter suppression

With a sense of helplessness, we watch events in Afghanistan unfold and wildfires rage in this great state. Meanwhile, the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act are strongly beckoning us to repeal the greatest threat to voting rights since Reconstruction.

Hundreds of new voting restrictions are being enacted in dozens of Republican states. If these voter suppression bills stand, they will silence the most economically disadvantaged and people of color for years, if not decades, to come.

We cannot look to the courts for relief as they have systematically moved to the rigid right, especially the Supreme Court. The only way to protect voting rights is at the federal level—with the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. It will take the elimination of the filibuster or at least a modification of it to protect voting rights for all citizens of this nation.

Please research any and all methods to engage with decision makers at the federal level to step up to trounce voter suppression. Let's join together to reverse human-induced climate crisis that fuels fires, and fully support adults who can make tough decisions to stop continuous warfare.

Dorothy Hines  
Nipomo



# Vulnerability

Who's going to be the most impacted by climate change in Santa Barbara County? I'll give you one guess.

It's not the people who own pieces of the pristine Hollister Ranch area—including filmmaker James Cameron and musician Jackson Browne—who like to keep their private portion of California's coastline as inaccessible to the general public as possible.



And it's not the happily Dutchified city of Solvang, which is going to start charging businesses in the downtown tourism district for hosting live music indoors or outdoors now that the city's requiring conditional use permits for doing the thing that all restaurants and bars do to try to bring in a few extra customers.

No, it's not ExxonMobil, which is gainfully taking a stab at attempting to truck liquid gold through the most environmentally sensitive county on the coast because it has no other way to restart its offshore oil platforms—and continue contributing carbons to the climate-change game.

OK, that's three guesses. I give up on you! It's ... drumroll please ... unemployed folks, senior citizens, children, impoverished households, mobile home residents, and those who live in overcrowded homes! Surprised?

Nope. Nope. Nope. Is it any wonder that the folks who society has failed to figure out how to keep from slipping through the cracks are also the most vulnerable to what comes with climate disasters?

"They are already having a tough time. They are probably less equipped, have fewer resources ... They do not have the ability to adapt or recover with climate impacts strike," Long Range Planner Whitney Wilkinson told the Sun.

They can't bounce back from something like a mudslide or major flooding event like people with money can. Just like they can't bounce back from disruptive life events like health issues or a sudden loss of income. The demographics listed as the most vulnerable in the county's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment are also the most vulnerable in society, period.

It seems like it would behoove us to tackle issues simultaneously, since they are so connected. Hopefully, the county's goals to work on homelessness—as outlined in its recent plans to tackle encampments and get folks into more permanent housing situations—will make progress before flash floods sweep through riverbeds in Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria.

Hopefully we can address climate vulnerabilities faster than the Santa Barbara County Fire Department has been able to get a regional fire dispatch center up and running to address some of its call response time issues. County fire's biggest issue with the way things are currently run by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, which oversees dispatch for EMS, fire, and law enforcement, is an inability to dispatch the closest resource to the call.

Although the Sheriff's Office believes it can be fixed with a new technology upgrade—that's also what it's said in the past. But now, after years of asking for it, the county Fire Department is headed toward a dispatch center for fire and EMS that can dispatch calls across city and county boundary lines, ensuring that the closest fire or medical resource is the one that gets sent to the emergency call.

I don't understand why that isn't already happening.  
Just me? ☹️

The canary is always surprised. Send comments to [canary@santamariasun.com](mailto:canary@santamariasun.com).



# Nonstop to Higher Expectations

LAS VEGAS  
PHOENIX-MESA  
PORTLAND



## SMOOTH Senior Dial-A-Ride HELP WANTED

DRIVERS PART-TIME TO FULL TIME WITH GREAT PAY & BENEFITS

Established, growing company with local routes. Class B Passenger & Air Brake Endorsements desired. Paid commercial license training provided. Good driving record & current DMV-(H6) required. \$300 Signing Bonus paid after 90 Day Intro Period. A GREAT career opportunity!



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## REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



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This beautiful Ernie Ball guitar could be yours! Based on the original 1970s Music Man designs, the Vintage Tobacco Cutlass RS has been re-engineered to deliver unparalleled playability and performance. It has a retail value of \$2,499.

One raffle ticket is \$10 or get three tickets for \$25.

The guitar will be raffled at the New Times Music Awards on November 12th at SLO Brew Rock.



2021 NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS



Get tickets at [My805Tix.com](http://My805Tix.com)

## EVERYTHING IS ON THE LINES

Get involved with state redistricting.

[WeDrawTheLinesCA.org](http://WeDrawTheLinesCA.org)



Paid for by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission



# ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN TO BE SAFE.

The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Santa Barbara County is to assure a safe, permanent, nurturing home for all abused and/or neglected children by providing a highly trained volunteer to advocate for them in the court system.

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.™



Your support makes a difference.

805-739-9102 - [SBCASA.ORG](http://SBCASA.ORG)

# News Wire

Sign up for the *Santa Maria Sun News Wire* newsletter and get your current local news FREE every Thursday in your inbox

Select the SIGNUP button at the top right of our homepage at [www.santamariasun.com](http://www.santamariasun.com)



**JDX PHARMACY**  
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PHARMACY

*Your Local Pharmacy and Medical Equipment Supply Source*

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**Medical equipment:**

- Hospital beds
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- Bathroom safety products
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**Medicine:**

- Prescription medicine
- Cold medicine
- Cough syrup
- Cough drops
- Flu medicine
- Pain relief medicine

OPEN: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-1pm

JDX Pharmacy is a full-service pharmacy that offers medications and other medical equipment to all of Santa Maria, CA. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is always ready to assist you with all your medical supply needs. We offer same-day service for your convenience.

1504 SOUTH BROADWAY EAST, SANTA MARIA • [WWW.HEALTHMART.COM](http://WWW.HEALTHMART.COM)

# HOT STUFF

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 7  
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!**



## MAKING WAVES

The Elwin Mussell Senior Center holds its next dance concert, *Active Aging: Hawaiian Style*, on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club and the Community Foundation of SLO County, this free event features live music from the Riptide Big Band and accompanying vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Call (775) 813-5186 or visit [riptidebb.com](http://riptidebb.com) to find out more. The Elwin Mussell Senior Center is located at 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LINDQUIST

## ARTS

### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

**ARTISTIC PERCEPTIONS** Gallery Los Olivos presents Cheryl Ambrecht and Patricia Watkins in this duo show. The artists exhibit still life and plein air paintings and jewelry. Both artists have been Gallery artists for more than 10 years and have a huge collection of creative work to share. **Oct. 1**, 12-5 p.m. and Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 31 Free. 805-688-7517. [GalleryLosOlivos.com](http://GalleryLosOlivos.com). Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

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

**SHARING THE LIGHT: ANSEL ADAMS AND ALAN ROSS** This duo exhibition showcases the photography careers of both Ansel Adams (1902-1984) and Alan Ross (whose work is pictured), a longtime friend and former assistant of Adams. Through March 20, 2022 [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org). Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

**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. Through Sept. 30 Free. [GalleryLosOlivos.com](http://GalleryLosOlivos.com). Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517.

**WIDENING CIRCLES: LANDSCAPE PORTRAITS OF SOLVANG** Both of the show's featured artists, husband and wife John Iwerks and Chris Chapman, will also be hosting periodic art demonstrations at the museum (Oct. 9, Oct. 30, and Nov. 13). Through Feb. 1, 2022 [elverhoj.org](http://elverhoj.org). Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ART EXHIBIT: FLOYD AND BARBARA SNYDER** Beginning Friday, September 3, the works of talented local artists Floyd and Barbara Snyder will be exhibiting at the Shepard Hall Art Gallery. Their show entitled "Return to Peace & Tranquility," will be on display until the end of October. Through Oct. 28 Free. 805-925-0994. Shepard Hall Art Gallery - Santa Maria Public Library, 421 South McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**GOOD MORNING STORY TIME** Storytime is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. This fun story time will have songs, fingerplays, and stories. Storytime will be held outside on our patio. Please bring a blanket to sit on. Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m. through Oct. 14 Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**LOCAL AND FEATURED ARTIST EXHIBITS** Valley Art Gallery, located in the SM Airport, exhibits local and featured artist work. New exhibits are mounted the first Tuesday of even-numbered months. Wide variety of art available for purchase. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

**LOS ALAMOS LIBRARY: DECOUPAGE KEEPSAKE BOX** Join us and create a one of a kind Decoupage Keepsake Box. This beginning level workshop will teach the basics of decoupage. All materials will be provided. Registration is required. For adults ages 18 and over. **Sept. 30**, 3-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Los Alamos Library, 405 Helena St, Los Alamos.

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

### NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CRAFT ACTIVITY FOR ADULTS

Create home-made maracas. Join us for a music-themed celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Each supply kit includes an English and Spanish reading list comprised of Hispanic and Latino authors. Registration is required. **Oct. 9**, 3-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

**PCPA READS AT HOME** A literacy project that uses our students' learning to serve children and parents who are learning at home. Co-hosted by Allan Hancock College and the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to bring a love of stories and language to people right in their homes. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://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](mailto:jgaytan@cityofsantamaria.org) First Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**SOCIAL DIS-DANCE** Classes available for all skill levels. Class sizes limited. ongoing Everybody Can Dance, 628 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-937-6753.

**STORY TIME FOR FAMILIES** Enjoy songs, fingerplays, and stories in English and Spanish. Story time is designed to build literacy skills and school readiness, all while having a great time. Storytime will be held outside on

our patio. Please bring a blanket to sit on. Wednesdays, 4-4:30 p.m. through Oct. 13 Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria 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, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

**VALLEY ART GALLERY'S FALL ART SPECTACULAR 2021** The Valley Art Gallery of Santa Maria is presenting original art work from local artists. All work is available for purchasing. Free parking. Free admission. Open during airport hours. Through Dec. 1 Free. [valleygallery.org](http://valleygallery.org). Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

**WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM** Sara Curran Ice, PCPA's Technical Theatre Program Coordinator/Designer, is conducting Workshops via Zoom for local high school drama students. Check site or call for more info. ongoing PCPA: The Pacific Conservatory Theatre, 800 S. College, Santa Maria, 805-922-8313, [pcpa.org](http://pcpa.org).

**YOUTH ART PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Ages 6 to 12. Pick up a youth art pack to create a masterpiece at home. Art packs include projects that guide students in learning basic principles of art. **Oct. 9** Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). SM Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

### SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**FRANKENSTEIN'S BRIDE** This horror story spoof hilariously reconstructs the classic tale by injecting it with musical parodies, pop culture references, and witty one-liners. Fifteen years after the death of Frankenstein's creation, a mad scientist attempts to reanimate the Creature. What could possibly go wrong? Wednesdays-Sundays. through Nov. 14 \$25-\$32. [americanmelodrama.com](http://americanmelodrama.com). Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

**ART IN THE PARK AT DINOSAUR CAVES** An outdoor art festival featuring more than 40 artists/vendors. Located at Dinosaur Caves Park in Shell Beach, overlooking the ocean. Selection includes glass, pottery, jewelry, textiles, furniture, sculpture, paintings, photography, beauty products, food, plants, and more. **Oct. 3**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 559-907-7538. [artintheparkshellbeach.com](http://artintheparkshellbeach.com). Dinosaur Caves Park, 2701 Price St, Pismo Beach.

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS**

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

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**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.

**RANCHO NIPOMO: MOVING WITH THE TIMES EXHIBIT** This exhibit also includes the restoration efforts of the Dana Adobe which had their start in the 1930s and remain ongoing to this day. Through Jan. 15, 2022, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5, free for DANA members and children under 12 years of age. 805-929-5679. danaadobe.org. DANA Adobe Cultural Center, 671 S. Oakgreen Ave., Nipomo.

### 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.

**ART AND ABOUT AT SLOMA** Showcasing "History and Its Shadow", paintings and sculpture by the world renowned artist Mark di Suvero. "Pacifcaribbean", a mural by Juan Alberto Negroni. "Deconstructed Freedom" by artist Eric Jon Boyd. "Revisiting the Vessel", contemporary sculpture hosted in partnership with the Central Coast Sculptors Group. **Oct. 1**, 5-8 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

**CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST PASTEL SOCIETY: 3CPS MEMBER ONLINE SHOW** Discover California Central Coast Pastel Society's new online exhibit, with vibrant contemporary and classical paintings in varied styles and themes. Find exhibit, workshop, membership, paint-out dates, and event info on website. Through March 31, 2022 Free. 3cps.org/3cps-online-show/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**COLLEEN GNOS: 2021 OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR** This year's tour will take place in person. You're invited to see what Colleen has been creating over the past 2 years. Many new paintings, prints, and cards will be available. **Oct. 9**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 10**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-441-8277. artsobispo.org/open-studios-art-tour. Gnos Art Studio, 141 Suburban Road, Unit C4, San Luis Obispo.

**FREE DOCENT TOURS AT SLOMA** Gain a deeper understanding of the artwork on view with SLOMA's new docent tours. Join our trained guides for interactive and engaging tours of SLOMA's current exhibitions. To join a tour, please check-in at the front desk. Docent tours are free. Saturdays, 3-4 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

**FREE MEMBERSHIP IN CENTRAL COAST SCULPTORS** Central Coast Sculptors welcomes CA artists, teachers, and students working in 3D art media, and sculpture enthusiasts. Join for free until Dec. 31. No geographic requirements. Enjoy distinctive exhibits such as "The Phantom Project," pop-ups, juried member showcases, and more. Through Dec. 31 Free

membership.html. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

**MARK DI SUVERO: HISTORY AND ITS SHADOW** An exhibition of paintings and sculpture by the world renowned artist. Through Nov. 7 San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, 543-8562, sloma.org/.

**MASK MAKING AND HAT MAKING** Geared for children and adults. ongoing Spirits of Africa Gallery, 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, spiritsofamericagallery.com/.

**OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR 2021** Free to the public, artists and crafters open their studios to showcase their art and share their process. Some artists have live demonstrations so visitors can see art being created and experience the creative process. Visitors create their own self-guided tour using the downloadable catalog. **Oct. 9**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 10**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/open-studios-art-tour. ARTS Obispo Open Studios Art Tour, SLO County, County wide.

**PAINTING CLASSES** Easels, brushes, and canvases provided. Limited to 20 students. ongoing Spirits of Africa Gallery, 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, spiritsofamericagallery.com/.

**ROSEY AND BARBARA ROSENTHAL: OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR** **Oct. 9** and **Oct. 10** artsobispo.org. Rosey and Barbara's Studio, 743 Santa Lucia Ave., San Luis Obispo.

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

**VIEWPOINTS: A SPECIAL EXHIBITION** Viewpoints is an exhibition by four artists who observe the world from different directions. Kim Snyder, Rod Baker, Barry Lundgren, and Janice Pluma each offer a unique perspective on nature's many faces. **Oct. 2**, 5-8 p.m. and **Oct. 2-Dec. 31** 805-926-5050. SLO Gallery, 1019 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, SLOgallery.com.

**WONDERS OF THE OAK WOODLANDS YOUTH ART SHOW: IN SUPPORT OF LCSLO** Features art from kindergarten to grade 12 students in San Luis Obispo County. Showcasing animal and plant diversity found within SLO County's oak woodlands, while spotlighting the amazing talents of youth artists. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-4 p.m. through Oct. 10 Free. 805-747-4200. artcentralslo.com/gallery/. Art Central, 1329 Monterey 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. Through Dec. 1 Free. 520-730-9733. Joebella Coffee Roasters, 3168 El Camino Real, Atascadero, joebellacoffee.com.

**BRUCE MUNRO: LIGHT AT SENSORIO** Acclaimed artist Bruce Munro's Light at Sensorio features two walkthrough installations: "Field of Light" featuring almost 60,000 color-changing blooms covering 15 acres of rolling hills; and "Light Towers," celebrating Paso Robles

wine towers composed of more than 17,000 illuminated wine bottles. Thursdays-Sundays, through Jan. 2 \$9.50-\$110. 805-226-4287. sensorio.paso.com/. Sensorio, 4380 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles.

**DEPRISE BRESCIA ART GALLERY: OPEN DAILY** Features a large selection of encaustic art, sculpted paintings, art installations, acrylic palette knife paintings, digital art, glass, jewelry, stones, fossils, and a butterfly sculpture garden. ongoing DepriseBrescia.com. Deprise Brescia Art Gallery, 829 10th St., Paso Robles, 310-621-7543.

**FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION** Studios on the Park celebrates the continuation of the current exhibition "Luminous Lightscapes" with a fun tradition of art, wine, and live music-filled evening. Join us for wines from Epoch Estate Wines and music from pianist Marco. **Oct. 2**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org/events/first-saturday-october/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., 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.

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

### NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**BOOK-SIGNING: AIDA REID** Coalesce Bookstore is hosting local author Aida Reid and her newest book *Eyes of Eve*, a blazing historical thriller that follows a young girl in her search for answers after her brother is shot down in Nazi-occupied France in 1940. Meet the author. **Oct. 2**, 2-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2880. Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St., Morro Bay, coalescebookstore.com/.

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

**CENTRAL COAST SCULPTORS' "TOMORROW'S SCULPTURE"** Explore Central Coast Sculptors' contemporary exhibition, "toMORROW's Sculpture" at Art Center Morro Bay through Nov. 1, along with Morro Bay Art Association's mixed-media showcase Visionary



### POOL SCHOOL

Lompoc Parks and Recreation will host a four-day Lifeguard Training Course, with class meetings held on Friday, Oct. 1, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 2, Sunday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct. 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Ages 15 and older are welcome to register for the course. Admission is \$200. Classes take place at the Lompoc Aquatic Center, located at 207 W. College Ave., Lompoc. Call (805) 875-8100 or visit cityoflompoc.com for more info.

—C.W.

Human. Juror Russell Hodin chose 30 sculptures with diverse materials, styles and techniques by 24 regional 3D-artists. Masks required. Through Nov. 1 Free admission. 805-772-2504. centralcoastsculptors.org/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**COSTA GALLERY: ART AND ABOUT LOS OSOS** "Feel the magic" at the Costa Gallery in Los Osos. Art and About Los Osos is held the second Saturday of every month. Experience the arts in the this intimate curated gallery. Second Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. Free. 559-799-9632. Costa Gallery, 2087 10th Street, Los Osos.

**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.

**FREE CREATIVITY DAY** This ongoing group is free, informal, and open to the public. Meet in the Studio at Art Center Morro Bay. Bring your art work, in any medium and join others working in various mediums. Bring your lunch and join the fun. Choose your attendance time. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Jan. 26 Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/comingevents/classes/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

**LARRY LE BRANE'S WEEKLY FUSED GLASS LABS FOR EXPERIENCED STUDENTS** Call or email host, or check website for more precise info on workshop dates (dates vary). Ideal for students who already make fused-glass independently. Try 1 or a whole series with technical and design help. Equipment and decorative glass included in \$55 fee. Students supply COE 96 base glass. No drop-ins, please. Details, dates, and register at larron4@charter.net. Through Nov. 27 \$55. 805-528-8791. facebook.com/larry.lebrane. Central Coast Glass Blowing and Fusing, 1279 2nd Street, Los Osos.

HOT STUFF continued page 16

# Park 2 Park

## 4 Mile Run/Walk & 8 Mile Run

**Saturday Oct 16, 2021**

Registration 8-9am  
Run starts 9am

**Beattie Park, Lompoc**

(turn around for 8 Mile Miguelito Park)



<http://members.impulse.net/~lvdc/>

For more info: Race Director Daniel Hopson  
(805) 588-7933 · hopson11ever@outlook.com



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# CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

**12TH ANNUAL SCARECROW FEST** Throughout the month of October, participating businesses and organizations throughout Santa Ynez Valley will create their own unique scarecrows to be displayed outside storefronts and at other locations. **Oct. 1-31** [syvscarecrows.com](http://syvscarecrows.com). Downtown Solvang, Citywide, Solvang.

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**2021 MARRIAGE CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT** Calvary Chapel Santa Maria is hosting a Cornhole Tournament for Marriages. For \$40, the family receives a prepared lunch, the married couple gains entry into the tournament, babysitting is provided, and potential prizes can be won. **Oct. 10, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.** \$40. 805-922-1822. [ccsantamaria.com](http://ccsantamaria.com). Calvary Chapel Santa Maria, 2620 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria.

**30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ ORCUTT** Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. [ongoingpartnersincaring.org](http://ongoingpartnersincaring.org). Santa Maria, 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.

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

**HOW-TO: CYBERSECURITY** Cyberattacks are happening more frequently. Cyberattacks are relatively cheap to orchestrate and can be quite lucrative. Attend this free presentation where Library staff discuss how to protect your data. Registration is required. **Oct. 6, 3-4 p.m.** 805-925-0994. [cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library](http://cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**LEGO CLUB PACKS** Meet with other Lego fans and

build together or check out a Lego set to take home. Build with the bricks provided by the library for two weeks and return them to the library when finished. All bricks are sanitized before and after use. **Sept. 30, 4-4:55 p.m.** Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

**POKÉMON STEAM YOUTH PACKS** Pick up this Pokémon trainer STEAM pack. Learn fun math with Pokémon cards and create original Pokémon nature material found from hikes or park excursions and more. Program packs are available while supplies last. **Oct. 2, Oct. 4, Oct. 5, Oct. 6, Oct. 7, Oct. 8 and Oct. 9** Free. 805-925-0994. [engagedpatrons.org](http://engagedpatrons.org). Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

**REFLEXOLOGY AT OASIS** Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 805-937-9750. [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org). Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

**SANTA MARIA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963 REUNION BARBECUE** A special barbecue for the SMHS class of 1963 classmates and their spouses. Email [scpdjo@yahoo.com](mailto:scpdjo@yahoo.com) for info. **Oct. 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** \$5-\$20. Waller Park, 3107 Orcutt Road, Orcutt.

**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S: SANTA MARIA** Moving forward with plans to host this year's Walk to end Alzheimer's in person at Rotary Centennial Park, with alternative online and neighborhood options available. Join us in the fight to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. **Oct. 2, 8-11 a.m.** Free. 805-892-4259. [act.alz.org/santamaria](http://act.alz.org/santamaria). Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 South College Dr., Santa Maria.

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**GREENER PASTURES FARM SANCTUARY: SELF-GUIDED TOUR** Visit Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary for a self-guided tour where you will meet the rescued residents up close and hear their stories of triumph from volunteers who work with them weekly. You will meet goats, mini horses, sheep, potbelly pig, mini donkeys, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. First Saturday of every month, 12-1 & 1-2 p.m. through Dec. 4 \$10. 805-704-7327. [greenerpasturesanctuary.org/events.html](http://greenerpasturesanctuary.org/events.html). Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary, 2148 S. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande.

**VETSURF FRIDAY** Veterans encouraged to join us for these weekly VetSurf programs to share the camaraderie. Surfers and non-surfers are welcome; enjoy coffee and snacks on the beach or paddle out to share some waves with fellow Veterans. Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free

admission. 805-441-5271. [ampsurf.org](http://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](http://5citysswimschool.com).

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

### 2021 HOUSING SUMMIT

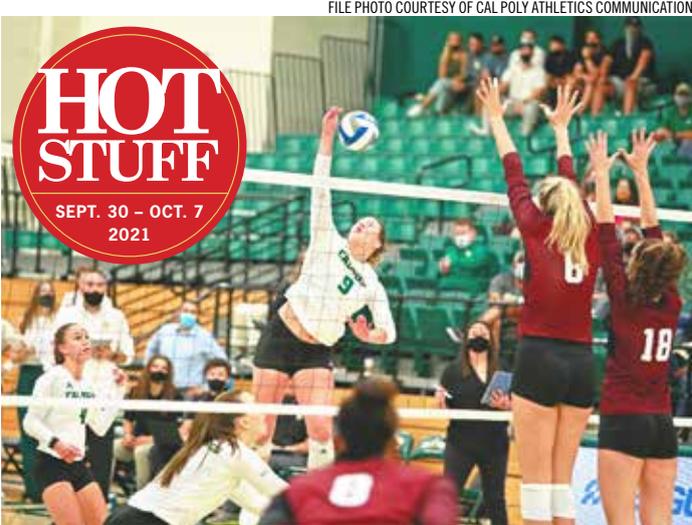
This year's Housing Summit will provide attendees a behind the scenes look at the most impactful addition of permanent supportive housing in our region in the past year. This innovative public-private partnership leveraged state funds to rapidly convert a motel into desperately needed housing. **Oct. 6, 3-4:30 p.m.** Free. 805-781-2777. [slochamber.org](http://slochamber.org). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

### CAL HOPE SLO GROUPS AT TMHA

Visit website for full list of weekly Zoom groups available. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays [calhopecoconnect.org](http://calhopecoconnect.org). Transitions Mental Health Warehouse, 784 High Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-270-3346.

**CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS WEBER STATE** It's the annual Homecoming game and a Greenout Game. The first 2,000 fans will receive a special green Cal Poly shirt, and after the game there will be fireworks presented by Central Coast Honda. **Oct. 2, 5 p.m.** [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY MEN'S SOCCER VS CSUN** It's Hispanic Heritage Night at Spanos Stadium. **Oct. 3, 5 p.m.** [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.



## ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM

*Cal Poly Women's Volleyball has two home games coming up: one match against UC Santa Barbara on Friday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m., and the other against CSU Northridge on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 2 p.m. The first 500 student attendees of the Friday match will receive a free "Buck the Gauchos" T-shirt. Both games take place at the Mott Athletics Center, located at 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo. Visit [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com) for tickets and more info.*

—C.W.

**CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS CSUN** It's a Double-Up Saturday, so show your ticket to the football game and you'll receive free admission to the volleyball match. **Oct. 2, 2 p.m.** [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS UCSB** Don't miss this Blue-Green Rivalry showdown at Mott Athletics Center. The first 250 fans will receive a free shirt. **Oct. 1, 7 p.m.** [gopoly.com/](http://gopoly.com/). Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

**CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW** Climate Solutions Now is an all-virtual conference focused on solutions to the climate crisis. Features more than 90 talks in 12 tracks:

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 17


  
for every child

**UNICEF WON'T STOP HELPING AFGHAN CHILDREN**

As the economy wavers and food shortages are on the rise, Afghan children need your support.

Donate today at [unicefusa.org/HelpAfghanistan](http://unicefusa.org/HelpAfghanistan)

**2021 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

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from 12-4pm

OCTOBER

10/2 Earls of Tuesday  
10/3 Shameless



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Agriculture, Energy, Buildings, Careers in Sustainability, Climate Planning, Environmental Justice, Natural Resources, Sciences, and Transportation. **Oct. 2-3**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Donation \$0-\$50. [climate.calpoly.edu/climate-solutions](http://climate.calpoly.edu/climate-solutions). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**COMMUNITY TALK: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND PREVENTION** Join us to learn about the major causes of breast cancer and basic prevention accessible locally. This event is being hosted in partnership with Mi Gente, Nuestra Salud. The event will be held in Spanish, with interpretation in English and Mixteco. Join us on Zoom. **Oct. 1**, 7-8 p.m. Free. [tinyurl.com/CDPTalkBC](http://tinyurl.com/CDPTalkBC). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**ECOSLO CREEKS TO COAST CLEANUP** Join ECOSLO for the Creeks to Coast Cleanup, which is a part of the 37th annual Coastal Cleanup Day. We will be providing cleanup kits to volunteers in order to assist with their cleanups. The event will take place Sept. 16 through Sept. 30. **Sept. 30** 805-544-1777. [ecoslo.org/creeks-to-coast](http://ecoslo.org/creeks-to-coast). San Luis Obispo, Citywide, SLO.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE RIDE AND DRIVE** San Luis Obispo's 4th annual EV Ride and Drive. A celebration of vehicles that plug in. Electric cars, bikes, and scooters will be available for test drives and EV owners on hand to answer your questions. **Oct. 2**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-704-1549. [carbonfreeo.org/driveelectricweek/](http://carbonfreeo.org/driveelectricweek/). Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo.

**THE JOURNEY TO WELLNESS WORKSHOPS: THE FEAR AROUND CANCER** Part of a series of virtual psycho-educational seminars. At the completion of this workshop, you will have a better understanding of the diagnosis of cancer. This workshop provides a look at the journey of a cancer survivor. **Oct. 2**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$75. 805-398-0399. [thejourneytowellnessworkshops.com/workshop/the-fear-around-cancer/](http://thejourneytowellnessworkshops.com/workshop/the-fear-around-cancer/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**LGBTQ+ FED THERAPIST LEAD SUPPORT GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** A pro-recovery group offering space to those seeking peer support, all stages of ED recovery. We understand recovery isn't linear and judgment-free support is crucial. Share, listen, and be part of a community building up each other. First Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**Q YOUTH GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** This is a social support group for LGBTQ+ and questioning youth between the ages of 11-18. Each week the group explores personal, cultural, and social identity. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Free. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**SLO ASTROLOGERS** We are a small group of Central Coast folks who love talking about astrology. We enjoy learning from each other and hearing personal experiences so that we can understand the meaning of astrological symbols. Don't be shy, give us a try. First Wednesday of every month, 6-7 p.m. Free. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

**SLO SKIERS MONTHLY MEETING** SLO Skiers, a sports and social club for adults, has its monthly meeting. Activities held year round. First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. through Dec. 1 Meetings free; yearly membership \$50. 805-528-3194. Dairy Creek Golf Course, 2990 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo, dairycreekslo.com.

**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.

**SUNDAY EVENING RAP LGBTQ+ AA GROUP (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)** Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary, worldwide fellowship of folks from all walks of life who together, attain and maintain sobriety. Requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Email [aaargroup@gmail.com](mailto:aaargroup@gmail.com) for password access. Sundays, 7-8 p.m. No fee. [galacc.org/events/](http://galacc.org/events/). Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

**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](mailto: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.

**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](http://tenethealthcentralcoast.com/services/oncology). Meadow Park, 2251 Meadow St., 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](http://kalyrawinery.com). Kalyra Winery, 343 N. Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez.

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

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

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

# MUSIC

## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

## SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

**ACTIVE AGING HAWAIIAN STYLE** The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents Active Aging Hawaiian Style, a dance featuring Riptide Big Band and vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Funded by the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County. **Oct. 3**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. [riptidebb.com](http://riptidebb.com). Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

**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](http://smphilharmonic.org). Soundcloud (Santa Maria Philharmonic), Online, Santa Maria.

## SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**SINGER-SONGWriters HEARD HERE (SSH) CONCERT SERIES** Produced by Songwriters at Play. The goal is to create an intimate, listening atmosphere, presenting performers of original music to appreciative audiences. **Oct. 5**, 6:30 p.m. [my805tix.com](http://my805tix.com). Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

**CENTRAL COAST FOLLIES: A WHOLE LOT OF NONSENSE** Enjoy tap and jazz dance numbers. Net proceeds donated to Parkinson's Disease research. **Oct. 8, Oct. 9** and **Oct. 10** 5:15-7:15 p.m. San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7113.

**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](http://slowineandbeerco.com/events). SLO Wine and Beer Company, 3536 S. Higuera Street, Suite 250, San Luis Obispo.

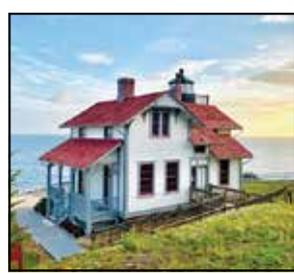
## NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

**2021 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES** Features live music from Cocktail Shorty (Sept. 25), Next Life (Sept. 26), Earls of Tuesday (Oct. 2), and Shameless (Oct. 3). Through Oct. 3, 12-4 p.m. [raggedpointinn.com](http://raggedpointinn.com). Ragged Point Inn, 19019 Highway 1, Ragged Point, 805-927-5708. ○



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



**Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Rôti de Crouper** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



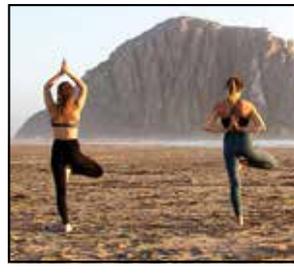
**3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2** Hoyt Family Vineyards, Paso Robles



**Everyday Kindness: Zongo All-Stars Raffle Extravaganza** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2 Online at [My805Tix.com](http://My805Tix.com)



**Paso Robles Optimist Club's "Day at the Races" Fundraiser** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 Rio Seco Winery, Paso Robles



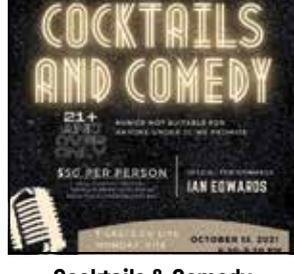
**Sunset Yoga in Morro Bay** TUESDAYS, OCT. 5, 12, 19 Cloisters Park, Morro Bay



**Songwriters at Play/SSH: The Daily Fare** TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 Puffers of Pismo



**Chakra Meditation and Breath Work** WEDNESDAYS, OCT. 6, 13, 20 On the Beach, Morro Bay



**Cocktails & Comedy** WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 Secret Garden at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort, SLO



**Harvest Festival Weekend: Pig Roast** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



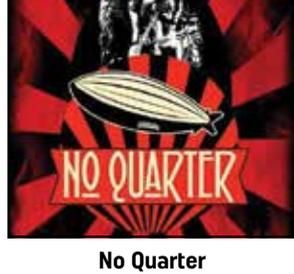
**Fashions for a Purpose: Fashion Event** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 Trattoria Oliveto, Orcutt



**Harvest Festival Weekend: Grape Stomp & Tacos** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



**Committed to Social Justice Freedom Fund Event** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 Bang the Drum Brewery, SLO



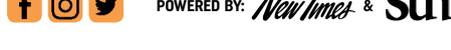
**No Quarter** (Led Zeppelin Tribute Band) SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 Rava Wines, Paso Robles



**Cambria Concerts presents: Jill Knight** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria

**Spread the word!** Send event information to [calendar@santamariasun.com](mailto:calendar@santamariasun.com).

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## Arts Briefs

### Three printmakers team up for Wildling Museum's next Valley Oak exhibition, Close to Home

Close to Home, an upcoming trio show at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature in Solvang, is scheduled to debut on Oct. 9 and remain on display through February 2022. Locals can meet the artists during a reception for the exhibition will take place on Oct. 17 from 3 to 5 p.m.



This exhibit will be located in the museum's Valley Oak Gallery and will showcase a variety of artworks created by printmakers Claudia Borfiga, Karen Schroeder, and Sara Woodburn. Each of the three artists' works in the show involve "a recurring theme of nature as a place of solace and beauty where growth and change seem intimate and expansive," according to the Wildling Museum.

"These prints capture an environment I'm in constant awe of," Borfiga, who has recently been experimenting with mono screen painting, said in press materials.

Borfiga's works in the show celebrate several destinations, including the Carrizo Plain National Monument, Joshua Tree National Park, and Sequoia National Park.

Schroeder (whose work is pictured) described her narrative-driven series of woodblock prints as "a graphic story, a personal vision of the natural world, and one I love to share."

Also a woodblock printmaker, Woodburn is showcasing her Quarantine Garden series, a collection of prints that illustrate scenes from her backyard garden, created partly as a way to ease her mind over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The waiting for a return to a 'normal life' is palpable, but bringing my attention to what is right outside and taking notice is beautiful and satisfying," Woodburn said.

To find out more about Close to Home and other exhibits at the Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, call (805) 688-1082 or visit [wildlingmuseum.org](http://wildlingmuseum.org). The museum is located at 1511 Mission Drive, unit B, Solvang.

### Santa Maria Town Center hosts 10th annual Painted Chair Raffle to benefit the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library

The 10th annual Painted Chair Raffle will be held at the Santa Maria Town Center, starting on Oct. 16 and running through Oct. 29. Local artists were asked to submit chairs, quilts, and other items based on either a book or a book genre, which will be raffled off during a drawing on Oct. 29 (tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5).

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library in the group's mission to support the library's programming and help with operational expenses. Visit [fsmpl.org](http://fsmpl.org) for more details. ○



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

## 24 hours in Cuyama

*Resilience, restoration, and relaxation are the common threads in New Cuyama, an ideal day trip or weekend getaway*



**HATS OFF:** The Cuyama Buckhorn Roadside Resort's rooms strike a balance between traditional ranch aesthetics and modern, sleek furnishings.

BY MALEA MARTIN

The Cuyama Buckhorn Roadside Resort, newly renovated with Wild West motifs and plenty of mid-century modern flair, is what brought me to New Cuyama for the first time on a recent road trip, and that aesthetic will certainly bring me back in the future. But the 24-hour trip ended up being more than just lounging poolside with sangria (though there was plenty of that, too). I also got to know a community co-existing with the drought, leaning into economic resilience, and finding balance between past and present.

Before checking in to the Buckhorn, my first stop was at Cuyama Homegrown, a small farm operated and owned by married couple Meg Brown and Jean Gaillard. They've got veggies, an orchard, chickens, herbs, and more. What Meg and Jean don't eat themselves is sold to local Cuyamans.

In addition to farming, Jean is a farrier (a specialist in equine hoof care), does a little blacksmithing, and serves as the local horse dentist. In a town of fewer than 1,000 residents, people tend to have more than one occupation here.

"The guy who fixes our well, he drives the bus also," Meg said.

Meg and Jean said they take pride in the farm's water-wise approach, a practice in both sustainability and necessity. As we toured the farm mid-morning in close to 95 degree heat, Meg said, "We've never had it this dry, this hot."

Drought is something Cuyama Homegrown has become accustomed to. Juniper trees sprinkle the property, but they used to be more abundant.

"We have a lot, but we lost at least 50 percent of our junipers in the last five-year dry spell," Meg said. "It was milder than what we had this year."

Rainfall varies a lot throughout the

### The Buck stops here

The Cuyama Buckhorn Roadside Resort is located at 4923 Primero St., New Cuyama. Find out more at [cuyamabuckhorn.com](http://cuyamabuckhorn.com). To learn more about the Blue Sky Center, located at 1000 Perkins Road New Cuyama, visit [blueskycenter.org](http://blueskycenter.org). And you can find Cuyama Homegrown on Facebook to learn more about the local farm.

region, Meg told me. In this part of the valley, "it's the most water deficit in the basin, in terms of groundwater, and the least amount of rainfall."

Meg and Jean both focus on what they call resilient farming.

"So, diversification of crops: one fails, but another one does better," Meg said. "We got a grant from USDA, from the conservation services, and set up a couple tanks. When it rains, they collect lots of water. The idea was to plant native species... try to build it back up."

Cuyama Homegrown works in close partnership with the Buckhorn, selling the resort restaurant its seasonal crops that inspire entire dishes on the menu. Grilled Cuyama Homegrown corn rubbed with cilantro-pistachio pesto and queso fresco is on the special menu later that night, when I'm dining at the Buckhorn. I've never thought to pair pesto with corn—or to make pesto with cilantro and pistachios—but it ended up being one of the best cobs I've ever sunk my teeth into. The salty, nutty pesto balanced perfectly with the sweet yellow corn.

After Cuyama Homegrown, I head to Condor's Hope Vineyard, another small and sustainable operation off Highway 166, about a 20-minute drive from the heart of New Cuyama. The vineyard uses dry-farming techniques to grow its grapes—with the drought ever-present, each grape plant in the vineyard gets a minimal water drip line, encouraging the plants' roots to grow down, not out.

After wine tasting at Condor's Hope, I was ready for some poolside lounging. As I walk into the Buckhorn's

pool area, I notice the cheery yellow and white striped towels for the taking before I head to a lounge chair shaded by large umbrellas where I can either swim or sunbathe while taking in the 100-degree heat. Expansive desert views meet the eyes at one end of the pool, and grand mountains line the other.

With plans to return to the pool later that evening, I set out on my last itinerary item of the day: visiting the Blue Sky Center, about a 10-minute walk from the hotel.

I meet with Em Johnson, one of the center's two executive directors. Johnson carries out the Blue Sky Center mission by connecting local entrepreneurs with the nonprofit's many resources, and in doing so, she has her hands in a little bit of everything. To name one, she helps brew Cuyama Beverage Company's High Desert Meads, a Blue Sky Center initiative that makes mead from local ingredients, which supports farmers and creates a delicious product.

"Cuyama has all this press on us right now with being one of the most critically overdrafted water basins in the state of California," Johnson said as we walked around the nonprofit's property, where a number of local craftspeople work and create. "As entrepreneurs, we see all the assets and strengths that do exist here, and choose resilience over crisis. I've lived here for six years now, and I've seen this community go through a lot—and survive."



**TAKE A SIP:** At a Condor's Hope Vineyard wine tasting, the 2020 Pedro Ximénez is my personal favorite.

PHOTO BY MALEA MARTIN



**FOSTERING RESILIENCE:** Blue Sky Center co-Executive Director Em Johnson takes us on a tour of the nonprofit's expansive property, home to a number of local small businesses.

As I head back to my room at the Buckhorn hotel and reflect on the day, it strikes me that every person I've spoken with had nothing but positive things to say about the roadside retreat. From the small farmers who have owned their land for 20 years, to the sustainable, water-conscious winery, to the economic development-focused nonprofit—everyone I met told me about how the people behind the Buckhorn didn't just come into the community, but got to know the residents first. The hotel sells locals' products, partners with them on events, and shows up to hear what they have to say.

It's a beautiful kind of symbiosis that I didn't expect, and one that I know will bring me back for years to come. ○

*New Times Staff Writer Malea Martin is planning her next desert getaway. Reach her at [mmartin@newtimeslo.com](mailto:mmartin@newtimeslo.com).*

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BOOK ADS BY:  
October 1, 2021

PUBLICATION DATE:  
October 7, 2021



October is both Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Stories in this publication will focus on these important issues in our communities.

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Ray Hunter, *Harbor View*, 12x20

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### Dirty secrets

**B**ased on *Big Little Lies* novelist Liane Moriarty's 2018 novel *Nine Perfect Strangers*, this new series developed by David E. Kelley and John-Henry Butterworth introduces us to health and wellness guru Masha Dmitrichenko (Nicole Kidman), who runs Tranquillum House, a New Age health and wellness resort that promises healing and transformation after a 10-day stay. However, her nine current stressed-out guests get more than they bargained for as their carefully tailored "health regimens" take on a sinister and perhaps unethical tone. (eight 42- to 55-min. episodes)

**Glen:** As a mystery, this isn't quite as engrossing as *Big Little Lies*, but it's pretty juicy, and the characters are really interesting and are all hiding secrets. There's struggling novelist Frances Welty (Melissa McCarthy), whose career and personal life are in shambles. The Marconi family—Napoleon (Michael Shannon), his wife, Heather (Asher Keddie), and daughter, Zoe (Grace Van Patten)—are dealing with a family tragedy. Lars Lee (Luke Evans) has some kind of hidden agenda. Vapid social media influencer Jessica Chandler (Samara Weaving) and her ultrarich husband, Ben (Melvin Gregg), are working through relationship troubles. Carmel Schneider (Regina Hall) is angry because her husband cheated on and abandoned her. Former football star Tony Hogburn (Bobby Cannavale) watched his career disappear with an injury and his family disappear because of his drug use. Not only do they have personal problems, they also all don't play well with others,

and watching the interaction between them is part of the fun. There's also Yao (Manny Jacinto), Masha's right-hand man; Delilah (Tiffany Boone), another employee who begins to question Masha's methods; and Glory (Zoe Terakes), another Tranquillum House employee. Episode by episode, secrets are revealed, tensions mount, and someone is threatening Masha's life. Who could it be?

**Anna:** The isolation of Tranquillum makes it feel like an island, but instead of the relaxing and reinvigorating experience all of the guests showed up for, they soon feel trapped and begin to question Masha's true intent. Is her unconventional treatment approach sound, or is she playing with fire and putting her guests at risk? We get to know a bit of her backstory and the trauma that caused the scar that runs down the center of her chest. She was shot for reasons unknown, and we also learn that she has had to process the loss of someone near and dear to her as well. Kidman is wonderfully cast as this ethereal being who we soon learn is barely holding all the strings to her peaceful paradise together. The guests soon suspect that Masha may be harboring a secret, and sure enough they are told their morning smoothies aren't just green juice and fruit. In fact, they have all been micro-dosing psilocybin, with the exception of Zoe Marconi, who is underage, as well as Jessica and Ben, who Masha has a different plan for. It's pretty engrossing, and watching these interactions and this A-plus cast needle these characters out is pretty fun. We watched week to week, but now that it is all out, I can see this would be a great binge watch.

**Glen:** The mystery of Masha and her stalker is a bit meandering, and by the time it's finally revealed, I had an "I knew it" moment, so the payoff isn't

as big as it could be, but the acting is exceptional, especially Shannon and Cannavale. It's worth watching because the whole cast is committed to portraying these flawed characters, and in the miniseries format, the actors really have the time to fully develop their roles. Obviously, what Masha is doing is shady, and when the guests first find out they're being dosed, they're angry, but the results soon have them rethinking their resistance. The idea of using hallucinogens isn't far-fetched, either. They've been effectively used to treat everything from PTSD to alcoholism. Masha is so sure of her treatment, and she has a Svengali-like presence that can manipulate her guests. It's a pretty engrossing watch but a little bit of a soap opera; however, if you're looking to escape into a story for seven hours, it's worth it.

**Anna:** You're right—both Shannon and Cannavale are wonderful here, as are McCarthy and Keddie. Things heat up in the last few episodes, and Masha pushes her guests to their breaking points. Moriarty writes tales with a twist, and while this isn't as engrossing as the adaptation of her book *Big Little Lies*, it has its own way of hooking the audience. Carmel is a seemingly sweet and quiet woman, but when Lars sets her off over breakfast, we learn that she really has a ton of hatred and anger sitting just below the surface. McCarthy's Frances is tough on the outside but struggling so much with being catfished by a man she thought she loved and the failure of her latest

#### NINE PERFECT STRANGERS

What's it rated? **TV-MA**  
When? **2021**  
Where's it showing? **Hulu**  
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**  
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**



**THE CURE?** Wellness guru Masha Dmitrichenko (Nicole Kidman) runs Tranquillum House, a resort with unorthodox treatments, in *Nine Perfect Strangers*, streaming on Hulu.

work. She and Tony get off to a rocky start—he's moody and mean, and so is she, but soon the two realize that they kind of like that about each other. I think that in reality the twists shock the audience less than the filmmakers wanted, but Kelley and Butterworth know what they're doing. They pulled off a pretty engrossing eight-part series. ○

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

### TV & Film Reviews

#### LULARICH **BINGEABLE**

What's it rated? **TV-14**  
When? **2021**  
Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**  
If you're a woman in your 30s and have a Facebook account, you most likely have gotten endless invitations to online LuLaRoe sales where other women hawk the "buttery soft" leggings, skirts, shirts, and dresses in varying degrees of obnoxious patterns.

While this isn't a business run exclusively by females, midlevel marketing companies have consistently preyed on women who like the idea of bringing some extra income to their household. Stay-at-home moms, single moms, wives looking to bring in a bit more dough—the thought of instantly owning your own business and the potential to make a ton of money is just too appealing. But the sad fact is that your odds of winning in a Vegas casino are higher than of actually making a profit.

How the makers of this film talked LuLaRoe owners DeAnne and Mark Stidham into participating is beyond me. This is nothing but a scathing indictment of the company and its laundry list of failures—from moldy, wet clothing to patterns

PHOTO COURTESY OF STORY FORCE ENTERTAINMENT



**HOW TO BUILD A PYRAMID:** Streaming on Amazon Prime, *LuLaRich* reveals the dirty secrets behind LuLaRoe, a women's clothing company that's really a midlevel marketing scam, and its unrepentant owners, DeAnne and Mark Stidham.

so garish and cut so badly there are literally groups devoted to posting online just how ugly and unfortunate those pieces are. Anyone who doesn't support midlevel marketing scams is going to appreciate this series. Just because these pyramid schemes are legal doesn't make them good businesses to get involved with. (four approximately 45-min. episodes)

—Anna

#### RIDERS OF JUSTICE **New Flicks**

What's it rated? **Not rated**  
When? **2020**  
Where's it showing? **Hulu**  
I've been wanting to see this since it was released in May, but it didn't come to local theaters. Now it's finally streaming for free with a Hulu subscription. Written and directed by Anders Thomas Jensen (*Men & Chicken*, *Adam's Apples*), it's a black comedy about four mismatched men trying to solve a possible murder.

Markus (Mads Mikkelsen) is a deployed soldier in Afghanistan who returns home to Denmark after his wife, Emma (Anne Birgitte), is killed and his daughter, Mathide (Andrea Heick Gadeberg), is injured in a train accident. At first, Markus accepts it was all a horrible accident, but then he's approached by Otto (Nikolaj Lie Kaas), another passenger on the train who believes it wasn't an accident at all. With the help of Otto's friends Lennart (Lars Brygmann) and Emmethaler (Nicolas Bro), the four go after a criminal gang they believe is responsible.

Filled with deadpan humor, the film is also wonderfully constructed. Otto is a probabilities expert. He's been working on an algorithm that can predict future events. He believes with

PHOTO COURTESY OF ZENTROPA ENTERTAINMENTS



**HARD CASE:** Mads Mikkelsen (right) stars as Markus, a soldier whose wife was collateral damage in what might have been a targeted assassination of a criminal. With the help of three oddballs, Markus sets out to get retribution for his wife, in *Riders of Justice*.

sufficient data, the program will prove there's no such thing as a coincidence. The entire story is set in motion by a series of seemingly disconnected events that like a line of dominos causes a chain reaction. It's pretty clever and well worth a watch. (in Danish and Arabic; 116 min.) ○

—Glen

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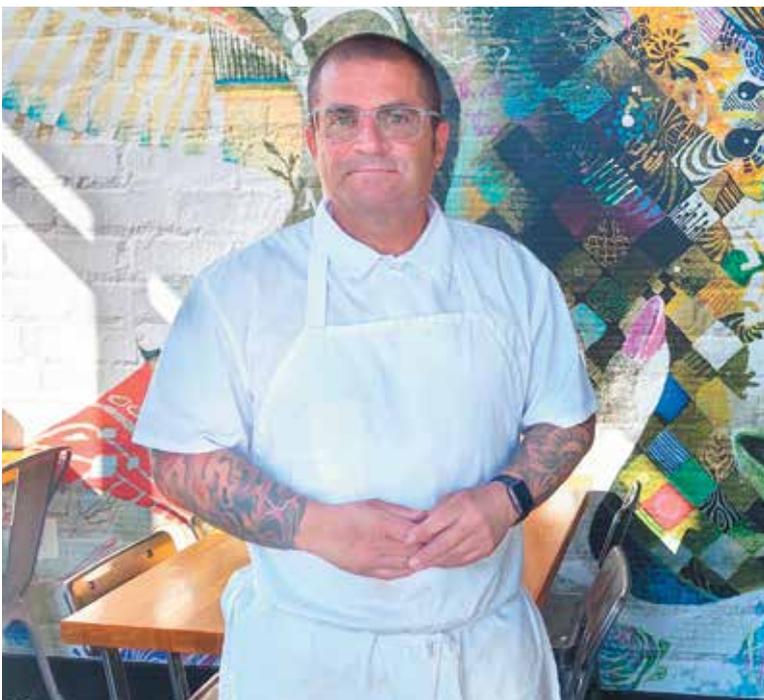
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**THE MAN BEHIND THE MEALS:** Michael McDonald (pictured) is the chef, founder, and owner of the Salty Brigade Kitchen, a new casual eatery that opened its doors on Skyway Drive in Santa Maria in July. McDonald's three-decade career in the restaurant industry has taken him to work for several high-end eateries throughout the country.

## Salt bae

*Chef Michael McDonald puts a high-end spin on casual cuisine at the Salty Brigade Kitchen in Santa Maria*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Michael McDonald—the prolific local chef, not the Doobie Brother—has experimented with so many ingredients over his three-decade career that he'll occasionally forget parts of his own recipes. Luckily his contact list is full of former mentors, students, and collaborators.

And the great thing about sending a quick text is “you don't have to have a full-blown conversation,” he said.

“I don't really need to find out how

your kids are doing, I just want to know what's in this,” said McDonald, the chef, founder, and owner of the Salty Brigade Kitchen, a new Santa Maria eatery that opened its doors in July.

Although McDonald's background is primarily in high-end fine dining, his goal with the Salty Brigade Kitchen was to keep its casual menu as approachable and affordable as possible. Part of this is achieved by constantly shifting the restaurant's offerings, based on what's in season and locally available.

“I'm trying to keep my prices very reasonable and low, and that's from being able to shop from different purveyors and asking, ‘Hey what's going on with this?’ or, ‘What price is this,’ so I can keep my price points low, by being able to know how to bring in different proteins and stuff,” he said.

Tuna, for example, is currently “running all the way up the California Coast” and thus the headliner of the Salty Brigade Kitchen's tuna tartar taco, which McDonald described as a customer favorite. Another popular taco at the eatery is the crunchy chicken taco, but it's



**ALWAYS EVOLVING:** Chef Michael McDonald chose to list his ever-evolving menu on paper spoons at the front of the restaurant. As a casual eatery, the Salty Brigade Kitchen asks its patrons to seat themselves (no reservations taken) and order at the counter.

### Skyway to heaven

For more info on the Salty Brigade, call (805) 354-0635 or visit [thesaltybrigade.com](http://thesaltybrigade.com). The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and is located at 3564 Skyway Drive, building 3, suite A, Santa Maria.

getting axed soon to make room for the new Korean short rib taco.

“People are already upset because they want me to keep it on there,” said McDonald, who chose to list his ever-evolving menu on paper spoons above the restaurant's front counter, making it easier to revise.

As a casual eatery, the Salty Brigade Kitchen asks its patrons to seat themselves (no reservations taken) and order at the counter. For particular groups of customers, McDonald currently offers a special 10 percent discount—members of law enforcement, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and teachers, as a way of thanking them for their services, especially over the past year and a half.

“I don't think many people appreciated how hard teachers really work until the pandemic,” said McDonald, who wants all kinds of essential workers to feel included on the discount.



**CHOP STOP:** One of the Salty Brigade Kitchen's tastiest menu offerings, which range from “munchies” to “chef master plates,” is the grilled maple Texas pork chop (perfectly placed atop a bowl of lemon truffle macaroni and cheese).

Some of the Salty Brigade Kitchen's current menu offerings, which range from “munchies” to “chef master plates,” include the grilled citrus mahi mahi, the all-American burger, beef sliders, chicken

yakitori, fish 'n' chips, deviled eggs, and the grilled maple Texas pork chop (perfectly placed atop a bowl of lemon

EATS continued page 22



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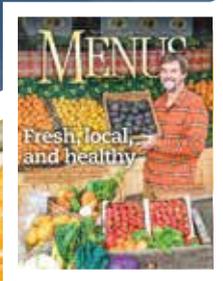
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## EATS

PHOTOS BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

EATS from page 21

truffle macaroni and cheese). There's also a kids' menu, nicknamed "Lil Brigaders."

McDonald occasionally personalizes the names of his items—from the Palm Springs arugula to the San Diego hot dog—to reflect nostalgia for the various cities he's worked in, largely because one of his favorite aspects of the restaurant industry is the amount of travel opportunities it's allowed him. It's also the only field he's ever worked in.

"It was something that came easy to me," said McDonald, who enjoyed cooking from a young age.

At 18, he started working his first restaurant job. He then went on to study culinary arts and hospitality at both Santa Barbara City College and Cal Poly Pomona.

Although he took the scholarly route himself, McDonald recommends that young, aspiring chefs seek mentors to work under instead, adding that "it's better to work for a chef and at least make minimum wage" than pay an arm and a leg for culinary school.

Recently tasked with training new staff members in his own kitchen, McDonald described the teaching aspect of his job as "part of my passion."

He likes to think of his kitchen staff as an athletic team.

"It's just like sports. The more practice and the harder we work together, the better the team will get," McDonald said. "Have you ever been to a restaurant on a Tuesday and it's



**DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS:** The Salty Brigade Kitchen updates its offerings so often that you won't find these deviled eggs (only \$4) on its online menu. They are listed above the front counter however, on the restaurant's easily revisable paper spoons.

really good, but then you go on a Wednesday and it's meh? Those inconsistencies come from the team."

While the "brigade" in the restaurant's name is a nod to McDonald's kitchen staff, the "salty" solely refers to the chef in charge.

"Because I can be kind of salty, you know? Myself," McDonald explained. ☉

Send sweet and salty comments to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at [cwiseblood@santamariasun.com](mailto:cwiseblood@santamariasun.com).

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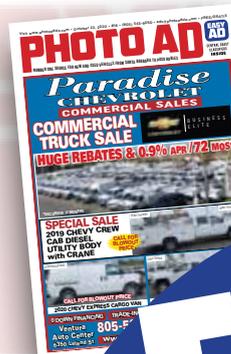
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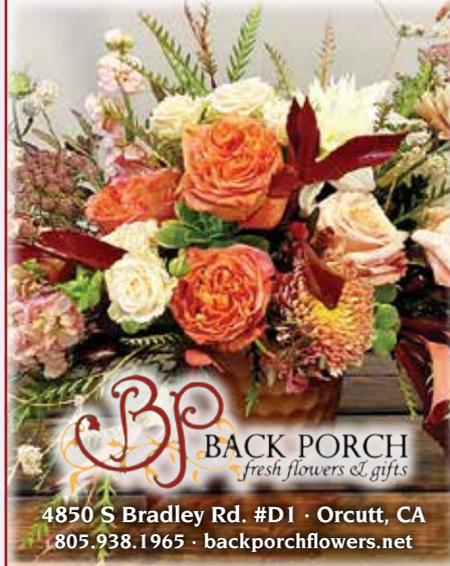
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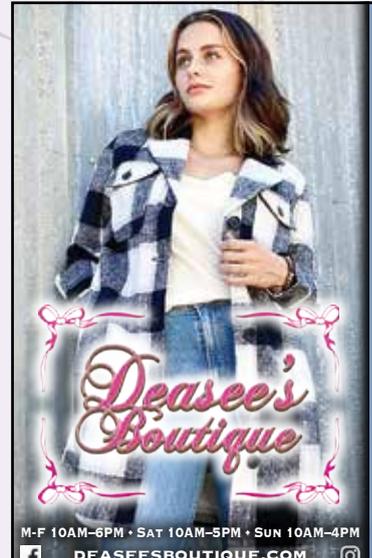
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