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Sun

AT THE MOVIES

No Time to Die: Epic action [26]

Burned out

An increase in the demand for veteranarian services and a staffing shortage put pressure on the pet care system [6]

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

NEWS Development at the Hi-Way Drive-In [4]

ARTS Improv comedy legends tour the coast [24]

EATS Zaca Mesa releases a new label [27]

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Contents

OCTOBER 14 - OCTOBER 21, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 33

The pandemic and its lasting effects are pushing veterinarians—in public, private, and nonprofit practices—into continued crisis mode because of months-long waits for surgeries, general appointments, and vaccinations. People take pets to emergency hospitals because they can't see their regular vet for minor issues, and it's impacted wait times, time to get appointments, and the ability to provide care. Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor speaks with Santa Barbara County Animal Services about how it's adapted and some of the issues it's facing [6].

You can also read about the plans that could change the Hi-Way Drive-In [4]; Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood bring their improv shenanigans to SLO and Santa Barbara [24]; and Zaca Mesa's new wine label [27].

Camillia Lanham
editor

SHORTAGE: Ginger White (left), Becky Clement (center), and Jessica Ortega-Wiebe (right), pose with cats after several hours of spay and neuter surgeries on Oct. 7 at the Santa Maria Shelter location.

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

NEWS
News Briefs 4
Political Watch 4
Spotlight 8

OPINION
Web Poll 10
Mayfield 10
Canary 12

EVENTS CALENDAR
Hot Stuff 13

ARTS
Arts Briefs 24

MOVIES
Reviews 26

CLASSIFIEDS, HOME, AND REAL ESTATE 29

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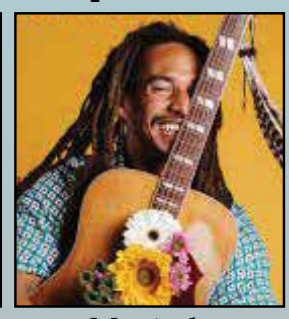

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How do you feel about Santa Maria's drive-in potentially closing for affordable housing?

- ❍ I think it's a great option—no one goes to the drive-in anymore.
- ❍ I'm fine with the closure because we need more affordable housing.
- ❍ We need more affordable housing, but I don't want to lose the drive-in.
- ❍ The drive-in is a staple in our community and it shouldn't be considered for a housing location.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

Sun

Political Watch

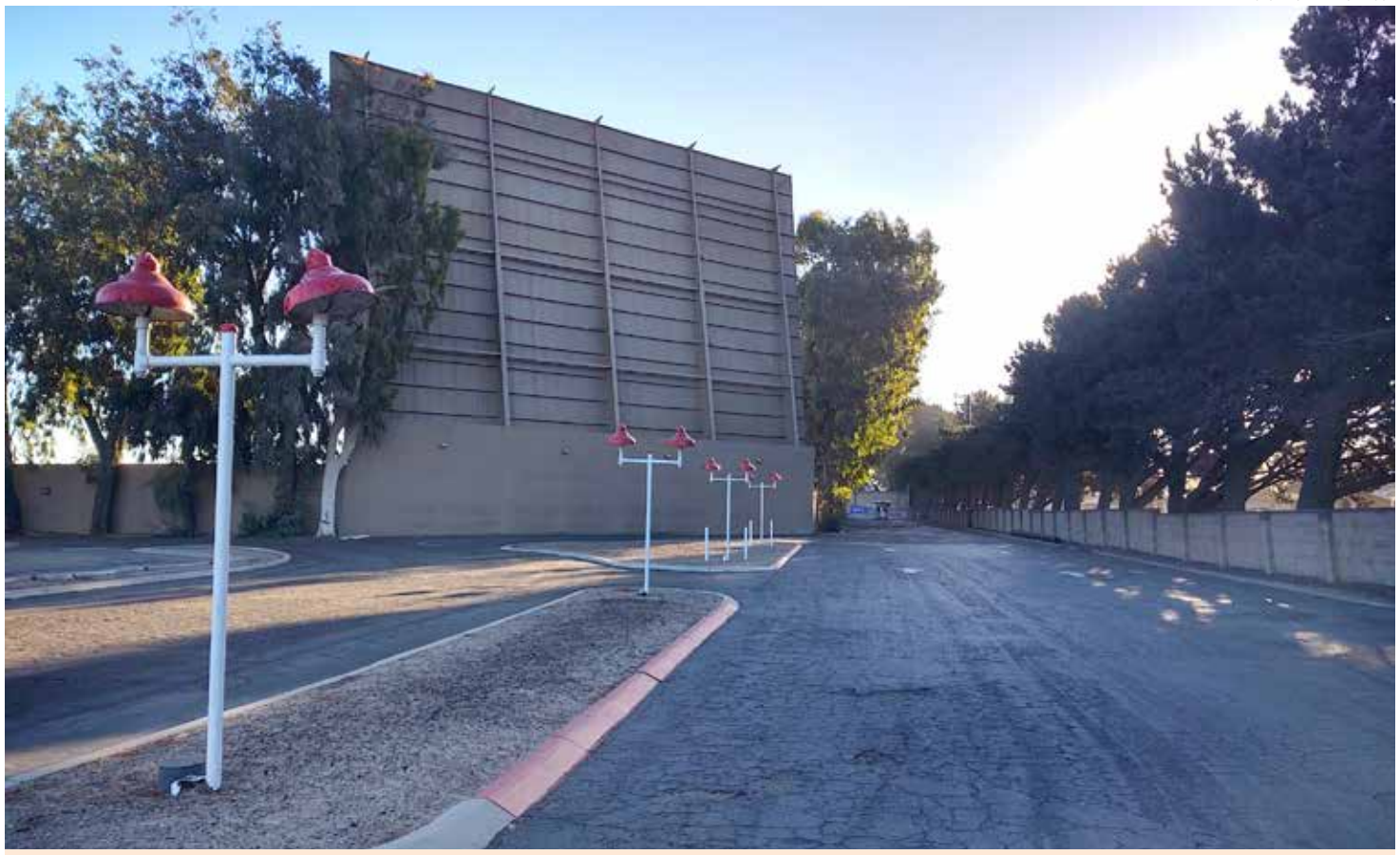
• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) visited the Santa Ynez Valley Charter School on Oct. 8, when the school celebrated 21 years of serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade from across Santa Barbara County. During his time there, Carbajal presented a flag that has flown at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., which became the new flag for the school's daily pledge of allegiance, according to a press release. "We are so excited to welcome the congressman to our school and receive this very special flag," **Santa Ynez Charter School Director Dr. John Dewey** said in the release. "It means the world to us for Salud Carbajal to bestow this honor and share his story with our students." Carbajal addressed students, faculty, and parents at the event with the message that students can become whoever they choose to be, as Carbajal did the same in his journey to become the representative of the 24th District.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** recently signed into law several new bills to enhance protections for survivors of domestic violence and bolster enforcement of gun safety laws, according to an Oct. 8 statement. The new gun law measures will strengthen gun violence restraining orders and analyze crime data to track trends impacting communities across the state. "California has the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, but we're reminded every day that we can't afford to be complacent in the fight against the gun violence epidemic in this country—we can and must do more," Newsom said in a statement. California led the way in statewide gun safety protections—approved by voters in Proposition 63—to ban possession of large-capacity magazines and require background checks. The domestic violence protections will allow survivors to file restraining orders online and enable them to do electronic case filing and remote appearances. The 2021 state budget includes $200 million investment in the CalVIP program to support initiatives designed to break the cycle of violence in impacted communities, according to the governor's office.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** recently signed legislation into law designed to improve college affordability and increase higher education access. The slate of bills included **state Sen. Monique Limón's** (D-Santa Barbara) SB 737, which makes financial aid outreach to California's kindergarteners through 12th graders a priority, a post on Limón's Facebook page stated. This bill expands standards for the California Student Aid Commission to allocate funds to support projects under the California Student Opportunity and Access Program and expands funded projects' responsibilities, according to Newsom's office. It is a part of the governor's California Comeback Plan to require all students to submit a Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application to significantly increase federal aid opportunities for California students. "We're turning commitments into reality by ensuring that our students have more access to high-quality educational opportunities, creating a change of course for generations to come, and bolstering California's innovation economy," Newsom said in a statement. "Californians have thrived at our world-class universities for decades, but not everyone has had similar access—today that's changing."

BRIEFS

PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD



DEVELOPMENT AHEAD? The Hi-Way Drive-In is looking for a buyer, and People's Self-Help Housing is eyeing the property as a potential spot for affordable single-family housing.

People's Self-Help sees housing potential in Santa Maria's drive-in theater

The owner of the Hi-Way Drive-In is in talks to sell the Santa Maria property to a nonprofit housing developer.

Representatives of both the theater and the prospective buyer, People's Self-Help Housing, voiced their support for a proposed zoning change—which would be required to develop low-income housing on the site—during the Oct. 6 Santa Maria Planning Commission meeting.

Martin Indvik, of Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate, read a letter from theater owner Dian Gran during the meeting. Gran described the drive-in as no longer economically viable due to competition with streaming services and other circumstances.

"My property, as a theater business, is not being used to its highest potential anymore," Gran wrote in the letter. "As I have explored the potential of selling my property, there has been no interest in it as a drive-in theater. The only interest and value in my property is for a residential purpose."

The drive-in is currently open and screening films five nights a week, but Gran described business as dwindling. Gran's company, Cal Gran Theatres, also owns the Parks Plaza Theatre in Buellton, which closed at the start of the pandemic and hasn't reopened since.

During the city's Planning Commission meeting, Sheryl Flores, vice president of home ownership at People's Self-Help Housing, said she sympathizes with community members who would be saddened if the drive-in were to close, but reiterated Gran's stance on repurposing the property, if the zone change is approved.

"Without a zone change from commercial to residential, the drive-in property may soon become a vacant, blighted sight, or possibly developed with commercial businesses that may be far more disruptive to the surrounding residents than single family homes," Flores argued.

Reception from public commentators at the meeting was mixed. Christopher Weddle, a lifelong Santa Maria resident, said he hopes the zone change is denied and called the theater "a staple of the community" and a safe space for family and youth outings. About a year ago, Weddle created a Facebook group, Save the SM Hi-Way Drive-In, which currently has more than 3,500 members.

Nadia Abushanab, advocacy and events director at the Santa Barbara County Action Network, said she believes the best possible use of the property is to develop new, affordable housing. Since the property is already surrounded by residential areas, Abushanab argued that the project "wouldn't change the make-up of the neighborhood very much."

Ultimately, members of the Planning Commission agreed to hold their decision on whether or not to recommend the proposal for a future date, as two commissioners were absent from the Oct. 6 meeting, and to allow more community members—especially current residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the drive-in—to voice their feedback in the meantime.

—Caleb Wiseblood

New dollars to fund more career services in underserved communities

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board $2.5 million to help COVID-19 impacted workers get jobs.

The funds will enable the board to purchase hardware and technology for nine new places for people to access career services, job training, and certificate courses, Development Board Analyst Julie Smedley said.

"Historically our program provided job services and training services. We wanted to include digital literacy training in response to the big digital divide we saw happen during the pandemic," she said.

Smedley and her team help people who have criminal records, those with no work experience, and people with disabilities find employment. By implementing long-term rental systems, job seekers without internet gain access to more resources, Smedley said.

"They can rent out laptops and hotspots to do Zoom meetings or Zoom interviews. They'll have access to these tools and they will be able to rent these out as long as they need," Smedly continued.

Although this is one-time COVID-19 relief funding, the computers and hardware will have a long life and last the board a long time, and the equipment will be purchased before Christmas, Smedley said.

The department is looking at access point locations in Carpinteria, Guadalupe, and Lompoc, which will open some time in January.

"We have two main job centers, one in Santa Barbara and one in Santa Maria. You can imagine the families financially impacted from COVID-19 figuring out how to travel to Santa Barbara from Carpinteria or Guadalupe, or to Santa Maria from Lompoc," she said "Creating these access points will have such an impact and make them aware of the services available through our programming."

Outreach can be a challenge because of language barriers in those communities, but Smedley hopes new community organization partnerships and contractors will help.

"We really want to tap into partners already serving those communities and utilize their expertise, we don't want to reinvent the wheel," she said.

As planning continues, residents are welcome to contact the development board with any of their questions or concerns.

"We have such a wide variety of services; we're able to provide job career training, and we have a great network of partners. If our agency can't help residents with what their needs are, we can point them in the right direction," Smedley said.

People can contact the county Workforce Development Board at (805) 896-6835 or email Smedley at j.smedley@sbcsocialserv.org.

—Taylor O'Connor

NEWS continued page 5

NEWS from page 4

Hancock College extends Promise program to two years

As spring semester registration opens in early November, Allan Hancock College wants its students to take advantage of the new Promise Plus Program and get the college to cover their tuition for two years.

This program—an expansion of 2018's Promise Program—helps students complete an associate's program, a transfer degree, or a certificate, Student Services Vice President Dr. Nohemy Ornelas said.

"The Promise Plus Program is available to any student coming to Hancock who faced challenges due to the pandemic," Ornelas said. "As we [re-opened] our programs and services, we wanted to remind our community that we are here to serve them."

The Promise Plus covers the $1,200 per semester tuition and fees, but doesn't include living expenses, books, and supplies, Ornelas said. The 2018 Promise Program worked with local schools to expose students—from fifth graders to seniors in high school—to college opportunities, Ornelas said.

"We wanted to create a college-going culture in our community. There were a lot of initiatives not only across the state, but nationally, for an agenda to promote free colleges to students and a need to change the trajectory for our students," Ornelas said.

Through donors and private funds, Hancock paid for the first year of college for its students and helped students through their transition from high school to college, she said. In response, Hancock had 3,000 students visit its campus and 1,300 students received tuition aid.

"It was a comprehensive approach focusing on completion of an academic program, and enhancing services on campus in efforts to retain students and see them graduate," Ornelas said.

The pandemic created many setbacks for students and loss of participation in the Promise Program. COVID-19 higher education emergency relief funds allowed the college to expand its program to the two-year tuition coverage for the fall 2021 semester, but will end after the 2022-23 academic year, Ornelas said.

"We are continuing to evaluate our situation to determine our feasibility to continue this program. The funds we are using for Promise Plus are [one-time] emergency relief funds," Ornelas said.

To receive Promise Plus tuition funds, students must fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and register for at least 12 credits. Once they meet the criteria, students are automatically notified of their status and eligibility, Ornelas said. If students have questions, they can be directed to the Promise Plus webpage, or call its hotline at (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3248.

"This is another resource for our students to access higher education opportunities; creating this pathway is a really good thing for them," Ornelas said.

—Taylor O'Connor

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The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department is providing City residents with a FREE **landscape burlap** and **three MPR1000 Rotator sprinklers and anti-leak sprinkler bodies.** This promotion is to remind all homeowners, gardeners, and landscapers to ***Go Green in the Fall*** by pulling weeds and collecting clippings to spruce up the landscape, adjusting irrigation clock for fall watering schedule, and regularly checking irrigation sprinklers and outdoor faucets to address any leaks. Promotion available while supplies last. Call to reserve today.

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'The easy villain'

Veterinarians, animal services remain strained across Santa Barbara County amid pandemic's impact

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Walt Disney's *Lady and the Tramp* portrays two dogs from different worlds who find each other and fall in love. But after crossing paths with the villainous animal control officer, they're separated and thrown in prison-like cells.

Such depictions by Disney and other movie producers have been "awful" for Animal Services' reputation, said Ginger White, Santa Barbara County Animal Services director of medicine.

"We are all struggling with the public perception of the work we do here. The people that do work here work so hard and their work means so much to them … but we're the easy villain," White said.

The reality is that the Animal Services Department provides a multitude of services including adoption and fostering opportunities, low-cost spay and neuter drives, vaccine clinics, and microchipping, White said.

But now the pandemic and its lasting effects are pushing vets—in public, private, and nonprofit practices—into continued crisis mode because of months-long waits for surgeries, general appointments, and vaccinations, White said.

"What's happening in private practice and in the emergency rooms is a lot of staff attrition. A lot of it is related to the pandemic because people are either out on quarantine, home sick, or home because of child care, or other personal reasons," White said.

Short staffing changed productivity rates, and COVID-19 safety measures—like disinfecting and cleaning protocols, and curbside care—caused longer wait times and more frustrated clients, she said.

"Some data is showing that existing pet owners have been asking for more services as well. So they're wanting more and more done for their pets—which is showing a healthy growth for the industry—but [it's] coming in at a time where perhaps many practices aren't equipped to deal with that growth," White said.

People end up taking pets to emergency hospitals because they can't get in to their regular practitioner, filling up hospitals with minor problems like ear infections, parasite control, or medications, she said.

"Things like ear infections aren't emergencies, so when there's three animals coming in and they've been hit by cars, that ear infection is going to wait for six to eight hours to be seen," White continued.

In response, Animal Services provided pet veterinary care when it normally provides services for turned-in animals and rescued strays, Supervising Vet Technician Becky Clement said.

"We've started doing public surgeries [again], but we have limited access to veterinarians who can do those surgeries for us. Our own veterinarians are swamped with doing our own animals, so scheduling additional days for public animals has been really hard for us," Clement said.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services averaged between 85 to 110 animals in care on a daily basis, and saw 473 animals taken in during September, with numbers going up already in October, Clement said.

The Santa Maria location currently has six vets on staff, including White, but all veterinarians are contracted and work at other organizations as well, Clement said.

There are three registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) like Clement on staff. RVTs are the equivalent of registered nurses in veterinary science, but earn about a quarter of a nurse's salary, which contributes to staff loss.

County Animal Services Director of Medicine White said the American Veterinary Medical Association conducted a 2020 study and found that veterinarians and staff are more than twice as likely to leave the field than medical doctors, and RVTs are more likely to leave the field than any other medical professional.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

TIRED: A puppy rests after getting fixed at the Santa Barbara County Animal Services Department, which performed several back-to-back spay and neuter surgeries during a recent weekday.

"I say the primary reason for that is the work-life balance and mental health struggles. There's high levels of burnout stress and anxiety by coming into shelter medicine where we see high amounts of neglect and abuse cases," White said.

Stress also comes from wages, cost of living, and debt-to-income ratios for this field. Veterinarians are graduating with upwards of $250,000 to $300,000 in student loans and they're facing a starting salary around $80,000 per year ($41 per hour), White said.

"They get out of school and land their dream job, but they can't even buy a car, they can't afford to live. It's a big issue," she added. "There's not a lot of people with an RVT license, and there's even less assistants. They would make more money at Starbucks."

Responsible Pet Ownership Program Coordinator Jessica Ortega-Wiebe stepped out of her previous vet technician role at Santa Barbara County Animal Services due to a decline in her mental health.

"I have burned out physically and mentally from that. I've been working in medicine since I was 18 years old working in kennels and working my way through it," she said, "I've been here almost 10 years and I won't step a foot [into that role] unless they absolutely need help in that capacity as far as a technician."

In the recent months, Ortega-Wiebe monitored anesthesia to help animal services staff, but burned out quickly.

"The reality is we work in a very demanding, stressful career field, and see a lot of turnover, resulting in staffing shortages collectively as an industry," Ortega-Wiebe said.

The best thing Santa Barbara County residents can do to help is plan ahead, schedule a regular vet appointment, and learn about the available vet resources and services in order to alleviate services' stress. Santa Barbara County Animal Services is creating a resources page for its website—translatable to Spanish—to raise awareness of nonprofit medical care, list food bank options for pet food, create vaccine and spay-neuter appointments, and offer preventative care education, Ortega-Wiebe said.

"We've been resilient for so many years with everything, but it feels lately with just the amount of stuff that's been hitting us that our resiliency is just drained," Ortega-Wiebe said.

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor can be reached at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

BAUMGARDNER, EDWARD RALPH, 77, of Atascadero passed away 9/25/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BLAIR, ROBERT L. "BOB", 87, of Arroyo Grande passed away 10/5/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BOWLUS, JEAN ELLEN, 83, of Atascadero passed away 9/18/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BRINKERHOFF, MARY ANN, 84, of Orcutt arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

BROWER, WARREN DALE, 66, of Atascadero passed away 9/29/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BRUNER, POLLY, 105, of Los Osos passed away 10/1/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

CARTLAND, ELIZABETH, 97, of Paso Robles passed away 10/6/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

CONCEPCION, "CONNIE" DUENAS, 51, of Santa Maria passed away 10/8/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

CURAZA, JOSEFA JEANETTE, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 10/6/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FARIAS, ALICIA, 59, of Paso Robles passed away 9/13/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

FUMIA, ALVIN A., 89, of Santa Maria passed away 10/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GEORGE, MICHAEL VINCENT, 40, of Lompoc passed away 9/24/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

GONZALEZ, SILVERIO, 74, of Gaudalupe passed away 10/1/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GROSS, LEWIS ELMER, 84, of Lompoc passed away 9/24/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

HAMPTON, BRIAN CHARLES, 60, of Los Osos passed away 9/24/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

IBARRA, MIGUEL DELGADO, 61, of Shandon passed away 9/30/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

IVIE, ARLENE SUZANNE, 77, of Templeton passed away 9/23/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

JOHANN, RICHARD H., 88, of Santa Maria passed away 10/6/2021 arrangements with Magner- Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

KELLEY, DEBORAH JEAN, 57, of Santa Maria passed away 10/3/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

KNUCKLES, WILLIAM BRUCE, 79, of Atascadero passed away 9/25/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

MAROUS, GERALDINE MARY, 78, of Santa Maria passed away 10/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

MCCORMICK, BRIAN R., 64, of Santa Maria passed away 10/6/2021 arrangements with Magner- Maloney Funeral Home & Crematory

MEEHAN, TOSHIE PATRICIA, 95, of Los Osos passed away 12/14/2020 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

MOORE, MARY, 97, of San Luis Obispo passed away 10/6/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

NOVAK, ELIZABETH, 96, of Morro Bay passed away 10/3/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

PORTER, JAMES, 53, of Paso Robles passed away 9/27/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

PRINGLE, BUCKLY LEE, 53, of Atascadero passed away 10/7/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

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

SHORTER-LEWIS, AGATHA NOEL, 71, of Santa Maria passed away 10/5/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

TRIGUEIRO, CAROL ANN, 81, of Atascadero passed away 9/25/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

VIERRA, ANNETTE J., 87, of Templeton passed away 10/1/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

WEIKAL, LORRAINE C., 96, of Los Osos passed away 10/4/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

YOUNG, JOHN ADAM, 53, of Atascadero passed away 8/28/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

OBITUARIES

FILE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

HOPE: The House of Pride and Equality's Eva Didion (right) was one of the guest speakers during the American Association of University Women panel on Oct. 9 in Santa Maria.

Reading the Rainbow

The American Association of University Women, Santa Maria Public Library, and LGBTQ-plus nonprofits partner on panel

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

After a family member faced a lack of understanding of their gender identity from the community, Lata Murti decided to create an LGBTQ-plus educational opportunity for Santa Maria's residents.

"We may know about diversity in gender and sexual orientation, and we may not have anything against anyone's identity, but there's this idea that it exists, just not in Santa Maria," Murti said.

Murti wanted to see the LGBTQ-plus community reflected throughout Santa Maria organizations, including her chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), one of the oldest women's organizations in the nation.

"A larger theme and goal for AAUW Santa Maria this year is expanding our reach. Our membership is mostly retired, professional women. I am one of the youngest at 45 years of age, and one of the few women of color," she said. "I think our membership realizes it's time to diversify, reach out to younger women, and help make this organization something inviting."

As co-president of the Santa Maria chapter, Murti partnered with several LGBTQ-plus organizations and the Santa Maria Public Library to host Reading the Rainbow on Oct. 9, a free panel discussion about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in recognition of National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

"Part of our goal at the national level of AAUW is to be more inclusive of gender diversity and diversity in sexual orientation. I thought our branch could benefit from that national goal in that we have a lot to learn," Murti said.

The panel—which took a year and a half of planning—featured speakers from the GALA Pride and Diversity Center, House of Pride and Equality, and the Central Coast Coalition of Inclusive Schools. Murti provided four questions to each guest speaker and allotted two to three minutes per person so they could speak about their own experiences and answer questions.

When community members speak of their past, it makes the audience more comfortable with the discussion, Murti said.

"When there are panelists speaking from personal experiences, face to face, you can't deny that people live through these experiences; it's people we know, people we consider friends, or people we love," she said.

One of the speakers was Eva Didion, House of Pride and Equality's co-founder.

"I'm hoping this event will resolve doubts and open minds and hearts in the community to make Santa Maria as welcoming as possible," Didion said.

Didion has lived in Santa Maria since 1975 and was a social worker for 34 years, she said. She lives with her wife—they've been together for 19 years, legally married for seven.

After the 2016 mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, Didion founded House of Pride and Equality so that members of the LGBTQ-plus community could be safely out in public and visible in Santa Maria, she said.

"I've lived in Santa Maria for many years, and the community as a whole was quite conservative, and LGBTQ-plus members were quite unseen, even though our population includes many people," Didion said.

"When Santa Maria experienced its first Pride [parade], a switch flipped. There's just more visibility. There's a lot more [LGBTQ-plus] events and more people offer support; it's been transforming," she continued.

People told Didion that they felt like they could hold hands in public and said they were able to express themselves like they never could before. Locals also responded by asking for more resources.

There's always room for improvement, she said.

"Change is something that progresses slowly. There's always more that we can do, and it can always get better," Didion said.

Highlight

• The Dana Adobe is hosting a Halloween Bash on Oct. 29 with a trunk-or-treat, a costume march, and a family-friendly movie night. There will be designated spots in the parking lot for each trunk—spaced out appropriately for social distancing—and safe trick-or-treating. The kids costume parade begins at 6 p.m. where children will march around while being socially distant. The trunk-or-treat will begin at 6:30 p.m., but participating cars must be decorated and ready by 5:30 p.m. Those who want to participate in the event must sign up by Oct. 20 by emailing events@danaadobe.org. The best decorated trunk will win a private adobe tour for six people. For more information, visit danaadobe.org. ❍

Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor wrote this week's Spotlight. You can reach her at toconnor@santamariasun.com.

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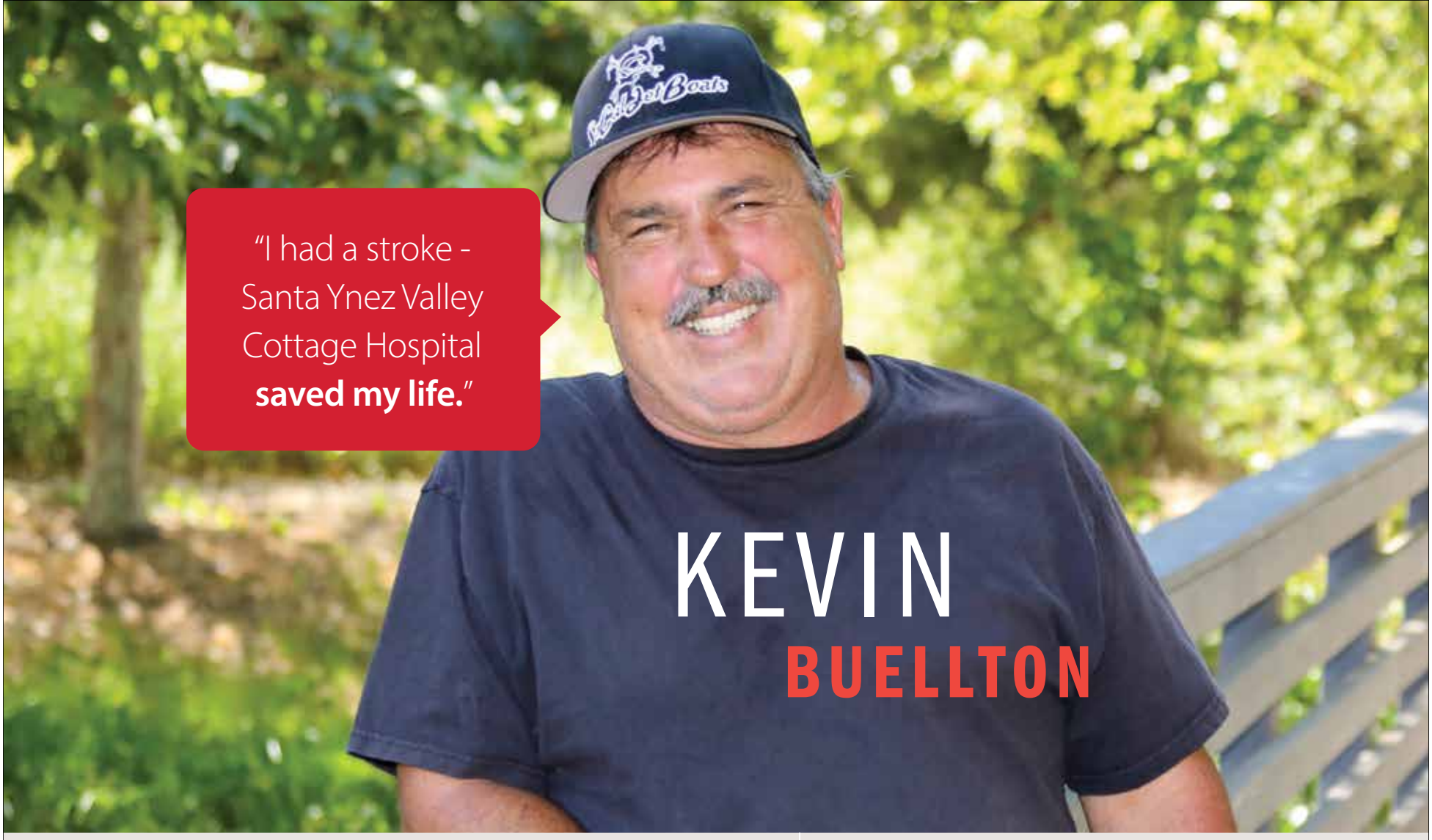

After losing consciousness, Kevin was rushed to the ER where he was quickly diagnosed with a stroke and treated with a de-clotting drug therapy called "tissue Plasminogen Activator" (tPA) within the vital 45-minute window to reduce brain damage. Kevin made a full recovery and is back to enjoying the life he loves, which includes camping and boating.

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cottagehealth.org/systroke

Cottage
Santa Ynez Valley
Cottage Hospital

Online Poll

What do you think about the Oct. 2 reproductive rights march?

65% It's very important to support this movement and support women.

29% Marches are not important, and I don't understand why this was necessary.

6% I didn't go since I show support through other routes.

0% It's a great opportunity to learn more about other volunteer events.

17 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

Sun

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The homeless

In many cases, the real problem is addiction, and homelessness is just one of the symptoms

BY JOHN DONEGAN

There has been a lot of handwringing and gnashing of teeth recently about the homeless problem. Who are they and what should we do about them?

The most visible and problematic homeless are the substance abusers and mentally ill. The problem seems to be getting worse, as we see tent cities springing up in our parks, creeks, and roadways, and legions of drug-crazed zombies lurching about and ranting incoherently.

The problem is the worst in our "progressive" cities, which have thrown massive amounts of money away in providing homeless services and in aggravating the problem. In San Francisco, the deterioration of public places has grown so severe that I wouldn't be that surprised to see an outbreak of al fresco cannibalism. Maybe it is time for us to take a realistic look at the problem.

To hear a liberal tell it, all homelessness is merely the result of high housing prices. Now, when I see someone ranting incoherently, or lying face down on the sidewalk in urine-soaked clothing, my immediate impression is not, "Gosh, look what the high cost of housing has done to this poor fellow." No, I tend to reflect on substance abuse, and on a person throwing their life away getting high.

In their case, the real problem is addiction, and homelessness is just one of the symptoms.

We can't do much about addiction. Getting high is fun and feels good, at least momentarily. We've tried to interdict the supply of drugs without success. Getting high appeals to the bored and directionless, a population growing as our schools fail and many are seduced by a toxic popular culture.

You don't just "catch" a drug or drinking habit—it involves choices. A friend once described his sole experience with crack cocaine by saying "I liked it too much," and chose to never use it again. Another friend who is an alcoholic keeps assuring me that he plans to stop drinking, but has spent around 30 years telling me that he is "working on it." Another choice.

Most of the addicted and mentally ill homeless reject any sort of long-term residential treatment, the only type of treatment with a reasonable chance for success, and the law prevents involuntary institutionalization. We do not have the ability to "fix" them.

Give them free housing? Providing housing to the addicted merely enables them by providing a comfortable location to continue their downward spiral of self-destruction. Conquering addiction takes an immense amount of willpower and self-discipline, something which society is unable to provide. Some have mustered the will to kick their addiction from the shock and shame of hitting rock bottom. A comfortable person is less motivated to conquer their addiction.

Housing that prohibits the use of drugs or alcohol will usually be rejected. Consider vacancies in local shelters, even in bad weather—such sites are shunned because they will not allow residents to drink or take drugs on-site and control behavior. And the impossibility of controlling drug and alcohol use inside of a private residence is obvious.

It is reasonable to expect the government to keep the badly addicted and demented out of our public places. Their occupancy is incompatible with use by the rest of us. The primary duty of all government is the security of its citizens, and the focus should be on the needs of the many, not the few. How much must society sacrifice in order to accommodate the addicted and the crazy? Should a community be expected to give up their parks and public areas, to accept danger to their children and themselves, and to accept the deterioration of their quality of life from human waste, needles, crime, and craziness? Using an isolated location like the Kansas Avenue lot in San Luis Obispo for camping, and by enforcing quality-of-life ordinances to control behavior in public areas, are probably the best solutions.

There are other elements of the homeless population who do not create a problem. For example, the older nomadic people depicted in Jessica Bruder's book *Nomadland* (and made into an excellent movie). These older folks typically are functional; live in their RVs, trailers, and vans; stay in campgrounds, trailer parks, and on open public lands; and travel around the country to seasonal jobs.

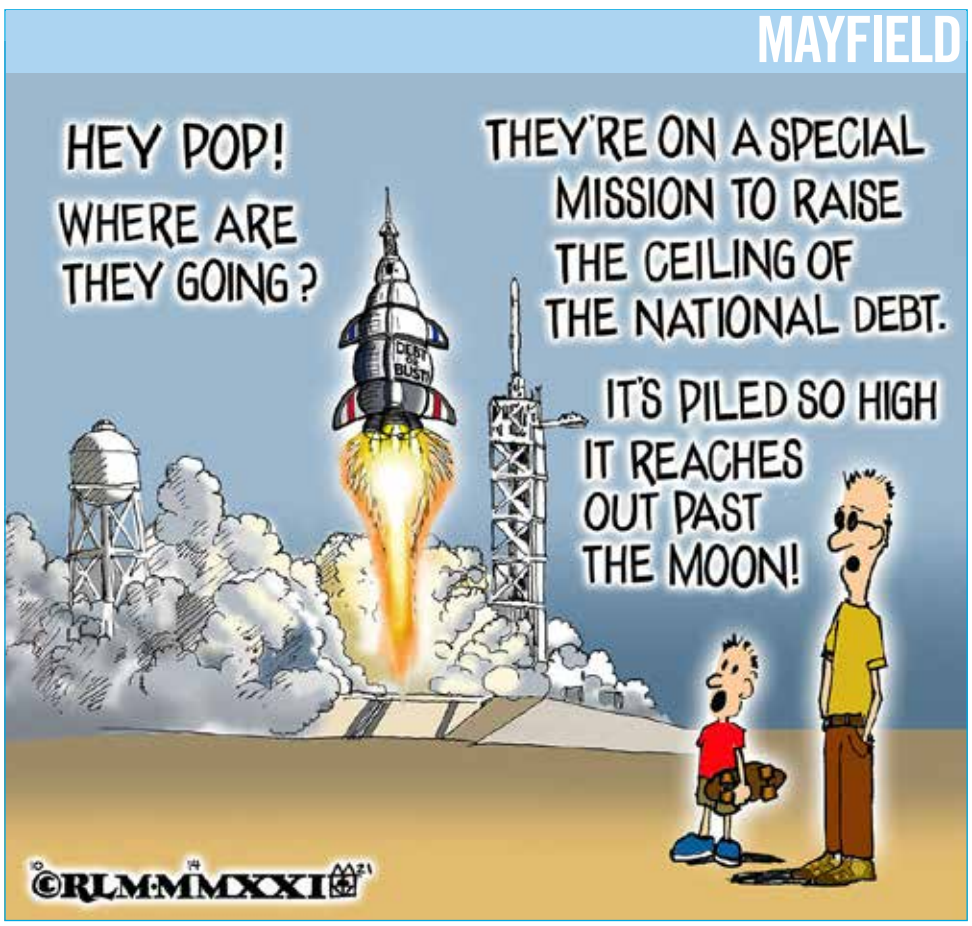
The employed and unaddicted homeless are not the folks creating the big problems. The only thing that will solve their problem is cheaper housing. But since we live in an area in which far more people would like to live than can be realistically accommodated, I can't see this problem being solved.

The addicted homeless are not necessarily dangerous and are often kind and sympathetic people. Many have heartrending stories and can be truly pitiful. Still, they are on a downward trajectory that we can not fix, and as harsh as this sounds, the best we can do is to isolate them and protect ourselves. ❍

John Donegan is a retired attorney in Pismo Beach who is grateful that his instinctively cautious nature protected him from some of the dumb ideas that appeal to the young. Send comments through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.

Speak up!
Send us your views and opinion to letters@santamariasun.com.

MAYFIELD



LETTERS

Time for sensible decisions

County Planning and Development staff reports supported the drilling of more than 750 new oil wells in Cat Canyon. They proved to be poorly drafted and replete with error. The proposed projects threatened the quality of our drinking water and the water used by growers.

The Oct. 1 Huntington Beach oil pipeline accident has underscored the questionable judgment expressed by Planning and Development just last week at a Planning Commission hearing. There, staff supported the massive trucking of oil on our roads.

The Huntington Beach disaster is larger than the 2015 Refugio State Beach incident that continues to impact us. Yet the county transportation planner defends a scheme that would permit, for up to seven years, 70 oil trucks per day on our roads, each loaded with 450,000 gallons of combustible oil … this, while knowing that moving oil by truck is even riskier than via pipeline. Thanks to the wisdom of planning commissioners, the truck plan was denied approval.

And now the planner lends critical support to a lot-split in Los Alamos that would result in a housing development endangering townsfolk. It would lead to too much additional traffic on a small neighborhood road, and, with only half of the new homes having a garage, reduced access by emergency vehicles due to illegal parking on the fire lane.

The county planner has put forward traffic estimates based on formulas in an engineering manual rather than doing an actual traffic study. And he has ignored, and then minimized, the impact of a one-lane bottleneck on the safety of pedestrians, vehicles, and drivers.

Planning and Development staff reports are supposed to be written with an eye to protect public health and safety and not to maximize the profits of land developers and private companies. We should not have to depend on the sagacity of the Planning Commission to set things right.

Seth Steiner
Los Alamos

UPCOMING SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

HOLIDAY GUIDE

BOOK ADS BY: November 19
PUBLICATION DATE: November 25

Get your business in front of 100,000+ local readers and shoppers

LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE

BOOK ADS BY: December 3
PUBLICATION DATE: December 9

Help our readers find the perfect last-minute gifts

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

BOOK ADS BY: December 24
PUBLICATION DATE: December 30

Sponsor a child's drawing in the Boys & Girls Club newsletter

VOLUNTEERS January 13
HEALTH & WELLNESS January 27
OUTDOORS February 17

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Pfizer Covid Vaccine Now Available for Children 12 and Over

Pediatric Medical Group wants to ensure all newborns, infants, children and adolescents are up-to-date on their comprehensive well-child care, inclusive of appropriate screenings, complete physical exam, laboratory exams, fluoride varnish and vaccines.

Pediatric Medical Group is scheduling well exam visits for children of all ages. Strict safety precautions have been put in place to ensure the safety of patients and their parents.

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- All individuals entering the building are pre-screened and temperature is taken.
- Face masks are required to be worn
- Only well-patient visits are seen inside the building
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Call to schedule your child's well exam today.

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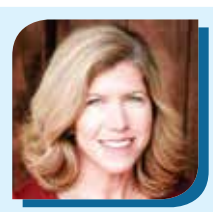
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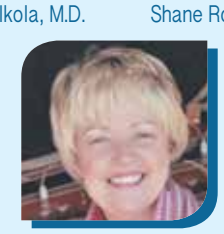
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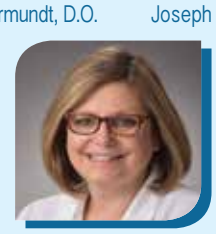
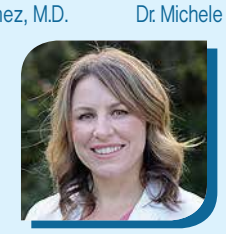

Geronna Leonards, N.P.


Jessica Prather, C.N.P.

1430 E. Main St. Santa Maria, CA | www.pmgsm.com 805-922-3548 | Monday – Friday

Transparent conspiracies

As firefighters battled the Alisal fire in southern **Santa Barbara County**, dry vegetation and blustery wind (up to 70 miles per hour) enabled it to spread rapidly, growing 8,000 acres in 24 hours. At least that much land had burned by 3 p.m. on Oct. 12 along both sides of Highway 101, which was closed due to the blaze.

The **Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors** passed a last-minute emergency proclamation during its meeting on Oct. 12 to help with fire response. The good news is that firefighters made a stand in the middle of the night to save the county's multi-million-dollar recycling plant at the **Tajiguas Landfill**, but 100s of structures—homes, resorts, campgrounds, and more—are still threatened by the fire.

As the county grappled with a natural disaster emergency, its neighbor to the north grappled with whether to steal **Santa Barbara County Elections Divisions Manager Elaina Cano** and crown her its next clerk-recorder. Breaking news: That's happening.

And in her live, on-the-spot, mildly uncomfortable to watch, "transparent" interview with the **SLO County Board of Supervisors**, Cano spilled the tea about some recall election night shenanigans in Santa Barbara County.

Turns out that a group of extremely fired up **Gov. Gavin Newsom** haters actually met some county elections ballot box drivers at 8 p.m. on the night of Sept. 14 (election night), heckled and harassed them, and then followed them back to the elections office. Followed them! This little group of 10 to 12 individuals then congregated in front of the office and were being unruly enough that the sheriff's deputy on duty called for a little bit of backup.

What are we? Arizona?

Cano, who heard the call, joined the response to the "very, very angry, very much demanding to come into our building" folks. She told them that she would take them in to watch the vote tabulation process if they could just. Calm. Down. That took about an hour.

I'm not sure what they thought was happening. She didn't elaborate on that. But I wonder if failed **recall candidate Larry Elder**'s visit to Santa Barbara helped spur the crazies to do something about their crazy. As an aside during his Sept. 8 rally, he mentioned voter fraud—like, you know, if he lost, then obviously the election was rigged. Although, he's very quiet these days.

Or maybe it was failed congressional candidate and perennial big mouth **Andy Caldwell**'s dangerous **Facebook** musings, throwing voter fraud around like it's some sort of academic theory about how he possibly could have lost to **Salud Carbajal** in 2020.

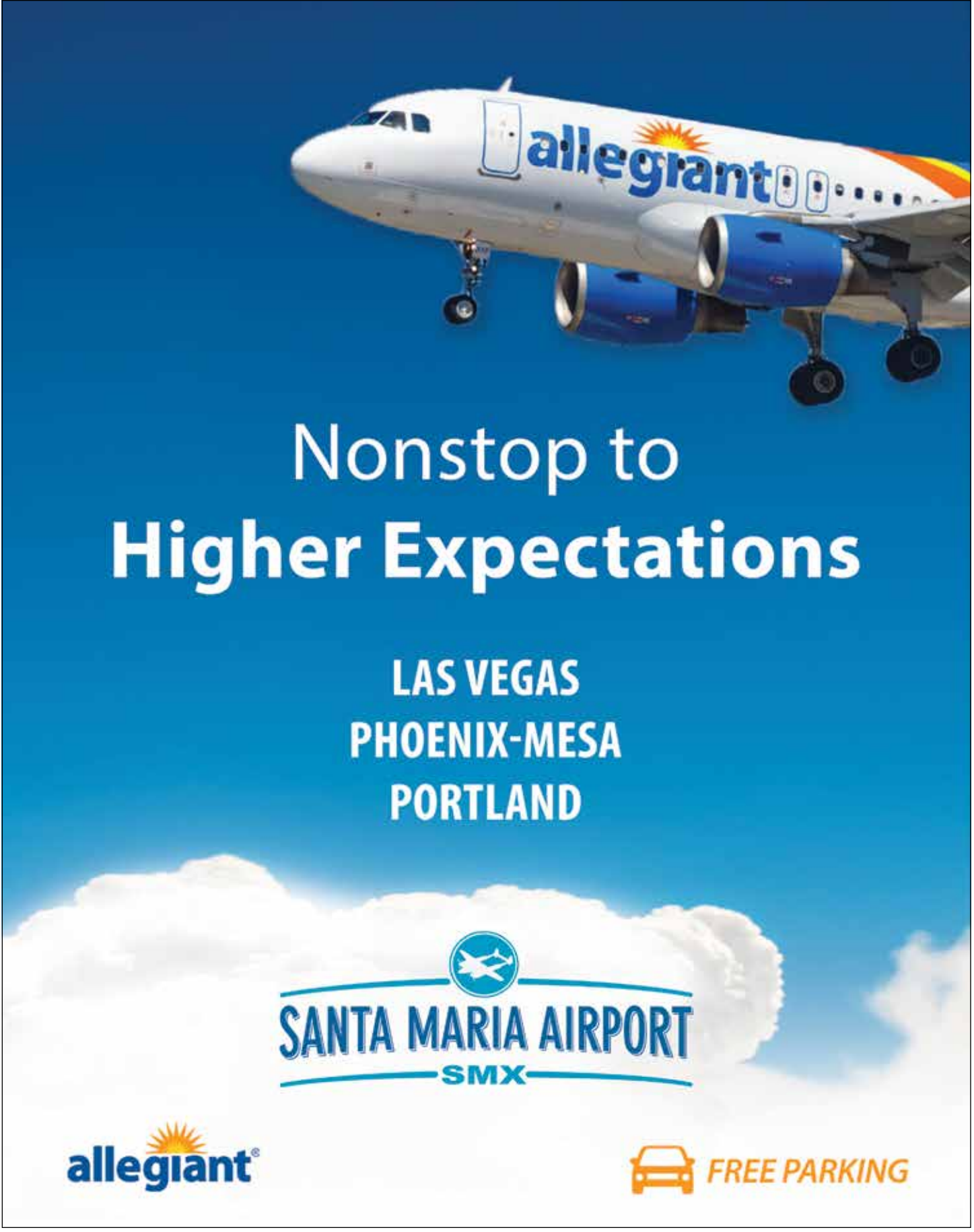
Cano graciously spent three hours of arguably the busiest night of her year with these people, guiding them from room to room, pointing out each and every process, all the while listening to their comments "disagreeing with everything I had to say."

Even though it was right in front of these people. Right in front of their own eyes. And still, what? Conspiracy! It has to be!

"That's not what I planned to do on election night," she said during her interview.

No kidding. However, I'm sure in the future, our elections officials should absolutely expect way more of that. The election process should be fun next year.

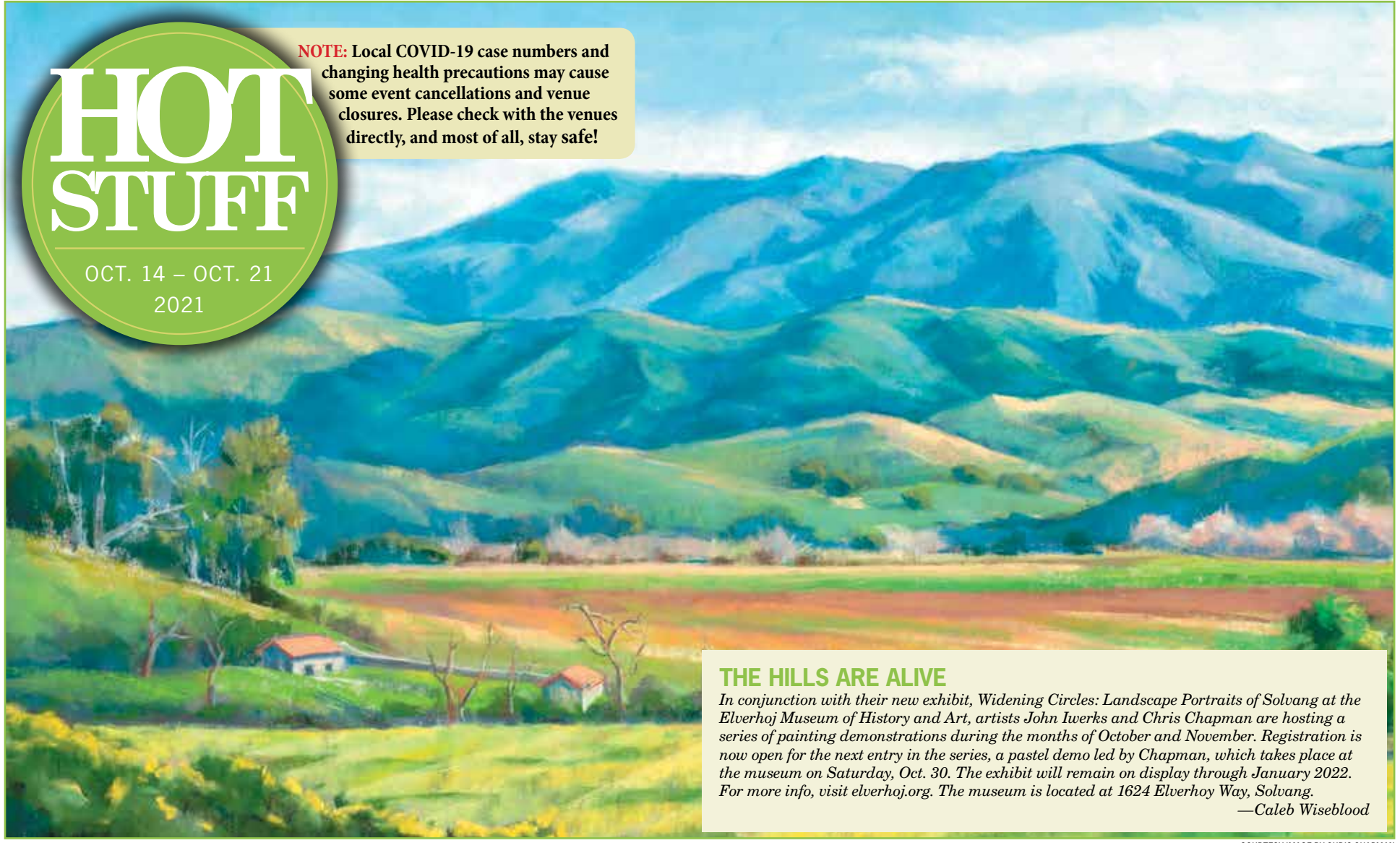
The canary is conspiracy-tired. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



HOT STUFF

OCT. 14 – OCT. 21 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!



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

In conjunction with their new exhibit, Widening Circles: Landscape Portraits of Solvang at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, artists John Iwerks and Chris Chapman are hosting a series of painting demonstrations during the months of October and November. Registration is now open for the next entry in the series, a pastel demo led by Chapman, which takes place at the museum on Saturday, Oct. 30. The exhibit will remain on display through January 2022. For more info, visit elverhoj.org. The museum is located at 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY CHRIS CHAPMAN

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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. Mondays, Thursdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 31 Free. 805-688-7517. 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. Wildling Museum of Art and Nature, 1511-B Mission Dr., Solvang, 805-688-1082.

NATURETRACK FILM FESTIVAL Runs in-person for one day (Oct. 16) in Los Olivos and virtually (Oct. 17 through Oct. 31). Check website for details. **Oct. 16** and **Oct. 17-31** naturetrackfilmfestival.org/. Downtown Los Olivos, Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-9049.

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

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. Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, 1624 Elverhoy Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

10TH ANNUAL PAINTED CHAIR RAFFLE 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. Sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library. **Oct. 16-29** fsmpl.org. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

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.

FASHIONS FOR A PURPOSE A hybrid event (with in-person and virtual options). In-person event limited to 50 attendees. Features two guest speakers, various fashions, merchandise, prizes, and surprises all throughout the event. **Oct. 16**, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. fashionsforapurpose.org. Trattoria Uliveto, 285 Broadway, Orcutt, 805-934-4546.

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. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., 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. ongoing, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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

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

PAINTING IN THE VINEYARD Participants will create their own plein air landscape based on the scenic views surrounding them. **Oct. 23**, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. artspotonwheels.com. Ca' Del Grevino Estate Winery, 2510 East Clark Ave., Santa Maria, 805-621-5889.

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

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

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.

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

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. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

WAR OF THE WORLDS: THE PANIC BROADCAST On the evening of October 30, 1938, radio listeners across the U.S. heard a startling report of mysterious creatures and terrifying war machines moving toward New York City. **Oct. 15-31** my805tix.com. Klein Dance Arts, 3558 Skyway Drive, Orcutt.

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

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

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. 14**, **Oct. 15** and **Oct. 16** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

YOUTH WRITING PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Ages 6 to 18. Youth Writing Packs include a journal as well as a variety of activities to both ease the pressure of writing and inspire amateur authors. Includes projects designed to help authors strengthen the writing skills they already possess. **Oct. 23** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

110 STORIES From the first crash at the Towers to a last goodbye at Ground Zero, 110 Stories takes us through 9/11 as told by those who were there. Thursdays-Sundays, 7-8:15 p.m. through Oct. 21 $8-$12. 805-489-9444. clarkcenter.org/shows/110-stories/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

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. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

ARTISAN CRAFT FAIR Dozens of local artisans selling one of a kind gifts just in time for the holidays. A major portions of the proceeds will go to supporting Kristin Smart's family. **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-459-4880. Kennedy Club Fitness, 1299 James Way, Arroyo Grande.

ARTS continued page 14

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 newtimesslo.com. You may also email calendar@newtimesslo.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@newtimesslo.com.**

INDEX

Arts ..... [13]
Culture & Lifestyle..... [19]
Food & Drink..... [23]
Music ..... [23]

ARTS from page 13

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. Oakglen 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.

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.

DECONSTRUCTED FREEDOM A descendant of the Cahuilla Band of Indians, Eric Jon Boyd creates mixed-media artwork that takes account of history and culture from an Indigenous perspective. This exhibition illustrates a history of events that changed the landscape of California. Through Nov. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/deconstructed-freedom/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., 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. 505-690-4283. centralcoastsculptors.org/membership.html. Online, See website, 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, spiritsofafricagallery.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. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-544-9251. artsobispo.org/open-studios-art-tour. ARTS Obispo Open Studios Art Tour, SLO County, Countywide.

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

PALESTINE: UNLIMITED PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT The display features photos from ten competition finalists from the first annual Karimeh Abboud Award Competition of Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem, Palestine. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 31 Free. 805-544-2133. Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 Frederciks St, San Luis Obispo.

REVISITING THE VESSEL This exhibition explores the vessel, a form artists have been drawing inspiration from for thousands of years, as a reminder of its transcendence, necessity, and influence. This exhibition is hosted in partnership with the Central Coast Sculptors Group. Through Nov. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/revisiting-the-vessel/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

SLO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE This popular book sale is back with additional days and items refreshed daily. Features books in various genres, DVDs, and CDs $1 each. All proceeds to SLO Library. **Oct. 18-22**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and **Oct. 23-22**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. slofol.org. San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-781-5991.

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. 805-440-9461. unity5cities.org. Online, San Luis Obispo.

HOT STUFF
OCT. 14 – OCT. 21
2021

VIEWPOINTS: A SPECIAL EXHIBITION Viewpoints is an exhibition by four artists who observe the world from different directions. Kim Snyder, Rod Baker, Barry Lundgren, & Janice Pluma each offer a unique perspective on nature's many faces. Through 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. through Oct. 14 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.

ACRYLIC LAVENDER WITH MEAGAN Join artist Meagan Robbins to learn how to paint lavender flowers. She will also go over some easy acrylic techniques to add some texture into your painting (using items you probably have in your kitchen). For ages 7-14. Text or call to sign up. **Oct. 16**, 2:30-3:30 p.m. $20. 209-347-7295. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, studiosonthepark.org.

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 country with 69 towers composed of more than 17,000 illuminated wine bottles. Thursdays-Sundays. through Jan. 2 $9.50-$110. 805-226-4287. sensoriopaso.com/. Sensorio, 4380 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles.

CREATING COMIC CHARACTERS Are you ready to bring your creations to life? In this 2-hour workshop, we'll be creating characters, learning their life stories, and watching them react to different situations. You'll make a number of quick drawings, and leave with a completed comic. All experience levels. **Oct. 16**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $25. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com. The ARTery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

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. DepriseBrescia.com. Deprise Brescia Art Gallery, 829 10th St., Paso Robles, 310-621-7543.

INTRO TO ENCAUSTICS This workshop taught by Vicky Hoffman, is a hands-on intro to the basic techniques of the process. Learn how to do transfers, mark making, mixed media, and more. Supplies included. To register, email vicky@vickyhoffman.com. **Oct. 23**, 1-4 p.m. $75. 310-993-1732. Marie Ramey Fine Art, 7460 Pinal Ave, Atascadero, marieramey.com.

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. 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. studiosonthepark.org. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles, 805-238-9800.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEATE AMLER'S PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: REFLECTIONS Beate Amler shows her photographic work in her exhibit "Reflections" at the Morro Bay Library until the

ARTS continued page 19

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Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County

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About DVS

Domestic Violence Solutions (DVS) for Santa Barbara County's mission is to provide **safety, shelter and support** for individuals and families affected by domestic violence and collaborate with community partners to raise awareness regarding the cause, prevalence and impact.

DVS is Santa Barbara County's only full-service provider of **24-hour emergency shelter and services** for survivors of domestic violence.

24-HOUR CRISIS & INFORMATION LINES:

805.964.5245 – South County

805.925.2160 – North County

DVS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

411 E. Canon Perdido St. #12
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805.963.4458
dvsolutions.org

Our Impact in 2020

Answered **4,118** calls to our 24-hour crisis and information lines

Sheltered **as many children** as adult survivors of domestic violence

Responded to **517** calls from law enforcement and emergency rooms at the survivors' location

Provided **871** counseling sessions to survivors of domestic violence and their children

Provided ***5,755*** safe nights of shelter to survivors of domestic violence

Participated in **hundreds** of educational and outreach events throughout the community

How to help a friend when things don't seem right

- Believe your friend. Tell them it is not their fault, and nobody deserves to be abused (no matter what the partner says).
- Don't try to force the person to break up. When the person is ready, they will leave.
- Offer your support, and refer your friend to the resources and information we offer.
- Educate yourself.

DVS Serves **ALL SURVIVORS** of Domestic Violence

For the past **44** years, DVS has been proudly serving Santa Barbara County.

DVS is a community leader in domestic violence issues, offering training to family, friends, community members, law enforcement, and medical, social service, and therapeutic personnel on how to break the cycle of violence.

DVS welcomes **all survivors** regardless of race, religion, gender-identity, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

OCTOBER IS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

First observed in October 1981 as a national "Day of Unity," **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)** is held each October as a way to unite communities across the nation in their efforts to end domestic violence. Join Domestic Violence Solutions as we honor survivors, remember those who have lost their lives, and raise our collective awareness about domestic violence to end abuse for good.

13th Annual Luncheon

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Outdoor Members' Lawn

Montecito Club
920 Summit Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Keynote Speaker

Rickie Houston (he/him/his)

Director of Training,
A Call to Men

A CALL TO MEN
The Next Generation of Manhood

Learn More

- dvsolutions.org/13thAnnualLuncheon
- JenniEliseR@DVsolutions.org
- 805.963.4458 x1109

Special thank you

to our North County supporters!

Heartfelt thanks to the Hutton Parker Foundation and Santa Maria Sun!

The support from our amazing local organizations and individuals allows us to continue providing safety, shelter and support to domestic violence survivors and their families.

Need support? Call 805.925.2160

DVS offers:

- 24-hour crisis/ information lines
- Safe, confidential shelter
- Safety planning
- Phone/video therapy
- Virtual support groups
- Housing First assistance funds
- Job/life skills

Not safe to call?

Email:
info@dvsolutions.org

Website:
dvsolutions.org

We are here for you!

Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County • 805.963.4458 • info@dvsolutions.org • dvsolutions.org

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ROYAL RAFFLE

The 10th annual Painted Chair Raffle at the Santa Maria Town Center starts on Saturday, Oct. 16, and runs through Friday, Oct. 29. Participating artists were asked to submit chairs, quilts, and other items based on either a book or a book genre, which will be raffled off. Raffle tickets are $1 each or six for $5. Proceeds of the event will benefit programming at the Santa Maria Public Library. Visit fsmpl.org to find out more.

—C.W.

ARTS from page 14

end of October. She captures the light and colors displayed in reflections around us in an unusual way. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Oct. 30 Free. 805-772-6394. Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay.

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 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.

FEATURED ARTIST ATUL PANDE "I am a self-taught painter working in water-based media, mainly acrylic. My style is based on the non-objective modern expressionist movement that originated in post-WWII New York. I work in an intuitive manner exploring line, form and color, but without a goal in mind," Pande said in a statement. Through Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

FEATURED CRAFT ARTIST: ARDELLA SWANBERG Type of Art: Book making and handmade crafts. Ardella was raised in Garden Grove, California, lived in many locations, and relocated to here 25 years ago. Ardella paints subjects found in the Central Coast. Through Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

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.

GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: FEATURED ARTIST GROUP SHOW "Between The Tides" is a group photography show, depicting the beauty of our seacoast—the amazing land and waterscapes that shape our beautiful Central Coast. Kerry Drager, Teresa Ferguson, Greg Siragusa, and Dominic Hartman bring their individual photographic snap-shots to this show. Through Oct. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

HOT STUFF

OCT. 14 – OCT. 21 2021

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.

LEARN BEGINNING FUSED GLASS WITH LARRY LE BRANE Call or email host, or check website for more precise info on workshop dates (dates vary). Make fused-glass home/garden décor, gifts, dishware, or use in your own artwork. No previous art skills are needed. All materials for 3-5 projects are included in $135 fee. For 4-6 students. No drop-ins. Registration at larron4@charter.net **Oct. 23-Jan. 29** $135. 805-528-8791. facebook.com/larry.lebrane. Central Coast Glass Blowing and Fusing, 1279 2nd Street, Los Osos.

LIVE FIGURE DRAWING CLASS Open to vaccinated adults. All levels and art techniques are welcome. 18 ages and over. No photos allowed. Bring your own art materials. First come, first served. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. through Jan. 26 $10 members; $12 non-members. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/comingevents/classes/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND ARTISTS Cambria Center for the Arts is always looking for volunteers to help us with projects. No artistic skills required. Artists are also sought on a continual basis. Please check our website for details. Through Dec. 31 805-927-8190. cambriaarts.org/home. Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St., Cambria.

OPEN STUDIO: KURT WALDO Enjoy abstract expressionist art; mixed media on paper and canvas, prints. Features demonstration and opportunity to purchase fine art. **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 240-344-0083. Kurt Waldo, 1254 2nd Street, C, Los Osos, kurtwaldo.com.

THE REBOOT: STORYTELLING REIMAGINED It's free, it's community, it's storytelling gold for folks who delight in all things well told. Come vaxxed and relaxed, dress warm and drink up this live, creative happening in Top Dog's enchanted open air venue under the stars, just blocks from the ocean. Fourth Friday of every month, 7-9 p.m. through Oct. 29 Free. 805-772-9225. facebook.com/the.reboot4u. Top Dog Coffee Bar, 857 Main St., Morro Bay.

ROD BAKER'S GLASSWORK: 2021 OPEN STUDIOS ART TOUR Visit Rod's gallery, studios, and sculpture garden in a cool coastal setting. Explore beautiful hand-blown and fused-glass home-garden décor, affordable gifts, and designer glass jewelry. Free event co-hosted by ARTS Obispo. Masks indoors, please. **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. 805-551-6836. Central Coast Glass Blowing and Fusing, 1279 2nd Street, Los Osos, RodBakerGlass.com.

SEA GLASS HAMMERED METAL JEWELRY Learn how to drill holes in sea glass (for safety this will be a demonstration), hammer metal to strength and texture it, and basic jewelry making skills to create a necklace and two earrings. Everything is provided to complete the projects including local sea glass. **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-noon and **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m.-noon $50. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

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. Through Oct. 31 syvscarecrows.com. Downtown Solvang, Citywide, Solvang.

LOMPOC/VANDENBERG

DUNKIN' FOR PUMPKINS Lompocs Parks and Recreation presents this floating pumpkin patch event. Pre-registration required. **Oct. 24**, 10 a.m. $12 per child. Lompoc Aquatic Center, 207 W. College Ave., Lompoc, 805-875-8100.

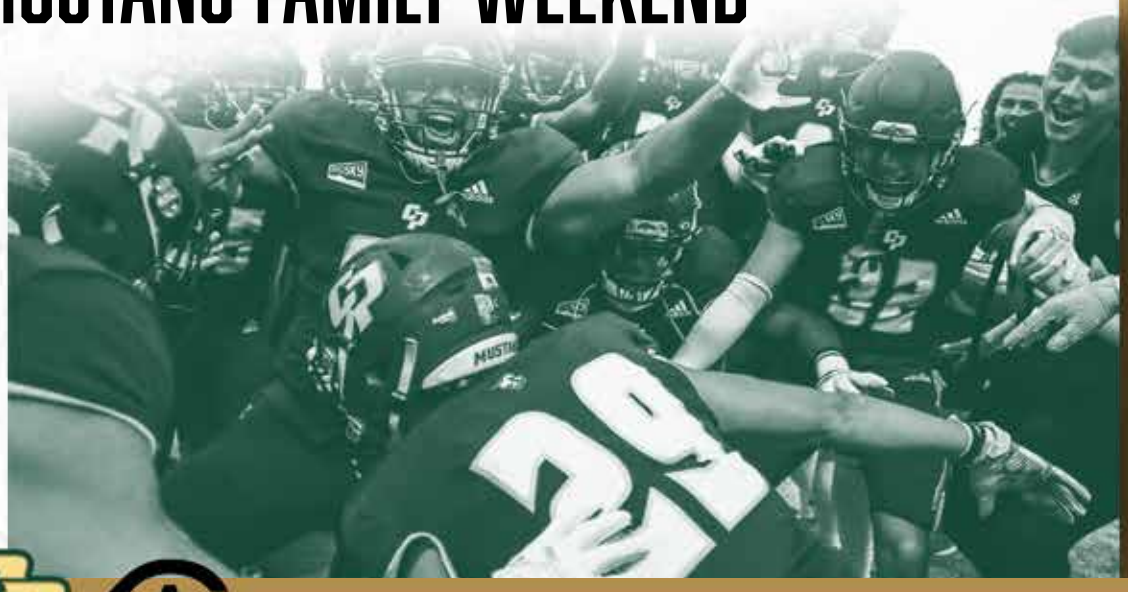
SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

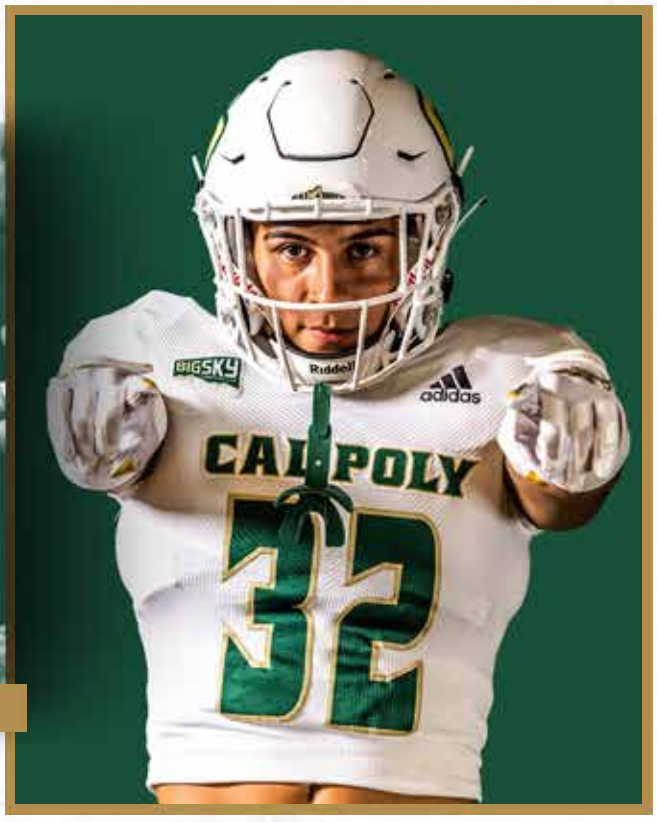
30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SANTA MARIA/ORCUTT Community Partners in Caring is seeking volunteers to help support dependent older adults and seniors. ongoing partnersincaring.org. Santa Maria, Citywide, Santa Maria.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 21

CAL POLY FOOTBALL

MUSTANG FAMILY WEEKEND





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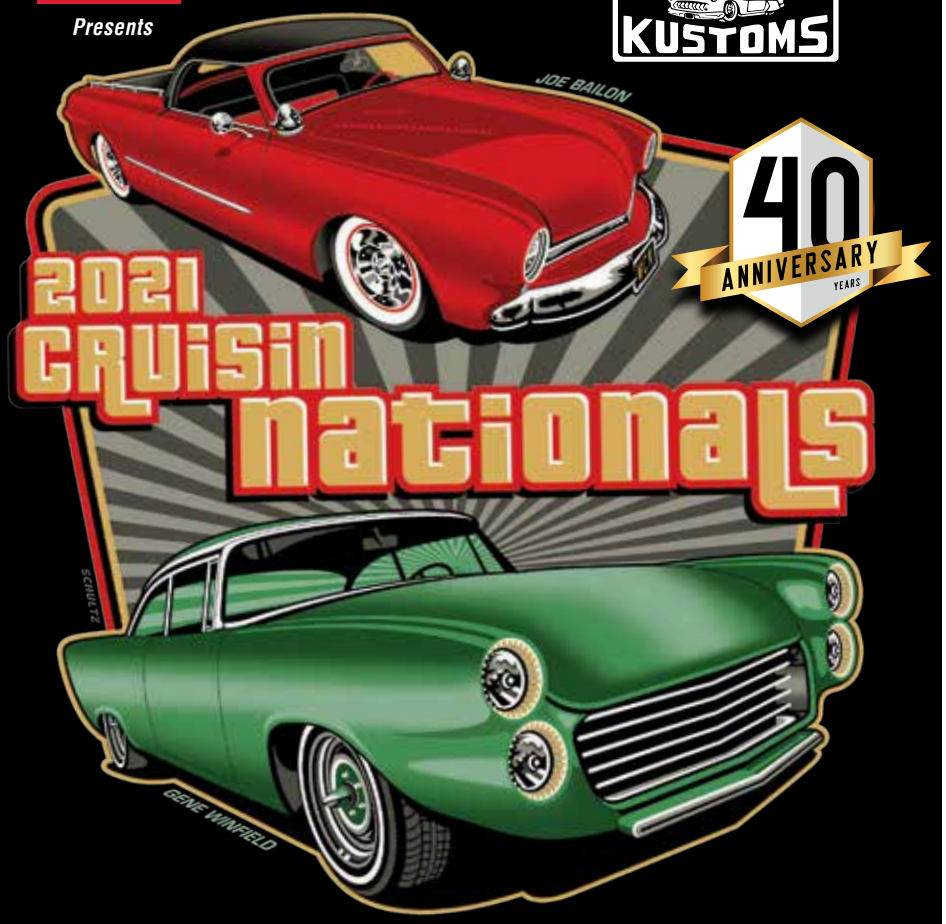

Santa Maria Fairpark

Santa Maria California

October 23 & 24 2021

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Gates Open at:
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Adults $15.00 • Kids 10 & Under Free
Seniors 60 & Over $10.00
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info: www.westcoastkustoms.com • WCKustoms@aol.com

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

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

War of the Worlds
FRI, SAT, SUN: OCT 15, 16, 17; 22, 23, 24; AND 29, 30, 31
Klein Dance Arts, Santa Maria

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

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

Fashions for a Purpose: 7th Annual Fashion Event
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
Trattoria Uliveto, Orcutt

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

Capricious Clarinet
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17
Symphony of the Vines at Cass Winery, Paso Robles

Sunset Yoga in Morro Bay
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19
Cloisters Park, Morro Bay

Songwriters at Play/SSHH: Josh Rosenblum
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19
Puffer's, Pismo Beach

Chakra Meditation and Breath Work
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20
On the Beach, Morro Bay

Butterfly Ball: Monarch Masquerade
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23
Octagon Barn, SLO

Barrel Room Concert: Brass Mash
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

Play by AGHS Drama Dept: Silver's Secret
SAT & SUN, OCTOBER 30 & 31
Point San Luis Lighthouse

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CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 19

BUILDING ALTARS AND CELEBRATING THE END OF LATINX HERATIGE MONTH Join in on building a communal altar for Day of the Dead at Corazon del Pueblo. **Oct. 15**, 7-8 p.m. Free. us02web.zoom.us/j/81002834891. Cultural and Creative Arts Center of SMV, 124 West Main St., suite E, Santa Maria, 805-470-9813.

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

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

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

PINKTOBER COMMUNITY BAZAAR Chemo Care Package donations receive one free raffle drawing entry. **Oct. 17**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Filipino Community Center, 2270 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITY PACKS Ages 3-5. Preschool Activity Packs include a craft, a fun maker project, coloring pages, a list of fun activities to do from home, and a book list. Packs focus on strengthening fine motor skills, identification of shapes, colors, and textures, all while encouraging learning. **Oct. 16**, **Oct. 18**, **Oct. 19**, **Oct. 20**, **Oct. 21**, **Oct. 22** and **Oct. 23** Free. 805-925-0994. 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. Oasis Center, 420 Soares Ave., Orcutt.

SANTA MARIA COIN AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW Show will have coins, currency, casino chips, beanies, and sports cards. New collectors, experienced collectors, and junior collectors are all invited. Bring coins for free appraisals. **Oct. 16**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-937-1250. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

STOP THE BLEED PRESENTATION The Santa Maria Public Library is partnering with Safety Consulting Services, LLC, to offer free Spanish and English Stop the Bleed presentations. **Oct. 23**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN ANIME CLUB: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY If you're a teen who is into anime or manga, come to Anime Club. Hang out with other fans, eat Japanese snacks, and do fun activities. New members are always welcome. **Oct. 15**, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

YOUTH STAR WARS READS PACKS: SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY Celebrate reading and Star Wars together with this out of the world pack. Inside, Jedi Masters, ages 6 through 12, will have activity idea sheets, a Star Wars inspired booklist, color your own bookmark, and paint a baby Grogu night light to complete their training. **Oct. 14**, **Oct. 15** and **Oct. 16** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

AVILA BEACH CHILDREN'S BUSINESS FAIR A one-day children's marketplace where participants can sell their crafts/creations at their own business booths. This event promotes and supports young entrepreneurs. **Oct. 16** Avila Beach Community Center, 191 San Miguel St., Avila Beach, 805-627-1997, avilabeachcc.com.

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BUTTERFLY BALL: MONARCH MASQUERADE The Butterfly Ball: Monarch Masquerade will feature mixology, a silent auction, performances by the Civic Ballet and other special guests, a guided art experience, delectable dining, informative speakers, and dancing to local Americana band The Mother Corn Shuckers. **Oct. 23**, 3-10 p.m. $100-$180. 805-548-0390. centralcoastparks.org/butterfly-ball/. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY MEN'S SOCCER VS UCSB Don't miss the biggest game in college soccer as Cal Poly squares off with UC Santa Barbara in the next installment of the Blue-Green Rivalry. **Oct. 16**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S SOCCER VS UC SAN DIEGO It's Youth Day, so all kids ages 13 and under receive free admission to the match. **Oct. 17**, noon gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CENTRAL COAST POLYAMORY (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) Hosting a discussion group featuring different topics relating to ethical non-monogamy every month. Virtually meet via Zoom. Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

COMMITTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE FREEDOM FUND EVENT The annual signature event and fundraiser for the NAACP San Luis Obispo County Branch. Keynote Speaker: Congresswoman Maxine Waters, introduced by Congressman Salud Carbajal. **Oct. 16**, 5-7 p.m. naacpslocty.org/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

FUN RUN FOR INCLUSION 5K 2021 Life Steps will be hosting a virtual Fun Run for Inclusion 5K benefit run. Runners can choose to complete the event at your own time, place, and pace. **Oct. 24-30** $35-$40. 650-259-1808. lsf5k.org/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

GALA PRIDE AND DIVERSITY CENTER BOARD MEETING (VIA ZOOM) Monthly meeting of the Gala Pride and Diversity Center Board of Directors. Meets virtually via Zoom and is open to members of the public. Visit galacc.org/events to fill out the form to request meeting access. Third Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. No admission fee. galacc.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 23

PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA JURETIC

PAGE ADVICE

The San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library hosts its multi-day book sale at the SLO Library Community Room, Monday, Oct. 18, through Saturday, Oct. 23. Books from various genres will be available to purchase, along with DVDs, CDs, and other items. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the SLO Library. For more info, visit slofol.org. The SLO Library Community Room is located at 995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo.

—C.W.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE ME TIME

FROM HEART TO FINISH

Creative Me Times presents its next Mosaics for Beginners workshop at Art Center Morro Bay on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will learn basic techniques to create their own mosaic masterpieces, including cutting, gluing, grouting, and other steps. Admission varies depending on the project. Call (805) 286-5993 or visit creativemetime.com. Art Center Morro Bay is located at 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

—C.W.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE from page 21

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. Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO LEZ B FRIENDS (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM) A good core group of friends who gather to discuss topics we love/ care about from movies, outings, music, or being new to the area. We come from all walks of life and most importantly support each other. Transgender and Nonbinary folks welcome. Third Friday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. sloqueer.groups.io/g/lezbfriends. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

SLO ROLL POP-UP: THE GHOULS COME OUT AT NIGHT A roller disco with a Halloween vibe featuring music from SLO County's own DJ Brotha C. All Ages are welcome. Costumes encouraged. **Oct. 16**, 5-7 p.m. Santa Rosa Park, Santa Rosa St., 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 aarapgroup@gmail.com for password access. Sundays, 7-8 p.m. No fee. 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 for more details. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

ZUMBA WITH CHRISTIANA SLO's ultimate dance fitness workout, combining cardio and muscle toning set to today's hottest Latin beats. All levels are welcomed and celebrated. First class is $5 to try. Various pricing options available. Tuesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m. ChristianaEnriquez.Zumba.com. Zumba with Christiana, 3422 Miguelito Ct, Studio 3, San Luis Obispo, 805-305-5609.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ANNUAL CAR SHOW Open to street rods, trucks, customs, exotics, classics. Food and drink and music available. Awards and raffle. Enter your vehicle(s) or come and enjoy the cars. **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. $45 to enter. 805-927-3624. cambriachamber.org/event/car-show-in-cambria/. Cambria Veterans Memorial Hall, 1000 Main St., Cambria.

SUNSET YOGA All levels vinasya inspired asana (yoga) practice that will include grounding breath-work and silent meditation that helps you connect to the earth below and your own intuitive knowing. Through Nov. 18 my805tix.com. Beach Access Parking Lot, 102 Atascadero Road, Morro Bay.

ZOO BOO AT THE CHARLES PADDOCK ZOO It's Halloween fun for all ages as we prepare for another spooktackular evening at the Charles Paddock Zoo. Get your best costume ready and bring the entire family out to a not-too-scary Halloween celebration. **Oct. 23**, 5-8:30 p.m. Regular admission. visitatascadero.com. Charles Paddock Zoo, 9100 Morro Rd., Atascadero.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA SCARECROW FESTIVAL A free, public display of unique creations throughout Cambria and San Simeon the entire month of October. This year's work includes a variety of traditional, animated and unique scarecrows, with special grouped displays at key locations in both villages. Through Oct. 31, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 805-395-2399. cambriascarecrows.com/. Cambria Scarecrow Fest, Citywide, Cambria.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

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.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

HARVEST FESTIVAL PIG ROAST, GRAPE STOMP, AND TACOS Enjoy this annual harvest festival, which includes apig roast dinner buffet, a dance, grape stomp, and more. **Oct. 15**, 6-9 p.m. and **Oct. 16**, 12-3 p.m. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

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.

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

LED ZEPAGAIN: A TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN "It's as close as you'll ever get to the real deal," Jimmy Page once said. **Oct. 14**, 8-9:30 p.m. $35-$40. 805-489-9444. rockitboy.com/show/led-zepagain-the-most-authentic-reproduction-of-led-zeppelin-in-the-world-today/. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE: TIPSY GYPSIES The Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers proudly present "Live at the Lighthouse", a Saturday concert series at the light station. **Oct. 16**, 3 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

SINGER-SONGWRITERS HEARD HERE (SSHH) 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. 19**, 6:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH AND ELVIS PRESLEY **Oct. 23**, 7 p.m. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, 805-489-9444, clarkcenter.org.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

DRUM CIRCLE SING-A-LONG Limited to 20 drummers. Learn African music through drumming and song. ongoing Spirits of Africa Gallery, 570 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, spiritsofafricagallery.com/.

GLISSANDO: FALL HARP MUSIC BY C. HITE A new harp album release for listening and download at bandcamp. You can imagine autumn leaves scampering about in a playful wind in original songs written with the heavenly glissando strumming technique. Through Nov. 4 carolbethhite.bandcamp.com. See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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

LUCIA MICARELLI LIVE Violinist, singer, and actress Lucia Micarelli makes her San Luis Obispo debut. A violin student from the Manhattan School of Music, she's been a featured violinist and concertmaster for the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and held the starring role of "Annie" in HBO's critically acclaimed series *Treme*. **Oct. 22** Tickets start at $35. 805-781-3009. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, cuesta.edu.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

2021 RISING MOON SUNSET SERIES FEATURING LIVE MUSIC Enjoy sunset and vineyard views at Doce Robles Winery and Vineyard. Spend the evening under the rising full moon with wine and friends. **Oct. 16**, 5-8 p.m. $15-$35. 805-227-4766. docerobleswinery.com/event. Doce Robles Winery, 2023 Twelve Oaks Dr., Paso Robles.

CAPRICIOUS CLARINET Local clarinetist Richard Dobeck is featured in this Off-The-Vines concert. **Oct. 17**, 5:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

DIRTY HEADS AND SUBLIME WITH ROME: HIGH AND MIGHTY TOUR Dirty Heads and Sublime with Rome bring their "High and Mighty Tour" to the Vina Robles Amphitheatre with special guest HIRIE. **Oct. 14**, 7-10 p.m. $49.50-$75. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com/concerts. Vina Robles Amphitheatre,, Paso Robles.

EASTON EVERETT TRIO Neo-folk pop. **Oct. 17**, 1-5 p.m. Rava Wines + Events, 6785 Creston Rd., Paso Robles, 805-238-7282.

FLAVOR PACKET LIVE Contemporary jazz. **Oct. 16**, 1-4 p.m. eastoneverett.com/. Eberle Winery, 3810 Highway 46 East, Paso Robles, 805-238-9607.

THE JUMP JAX LIVE: BRISTOLS CIDERHOUSE Plenty of room to dance. The Jump Jax play an eclectic mix of genres. **Oct. 15**, 7-9:30 p.m. No cover. 805-704-5116. jumpjax.com. Bristol's Cider House, 3220 El Camino Real, Atascadero.

NO QUARTER (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND) **Oct. 16**, 7-9 p.m. Rava Wines + Events, 6785 Creston Rd., Paso Robles, 805-238-7282.

PRIMUS: A TRIBUTE TO KINGS With special guest Wolfmother. All previously purchased tickets will be honored on this rescheduled date. **Oct. 16**, 7-10 p.m. $39.50-$49.50. 805-286-3680. vinaroblesamphitheatre.com. Vina Robles Amphitheatre, 3800 Mill Rd., Paso Robles.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES FOX AND BONES Fox and Bones (Sarah Vitort and Scott Gilmore) are on tour with their third album, *American Alchemy*. Formed in 2016, the Portland-based duo play an original blend of folk, pop, Americana and soul music. Also features special guest Harry Wiese and host Steve Key. **Oct. 16**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

SAN LUIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE On the program is George Fredric Handel's Entrance to the Queen of Sheba, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Serenade No. 6 in D Major, K. 239, Fritz Kreisler's Praeludium and Allegra and Benjamin Brittin's Simple Symphony. Mark Kovacs conducting. **Oct. 23** $15. 805-400-3019. Trinity United Methodist Church, 490 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos, trinitylososos.org.

HOT STUFF
OCT. 14 – OCT. 21
2021

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

The Santa Maria Cemetery District will begin its next cleanup of the cemetery grounds Monday, October 25th, with cleaning *continuing* through Friday, October 29th.

All items will be discarded. If anyone desires to keep any current item, please make arrangements to have your item removed prior to Sunday, October 24th.

SANTA MARIA CEMETERY

Arts Briefs

NatureTrack Film Festival hosts in-person screenings, virtual programming

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATURETRACK FOUNDATION

Thirty films will be screened at two venues in Los Olivos, as part of the fourth annual NatureTrack Film Festival. Most of the in-person portion of the festival will be held at St. Mark's In-The-Valley Episcopal Church on Saturday, Oct. 16, with various screenings taking place between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. Additional screenings will take place at the Cindy Bronfman Leadership Center between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The festival features a variety of films with themes of protecting nature and wildlife. The first film to be screened in the event's lineup is *Animals at the Border*, a documentary that explores the global impact that barbed wire fences and other borders have on wild animals. Other featured films include *Antarctica*, a BBC nature documentary narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch, and *Light of the Night*, which examines the ever-expanding problem of light pollution and how it negatively affects animals, plants, and humans.

A selection of family-friendly films will also be screened as part of the festival, including the animated films *The Beauty of Nature*, *Wild*, *The Tree Has Been Planted*, *The Long Kiss*, and *The Potion*. Family-friendly live action films on the docket include *Trench*, *The Ants*, and *Hidden Wild* (pictured).

Most of the films included in the festival will also be available to screen virtually Sunday, Oct. 17, through Sunday, Oct. 31. Tickets to in-person screenings start at $10. All access passes to both in-person and virtual screenings range between $75 and $100.

To find out more about the fourth annual NatureTrack Film Festival, call (805) 866-2047 or visit naturetrackfilmfestival.org. St. Mark's In-The-Valley Episcopal Church is located at 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos. The Cindy Bronfman Leadership Center is located at 2555 Highway 154, Los Olivos.

Gallery Los Olivos presents new duo exhibition, Artistic Perceptions

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA WATKINS

A new duo show at Gallery Los Olivos highlights both paintings and handcrafted jewelry from two local artists. Artistic Perceptions, which features art by Cheryl Ambrecht and Patricia Watkins, debuted at the gallery on Friday, Oct. 1, and is scheduled to remain on display through Sunday, Oct. 31.

Ambrecht is an oil painter of plein air landscapes and still life pieces, while Watkins (whose work is pictured) specializes in crafting earrings, bracelets, and bead necklaces. To find out more about this duo's new exhibit, call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. ❍

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

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN NONE: Attendees of this year's Scared Scriptless tour, co-hosted by comedians Colin Mochrie (left) and Brad Sherwood (right)—both widely known for their work on *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*—are at risk of being chosen to participate in a variety of improv shenanigans.

Mission improv-able

Scared Scriptless tour brings comedy legends Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood to the Central Coast

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Over a span of 40 years working in live improv, only one audience member ever came close to rubbing comedian Colin Mochrie the wrong way.

"I can't remember where we were doing the show, but there was a guy sitting in the front row dressed as a horse. And it wasn't Halloween. It wasn't any horse-related holiday I can think of," Mochrie recalled. "I think we finally brought him up on stage and nobody mentioned it. Nobody mentioned he was dressed as a horse."

Still, Mochrie—best known for his work on *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*—said there has never been a time he regretted asking someone to join him on stage for an interactive improv routine.

"It always amazes me, first of all, that they actually come up [on stage]. And they usually give us everything that we want," Mochrie said. "Even if they seem a little nervous, or, you know, shy at the beginning, by the end of the scene, they've given us everything we want."

Attendees of this year's Scared Scriptless tour, co-hosted by Mochrie and comedy partner Brad Sherwood (also a *Whose Line* regular), are at risk of being chosen to participate in a variety of improv shenanigans. The tour includes two upcoming stops along the Central Coast: the Harold Miossi Hall at the Performing Arts Center in San Luis Obispo on Oct. 16 and the Granada Theatre in Santa Barbara on Oct. 30.

Between the two cities, Mochrie said he's more familiar with Santa Barbara, where he'd often come for a day trip while living in Los Angeles, but both he and Sherwood have been to San Luis Obispo a handful of times.

"I remember San Luis Obispo for one main reason. It may not be something to advertise, but Brad and I have done at least two or three shows there over the years—and we have yet to fly out of the airport," Mochrie said. "We get in OK, and then we can never get out because there's fog or something, so we always end up renting a car and driving to Los Angeles. So we're hoping that this time, we can actually fly out."

Besides the *Whose Line* fame and a mutual affinity for Oprah Winfrey's favorite town, another thing Mochrie and Sherwood have in common is the career path they both originally considered before becoming comedians.

"I'm still shocked that the improv thing worked. When I look back and think my two options were improviser or marine biologist, those aren't your big-buck jobs. But it all worked out," Mochrie said, who credited the '60s *Flipper* show for nurturing his interest in dolphins specifically.

"Oddly it was the same with Brad, he also wanted to be a marine biologist."

Fate had other plans for both comics, who are currently celebrating their 20th anniversary as touring partners. Despite their aforementioned similarities, their differences play an even bigger role in keeping the show going, Mochrie explained.

"We have certain skills that we bring to the relationship. He is very detail oriented—one may say, anally so," Mochrie said. "Which is good because he takes care of the things that I would never think of—everything from, you know, the little things to lighting on stage. And I'm there basically to make sure that he doesn't have a stroke."

For those who can't make it to Scared Scriptless, they can still catch Mochrie on the 18th season of *Whose Line*, alongside longtime co-stars Wayne Brady and Ryan Stiles. The new season premiered on Oct. 9 and is currently airing on the CW.

The only time Mochrie watches the show himself though is if he catches it mid-channel surfing.

"I tend not to watch the shows. If I'm flipping through the channels and see it, I'll watch and go, 'Wow, that's embarrassing,'" Mochrie said. "It's interesting to watch because I have no recollection of any of the scenes—maybe a couple here and there because of different reasons. But it's usually like I'm watching something I've never seen before." ❍

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood couldn't improvise even if his life depended on it. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

DYNAMIC DUO: Colin Mochrie said one of the reasons he and Brad Sherwood work well together is that they both bring a unique set of skills to the table. "He [Sherwood] is very detail oriented—one may say, anally so. Which is good because he takes care of the things that I would never think of—everything from, you know, the little things to lighting on stage. And I'm there basically to make sure that he doesn't have a stroke," Mochrie said.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCARED SCRIPTLESS

LOVE IS BLIND: For those who can't make it to Scared Scriptless, they can still catch co-host Colin Mochrie (pictured) on the 18th season of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, alongside longtime co-stars Wayne Brady and Ryan Stiles. The new season premiered on Oct. 9 and is currently airing on the CW.

Local lineup

As part of the Scared Scriptless tour, improv comedians Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood will be performing at the Harold Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center in San Luis Obispo on Oct. 16 and the Granada Theatre in Santa Barbara on Oct. 30. Visit colinandbradshow.com for tickets and more info.

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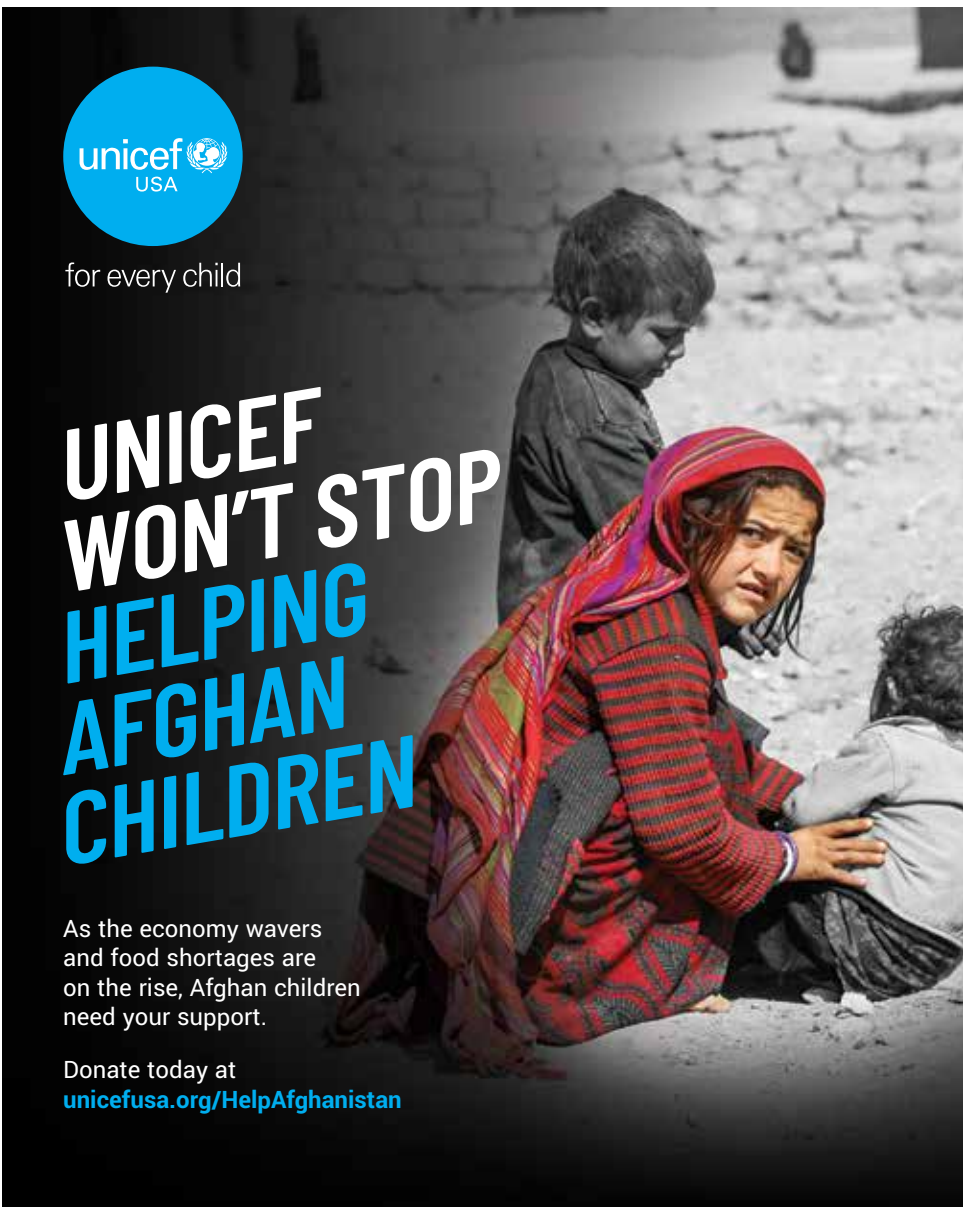

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Fait accompli

Cary Joji Fukunaga (Sin Nombre, Jane Eyre, Beasts of No Nation) directs the fifth and final James Bond film starring Daniel Craig. Now retired from active service, Bond is pulled back into the game when his friend and CIA agent Felix Leiter (Jeffery Wright) asks for help. Soon Bond is on the trail of a dangerous new weapon and the man who wields it, Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek). As Bond closes in on his target, his former paramour Madeleine (Léa Seydoux), who he believes betrayed him to Spectre, comes back into this life with a surprising revelation. (163 min.)

Glen: As a Bond film goes, this one is pretty formulaic. Arch villain? Check. Hidden lair where the final set piece will occur? Check. High tech gadgets? Check. A lot of beautiful Bond girls? Check, check, check. However, this Bond film ups the emotional ante in surprising ways and offers an audacious ending that no other Bond film has ever attempted. It's a fitting closure for Craig's final turn as the super-agent in a five-film run that—for me—rivals Sean Connery's. When *Casino Royale* (2006) came out, what had become a somewhat tired franchise was reinvigorated and reinvented in a visceral way. Suddenly Bond was vulnerable. He bled when beaten. Craig turned in a whole different kind of character—brasher, more rebellious, and darker. Through *Quantum of Solace* (2008), *Skyfall* (2012), *Spectre* (2015), and now this long-awaited conclusion, Craig has proven a worthy successor to Connery. The franchise is too popular to come to an end, and there's been talk of casting a Black Bond for years, but in *No Time to Die*, we get a Black female 007 in Nomi (Lashana Lynch), who after Bond's retirement ended up with his number. Their rivalry is the source of much of the film's humor. It's also worth mentioning Cuban actress Ana de Armas' turn as Paloma, a new CIA agent who Bond briefly teams with in Cuba. She terrific as the newbie with innate talent, and apparently Craig picked her for the role after working with her in *Knives Out* (2019). At nearly three hours, *No Time to Die* takes its time reaching its final destination, but the story is populated by amazing action sequences and stunts, a gripping story with lots of moving parts to keep track of, and plenty of effective acting. Me likey!

Anna: Craig has managed to give the character his own unique spin—a man who while seemingly indestructible still feels love, loss, and almost continuously is sporting a split lip or a black eye. A lot of the time these over-the-top action films are all fluff and (if you're lucky) fun. Getting a deeper dive into storyline or characters seems mostly secondary, but while this final chapter is formulaic, there's enough meat on the bones of Bond and his relationships, not just with Madeleine but with the man he considers his brother, Felix, and the crew such as Q (Ben Whishaw) and Tanner (Rory Kinnear). There are definitely some laughs to be had, and I love a Bond film that doesn't take itself *too* seriously but still delivers on the high-action stunts. I'll miss Craig in this role, and while I'm all for a road toward some diversity in this franchise, whoever follows him has some big shoes to fill. Rami Malek pulls off the scarred super villain pretty well, and when we learn there's much more of a backstory between him and Madeleine, it becomes clear that Bond is going to have to do some pretty fancy footwork to save both the girl and the world. It's a long movie, but it's plenty of fun. Grab some popcorn and settle in!

NO TIME TO DIE

What's it rated? **PG-13**
What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
Where's it showing? **Regal Edwards RPX Santa Maria, Highway Drive-In, Movies Lompoc, Regal Edwards Arroyo Grande, Fair Oaks Arroyo Grande**

PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BRUISED BUT NOT BEATEN: British secret agent James Bond (Daniel Craig) comes out of retirement to stop a madman with a dangerous new weapon, in *No Time to Die*, the fifth and final film starring Craig as Bond, screening in local theaters.

Glen: What really sets this film apart is its genuinely moving conclusion. Most Bond films are lighthearted at best and glib at worst, but this story humanizes Bond in significant new ways and is a nod back to Bond falling for Vesper Lynd in *Casino Royale*. Bond has closed himself off to love, which has always been part of the character's shtick—bedding one woman after another without a care or a thought. But with Vesper and now Madeleine, Bond is made vulnerable. He's let his emotional guard down. Instead of superhuman, he's mortal. I'm going to miss Craig in the role. In my book, he's tied with Connery as the best, but I look forward to seeing who next takes the role. After this five-film run, the franchise is alive and well, and I fully expect many more films to come.

Anna: From what I've read, Craig has been ready to retire his Bond for a while now, but no doubt money talks and they got him to reprise the role one more time—which is great news for us! We actually get a conclusion to his story, and as someone who likes resolution in films, I appreciate that. I'm also looking forward to seeing what projects Craig takes on now that his arc as Bond is finished. He's a busy actor, and he has plenty of work—a quick glance at his IMDB page shows many upcoming appearances, including *Knives Out 2* and *3*, both of which will hopefully be as fun as the first. I was excited to see Christoph Waltz play Bond's villainous foe Blofeld again, even if only briefly. It may not be high art, but you have to admit these films are fun, especially this run featuring Craig. They spent a lot of money making this look awesome on the big screen, so see it there if you want to give yourself the full experience. Just make sure you go to a theater with comfy chairs. This is a long movie, but a fun one all the way through. ❍

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

TV & Film Reviews

ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING

What's it rated? **TV-MA**
When? **2021**
Where's it showing? **Hulu**

BINGEABLE

When three unlikely strangers team up to solve a death in their shared building, the trio starts to unravel a web seemingly more complicated than a simple murder. Martin Short plays Oliver Putnam, an eccentric has-been theater director who's secretly drowning in debt and concocts the plan to create a hit true crime podcast à la *Serial* (2014). His narrator is former TV star Charles-Haden Savage (Steve Martin), and their sarcastic third partner is Mabel Mora (Selena Gomez), a young woman with more of a connection to the murder and the building than she first lets on.

With comedy legends like Short and Martin, any project is sure to be a hit, and *Only Murders in the Building* is no exception. Gomez also holds her own with her fellow leads, and the cast of characters that surround them are greats on their own. Tina Fey appears as Cinda Canning, a clear nod to *Serial*'s Sarah Koenig, and Fey's her usual hilarious self. We also meet fellow residents of the Arconia such as Teddy Dimas (Nathan Lane), who's a deli magnate in the city, and Jan (Amy Ryan), a bassoonist who woos Charles with her sweet melodies and quirky personality.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX TELEVISION

MYSTERY'S AFOOT: Mabel Mora (Selena Gomez), Oliver Putnam (Martin Short), and Charles-Haden Savage (Steve Martin) team up to solve a murder in their apartment building, starting a true crime podcast in the process, in *Only Murders in the Building*, a comedy crime mystery screening on Hulu.

Only Murders in the Building is nothing but fun, intrigue, and a ton of talent on screen—it isn't to be missed! This series is wrapping up its first season on Hulu with season 2 already slated to happen. (10 approximately 30-min. episodes)

—*Anna*

HIGH GROUND

What's it rated? **Not rated**
When? **2020**
Where's it showing? **Hulu**

New Flicks

Stephen Johnson directs this Australian film that opens in 1919 as sharpshooter Travis (Simon Baker) leads an operation that ends in the massacre of an extended Aboriginal family. Disgusted by his fellow soldiers' actions, Travis leaves the service, but not before rescuing a young Aboriginal boy he leaves at a missionary-run encampment.

More than a decade later, a mob of Aboriginals led by Baywara (Sean Mununggurr) are attacking white settlements in retribution for the past massacre. Travis' old commanding officer, Moran (Jack Thompson), and the soldier actually responsible for starting the massacre, Eddy (Callan Mulvey), enlist Travis to stop the bloodshed by teaming with Gutjuk (Jacob Junior Nayinggul), the little boy he saved who's now a young man, to bring in Gutjuk's uncle, Baywara. It may be the only way to stop the slaughter of the rest of Gutjuk's family.

This morally ambiguous meat pie Western is beautifully filmed in the Northern Territory outback—a challenging, inhospitable land that's nonetheless visually stunning. It doesn't shy away from the ugliness of colonization, and Travis is a fascinating character who's struggling with his own culpability in the destruction of the Aboriginal way of life. Definitely worth a look if you're a fan of visceral Australian Westerns. (104 min.) ❍

—*Glen*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAXO, BUNYA PRODUCTIUONS, AND SAVAGE FILMS

MORAL QUANDARY: Travis (Simon Baker, left) and Gutjuk (Jacob Junior Nayinggul) team up to hunt down Gutjuk's uncle, who's leading a mob that's attacking white settlements in early 1930s Australian outback, in *High Ground*, screening on Hulu.

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Sun

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MUSE WINE MANAGEMENT

TREAD ON ARRIVAL: The new Tread portfolio features six wines—three pinot noirs and three chardonnays—which will debut at Zaca Mesa Winery's next Wine Club release in Los Olivos on Oct. 17.

MEET YOUR MAKER: "When you're in the vineyard a lot, you not only form a connection to the grapes, but you also recognize how many boots have tread upon the ground," Winemaker Kristin Bryden (pictured) said in press materials about the inspiration behind the name Tread.

RAISE A GLASS: Winemaker Kristin Bryden and Associate Winemaker Randy Gardenhire used fruit sourced from a handful of vineyards across Santa Barbara County, including in Santa Maria and the Santa Ynez Valley.

Tread talk

Zaca Mesa Winery debuts new label, Tread, crafted with fruit sourced from vineyards throughout Santa Barbara County

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

You don't need an airplane, helicopter, or Google Earth to get a bird's-eye view of Zaca Mesa Winery. Just grab a bottle of Tread, the Los Olivos venue's newest release.

"If you were viewing a vineyard from overhead in aerial view, you would get this picture," Winemaker Kristin Bryden said in press materials, describing the Tread logo, which was designed by Santa Barbara-based artist Leo Basica as a series of vine rows seen from high above.

The logo works in a visual double meaning, as its abstract markings could also be interpreted as boot tread—hence the label's name. This interpretation adds a human touch to the otherwise inhuman perspective of looking down on vine rows from somewhere in the sky.

Bryden explained that the boot tread motif came about as a way to honor those who have left invaluable footprints on Zaca Mesa Winery over the past four decades.

"As a winemaker, having a connection to the vineyard is incredibly important. When you're in the vineyard a lot, you not only form a connection to the grapes, but you also recognize how many boots have tread upon the ground, so you can't help but respect all the hard work that goes into nurturing the vines and all the people it takes to make quality wine," Bryden said in press materials.

Bring out your tread

Visit treadwines.com for more info on Tread. Zaca Mesa Winery is celebrating the new label at its next Wine Club release on Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees of the Tread premiere event can look forward to pairing their wines with paella from All Purpose Flour and hearing live music from eclectic Santa Barbara band Agua Santa.

The winery is located at 6905 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos.

Bryden described her approach to crafting Tread as honest and minimalistic, as she aimed to preserve a sense of purity between the wines and the fruit used, hoping to make each wine's connection to its respective vineyard unmistakable.

The Tread portfolio features six different wines—three pinot noirs and three chardonnays—which will debut at Zaca Mesa Winery's next Wine Club release on Oct. 17. If you were to ask Bryden which of the six new wines is her personal favorite to drink, it would be the Sta. Rita Hills chardonnay, described on Tread's website as carrying flavors of tart apple and nectarine, with a persistent, energetic acidity.

In crafting each Tread wine, Bryden and Associate Winemaker Randy Gardenhire chose fruit sourced from a handful of vineyards across Santa Barbara County, including Sierra Madre Vineyard and Bien Nacido Vineyard in Santa Maria, Zotovich Vineyard in Lompoc, and La Encantada Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley. Drawing from these vineyards is part of why the Tread concept celebrates not only the history of Zaca Mesa Winery (founded in 1973), but the history of Santa Barbara County's wine industry in general.

Aside from paying homage to vineyard and local winemaking history, the Tread brand was also created to celebrate the county's diversity in terms of grape varieties, thanks to so many differing microclimates in the area,

EATS continued page 28

the HITCHING POST
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PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSE WINE MANAGEMENT

PERFECT PAIRINGS: For those who miss the release party, Tread tastings are offered regularly at Zaca Mesa's new club lounge and terrace area. The new lounge offers guests an indoor option for wining and dining while the outdoor terrace provides scenic views of the estate's surrounding vineyards and San Rafael mountains.

EATS from page 27

Bryden said.

Bryden first joined Zaca Mesa Winery as assistant winemaker in 2011. Five years later, she was promoted to head winemaker. Starting this October, the Central Coast local began her new dual position as both winemaker and general manager.

While taking on this new leadership role, Bryden said she's excited about ventures that lie ahead and is looking forward to upholding the integrity of the winery she's called home for the past 10 years.

For those who miss the release party, Tread tastings are offered regularly at Zaca Mesa's new club lounge and terrace area. The new lounge offers guests an indoor option for wining and dining while the outdoor terrace provides scenic views of the estate's surrounding vineyards and San Rafael mountains. ❍

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood is also made up of several microclimates. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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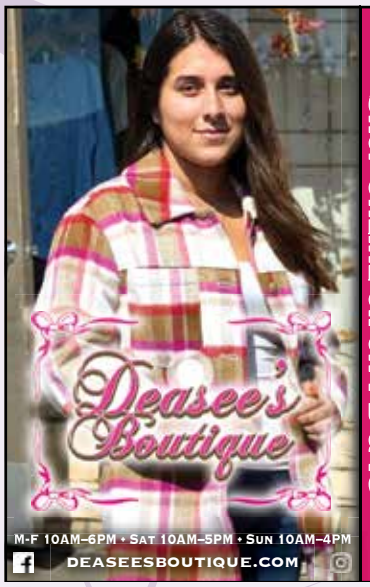

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