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Eternals: Long and unnecessary [22]

SUN



Podcasting power

Orcutt native Chris Lambert shares his story and where his hit docuseries on Kristin Smart could take him next [6]

BY PETER JOHNSON

NEWS Potential North County redistricting changes [4]

ARTS Historic prints and local gems [20]

EATS Three Dreamers Farmstand [24]

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When Chris Lambert released the first episode of his podcast about the Kristin Smart case two years ago, he was unprepared for the response that it received. *Your Own Backyard* flew to the top of the podcast charts, bringing him a level of fame that he's still getting used to, and reinvigorating the more than two-decade-old case—Ruben and Paul Flores will soon be tried for Smart's murder. Assistant Editor Peter Johnson from the *Sun's* sister paper, *New Times*, speaks with Lambert about his past, present, and future [6].

You can also read about why some residents want Santa Maria and Guadalupe to be in the same county Board of Supervisors district [4]; a new Solvang gallery's mix of museum-quality prints and local art [20]; and Three Dreamers Farmstand in Buellton aims to reflect local agriculture [24].

Camillia Lanham
editor

Cover courtesy image by Alli Wallace > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



LOCAL LEGEND: Chris Lambert, the creator of *Your Own Backyard*, the viral podcast series about Kristin Smart, is a lifelong recording artist. The Orcutt native has released more than a dozen music albums since high school, with podcasting being a more recent pursuit.

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Political Watch

• The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors recently approved the appointment of **Antonette Navarro** as the new director of the Behavioral Wellness Department. Navarro will assume duties from **Dr. Pamela Fisher**, who was the interim director following the departure of **Dr. Alice Gleghorn** in June. Fisher will return to her previous position as the assistant director of Behavioral Wellness and plans on retiring this winter, according to the county. Navarro has managed mental health programs since 2003, as Los Angeles County's Tri-City Mental Health Authority executive director for seven years, and she was its chief clinical officer for six. As executive director, she was responsible for planning, organizing, and directing operations to provide outpatient specialty mental health services for Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona. Her prior experience includes a focus on youth and family mental health and substance use disorders. "I am honored to be joining the Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness team, and connecting with county staff, residents, Behavioral Wellness stakeholders, and behavioral health providers throughout the county to hear their perspectives on wellness and recovery," Navarro said in a statement. Her first day will be Dec. 13.

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced that California will begin a vaccination program with resources to vaccinate every newly eligible resident following federal approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be given to children ages 5 to 11. "Vaccines are how we end this pandemic, and they're how we keep our kids safe—it's time to get our children the protection they need from this deadly virus, especially as we head into the winter season," Newsom said in a statement. "California is leading the nation in vaccinations with 54 million administered and 87 percent of the eligible population with at least one dose, and we're moving swiftly to implement a robust and equitable vaccination program that will cover this newly eligible age group." The state will begin vaccinating children ages 5 to 11, with 400 organizations across California receiving their first shipment and the federal government allocating 1.2 million pediatric doses to the state. There are more than 4,000 locations ready to vaccinate children as supply increases, with more than 3,000 school-located clinics covering more than 2 million students in the state, according to the governor's office. Parents can also visit myturn.ca.gov or call the hotline at (833) 422-4255 to find a nearby vaccination site.

• **U.S. Rep Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) voted to pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which represents an investment that will create well-paying jobs to rebuild America's infrastructure, help tackle the climate crisis, and position the United States to compete in a 21st century economy, according to the congressman's office. The bill is the largest federal investment in public transit, broadband, clean energy transmission, and clean water infrastructure in American history. This bill also includes a measure based on Carbajal's forest act that will increase U.S. Forest Service funding to maintain roads and infrastructure to more effectively fight fires. "I have spoken to constituents and local officials across the Central Coast, and they have made it clear that federal investment in local infrastructure would be transformative for our economy and quality of life. Today, I proudly cast my vote for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which will provide the funding needed to expand internet connectivity, fix dilapidated roads and bridges, and improve our public transit and clean water infrastructure," Carbajal said in a statement. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act cleared the Senate in August, and passed the House 228-206. The bill now goes to the president's office to be signed into law. ○

Advocates support Santa Maria and Guadalupe unification for redistricting

Santa Maria and Guadalupe high school students wearing MICOP and CAUSE shirts gathered in the Betteravia Government Center on Nov. 3, waiting until 9 p.m. to speak on behalf of a redistricting map that they said could benefit Latinos, immigrants, and persons of color in Santa Barbara County.

The United Communities Map proposes that the county's 5th District unites Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and Tanglewood, CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) wrote in a public comment letter to the county's Independent Redistricting Commission.

"By uniting communities that have historically been divided to dilute power, the United Communities Map addresses the core goal of this independent process," the letter stated. "This map is based on 'communities of interest,' linking areas connected through shared social demographics, economic sectors, and environmental features."

For several months, CAUSE and 10 other Santa Barbara County-based advocacy organizations representing broad interests including immigrant rights, education, worker's rights, racial justice, and women's rights to consider the map's formation, the letter continued.

Putting Guadalupe and Santa Maria in one district creates a Latino super majority, CAUSE Policy Advocate Rebeca Garcia said during public comment at the Nov. 3 Independent Redistricting Commission's meeting. Guadalupe is currently part of the 3rd District, while Santa Maria is split between the 4th and 5th Districts.

"The 5th District would have the largest group of immigrant and working-class families. This map makes sure they are accurately represented on the Board of Supervisors level, and helps us move forward on local immigration policies," Garcia told the *Sun*.

The organization had several students attend as well as representatives from MICOP, Standing Up for Racial Justice's Santa Maria Branch, the NAACP, and concerned residents advocating for the United Communities Map.

"The demographics of people who end up turning out don't represent North County, [or] Santa Barbara County as a whole," she said. "Being a majority of people of color and [high] Latino population, it doesn't make sense that our needs aren't represented."

Currently, Santa Barbara County doesn't have Latino representation on the Board of Supervisors, and maps divide Guadalupe and Santa Maria. The division amplifies low voter turnout, meaning that the people who end up voting are usually white and middle to upper class, Garcia said.

"It can feel impossible to have voices actually heard, especially when more affluent populations in the county have their issues prioritized. ... We're not represented accurately; we are drawn out in some way or diluted in power," Garcia said. "The map we are supporting isn't just for the 5th District; overall, it gives a really strong people-of-color district. Santa Barbara County is now majority persons of color, and it's 47 percent Latino."

Fifth District Commissioner Glenn Morris oversaw the Nov. 3 meeting, and was happy to see a large number of public commenters. He said he couldn't comment on the specificities of the United Communities Map, but told the *Sun* about overarching patterns.

"One of the themes that is emerging is this idea of reconnecting Guadalupe to one of the Northern County districts. There are many proposed maps that do this with different approaches," Morris said.

The Independent Redistricting Commission currently has about 60 maps, and Morris predicts the number to grow to about 80 maps with the extended Nov. 12 map submission deadline.



REDISTRICTING: CAUSE Youth—high school students working with CAUSE to understand redistricting's importance and impact—attended the Nov. 3 county Independent Redistricting Commission meeting in support of the organization.

"Ultimately we have to go from 80 maps down to one, and that will be a process of analysis by our consultants who do the demographics work [and] our voting rights experts around all the different legal requirements, and listen closely to the public hearing comments as [maps] start to narrow down," he said. "We have to match what we have to do with legal requirements, and what people want us to do."

The next meeting will be on Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. in Santa Barbara and available on Zoom. To see maps or submit your own map, visit drawsantabarbaracounty.org.

—Taylor O'Connor

Councilmember Robert Clarke said he likes the bike share concept overall, but is concerned about "what some of the merchants would think about 40 charging stations downtown, and where do you put them," he said.

Mayor Charlie Uhrig said if a bike share program was to move forward, he would also feel concerned about finding the right locations for renters to dock their bikes.

"The sidewalks that we have are really not conducive to putting charging stations on them," said Uhrig, adding that he would like to continue discussing the program's potential in future meetings.

Uhrig also said he would like to bring local bike retailers into the conversation to see if they can offer any alternative programs to consider against BCycle's model.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Solvang sees potential in valleywide bike share program

Solvang's bike retailers, pedicabs, and trolley tours could face new competition if city officials follow through with a recent bike share proposition.

Introduced by Solvang City Councilmember Mark Infanti during the council's Nov. 8 meeting, the program's inspired by Santa Barbara's electric bike sharing model.

Infanti frequently used BCycle, Santa Barbara's e-bike provider, as an example to discuss whether or not using a company of this kind could be feasible for the city. While companies like BCycle don't often charge large cities, like Santa Barbara, to facilitate the program, a small town like Solvang would be subject to setup and maintenance costs and other fees, Infanti explained.

The council member said he recently spoke to a BCycle representative, who recommended that a city of Solvang's size should implement at least 20 rental bikes (40 rental docks), and estimated setup would cost about \$114,000 (and about \$48,000 a year to maintain the service).

To avoid these fees, Infanti proposed the possibility of teaming up with other cities in the Santa Ynez Valley to pitch a valleywide bike share program.

"If we get a bicycle path between Buellton and Solvang, and start putting hoops in different places, now we're getting to a size where BCycle would be willing to take it on without charging," Infanti said.

While the e-bike offering could attract tourists, Infanti said it could also appeal to workers in downtown Solvang and lead to less parking congestion. Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Orona agreed that fewer cars parked on the street would be beneficial.

"If they [people working downtown] have an alternative mode of transportation, that frees up parking for other people," said Orona, who suggested the city conduct a survey to see how many downtown workers would be interested in a bike share program.

Clarification

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District requested a clarification for the *Sun*'s Nov. 4 news brief "School outbreaks cause increase in county COVID-19 cases" due to a discrepancy with the number of cases the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department reported for an outbreak at Santa Maria High School.

Public Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansorg told the *Sun* that a COVID-19 outbreak at Santa Maria High School totaled 55 cases as of Oct. 22. School district spokesperson Kenny Klein responded to the *Sun*'s requests for comment after the *Sun* went to press on Nov. 4 and objected to the number of cases Public Health reported. According to district COVID-19 testing, Klein said the number of positive cases at Santa Maria High was much lower for the week of Oct. 22 to 29.

The *Sun* followed-up with Public Health for clarification. Public Information Officer Jackeline Ruiz said that in the two months leading up to Oct. 22 (from identification of the first positive cases to when the last linked positive cases finished their quarantine), 55 positive COVID-19 cases were identified at the school.

The department receives its information via electronic laboratory reporting, which tallies the results of all COVID-19 tests, regardless of where the test is conducted, Ruiz stated via email.

The district monitors on-site testing on a weekly basis, Klein told the *Sun* via email. For the two months from Aug. 30 to Oct. 22, school testing facilities reported 23 Santa Maria High School students and three staff members tested positive for COVID-19 from Aug. 30 to Oct. 22, according to a tally of weekly numbers provided by the district. ○

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HOMEOWN PODCASTER: Central Coast native Chris Lambert discusses his viral podcast *Your Own Backyard* in his new home studio in Orcutt.

Speaking up

More than two years after releasing *Your Own Backyard*, Orcutt podcaster Chris Lambert is still shaping its legacy

BY PETER JOHNSON

Orcutt might be the last place on Earth you'd expect to find America's most popular independent podcaster. But that's where *Your Own Backyard* creator Chris Lambert grew up, lives, and pieced together the hard-hitting 10-part docuseries that investigates the 1996 disappearance of Kristin Smart.

The 33-year-old spent a year and a half researching the unsolved local case—collecting more than 20 years of newspaper clippings, interviewing witnesses and family members, and writing a score—before recording the first episode in his modest apartment next to the Santa Maria Airport.

"I recorded all the narration at a dining room table," Lambert says on the patio of Cups and Crumbs, a café in Old Town Orcutt, donning a

neat beard, dark-rimmed glasses, and purple plaid shirt. "It was very, very low budget, but I spent a long, long time on it."

When Lambert self-released *Your Own Backyard* on Sept. 30, 2019, he had no idea what would come next. More than two years later, two men are going to trial for Smart's alleged murder, *Your Own Backyard* has a global following, and the Ernest Righetti High School grad is turning down lucrative offers from major entities like CBS, Netflix, and HBO.

But Lambert's series on Smart is not for sale. It's just a story he felt compelled to tell in pursuit of justice, resolution, and his own creative fulfillment. And the story isn't over yet.

"I'm not interested in selling," Lambert says matter-of-factly. "I see each episode as like an album, and to

break that up with a mattress ad, is, like, sacred to me. It's like, no, this is a story, a full story, that I don't want to break up. ... And they haven't found her yet. Until they recover her remains, it doesn't feel done."

How a musician from Orcutt who was voted "most bashful" in high school stumbled into creating a No. 1 charting podcast—helping crack a 25-year-old murder case in the process—is a question Lambert himself still sometimes asks. A lifetime of practice recording music, and later podcasts, at home is a big part of the answer.

"I didn't even think about this kind of stuff. I didn't think I was going to end up in the top echelon of what was charting," Lambert says.

'Only real hobby'

Lambert first developed an "obsession" with recording music in the eighth grade. It was one he never shook.

"I would definitely say that through high school, my only real hobby was recording music in my bedroom," Lambert says, his voice on the café patio drawing glances from nearby patrons.

After his parents divorced, Lambert spent most of his spare time at his

dad's house writing new songs on his guitar and recording them onto cassette tapes. When it came time to go to his mom's house, Lambert excitedly brought the tapes with him.

"I'd challenge myself to try to do two or three brand new songs before I went to my mom's, and play them for her and see what she thought about them," Lambert says. "It became this routine of every time Chris comes over, he's going to have new music to show us. And they very much encouraged me to continue that."

Lambert's mom, a library clerk, nurtured his passion for music, buying him more advanced pieces of recording equipment on each of his birthdays. When Lambert wore out his four-track recorder, he got an eight-track recorder, and so on.

"We kept stepping it up every year," Lambert says. "We were a low- to middle-class family—we weren't privileged—but it was just full force what he's [Lambert's] interested in. Let's see what we can do."

Come high school, Lambert was "notoriously shy," he says. Recording music in his bedroom after school was "the only thing I did." By the time he graduated Righetti in 2006, Lambert joined a local band, A Silent Explosion, which earned some local popularity.

"We won battle of the bands," he says with a smile.

After high school, Lambert enrolled in only music and recording classes at Allan Hancock College. While he never transferred to finish his bachelor's degree, Lambert's burning desire to record and create remained as strong as ever. Between 2006 and 2018, Lambert says he made a new album of music every year.

"The challenge became can I get an album out by the end of the year, like a brand-new album?" Lambert says. "Can I do an electronic album, a rock album, a folk album? It was like challenging myself, can I do something different than I've done before?"

Lambert says he never put much thought into turning his prolific musical output into a stable career. When he released an album, he wouldn't try to promote it. He was already busy working on the next one.

"It was short-sighted in terms of

stability and a career, but in terms of creativity, that's the only part that mattered," he says. "That was my entire life."

'Perfect culmination'

In 2014, Lambert took a job at a recording studio in Lompoc, one that he'd hold onto until 2018. At that point, Lambert had already started to dabble in podcasting. His first was a silly conversational series that focused on the '90s cult classic TV show, *Early Edition*.

"It's about a guy who gets tomorrow's newspaper delivered today, so he can tell the crimes and all the bad things that are going to happen and try to stop them," Lambert explains.

Lambert invited his friends on as guests to discuss the various episodes. One of those friends, Weston Scott, said the venture showed off Lambert's goofy side.

"Chris is the person who can be quiet the entire time and then say the funniest thing you've ever heard in your life," said Scott, a fellow Righetti grad.

Despite the absurdist premise, Scott said Lambert never cut corners on the podcast's production and editing.

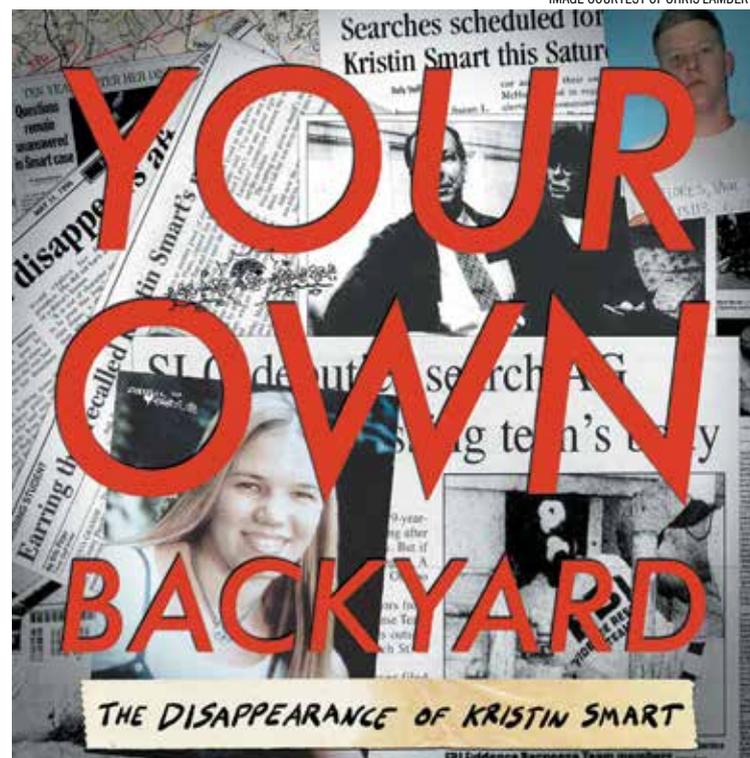
"He's always been so meticulous, even with something goofy like the *Early Edition* podcast," Scott said.

When that was over, Lambert started another conversational series, *Are We Okay?* Each week, Lambert invited a new local guest to talk for two to three hours about life and creativity. That podcast developed a steady following, and Lambert produced 160 episodes of it without missing a week.

"It was a lesson in sitting down with a brand-new person," Lambert reflects, shifting in his chair. "To be the host of a show every week and have to sit down with a stranger and be like, 'Let's talk for two hours,' I think was a challenge to myself to kind of get better at communicating with people."

Meanwhile, Lambert began keeping tabs on recent developments in the Smart case. Lambert was 8 years old when Smart, a 19-year-old Cal Poly student from Stockton, went missing on campus in 1996. He'd heard a lot about the case growing up, but never

IMAGE COURTESY OF CHRIS LAMBERT



NO. 1 PODCAST: Chris Lambert's local podcast, *Your Own Backyard*, rose to the top of the iTunes charts in April following the arrests of Kristin Smart's murder suspects, Paul and Ruben Flores.

really grasped that it was a local story until years later.

“It started eating at me when they dug up the Cal Poly ‘P’ in 2016,” Lambert says. “In 2017 and 2018, there were no updates. It just went silent. ... It was like, are they even looking for this girl?”

Lambert dove deeper and deeper into the circumstances around Smart’s disappearance and the subsequent police investigation—the starts and stops; the key suspects, Paul and Ruben Flores; and the maddening mistakes made over nearly 25 years.

Just like his itch to record album after album, Lambert couldn’t shake his vision for a docuseries podcast about the case. In 2018, Lambert quit his job at the recording studio to focus on it full time. His girlfriend of 11 years and roommate, Alli Wallace, said she fully supported the decision.

“There was no question,” Wallace said. “I was honestly pushing for it more than he was. I just knew without a shadow of a doubt he was onto something. The direction he was going before people even knew about it, it was clear this was going to be something remarkable.”

“It was just the perfect culmination of all the best parts of his storytelling abilities.”

‘Has to be as good’

Several months into the pre-production of *Your Own Backyard*, Lambert had done extensive research on the Smart case and recorded several interviews. But he had not tried to reach out to the Smart family.

“I thought, they probably don’t want to talk to me,” Lambert recalls, shaking his head. “They’re done speaking with the media.”

It took a stroke of good fortune for the two to connect. In honor of Smart’s birthday, on Feb. 20, 2019, Lambert drove up to Shell Beach where Smart has a memorial. When he arrived, it was pouring rain.

“I was going to have my microphone ready and if anybody showed up with flowers or candles I was just gonna ask, ‘Hey would you mind sharing a few brief words about the impact that Kristin’s disappearance has had on our community?’ Instead, it rained and nobody showed. It was just me sitting in my car in the rain,” he remembers.

Drawn to an eerie lone egret that was perched out by the memorial, Lambert decided to walk out to the cliff and take a photo. When he was about ready to go back to his car, he noticed a woman joining him: It was Kristin’s mom, Denise Smart. Lambert introduced himself and told her about the documentary he was working on. After playing some of Kristin’s favorite songs on the cliff, Denise invited Lambert out to dinner.

“Every instinct in my body was like ‘say no, thank you very much but it was nice meeting you.’ It’s very, very not typical of me to accept an invitation like that. But instead I said yes,” Lambert says.

The dinner went well, and Denise gave Lambert her phone number at the end of it. Later on, Lambert called her to schedule a trip to Stockton to interview the family and some of Kristin’s old friends.

“Once I got that done, I thought, ‘OK, I think I have the first episode ready to go,’” Lambert says.

The Smart family was not available to comment for this article. In previous



CASE ARCHIVES: As part of his reporting on the Kristin Smart case, Chris Lambert kept a chronological binder of newspaper clippings (pictured) that date back to her disappearance in 1996.

public comments, they’ve expressed appreciation for Lambert and his work.

It took Lambert a few more months after that to produce the first episode, which he describes as a “full-length movie of who Kristin was.” He spent countless hours making it sound as professional and cinematic as possible. He wrote and recorded the entire score and did all of the editing.

“*This American Life* was sort of my template,” Lambert explains. “I wanted my interviews to be at least the quality of *Serial* or *S-Town* or those high-production podcasts. I bought the same shotgun microphone that they use. I bought the same recorder. I bought everything used on Ebay. I was like, it has to be as good as the things I’m hearing other people do.”

Writing the music for the podcast proved especially challenging.

“It was a lot harder than I thought it would be,” he says. “The tone of the story ... it’s a tone of emptiness or longing. It’s not a scary, dark, heavy-handed score. It’s got to be a little more subtle than that, and I really didn’t know how to do it for a long time. It slowly came to me in little pieces here and there.”

When Lambert finally dropped the first episode of *Your Own Backyard* on Sept. 30, 2019, that’s when he says his life turned to “insanity.”

‘How did this happen?’

Within the first week that *Your Own Backyard* came out, the episode had more than 75,000 downloads. Lambert thought it might get 1,000, which was what *Are You Okay?* got at its peak.

“The statistics were if you get 30,000 downloads in the first week, you’re in the top 1 percent of podcasts in the world,” Lambert says. “I thought, ‘Whoa, that’s crazy.’ And then I thought, ‘Now episode 2 has to be just as good, and I don’t know if I can do that.’”

Lambert knew he had enough material for a six-episode series. He committed himself to putting out a new episode each week, a brutal pace that tested his mettle.

“That stretch of six weeks where I put out those first six episodes was just insanity,” he remembers. “Every day, I was like, ‘I have a deadline. I have seven days to finish this episode.’ I know I’ve got the material there. I know I’ve got some score, but I need more. It was just ... I stayed up. I didn’t sleep several nights in a row every single time.”

On top of that, more witnesses and sources in the Smart case started to reach out to him after they listened to the podcast. Similar to a real investigation, the podcast began to evolve.

“People were starting to listen and then come to me and say, ‘I didn’t want to talk to you before, but now that I’ve heard what you’ve done, I’m willing to talk,’” Lambert says.

From there, *Your Own Backyard* took on a life of its own. At the conclusion of the six-episode sprint, the podcast hit No. 3 on the iTunes chart—with no marketing or advertising to boost it—garnering massive audiences in countries like England, Australia, and Canada.

“It was, like, Oprah, Joe Rogan, and me, and then somebody else. It’s like, how did this happen?” Lambert says.

More importantly to Lambert, though, the podcast going viral coincided with major new developments in the Smart investigation. It appeared that the long-dormant case was finally kicking back into gear.

“By the time that sixth episode finished airing, it was just *boom, boom, boom, boom*, search warrants, phone wire taps, all kinds of things started happening,” Lambert says. “It was, like, wow, things are really happening.”

In April 2021, authorities arrested longtime suspects Paul and Ruben Flores for Smart’s murder, and SLO County Sheriff Ian Parkinson credited Lambert with helping draw in new witnesses and leads in the case.

PRESS POOL PHOTO BY DAVID MIDDLECAM



MURDER SUSPECT: Paul Flores (pictured), who grew up in Arroyo Grande, is accused of killing Kristin Smart in 1996. He will face a first-degree murder charge at a jury trial.

That month, *Your Own Backyard* shot up to No. 1 on the charts.

‘Too close to me’

Lambert’s still processing all that’s happened since that first episode aired.

He’s still getting used to being recognized in public. Even at the Starbucks drive-through, his voice gets identified through the intercom. His girlfriend often catches people sneaking photos of Lambert when they’re out to dinner.

Lambert’s also still very much at the center of the Smart case—more so than he’d like to be. He’d spent Sept. 20 in court for the final day of a grueling two-month preliminary hearing in the Floreses’ criminal proceeding. On Sept. 22, a judge ruled to send the murder charges against the father and son to trial.

During the hearings, in an unorthodox move, defense attorneys filed a subpoena to try to gain access to all of Lambert’s notes, emails, sources, and raw recordings used for the podcast. The judge threw it out, citing shield laws protecting reporters and their sources, but the experience rattled him.

“There was a list of everything they wanted me to turn over to them, and it was just this sick-to-my-stomach feeling,” Lambert recalls. “The thought of them combing through my raw recordings. ... It’s scary. I’m mentally exhausted. This prelim has been just a killer.”

Lambert isn’t sure yet whether *Your Own Backyard* will have an episode 11. He says he’ll make new episodes “as it feels necessary.” He’s also not sure what his future holds. He’s refrained from selling the podcast or partnering with any major entity or network to reap financial benefits from it.

“I said no to every offer I’ve gotten,” he says. “And I’m not tempted—that’s the weird part. I’m not willing to compromise anything ... not with this case. Maybe season 2. This story is just too close to me.”

At the persuasion of many friends, family, and fans, Lambert recently added a “donate” button to his website where listeners can contribute.

“I was like, ‘I’m not going to do it, I’m not going to.’ Finally, enough people were just like, ‘Put a link on your website!’ I did it, and I’ve made more money in donations than I’ve made in the last 10 years of working,” he says. “I’m so grateful to the community and the listeners.”

Lambert says he’s received thousands of emails from people around the world who want to alert him to other unsolved missing person cases, which he keeps in a folder on his computer.

“If I ever do want to do another season, I have tons to look through,” he says.

But just like every other creative decision Lambert’s made in his life, he knows it needs to come organically and for the right reasons. That’s what led him to *Your Own Backyard*, and what made it special.

“It’s just about the creation,” Lambert says. “It’s always been about can I just make the best thing that I’m capable of making creatively. And that’s what this was, too. I just wanted it to be a really good documentary.” ○

Contact Peter Johnson, the assistant editor of the Sun’s sister paper, *New Times*, at pjohnson@newtimeslo.com.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DIGNITY HEALTH



CARE: Dignity Health officials, the San Luis Obispo South County Chambers of Commerce, and SLO County 4th District Supervisor Lynn Compton celebrated Monarch Village Health Center's ribbon cutting on Oct. 28 in Nipomo.

Closer care

Dignity Health opens doors to new Nipomo-based health clinic, giving patients a closer-to-home care option

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

After three years of planning and development, Dignity Health opened a new primary health care center in Nipomo.

"We are very excited to have another office in a growing community on the Central Coast to provide primary care support and rotating specialists that allows us to do some additional outreach," said Dr. Scott Robertson, president of Pacific Central Coast Health Centers.

Dignity Health officials celebrated the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Monarch Village Health Center on Oct. 28, but the facility has been open to patients since August, Robertson said.

"We will typically see 20 to 30 patients [a day] right now, and we are expecting the number to get up to 40 with our two current clinicians," he said. "Once we are fully ramped up and fully staffed, we can see up to 100 patients per day."

The Monarch Village Health Center marks the 48th Dignity Health Pacific Central Coast office, with others in cities spanning from Templeton to Ventura. The Nipomo clinic will be able to house four to five clinicians—whether that's physicians or physician assistants and nurse practitioners, Robertson said.

"There are 21 different medical surgical specialties, and we can bring [specialists] in on a rotating basis if we feel the need is there and we have the clinicians," he said.

The clinic's location gives Nipomo residents a closer facility, as they've been used to traveling long distances for health care services, Robertson said.

"We want to bring health care as close to patients' homes as possible," he said.

Along with the new health center's opening, Dignity Health moved its call center to Santa Maria from San Luis Obispo, Robertson added.

"All the employees working in the call center lived in Santa Maria, and that's costly from a time standpoint and a fuel standpoint," he said.

Employees had to commute 30 or more minutes each way to get to work. By moving the facility, workers are now able to spend more time with families and less time on the roads, he said.

One challenge Monarch

Village Health Center still faces is sourcing medical furniture, Robertson said.

"There's been tremendous supply chain disruption, specifically with medical furniture. We are quoted 16 to 20 weeks to get exam tables," he said. "Prior it was two to three weeks."

This resulted in "impactful" delays in fully opening the center, but because it's part of Dignity Health, the clinic received some furniture that was in storage at other centers. The clinic won't use any equipment that would compromise patient or employee safety, Robertson said.

"It's very different from anything that's happened over the last 15 to 20 years," Robertson said.

"We are just trying to be the squeaky wheel with vendors to be as close to the front of the line [as possible] and make sure we are meeting our deadlines so we can continue the expansion of our services," he continued.

Through supply chain issues, the clinic continues to recruit additional clinicians to fully staff the offices and assess community needs to find specialty services best suited for Nipomo residents, he said.

"This is health care. It's complicated and especially complicated in a medical emergency, but I have extreme confidence that our medical team will provide great services to our patients," Robertson said.

The Monarch Village Health Center is located at 1560 Mesa Road, Nipomo. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and appointments can be made by calling (805) 614-5640.

Highlight

• National grocery store brand ALDI is opening its first store in Santa Maria on Nov. 11 as part of the retailer's expansion plan to open 100 new stores in 2021 across the country. ALDI operates more than 2,000 grocery stores in 37 states, and is on track to become the third largest U.S. grocery retailer by the end of 2022. All ALDI stores are designed to have 12,000 square feet of retail space, providing easy navigation along with natural lighting, and they're built with environmentally friendly materials. The company's business model offers customers high-quality products with affordable prices. This year, ALDI plans to further expand curbside grocery pickup service to 500 more stores, bringing the total number of curbside locations to more than 1,200. Visit shop.aldi.us to learn more. ○

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

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DEATH NOTICES

ANDERSON, WESTON ARTHUR, 93, of Grover Beach passed away 11/3/2021 arrangements with Marshall -Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ARTEAGA, GEORGE NIKOLAYEV, of Atascadero passed away 10/25/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

BATRUM, HARRY OWEN, 86, of San Miguel, passed away 11/1/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

BENHART, MARIAN "MIMI" WYGAI, 78, of Lompoc passed away 10/30/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

BROOKS, ANN N., 80, of Arroyo Grande passed away 11/5/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

BROWN, LINDA SUE, 77, of Atascadero passed away 11/3/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

BRYANT, VIRGINIA LEE, of Bradley passed away 10/15/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

CAMPBELL, PAULINE CARLIN, 68, of Nipomo passed away 10/30/2021 arrangements with Marshall -Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

CARNAZZO, WILLIAM SALVADOR, 88, of Atascadero passed away 10/31/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

DAHL, VERNON R., 63, of Oceano passed away 10/30/2021 arrangements with Marshall -Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

DAVIS, DEBRA JEAN, 59, of Guadalupe passed away 11/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DEPARINI, CALBERT B. 80, of Santa Maria passed away 10/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

DUNCAN, MARY Z., 94, of Paso Robles passed away 10/29/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

DUNCAN, CHARLES W., of Paso Robles passed away 11/2/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

ECKMAN, KAREN L., 73, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

EDIE, RICHARD DEAN, 88, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

FLANNAGAN, CHADD ROBERT, 41, of Atascadero passed away 10/20/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

FLORES, CHARLES, 85, of Nipomo passed away 11/1/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

FOSS, CONSTANCE I, "CONNIE" 90, of Nipomo passed away 11/4/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

GRAUL, DONALD WAYNE, 99, of Santa Maria passed away 11/7/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HALL, WINONA IRENE, 95, of Santa Maria passed away 10/31/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

HOWELL, BETTY ANN, 90, of Santa Maria passed away 11/6/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

JARVIS, JOHN AUSTIN, 84, of Santa Margarita passed away 10/31/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

LARA, ELVIS ATANAYA, 60, of Santa Maria passed away 11/4/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory GardenS

MERRITT, SANDRA JEAN, 75, of Paso Robles passed away 10/29/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

OJEDA, DONALD LEE, 81, of Stockton passed away 10/22/2021 arrangements with Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home

OLIVERA, CINDY, 61, of Santa Maria passed away 11/7/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

OWENS, VERA TEELEETHER HOPKINS, 89, of San Luis Obispo passed away 10/28/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

PRICE, MARGUERITE E., 83, of Atascadero passed away 10/30/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

QUINONEZ, JIMMY, 81, of Atascadero passed away 9/11/2021 arrangements with Reis Family Mortuary

REYNOLDS, BRIAN MICHAEL, 29, of Clarkston, Michigan passed away 10/28/2021 arrangements with Los Osos Valley Mortuary

ROBINETT, JASON LEE, 49, of Santa Margarita passed away 10/29/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

RODRIGUEZ, TAVITA G., 77, of Santa Maria passed away 11/3/2021 arrangements with Marshall -Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel

ROSS, MARCIA FELICIA, 64, of Santa Maria passed away 11/2/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

RUIZ, RUDOLPH, 76, of Guadalupe passed away 10/1/2021 arrangements with Moreno Mortuary

SAWDEY, RALPH W., 88, of Shandon, passed away 11/1/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

STRATMEYER, KAREN GAIL, 73, of Pismo Beach passed away 11/2/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

SUCHECKI, THEODORE JOSEPH JR., 78, of Lompoc passed away 11/1/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

SWEET, GEORGE ROBERT "BOB", 92, of Santa Maria passed away 11/5/2021 arrangements with Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory & Memory Gardens

VIAU, ANNA, 88, of Atascadero passed away 10/28/2021 arrangements with Chapel of the Roses

YOUNG, ALBERT, 88, of Paso Robles passed away 10/31/2021 arrangements with Blue Sky Cremation Service

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What do you think needs to be done to address the shortage of resources for responding to mental health crises?

- 50% The federal government needs to be involved and provide more funding.
- 50% It's up to the states; California needs to provide more dollars toward mental health response.
- 0% We need nonprofit organizations to step up and provide more services.
- 0% Nothing needs to be done—we're fine just as is.

12 Votes

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Trust and the jab

Dishonest, partisan reporting is guaranteed to harden positions on either side of the COVID-19 vaccine debate

BY JOHN DONEGAN

Well, just when we figured that the pandemic was finally in our rearview mirrors, the virus has come roaring back, and the blame is now being focused on all those red-state anti-vaxxers. The pandemic and the vaccine have been politically weaponized.

Caveat: It is dumb to refuse vaccination, and I have myself been vaccinated. While I had a few doubts about the vaccine, they were outweighed by the far greater risk represented by catching COVID-19. As in much of life, it was simply a matter of weighing the respective risks.

But I can also understand why so many would be distrustful of the unrelenting drumbeat of public assurances that we have received about vaccination. We live in a time of widespread distrust of our institutions generally, and in this pandemic our institutions have shamelessly squandered their credibility. Both sides have been dishonest and guilty of politicizing the pandemic and the vaccine. How did we get here?

To answer with a juvenile whine: “You Democrats started it!” Recall that Biden and the Democrats initially attacked Trump’s prudent travel restrictions with China as “xenophobic,” and claimed that the threat of a pandemic was merely a tactic to distract public attention from the impeachment proceedings that had them so worked up. Oops.

Then the Democrats and media engaged in a continuing campaign to shout down any discussion of the now widely accepted theory that the COVID-19 virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, branding anyone who dared accept that theory as a racist who was inciting violence against Asians. They are quieter now

that the FBI has concluded with “moderate confidence” that the virus came from the lab, although other agencies lean toward a natural origin. Perhaps they should have considered the conflict of interest of the scientists and officials leading the attack, and their role in funding the dangerous research at the Wuhan lab.

Of course, we witnessed the flip-flopping of Dr. Fauci on the protection afforded by wearing masks. First they were recommended protection. Then, once supplies ran low and he wanted

to conserve them for medical professionals, we were assured that they really don’t help much and we needn’t bother. And finally, with the supply of masks restored, the advice has returned to not just recommending them, but requiring them. The efficacy of masks for protection has remained constant, but the agenda has changed.

Last October, we had now-Vice President Kamala Harris casting doubt on the vaccine when she said, “If Donald Trump tells us we should take it, I’m not taking it.” The same vaccine suddenly became so safe and effective once a Democrat took office that she wants it to be mandatory.

The media has dishonestly depicted anti-vaxx sentiments as only occurring among White Republicans in red states. For example, although African Americans in Texas are only one-sixth as likely

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to get vaccinated as are white Texans, when Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick of that state noted this, and the fact that they are a solidly Democratic constituency, the liberal media retreated to their usual “go-to” accusation for everything they find uncomfortable and cried “racism!”

In their relentless efforts to depict red state folks as uneducated primitives, the media gleefully reported that MAGA folks were taking a veterinary anti-parasitic remedy, neglecting to mention that Ivermectin is *also* an FDA approved

[T]he performance of our institutions helps me understand why others might suspect that their assurances are merely ‘grouthink.’ Science shouldn’t be merely a reflection of what Twitter and other social media think.

drug for humans. The impeccably honest Rachel Maddow falsely reported that one hospital in Oklahoma had been overwhelmed with Ivermectin overdoses, with her usual “can you believe these dolts?” smirk, and then refused to retract her hoax until shamed into it.

Of course, we recall how the media blamed Trump for the death of an idiot who took an aquarium cleaning product because its name sounded similar to hydroxychloroquine, another FDA approved drug.

We recall their indisputable scientific savvy when they concluded that mass demonstrations of screaming social justice warriors were safe, while spring break on the beach was suicidal. With a record like that, it is no wonder than many would be skeptical of the media’s enthusiastic endorsement of the vaccine.

Viewing the vaccine with some caution is understandable. This is a new disease with new vaccines. We have no long-term experiences to draw upon. A substantial number of breakthrough infections, hospitalizations, and deaths have been reported. While I find the benefits of taking the vaccine worth the risk, the performance of our institutions helps me understand why others might suspect that their assurances are merely “grouthink.” Science shouldn’t be merely a reflection of what Twitter and other social media think.

In their shrill portrayal of vaccine skeptics as ignorant, uneducated, and unhinged, the media has incited much of the resistance to the vaccine, and inspired some of the nuttier theories going around. Dishonest and partisan reporting is guaranteed to harden positions.

If you want to be believed, you should first prove yourself trustworthy. As the old saying goes: “Trick me once, shame on you. Trick me twice, shame on me.” Our media and government institutions can only blame themselves for vaccine resistance. ○

John Donegan is a retired attorney in Pismo Beach who is just as tired of the pandemic as you are. Send a response through the editor at clanham@santamariasun.com.



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Representation

One thing is clear when it comes to redistricting: Santa Barbara County's 3rd District doesn't make sense, and something needs to change!

Joan Hartmann's district—which stretches from Lake Cachuma through the Santa Ynez Valley, down to Isla Vista, over to Lompoc and Vandenberg Space Force Base (I'm never going to get used to that), and on up to Guadalupe and the SLO County line—is the largest geographical district for the Board of Supervisors. It's one that arguably contains the most diverse subset of the county's population from rich to poor, white to Latino, college students to winemakers to field workers.

The people in all of those places have only one thing in common, and it's Hartmann!

There's no way for one representative to adequately represent all of those interests—and Hartmann does an excellent job of repping the Santa Ynez Valley (Especially the winos, because she knows where her money comes from!). And not so great of a job of reaching the outskirts of that district, aside from the occasional public relations bit in Guadalupe and the bike path connecting it to Santa Maria—its neighbor in another district.

Why exactly is Guadalupe lumped in with Isla Vista and Santa Ynez and not with Santa Maria or Orcutt, which is where Guadalupe students attend high school and Guadalupe residents work, shop, eat, and play?

CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy—which is actually CCAUFASE, but I guess that acronym doesn't really get the message across) is right. The Latino community in North County isn't represented on the Board of Supervisors. As CAUSE Policy Advocate Rebeca Garcia put it: "It doesn't make sense that our needs aren't represented."

It's so obvious that Santa Ynez and Guadalupe aren't like-minded communities, it hurts to look at the 3rd District's current iteration, but the big question is what should North County's districts look like? I'll tell you what they shouldn't look like: Anything that gives South County more power over North County than it already has.

"It can feel impossible to have voices actually heard, especially when more affluent populations in the county have their issues prioritized," Garcia said.

Although the map that CAUSE put forward—United Communities Map—is designed to ensure at least one Latino representative on the Board of Supervisors, it doesn't necessarily give North County's voice on the Board of Supervisors any more volume than it has right now. And it puts New Cuyama and Vandenberg Air Force Base—oops, Space Force Base—in the same district but pulls Lompoc into another district. Very like-minded and united!

Say what you will about Democratic versus Republican representation in the county, and North County absolutely needs a Latino representative on the Board of Supervisors, but it also needs more services and to be prioritized at the county level for state and federal grants, social service pilot programs, and county-nonprofit collaboration that benefits North County constituents in need.

I guess we'll just have to trust this new process that voters decided to experiment through and hope that the county Independent Redistricting Commission comes up with a more fair and just way to divide up supervisorial districts than currently exists. But you know what they say about faith in government!

You can only trust it when it goes your way. ☉

The canary reps North County. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Point San Luis Lighthouse



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Celebration
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Tar Creek Ranch, Arroyo Grande



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Capitolio Way, SLO



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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Morro Bay Community Center



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Bear Market Riot
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Chakra Meditation
and Breath Work
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
On the Beach, Morro Bay



Community Hike
to Myrtle Pond
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes



Poignant Piano:
Torsten Juul-Borre
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Cass Winery, Paso Robles

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CA residents scramble to get last Walking Liberty Rolls

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"National Mint and Treasury recently spoke with its Chief Professional Numismatist who said 'Very few people have ever actually seen one of these rarely seen Silver Walking Liberties issued by the U.S. Gov't back in the early 1900's. But to actually find them sealed away in State Restricted Bank Rolls is like finding buried treasure. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Bank Rolls had better hold on to them,'" Lynne said.

"Now that the State of California Restricted Bank Rolls are being offered up we won't be surprised if thousands of California residents

(Continued on next page)

SILVER: ONE OF THE LAST SILVER COINS MINTED FOR CIRCULATION

LAST REMAINING: MINTED IN PHILADELPHIA, DENVER & SAN FRANCISCO



ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL: YEAR VARIES 1916-1947

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

R1043R-5

(Continued from previous page)

claim the maximum limit allowed of 4 Bank Rolls per resident before they're all gone," said Lynne.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOW TO CLAIM THE LAST STATE RESTRICTED BANK ROLLS

FACTS:

If you are a California State Resident read the important information below about claiming the State Silver Bank Rolls, then call the State Toll-Free Hotline at 8:30 am:
1-800-979-3771 EXT: RWB2904

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

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

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

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

Why are so many California residents claiming them:

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

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

California residents are authorized to claim up to the limit of 4 State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls by calling the State Toll Free Hotline at **1-800-979-3771 Ext. RWB2904** starting at precisely 8:30 am this morning. Everyone who does is getting the only State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls known to exist. That's a full Bank Roll containing 15 Silver Walking Liberties from the early 1900's some worth up to 100 times their face value for just the state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury of just \$39 per Silver Walking Liberty, which is just \$585 for the full Bank Rolls and that's a real steal because non state residents are not permitted to call before 5 pm tomorrow and must pay \$1,770 for each California State Restricted Walking Liberty Silver Bank Roll if any remain.

R1043R-5

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

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!

HOT STUFF

NOV. 11 – NOV. 18
2021

IN PLEIN SIGHT

Gallery Los Olivos presents *Gratitude*, a new solo exhibition showcasing local artist Marcia Burt, which is scheduled to remain on display through Tuesday, Nov. 30. Widely known for her colorful landscapes, Burt has 40 years of experience as a prolific plein air painter and conservationist. The exhibit's title was chosen with its theme of "giving thanks for decades of painting in our regional open spaces" in mind. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com for more info. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos.

—Caleb Wiseblood

COURTESY IMAGE BY MARCIA BURTT

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

37TH ANNUAL VAQUERO GALA, SHOW, AND SALE A 3-day fundraising event, honoring the unique culture and equine skills of the California "Vaquero"/cowboy. **Nov. 12-14**, 5-9 p.m., **Nov. 13**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and **Nov. 14**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5. 805-688-7889. santaynezmuseum.org. Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum, 3596 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez.

GALLERY LOS OLIVOS: MARCIA BURTT Gallery Los Olivos' solo show for November. Through Dec. 2 Gallery Los Olivos, 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, 805-688-7517, gallerylosolivos.com.

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 Elverhoj Way, Solvang, 805-686-1211.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

GRAPHITE ART OF MINNIE ANDERSON Now through the month of January 2022, Minnie Anderson's exhibit is on display in Shepard Hall and features selected graphite works using a number 2 pencil on paper. The works feature portraits, pets, and family relationships. Through Jan. 28, 2022 Free. 805-925-0994 x 2832. 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 offerings. The Academy offers private lessons by the hour or half hour for all age groups and ability. 805-925-0464. coelhomusic.com. Coelho Academy of Music, 325 E. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

THE ROCKETEER: 30TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING Co-hosted by the Central Coast Film Society and the Santa Maria Museum of Flight. Also features a tri-tip dinner. **Nov. 13**, 5 p.m. centralcoastfilmsociety.org. Santa Maria Museum of Flight, 3015 Airpark Drive, Santa Maria.

THE SECRET GARDEN Adapted from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Orphaned by an epidemic, young Mary Lennox is sent from British colonial India to a home she has never known in Yorkshire, England. There she finds a mysterious house and a family shrouded in secrets. **Nov. 11-Dec. 23** pcpa.org. Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731.

THE SHOW WILL GO ON: ALL TOGETHER NOW

An opportunity for schools and theatres around the world to locally produce and perform an exclusive musical revue featuring songs from MTI's beloved shows. **Nov. 12-14** smct.org. Santa Maria Civic Theatre, 1660 N. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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.

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 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. Packs are limited to one per youth while supplies last. **Nov. 13, Nov. 15, Nov. 16, Nov. 17, Nov. 18 and Nov. 19** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

YOUTH PICTURE BOOK CREATION PACKS Pick up a Youth Picture Book Creation Pack. Celebrate picture book month by creating an original picture book. Included will be material to write and illustrate a one-of-a-kind picture book. Packs are limited to one per youth, while supplies last. **Nov. 11 and Nov. 12** Free. 805-925-

0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA See Scrooge find his Christmas spirit in a heart-warming tale of holiday magic, laugh until your sides ache at the zany characters in a fractured fairy tale opera, and celebrate the music of the season in our Holiday Vaudeville Revue. Wednesdays-Sundays. through Dec. 31 \$30-\$35. americanmelodrama.com. Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano.

MIXED MEDIA FOR AGES 5-6 AND 7-12 For ages 5-6 (Mondays) and 7-12 (Tuesdays). Mondays, Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. 805-668-2125. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

OPEN STUDIO FOR ADULTS Call to reserve. Materials included. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. & Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$35. 805-668-2125. LiIA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

PAINT 'N SIP An afternoon of wine and painting at the Point San Luis Lighthouse with celebrated artist Andrea Olivier. Back by popular demand due to the overwhelming response to her first event. **Nov. 13**, 2 p.m. my805tix.com. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS

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

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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. 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.

I'D TELL YOU IF I COULD Paintings and works on paper by London-based artist William Brickel. **Nov. 12-Feb. 6**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/visit/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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

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. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/revisiting-the-vessel/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

SECOND SATURDAYS FREE ART EVENT SLOMA's Second Saturdays program features art-making activities that complement the Museum's current exhibitions. It's completely free and open to the public, on the lawn outside SLOMA's Mission Plaza double doors. Second Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through Dec. 10 Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/events/second-saturdays/. 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.

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

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

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-



SONIC YOUTH

The Certain Sparks Music Foundation in Lompoc presents its next Youth Open Mic on Friday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. Students at Certain Sparks will have the opportunity to share live music, a poem, or a joke in front of the audience. Prizes from local businesses will be awarded to standout performers. Visit certainsparks.com for more info. Certain Sparks Music is located at 107 S. H St., Lompoc. —C.W.

9733. Joebella Coffee Roasters, 3168 El Camino Real, Atascadero, joebellacoffee.com.

BOTTLE ART: THE CREATIVITY OF WINE LABELS Label art and wine scenes from the Paso Robles region. Through Nov. 29. studiosonthepark.org/events/bottle-art/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

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.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: THE ARTERY'S ANNUAL UNDER \$200 ART SHOW We are currently accepting work for our popular annual show, the Under \$200 Art Show. Artists may submit one or two pieces of original

artwork available for sale (Under \$200) this holiday season. Artwork accepted until Nov. 24. Exhibition ends Jan.15. Through Nov. 24 Free. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com/gallery. The ARtery, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

PASO HIGH THEATRE CO. FUNDRAISER: ALL TOGETHER NOW Paso High Theatre Company is proud to perform this global event celebrating local theater. Come watch the show while enjoying a silent auction, food truck, and Cal Coast beers. Time to support your Bearcats. **Nov. 14**, 12-3 p.m. \$15. pasoschools.org/phtc. California Coast Beer Company, 1346 Railroad St., Paso Robles, 805-369-2347.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

BEADED GLASS PEARL BRACELET WORKSHOP Create a beautiful sea inspired faux pearl bracelet using Celestial Crystal pearls with easy loop clasp. You may choose to make an easy leather and pearl design or one using beads and pearls. Fun, simple technique. **Nov. 13**, 10 a.m.-noon \$40. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

FINE ART PAINTINGS BY SPANKY ANDERSON Come by and see Spanky's amazing, unique acrylic landscape paintings. Through Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLO CHRISTIAN Come see marvelous Infrared photography by Carlo Christian. These stunning black and white images are sure to inspire and amaze. Through Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 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.

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CAL POLY FOOTBALL



SATURDAY, NOV. 20 | 5:00 PM ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM

VISIT GOPOLY.COM/TICKETS TO PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY!





BRACE YOURSELVES

Art Center Morro Bay hosts its Beaded Glass Pearl Bracelet Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants of this class will use celestial crystal pearls and other materials to create their own bracelets. Admission is \$40. To find out more about the workshop, call (805) 772-2504 or visit artcentermorrobay.org. The venue is located at 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

—C.W.

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GALLERY AT MARINA SQUARE: FEATURED JEWELRY ARTIST HOPE MYERS Hope Myers is an award-winning watercolorist, and jeweler. She has been creating her artwork on the Central Coast for over 30 years. Opening reception is Nov. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Through Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

SECOND SATURDAY: FEATURED ARTISTS OPENING RECEPTION Come by and see the Featured Artists Shows, find gifts for your loved ones, surprises for yourself, and meet the artists featured in the incredible gallery. Second Saturday of every month, 5-7 p.m. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

WINTER FAIRE AND CRAFTS SHOW This very special holiday event offers a collection of exceptional paintings, photography and fine crafts, spanning a variety of artistic mediums from traditional to contemporary. Crafts include fiber, wood, glass, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, and more. Through Jan. 3, 2022, 12-4 p.m. Free. 805-772-2504. artcentermorrobay.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

BUELLTON FALL FEST Features live music, carnival games, rides, beer, food vendors, & more. **Nov. 12-14** buelltonfallfest.com. Flying Flags RV Resort & Campground, 180 Avenue Of The Flags, Buellton, 805-448-7070.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FAMILY PACKS Pick up a Native American Heritage Family Pack. Celebrate and recognize this month by reading a book by an author with a Native American

background, learn more about local tribes, customs, and even visit local heritage sites. Limited to one per family while supplies last. **Nov. 20** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

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

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

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

LINKEDIN LEARNING TRAINING Want to learn new skills or want to further develop the skills you already have? Library staff will be offering training on the new LinkedIn Learning database. Registration is required. **Nov. 20**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

ONLINE JOB SEARCHING Learn how to locate jobs on the web and submit applications through online portals. Participants will gain hands-on experience to jumpstart their job search. **Nov. 18**, 3-4:30 p.m. 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

PRESCHOOL SENSORY PACKS Preschool Sensory packs will include everything needed to create a sensory bin. Sensory bins allow children to explore, discover, imagine, create, and learn while engaging their senses. This program is for children ages 3-5, adult assistance is required to assemble sensory bins. One per family. **Nov. 20** 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.

TECH HELP SATURDAY Schedule a one-on-one appointment for instruction on technology topics like

setting-up new devices, installing apps, privacy best practices, and enjoying library e-resources at home. **Nov. 13**, 10 a.m.-noon 805-925-0994. cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

TEEN ANIME CLUB 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. **Nov. 12**, 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.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

COMMUNITY HIKE TO MYRTLE POND The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center will host a hike from Oso Flaco Lake to Myrtle Pond, which sits just north of Guadalupe and offers visitors one of the most scenic natural areas along the state's coastline. **Nov. 20**, 9 a.m.-noon my805tix.com. Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, Oso Flaco Lake Rd., Nipomo, 805-343-2455.

HEALTH FREEDOM CELEBRATION: FUNDRAISER FOR CHRISTMAS AND SANTA Includes exhibitors to help navigate this new era we are living as well as health related product vendors. Features wine, beer, food, live music, dancing, and more. **Nov. 13**, 2-7 p.m. my805tix.com. Historic Village of Arroyo Grande, Branch and Short St., Arroyo Grande.

TURKEY TROT FUN RUN Fun run event for kids, co-sponsored by the Arroyo Grande Lions Club. **Nov. 14**, 1 p.m. arroyogrande.org. Arroyo Grande High School, 495 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande.



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

WEEKLY DROWNING RESCUE COURSES

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES 101 Free webinars on all-electric homes, which use electricity instead of fossil fuels for energy needs such as heating and cooking and reduce greenhouse gas emissions **Nov. 18**, 5-6:15 p.m. Free. 3c-ren.org/event/all-electric-homes-101/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS. NDSU Come out for some Friday afternoon basketball. **Nov. 12**, 2-4 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY BASKETBALL VS. SAC STATE The Mustangs take on Sac State in a non-conference game. **Nov. 15**, 7-9 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS IDAHO STATE It's Heroes Night, so all military, first responders and frontline hospital workers receive free admission to the game. The first 2000 fans will receive a camo Cal Poly beanie.

Nov. 13, 5 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS UC DAVIS Come watch the Mustangs take on UC Davis at Mott Athletics Center. **Nov. 12**, 7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS UC RIVERSIDE It's a Double-Up Saturday, so show your ticket to the football game and you'll receive free admission to the volleyball match. **Nov. 13**, 2 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

HUMANKIND GIVE BACK DAY BENEFITTING ECOSLO HumanKind is partnering with ECOSLO for HumanKind's annual Give Back Days. 10 percent of all sales made through shopping in HumanKind's store in downtown SLO and online will be donated to ECOSLO. Shop in-person or in the comfort of your own home. **Nov. 12**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 805-544-1777. humankindso.org/. HumanKind Fair Trade, 982 Monterey St., 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. Free. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

QI GONG FOR MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT Learn and practice qi gong, a Chinese system for physical, mental and spiritual development. This class is conducted outdoors in a beautiful setting, which is the best place to do qi gong, as its inspiration is drawn from nature. Certified instructor: Devin Wallace. Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. \$10. 805-709-2227. Crows End Retreat Center, 6340 Squire Ct., 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 aaragroup@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.

FOOD & DRINK

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

KALYRA: PURCHASES AND PICK-UPS Offering varieties 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.

THREE DREAMERS FARMSTAND: SUNDAY MARKET EVENT Find a variety of local farm produced products, hand-made by local farmers and artisans. **Nov. 14**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. threedreamersfarm.com/. Three Dreamers Farmstand, 8640 Santa Rosa Road, Buellton.

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

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 19

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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

10TH ANNUAL PASO GARAGISTE WINE FESTIVAL Taste over 200 ultra-premium wines from over 60 hard-to-find micro-wineries from the Paso Robles region and all around California. **Nov. 13**, 1-9 p.m. my805tix.com. Paso Robles Event Center, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles, 805-238-9607.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL J. COSTA



HOT STUFF
 NOV. 11 - NOV. 18
 2021

LOW COSTS AT COSTA

Costa Gallery in Los Osos will hold its weekend-long Pre-Holiday Sale Friday, Nov. 12, through Sunday, Nov. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Guests can look forward to finding hundreds of potential handcrafted holiday gifts for sale, all under \$50. All of the sale's featured items were created by local artists. Visit costagallery.com for more info. The gallery is located at 2087 10th St., Los Osos. Pictured: ceramics featured in the sale created by Philip Lopez.

—C.W.

2021 NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS SHOWCASE Designed to showcase music and songwriting from local musicians throughout San Luis Obispo County in a wide variety of genres. A panel of local music industry judges will determine the best live performer during the awards showcase. **Nov. 12**, 6-8 p.m. my805tix.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo, 805-543-1843.

AN AFTERNOON IN PARIS: A MO BETTA JAZZ PRODUCTION

Features special guest musician Walt Johnson, former lead trumpet player for Frank Sinatra. Doors open at 12:45 p.m. Please email mobettajazzmusic@gmail.com for reservations. **Nov. 14**, 1 p.m. \$22 donation (includes appetizers); \$40 donation (includes food and beverage). The Penny, 664 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo.

CAL POLY FALL JAZZ CONCERT

A celebration of the release of the double album "another time, another place," which was recorded at the onset of the pandemic. Cal Poly's flagship ensembles — Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble — will perform music from the album, in addition to other works. **Nov. 12**, 7:30

p.m. \$20 general, \$10 students. 805-756-4849. music.calpoly.edu/calendar/. PAC Pavilion, Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo.

CALEB KLAUDER AND REEB WILLMS IN CONCERT

The Pozo Old Time Music Gathering presents an evening of exceptional music featuring Caleb Klauder and Reeb Willms of the Foghorn Stringband. They are known for their deep repertoire of early American traditional music, classic country, honky tonk, and bluegrass songs. **Nov. 11**, 7-9 p.m. \$20-\$25. 805-235-2874. eventbrite.com. Octagon Barn Center, 4400 Octagon Way, 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. spiritsofamericagallery.com/.

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.

SATSANG LIVE Billboard Reggae Chart-topping Satsang brings his Montana Roots to SLO Brew Rock, with special guest Tim Snider. **Nov. 14**, 7 p.m. \$16. 805-543-1843. slobrew.com. SLO Brew Rock, 855 Aerovista Pl., San Luis Obispo.

SLO SYMPHONY: AMERICAN SHOWCASE

San Luis Obispo Symphony continues their 60th anniversary season with American Showcase, featuring a West Coast premiere by local composer Stefan Podel, featuring principal bass Ken Hustad and the full SLO Symphony. **Nov. 13**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$21-\$89. pacsllo.org. Performing Arts Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 756-4849.

STANDING FOR FREEDOM: A VETERAN'S DAY CONCERT

The Cuesta Concord Chorus and the Cuesta Wind Ensemble concert features John Williams's "Hymn to the Fallen" from *Saving Private Ryan*, John Phillip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," as well as other uplifting songs. Conducted by Jennifer Martin and Cassandra Tarantino, and Dr. Ron Kean. **Nov. 11**, 3-5 p.m. \$10-\$15; Veterans free. tickets.cuesta.edu. Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, 805-546-3198.

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

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS: A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR DR. FORREST STOLL The Santa Maria Valley Sr. Club presents a birthday party concert for Forrest Stoll. Featuring Riptide Big Band, vocalists Bob Nations and Mitch Latting. Funded by the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo. **Nov. 14**, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. 775-813-5186. riptidebb.com. Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 Park Ave., Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

JOHN CRAIGIE LIVE Numbskull and Good Medicine presents John Craigie's "Keep It Warm Tour". This performance will feature guest performer, Chris Pureka. \$1 from every ticket goes to Western Center on Law and Poverty. **Nov. 20**, 8-9 p.m. \$21-\$26. 805-489-9444. Clark Center for the Performing Arts, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande, clarkcenter.org.

LEE ANN'S ALBUM RELEASE PARTY Celebrating the release of Lee Ann's first ever double album, *Grand Piano Vibes*. Features an original album artwork raffle and personal album signing. Champagne welcome. **Nov. 11**, 5-7 p.m. my805tix.com. Broad Street Public House, 3590 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-439-3055.

SIERRA HULL WITH DEAD HORSES In her first 25 years alone, singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Sierra Hull hit

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

We're back! It's time for **ALTRUSA's Festival of Trees**
Nov. 26 - Dec. 11
 Santa Maria Town Center Mall
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What's Your Take?
 We know you've got an opinion. Everybody's got one!

This week's online poll 11/11 - 11/18

What are your thoughts about the county's main jail rehabilitation project?

- It's smart that the Board of Supervisors decided to invest \$24 million in improvements.
- It's good that it will be improved, but they should have selected a different rehabilitation option.
- We should invest in other community outreach programs to keep people out of jail.
- The jail needs to be torn down, and we need to start fresh.

Enter your choice online at: SantaMariaSun.com

Sun

Arts Briefs

PCPA returns to the Marian Theatre with *The Secret Garden*

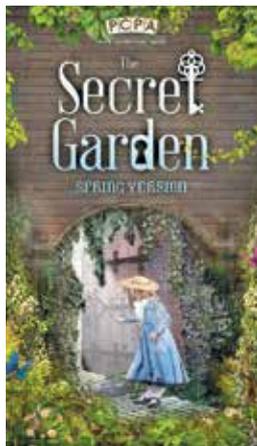
The Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA) presents its production of *The Secret Garden* at the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria, Thursday, Nov. 11, through Thursday, Dec. 23. Although PCPA returned to the Solvang Festival Theater for two shows over the summer, *The Secret Garden* marks the company's first show at Marian since spring of 2020.

Adapted from the classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, this musical follows a young orphan, Mary Lennox, whose grief is gradually overpowered by a growing curiosity about her new, mysterious home in Yorkshire, England. PCPA's iteration of the show is directed by Roger DeLaurier and stars London Rafferty and Joss Robertson, who share the role of Lennox; and Dorian Green and Mo Lopez, who share the role of Colin Craven. Additional cast members include Kitty Balay, Andrew Philpot, Erik Stein, Yusef Seevers, Emily Trask, and other PCPA regulars.

The Secret Garden is described as appropriate for ages 5 and older. Audience members over the age of 18 are required to provide their ID and proof of a full COVID-19 vaccination completed at least 14 days prior to the performance date (or proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance date). All attendees, staff, and volunteers at the theater are required to wear face masks in all areas of the venue.

Health and safety precautions enacted by PCPA include an enhanced air filtration system, the availability of multiple hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the theater lobby, touchless ticketing, and other resources. At this time, no food or beverages will be sold during the show's intermission, and patrons are also not allowed to bring in outside food or beverages.

Depending on the performance date and age of attendee, admission to *The Secret Garden* ranges between \$15 to \$46. For tickets and more info on the production and its admission policies, call (805) 922-8313 or visit pcpa.org. The Marian Theatre is located on Allan Hancock College's Santa Maria campus, at 800 S. College Drive, Santa Maria.



Santa Maria Public Library offers free art packs for youth

FILE PHOTO BY ZAC EZZONE



Local youth are welcome to pick up a free art pack at the Santa Maria Public Library, while supplies last, on one of the pickup dates, which range between Saturday, Nov. 13, and Friday, Nov. 19. Each pack includes a variety of art projects for participants to work on at home.

For more info, call (805) 925-0994 or visit engagedpatrons.org. The Santa Maria Public Library is located at 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria. ○

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

PHOTO BY CALEB WISEBLOOD



RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARCHIVES: Local curator Julie Torchia (pictured) specializes in showcasing and selling museum-quality prints by historical artists, including Salvador Dalí. One of her most helpful resources is *The Official Catalog of the Graphic Works of Salvador Dalí*, by prolific archivist Albert Field.

The Dalí grind

SLO local Julie Torchia curates historic prints and local gems at new Solvang gallery

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Given the amount of time Julie Torchia spends perusing rare artworks before putting them on the market, it's not hard to believe the bittersweet reaction she described when the right buyer comes along.

One of the local curator's most recent attachments is a Henri Matisse piece, *Acrobatic Dancer*, which is displayed near the front entrance of Torchia's new gallery in downtown Solvang. Torchia said she feels ready to let the print go, but her hesitant tone suggests otherwise.

"You do get better about letting stuff go the more you do it," said Torchia, who's garnered years of art marketing and curating experience throughout her career.

Although she's worked for various art sellers over the years, Solvang Fine Art—which opened its doors to the public on Oct. 1—marks Torchia's first venture as a gallery owner.

"This is brand new for me. It's exciting, stressful. I'm learning new things," Torchia said. "But you know, it's been a good ride. I haven't had a mental breakdown."

Since the gallery's opening, Torchia has spent her mornings commuting

to Solvang six days a week from her home in San Luis Obispo. She described the drive as a breeze though, compared to some of the mile-to-minute ratios she encountered while working for a gallery in Beverly Hills.

But there are still days when Torchia finds herself wishing the gallery's second floor neighbor—one of Solvang's classiest hotels, The Winston—might let her crash for the night.

"Can I just move in here?" Torchia joked, before adding she'll probably move closer to Solvang eventually, preferably to Santa Barbara.

SLO will always remain special to Torchia though, as she was born and raised there. After she turned 18, she moved to the Bay Area to study art at San Francisco State University. Originally aspiring to become an artist herself, Torchia realized she enjoyed courses on art history much more than painting and other art classes.

Torchia's gradual pursuit of a career in curation led to her first gig in the art marketing world, as an intern for Bonhams' office in San Francisco. She later continued her education in New York, where she earned her master's



COLORFUL CURATION: Alongside museum-quality prints by historic artists, Solvang Fine Art also showcases a selection of local contemporary artists as well. Pictured: gallery owner Julie Torchia in front of a display of paintings by Arroyo Grande-based artist Laurel Sherrie.

All along the clock tower

Solvang Fine Art is open daily (except Tuesdays), from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is located at 482 First Street, Solvang (right under the city's iconic clock tower). For more info, visit solvangfineart.com.

Showtime!

Send gallery, stage, and cultural festivities to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.



degree in modern and contemporary art history at Hunter College.

Various career opportunities took Torchia, now 37, to other parts of the country as well, where she has helped organize countless exhibitions of historic artworks over the years. Her most recent title before moving back to the Central Coast was curator for Harte International Galleries in Lahaina, Hawaii.

While Torchia's new gallery specializes in museum-quality prints by dearly departed iconic artists, including Rembrandt and Salvador Dalí, Solvang Fine Art showcases a selection of contemporary artists as well.

One of the prerequisites for Central Coast-based painters, such as Arroyo Grande local Laurel Sherrie and Paso Robles local Dennis Curry, to be featured at Solvang Fine Art is that they can't show their works concurrently at any nearby galleries (basically throughout the Santa Ynez Valley).

"I didn't want to show people who are already showing here because I'm just going to end up competing with other galleries, and I don't want to do that," Torchia said.

As for historic artists, Torchia described her process in selecting rare prints as meticulous but something she's extremely comfortable with.

"This has been my wheelhouse," said Torchia, whose gallery office is stocked with resources, including a catalog by prolific archivist Albert Field, best known for authenticating the surreal works of Dalí.

Torchia said approving Dalí prints can be rigorous, due to the extensive amount of counterfeits on the market. She's even had to call out a few sellers over the years for trying to sell her fakes.

"You can't rely on a seller to be honest, especially with Dalí. Before I buy it, I make sure it matches in here," Torchia said, pointing to Field's catalog.

"And after it comes in, I measure the image size, paper size, check the watermark, check the edition number, etc.," she listed. "If it passes all those, you get to put it on the wall. But if anything pops up that's wrong, then, you know, nasty emails go out." ○

Please send pleasant emails to Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

COURTESY PHOTO BY JULIE TORCHIA



IT'S A WILD WORLD: Authenticating Salvador Dalí prints can be rigorous, due to the extensive amount of counterfeits on the market, said Solvang Fine Art owner Julie Torchia. Pictured: *Wild Blackberries*, available for sale at Torchia's gallery.

PCPA

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Superhero overload

Co-writer/director Chloé Zhao (*The Rider*, *Nomadland*) helms this fantasy adventure about a group of immortal beings sent to Earth 7,000 years ago to quietly oversee humanity. Following the events of *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), the Eternals emerge from the shadows to unite against humanity's most ancient enemy, *The Deviants*. (157 min.)

Glen: I think some days I'm more open to suspending my disbelief than others, so maybe when we saw *Eternals* I simply wasn't in the mood for the level of utter nonsense and hoey served up by this new installation of the Marvel Universe. The backstory, which comes at us Star Wars style in the beginning ("A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...") is about some robot-looking god called Arishem who sends 10 "eternals" to Earth to protect humanity against Deviants—trippy-looking monsters that eat humans whole. In a flashback, we see the Eternals saving humans in various time periods dating from 5000 B.C. until the Deviants are finally wiped out and the Eternals sort of just hang out on Earth trying to blend in. Then in the present, Deviants suddenly return (Spoiler! Global warming has freed them from the polar ice caps!), and now the Eternals "have to get the band back together," so to speak, except there's some rancor among their ranks, but nothing some more flashbacks can't explain over the course of this overly long, bloated film. Look, I didn't hate it. There were some great moments, even some emotionally effective ones, but honestly, I thought I was going to get something different. After all, Zhao is a masterful director who's great at using real communities of non-actors

to tell deeply moving stories. Apparently, with real actors and a big budget and (no doubt) producers and studios micromanaging the outcome, Zhao's gifts have been rendered moot. *Eternals* is a middling Marvel film.

Anna: *Eternals* was definitely an ambitious undertaking, but I'd much rather watch Zhao's other films. This is long and complicated, and while I was able to follow the twisting story, I didn't have a whole lot of desire to do so. Granted, I'm not usually super excited about these mega superhero Marvel movies that choose big names and special effects over storyline 95 percent of the time. Luckily, with *Eternals* there are some funny bits, and the cast has some standouts, so it isn't a total lost cause. Gemma Chan as Sersi is an emotionally poignant touchstone; her past relationship with Ikaris (Richard Madden) plays a big part in the storyline. Sprite (Lia McHugh) is an eternal child, a fact that tortures her as she can never grow up, fall in love, or have a family. Her devotion to Ikaris gives her a huge blind spot to any failings the flying hero may have. Gilgamesh (Ma Dong-seok) is devoted wholly to Thena (Angelina Jolie), who's suffering from eternal madness and must be kept away from the world. There are interesting characters with interesting problems here, but it's just so big and complicated that all nuance gets lost. It's working to be an epic follow-up to *Avengers: Endgame*, but it just didn't do it for me.

Glen: I did enjoy Kumail Nanjiana as Kingo, who decides to spend his Earth time as a Bollywood star and director until he's called back into action. He's definitely the most fun Eternal. I normally enjoy Barry Keoghan, who stars as Druig, but his characterization is so uneven here. Druig's super power is mind control, and he essentially creates his own cult. Some of these superheroes are downright

ETERNALS

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



SUPER? In *Eternals*, screening at most local theaters, 10 immortal beings—including (left to right) Sprite (Lia McHugh), Sersi (Gemma Chan), Ikaris (Richard Madden), and Thena (Angelina Jolie)—protect Earthlings from horrible monsters, unaware they're all part of a bigger plan that may mean the end of the planet.

unlikable. And "immortals?" Not really! Turns out the Eternals are all too killable. The film's certainly trying to be "woke." In addition to acknowledging global climate change, *Eternals* presents an offhand gay relationship—two fathers raising a young boy—that laudably normalizes same-sex parenthood. And how about that united colors of Benetton cast? All that's stuff's great, but it doesn't save the film for me. Regardless of what I think, it's been well attended with high audience scores (81 percent on rottentomatoes.com). Maybe I have superhero fatigue. I'm ready for some grown-up stories that actually make sense and explore real emotions, not this synthetic paint-by-numbers pabulum.

Anna: Oh yes, Kumail is a very funny dude and was a great addition, probably my favorite part of the movie overall. He brings along his assistant Karun (Harish Patel) to film documentary-style the team's adventures. It's a pretty funny bit, and those occasional flashes of fun and humor offer a little redemption for the overblown, big-budget nonsense going on otherwise. We went to the theater

for a Friday matinee and the place was busy, so if that's any indication, this film is doing well with or without our yes vote. This is definitely the time of year we start seeing these big Hollywood hits come out and gear up for the holidays. I guess I can consider this film a warm-up. Not surprisingly, where this film lacks support from critics, audiences are mostly into it. That probably means people are generally having a lot more fun watching it than I did, and hey, that's great! Lucky for me there was enough there in the way of humor and character connection that I didn't walk out hating it; I just didn't love it either. ○

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

TV & Film Reviews

TELL ME YOUR SECRETS

What's it rated? **TV-14**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

BINGEABLE

Amazon Originals has given us yet another binge-fest series with this mysterious and complicated tale, weaving the storylines of intersecting characters throughout time. Karen Miller, aka, Emma Hall (Lily Rabe), has just been released from a seven-year prison stint after being convicted as an accessory to murder. Her serial killer boyfriend Kit (Xavier Samuel) used her to lure in his victims, and when Karen is released, she has to assume a new identity in a new town to avoid the repercussions if she was found out.

We also follow Mary Barlow (Amy Brenneman), the mother of a missing girl everyone except Mary presumes is dead. She's determined to find out if her daughter was a victim of Kit's, and she descends into madness quickly after sending a convicted but supposedly reformed rapist, John (Hamish Linklater), to track Karen down.

It definitely gets dark when we start looking into all these characters and their murky pasts, and as Karen's lost memories start to surface, it's clear that things are not what they seem. This



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADE UP STORIES AND STUDIO T

SHIFTING MORALITY: Amy Brenneman stars as Mary Barlow, a distraught mother whose daughter may have been abducted by a serial killer. Determined to discover her daughter's fate, Mary takes drastic steps to track down the serial killer's witness-protected girlfriend/accomplice, in the TV series *Tell Me Your Secrets*, streaming on Amazon Prime.

series has yet to be renewed for a second season, but this first season stands on its own even if it doesn't get picked up. It does stray into some overly complicated writing traps, but overall, it stays compelling, especially as you get into the last few episodes. (10 45-min. episodes)

—Anna

TRAIN TO BUSAN

What's it rated? **Not rated**
 When? **2016**
 Where's it showing? **Amazon Prime**

Guilty PLEASURES

Co-writer/director Sang-ho Yeon (*The King of Pigs*, *The Fake*) helms this foreign-language zombie flick, and if you're thinking, "Why in the world do we need yet another zombie flick," watch and find out. At the center of the story are young Soo-an (Su-an Kim) and her divorced workaholic fund manager father, Seok-woo (Gong Yoo). Seok-woo is a neglectful father, and as her birthday approaches, Soo-an asks him to let her take the train to her mother's. Despite his busy schedule, he reluctantly agrees to take an early morning train to Busan and deliver her to her mother.

Once on the train, chaos breaks out when an infected girl boards at the last second and almost immediately attacks an attendant, starting a chain reaction of infection, death, and zombies. The claustrophobic train setting revs up the danger. What makes this zombie flick rise above is its handling of personal relationships and Seok-woo's character arc as the trauma of the moment presents opportunities to overcome his selfishness.

In particular, Seok-woo and Soo-an's interactions with a young pregnant couple—working class Sang-hwa (Ma Dong-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEXT ENTERTAINMENT WORLD

FATHERHOOD: A workaholic father, Seok-woo (Gong Yoo), must protect his young daughter, Soo-an (Su-an Kim), from a zombie outbreak while confined to a train, in the 2016 Korean film *Train to Busan*, currently screening on Amazon Prime.

seol) and his wife, Seong-kyeon (Yu-mi Jung)—bring a lot of pathos to the story. There are good guys ready to risk all and selfish guys like business executive Yon-suk (Eui-sung Kim), who you really want to see attacked and torn apart, but watching Seok-woo transcend his selfishness and win over his daughter is the film's heart. (in Korean and Hawaiian; 117 min.) ○

—Glen

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WARM WELCOME: The Three Dreamers Farmstand held its grand opening to the public earlier this fall. Currently open on select Sundays, the farm stand's next public market event takes place on Sunday, Nov. 14 (from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.).



SEASON'S GREETINGS: "A true reflection of local agriculture is there is always something new in store and in limited supply," co-owner Maria Hopper (pictured) said. "The farm stand is happy to feature seasonal produce and fruit grown right here by our neighbors in the Santa Ynez Valley. As the seasons change, so will our unique offerings."

Pear necessities

Three Dreamers Farmstand in Buellton dishes out fresh, seasonal produce and handcrafted products from local artisans

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Everyone knows it takes two to tango, but how many does it take to mango? In the case of Three Dreamers Farmstand, the answer is one mother and two daughters with mutual aspirations. Although the venue doesn't carry mangos, per se, it does specialize in a fruit with a similarly yellowish-red tint: pears, which are locally in season at the moment. Co-owner Nikki Valko said that she, her mom, and sister had always "dreamed about owning a property together and making it truly something special," a sentiment that would ultimately inspire the name of their farming venture, Three Dreamers. The new farm stand held its grand opening this fall, although the family has co-owned the property it sits on for a few years. The first time they saw the

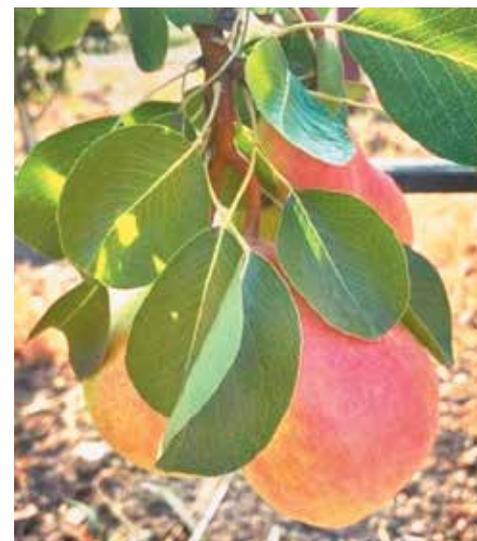
site in 2018, they pretty much jumped at the chance to buy it immediately, Valko explained. "Driving along Santa Rosa Road one day four years ago, we spotted the 'for sale' sign," Valko said, adding that one of the reasons they found the property so appealing was the large barn it included. "Struck by its bucolic setting and historic long barn, we made an offer that very day," Valko said. The Buellton property is also conveniently located only 3 miles away from Martha's Animal Sanctuary, a nonprofit dedicated to caring for neglected and unwanted farm animals, owned and operated by Valko and her husband. On Sunday, Nov. 14, Three Dreamers Farmstand will host a special collaborative market event, in which a portion of some products' proceeds will

Barnyard bash

Three Dreamers Farmstand hosts its upcoming Sunday market events on Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 (both days from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). The Nov. 14 event will be a collaborative market, in which a portion of some products' proceeds will benefit Martha's Animal Sanctuary. For more info, visit threedreamersfarm.com or follow the farm stand on Instagram, @threedreamersfarm. The farm stand is located at 8640 Santa Rosa Road, Buellton.

benefit Martha's Animal Sanctuary. The event will not only feature fresh produce from the property and other nearby farms, but an array of artisanal items (i.e. potential holiday gifts) created by local artists and crafters as well. "We wanted a place for local farmers and artists to come together and showcase their products," said Maria Hopper, Valko's sister and co-owner of Three Dreamers Farmstand. Hopper believes the combination, "focusing on artisanal products as much as on seasonal produce," will help Three Dreamers stand out as more than just a run-of-the-mill farm stand, she said. Collaborating with several different farmers and artisans also ensures an ever-evolving selection of products, where farm stand visitors aren't likely to have the same experience twice. Each new

season will provide even more variety, Hopper explained. "A true reflection of local agriculture is there is always something new in store and in limited supply," Hopper said. "The farm stand is happy to feature seasonal produce and fruit grown right here by our neighbors in the Santa Ynez Valley. As the seasons change, so will our unique offerings." This November and December, the farm stand is showcasing local walnuts, apples, luffas, and persimmons (fresh and dried), alongside its aforementioned selection of pears, Hopper said. The farm stand debuted the bounty of its first pear season with a similar collaborative market event held in September. Following the Nov. 14 market, an additional event is already planned for Dec. 12 (both from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Each of these events prominently features organic fruits and fruit jams from local farmer Deanna King of Cosecha Farming, and lavender products from Melissa Broughton, of June Bloom



PEAR FARE: Fresh pears are among the selection of local produce visitors can expect to find at the farm stand, alongside apples, luffas, persimmons (fresh and dried), and more.

Lavender. Chamomile tea and other chamomile items from Sleepy Road Farms in Ballard are mainstays at the farm stand as well.

As for artisan wares featured at the

EATS continued page 25

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SWEET TEAS ARE MADE OF THIS: Three Dreamers' Sunday market events frequently feature lavender products from June Bloom Lavender and chamomile teas from Sleepy Road Farms.



JAMMIN': Farm stand visitors can look forward to finding a variety of organic fruit jams from local farmer Deanna King of Cosecha Farming.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THREE DREAMERS FARMSTAND

EATS from page 24

venue, the broad selection varies from paintings and ceramic art to functional art pieces, including handcrafted picture frames, jewelry, tote bags, and goat milk soaps. Featured artists and crafters include Lindy Hanly, Donna Anderegg, Veronica Medina, Danielle Ripley, and John Patterson.

Bringing together these artists came about mainly through either word of mouth or pre-existing relationships, Hopper explained, simply by "talking with our neighbors and discovering hidden talents among friends," she said.

Hopper said the farm stand mirrors the Santa Ynez Valley in

general, describing the area as a hub for farmers, ranchers, and artisans alike. One of her favorite things about living and working in the valley is the sense of community it provides, while feeling simultaneously escapist as well.

"Santa Rosa Road, Buellton, and the entire Santa Ynez Valley hold that magical balance between having all the essential comforts and feeling worlds away from everything," Hopper said. "You can get away from it all without really leaving far too long." ☉

Share tasty tips!



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If you like piña colodas and gettin' caught in the rain, contact Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood at cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

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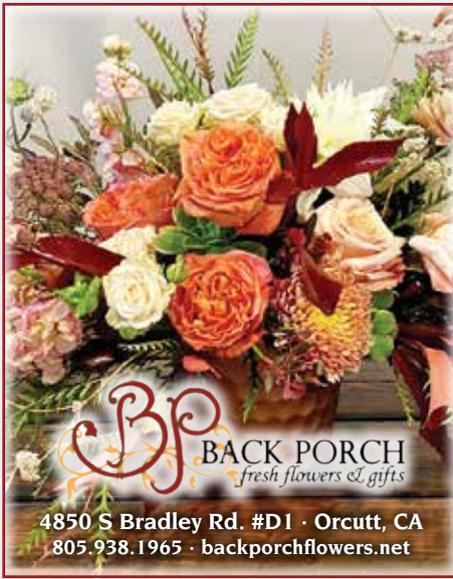
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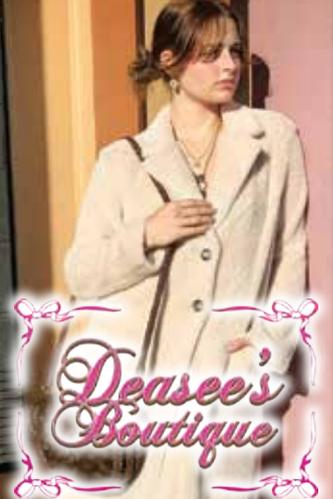
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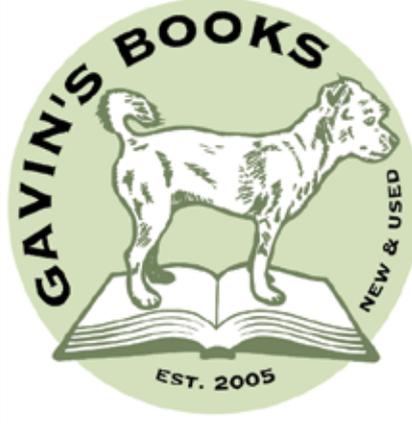
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