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The Harder They Fall:
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Scrambling for service



As military families face a lack of resources and long child care waitlists, a federal bill seeks to increase on-base services [7]

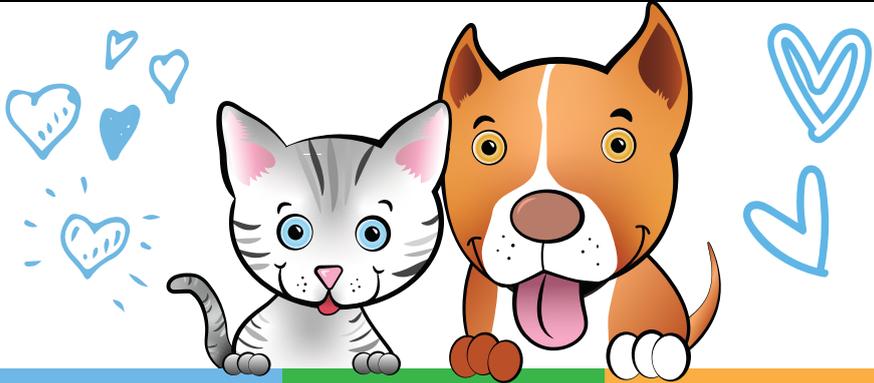
BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR



NEWS Local marine sanctuary moves forward [4]

ARTS Gallery Los Olivos highlights gratitude [20]

EATS Arrowsmith's offers new favorite wines [24]



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NOVEMBER 18 - NOVEMBER 25, 2021 VOL. 22 NO. 38

Military families face extra scheduling challenges when seeking care for their children, especially when both parents are in the armed forces and need to balance their shifts. Locally as well as nationally, such families are facing the added challenge of a lack of child care, most notably child care that accommodates the military's 24/7 shift hours. This week, Staff Writer Taylor O'Connor talks with a mom stationed at Vandenberg Space Force Base and with U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara), who helped author a bill that would increase on-base child care support [7].

You can also read about the progress of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary [4]; Gallery Los Olivos' tribute to gratitude [20]; and the one year anniversary of Arrowsmith's Wine Bar in Solvang [24].

Andrea Rooks
associate editor

Cover images from Adobe Stock > Cover design by Alex Zuniga



CARE GIVERS: Military families make extra sacrifices, not only for their country but for their families, and a new federal bill seeks to help them by increasing child care on military bases.

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Political Watch

• **Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced that California joined the **Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA)**, which brings together national and subnational governments committed to moving away from oil and gas production, according to a Nov. 11 statement. Led by Costa Rica and Denmark, the first-of-its-kind alliance will build momentum for states and nations working to phase out oil and gas production in order to support efforts toward a clean energy economy. "California is a global leader in combating the climate crisis with bold action, but we can't meet the challenge of this existential threat alone," Newsom said in a statement. "Together, we must move beyond oil and usher in a cleaner and greener future that safeguards our communities, environments, and the economy." The new partnership was announced shortly after Newsom stated in October that the state is moving to prevent new oil drilling near communities and expand health protections as California works to phase out fossil fuels.

• **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) announced that California gained more than 47,000 jobs in September and 812,000 total jobs this year, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released in a Nov. 3 statement. Carbajal helped support local businesses and create jobs by passing the American Rescue Plan, and the congressman continues to propel the economy forward through advocacy for two bills: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Build Back Better Act. "The September jobs report shows that the American Rescue Plan, coupled with President Biden's economic agenda, is working," Carbajal said in the statement. "We are getting Californians back to work, but our job is far from over. Congress must pass ... the Build Back Better Act, to build on our economic recovery by creating millions of good-paying jobs and cutting down on the cost of living for working families." The Build Back Better Act will expand child tax credit, provide a framework to cut greenhouse gas pollution by 1 gigaton in 2030, reduce premiums for health care coverage, cut taxes for low-wage workers, and provide free preschool for all families with 3- and 4-year olds, according to the White House website.

• On Nov. 15, **U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal** (D-Santa Barbara) witnessed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act being signed into law at the White House. The bill is the largest federal investment in public transit, broadband, clean energy transmission, and clean water infrastructure in American history, according to Carbajal's office. "It was an honor to stand beside my colleagues and the president as he signed the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. This bill is a once-in-a-generation investment that will propel our economy forward and improve quality of life for every American. It will provide funding the Central Coast needs to expand internet connectivity, fix dilapidated roads and bridges, and improve our public transit and clean water infrastructure," Carbajal said in a statement. Locally, the new law will help fund Central Coast projects, including work on Highway 101 between Santa Barbara and Carpinteria and new investments for a climate resilient future, according to **Marjie Kirn**, executive director of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. "We are ready for transformative action on a federal level to address the persistent backlog of transportation infrastructure and public transit options for our communities," Kirn said in a statement. "We are encouraged and excited about the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and will work with Congressman Carbajal to take advantage of the opportunities the bill presents for strong federal support on high-priority projects in our region." ○



MARINE SANCTUARY: Coastlines stretching from Cambria past Lompoc, including Morro Bay (pictured), will be a part of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary's proposed area of protection, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary moves to designation phase

About 140 miles of California's central coastline will be protected from oil drilling and recognized for their cultural, economic, and ecological significance as the Biden administration moved to protect the area.

The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will advance to the designation phase: A robust process of public meetings and hearings to identify uses, impacts, and resources, Congressman Salud Carbajal said.

"The designation phase process is about a 2 1/2 year process, and will give an opportunity for all stakeholders—local governments, Chumash tribes, and fishermen—to provide input for concerns, and mitigate concerns," Carbajal said.

The congressman explained that the marine sanctuary proposal began in 2015 by Northern Chumash Tribe member Fred Collins, who passed away on Oct. 1.

The nomination was set to expire in a few months, so Carbajal—along with Sens. Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein—wrote a letter to the Biden administration in August asking for an extension of the sanctuary's nomination process and that it be moved to the designation phase.

"I was pleasantly surprised and happy that the Department of Commerce decided to heed our request and move forward with the designation of the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary," he said.

The marine sanctuary will strengthen California's \$1.9 trillion coastal economy and support the \$731 billion in wages as well as move the state toward clean energy, Carbajal said.

"This would prevent any future oil and gas drilling in this area. When it comes to the oil industry in general, we need to wean ourselves off fossil fuels," he said. "[But] any workers in that industry now should not be left behind, and should be provided with new opportunities."

"I believe we can achieve both a transition to renewable energy and not leave anybody behind," Carbajal continued.

Kenneth Kahn, Tribal Chairman for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, said he was glad to see progress in the sanctuary's process.

"We are proud to support the designation of the

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary," Khan said in a statement. "As stewards of the environment with strong cultural connections to natural resources, we look forward to working with the NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] to help manage and protect the sacred sites throughout our beautiful coastline."

The central coastline between the Monterey Bay and the Channel Islands represents some of the most biologically diverse and ecologically productive regions in the world—the region includes whale and dolphin feeding grounds, sea otter populations and kelp forests; it's an area that needs to thrive, Carbajal said.

"It's a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change off our coast, and we're doing our part through getting this marine sanctuary status," he said.

The sanctuary's virtual public meetings begin Dec. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m., and participants are able to submit public comments prior to the meeting by visiting [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

After the designation process, the area will go under environmental review and achieve official marine sanctuary status.

Contact NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Regional Office at (831) 241-4217 for more information.

—Taylor O'Connor

Santa Barbara County Probation Department approves new Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

Interview responses from incarcerated youth and their families helped shape a new plan that the Santa Barbara County Probation Department recently drafted.

The 2022 Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan outlines a variety of programs and policies designed to provide appropriate rehabilitation for individuals who have been realigned from the state's care back to county-based custody. This change came about due to a recent Senate bill that moves the responsibility of detained youth to their respective counties.

Under the proposed plan, youth in county custody would have more space to exercise and increased incentives for good behavior.

The facility's staff would also be proactive in communicating with families and guardians.

Deputy Chief Probation Officer Kimberly Shean presented the realignment plan during the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's Nov. 12 meeting. Shean explained that many of the plan's initiatives were directly inspired by feedback from surveys and interviews conducted during a six-month research period.

"The youth talked about the importance of amenities and recreational programming," Shean said. "The families talked about wanting to have more information and contact from the juvenile facility staff and understanding how their child is doing, what they're involved in."

To address the recreation concern, the realignment plan includes a blueprint of a proposed recreational outdoor space at the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center in Santa Maria. That outdoor space would include a soccer field and individual workout stations where detainees can exercise. The space would also facilitate outdoor visits with youth and their family members.

In terms of amenities, the plan describes a point-based incentive program, in which youth carry an "excellent behavior card" for supervisors to mark as a reward for positive behavior.

One of the ranked incentives is eligibility to apply for the "trust unit," a living space where detainees have more access to personal items and other freedoms, Shean explained.

"Their doors are unlocked and open during the day. They're able to go in and outside. So there's definitely opportunities for leadership and more independence and improved decision-making," Shean said, while discussing the trust unit.

To help keep families informed about their youth, the realignment plan includes a description of a youth development coach who's responsible for making weekly contact with the guardians of their assigned detainees.

"We've been in the mode of 'we call the parents for visiting,' or 'we call the parents to come pick their child up,' but this is a whole new frontier for our staff, and it's ongoing engagement," Shean said.

At the end of the Nov. 12 meeting, members of both the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee and its Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee

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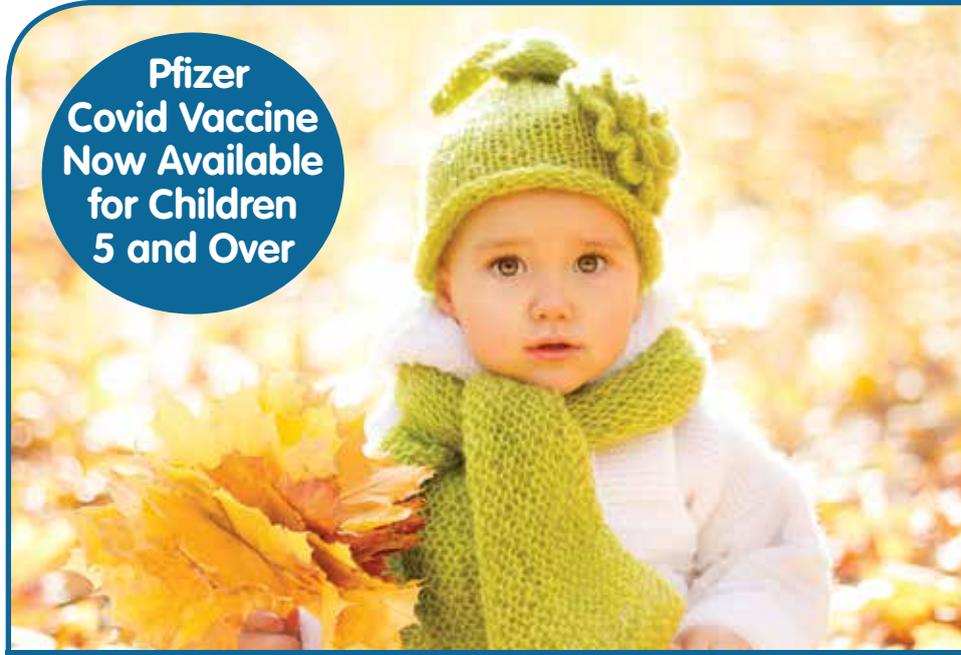



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NEWS from page 4

voted unanimously to approve the plan. Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman said a finalized version of the realignment plan will move forward to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, which is scheduled to hear a presentation on the plan at its Dec. 14 meeting.

—Caleb Wiseblood

Board of Supervisors approves design phase for Main Jail rehabilitation project

Mental health and medical care resources along with critical building updates will begin at Santa Barbara County's Main Jail after the Board of Supervisors' approval of the design phase.

Assistant County Executive Officer Jeff Frapwell discussed current conditions at the jail and the best rehabilitation options at the Nov. 9 Board of Supervisors meeting.

"The scope of the rehabilitation is critical to the long-term viability of the facility. It's not driven by the specific jail population; to a large extent it's a necessary reflection of our needs to comply with the California Disability Rights Class Action lawsuit," Frapwell said.

The 2017 lawsuit, *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara*, reached a settlement in 2020 to address "dangerous and unconstitutional conditions in the jail." In the agreement, the county committed to improve medical and mental health care as well as improve suicide prevention practices at the jail, according to previous *Sun* reporting.

The selected rehabilitation project is set to cost a total of \$24.2 million—funded through the Department of Justice's Community Oriented

Policing Services grant funds—and it will take three and a half to four years to complete, he said.

"This is the least expensive alternative to address immediate deferred capital, the amount of time required is considerably shorter than other options, and it provides adequate time to develop a needs assessment for future requirements in a post-pandemic world and evaluates the need for additional program requirements," Frapwell said.

Funds will be used for Americans with Disabilities Act compliances, roof replacements, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical updates, as well as expansion for programming space, a medical and mental health area addition, and overall cell improvements, according to the executive officer's board letter.

Prior to any main jail updates, an assessment will be taken into consideration of a jail population study and input from both internal and community criminal justice stakeholders, Frapwell said.

First District Supervisor Das Williams expressed financial concerns about any investment in the jail at all.

"I submit to you that the main jail is a money pit, and facilities usually don't get better as they age; it usually gets worse. It's not just \$24 million, it's \$24 million plus increases as the facility continues to age," Williams said.

"We shouldn't need to spend on maintenance and facilities and a large unknown of staffing costs. We haven't even performed the analysis of staffing costs this option is going to create," Williams continued. "We are being asked to pursue a path that is an unknown amount of millions more."

Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson saw the jail investment as a tool—not an overall



CENTER FIELD: The 2022 Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan includes a blueprint of a proposed recreational outdoor space at the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center (pictured) in Santa Maria, which would include a soccer field and individual workout stations where detainees can exercise.

solution—to overcome crime.

"I'd much rather be spending these dollars on roads, building parks and trails, but this is one of those necessary things we have to do," he said.

Nelson's pointed out upticks in shootings in Lompoc, and jails are a way to ensure community safety, he said.

"The shootings in Lompoc are startling in the way that our law enforcement resources are taxed," Nelson continued.

About 239 violent crimes happened in 2020 in Lompoc, according to FBI data, down

from 2019's rate of 291 violent crime reports. The FBI 2021 data is not available, but the Lompoc Police Department reported two homicides and an officer-involved shooting, and investigated two gang-related shootings in October alone—according to Lompoc's city website.

"There's serious criminalistic behaviors that are terrorizing members of our community. I want to make sure we have the tools to address these problems moving forward," Nelson said. ○

—Taylor O'Connor

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New House bipartisan bill answers growing need for military base child care and mental health resource expansion

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

When Lompoc native Sara Martinez received deployment orders to go to Vandenberg Space Force Base, getting on a child care waiting list was her priority.

Martinez—who requested that her name be changed—deployed back to her hometown with her husband and daughter in February 2018 after being based in Denver's Buckley Space Force Base for four years.

"At Buckley, the second I found out I was pregnant, I got on the waitlist and it was 10 months before I could get a spot; if I hadn't applied right away, I would've had to wait a long time," she recalled.

At Vandenberg, it took Martinez six months to get a spot at the Vandenberg Child Development Center, and she still ran into issues with scheduling, as the center is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Martinez said.

"Because we are 24/7 operations, there is no way around working those shift hours, but there isn't 24/7 care available. . . . If it's military couples, we have to stagger our shifts so that someone can always be home when there aren't day care hours available," she said.

Things may begin to change for Martinez and on-base military families across the country through the Childcare Expansion for Militaries Act: a bipartisan bill to improve and increase child care services for military families as well as ensure that children of military families have access to mental health resources.

Sponsored by Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) and Tony Gonzales (R-San Antonio), this act provides \$15 million in funds for new facilities construction and a needs-assessment for child care centers and mental health resources, Congressman Carbajal told the *Sun*.

"We can't expect our military men and women—our service members—to voluntarily serve our country, sacrifice for our country, and not take care of their family needs," Carbajal said.

The Childcare Expansion for Militaries Act will analyze how to redistribute current military construction funds and other military operations in order to provide better child care services and resources, Carbajal said.

"The optimal [option] would be to have a child care facility and military resources to achieve that," the congressman said.

Carbajal hopes to include the bill in the broader National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)—a series of federal laws specifying the annual budget and expenditures of the U.S. Department of Defense—in order to ensure child care is included in defense appropriations.

"It would be irresponsible to not support our military families; we can't acknowledge their sacrifice with the knowledge that their sacrifice needs our help to support the needs of their



VISIT: Part of Congressman Salud Carbajal's Oct. 16 visit to Vandenberg Space Force Base included a discussion regarding how the base is addressing current child care needs on-site.

children," he said.

"When you consider the challenges on hand for children with the absence of a parent being deployed, the instability provides real challenging issues for children," Carbajal continued. "We need to make sure we are assessing the resources that are available [and] needed on base and in surrounding communities."

The fact this bill has bipartisan authors should speak volumes to the nationwide need for adequate child care services, said Jim Bialick, director of government relations for Zero to Three, a national nonprofit that promotes programs to ensure healthy early development in babies.

"Very rarely do you see a Democrat from California and a Republican from Texas get together," he said.

Bialick said that including their child care expansion proposal in the National Defense Authorization Act will increase its chances of passing in December—the NDAA has passed every year for the past 61 years—but he has lingering concerns.

"There's never any pushback on this, but there's pushback on everything this year. The House provided more than what the White House was asking for in defense, and there's been pushbacks on the magnitude of defense spending," he said.

"With everything going on in Congress, things are very partisan right now. What shouldn't be partisan is the health and wellness of our kids and their social emotional development," Bialick continued.

Military bases are a good place to start when looking at child care funding and reform because it's easier to take changes to a national level, he said.

"Every state has its own regulations in child care, and it's pretty difficult to do something top down. . . . Each state does things differently because they have developed organically, and organic development does have some gaps," Bialick said.

By going to specific, on-base child care, there's no navigation or analysis of different child care systems; everything is set up the same across the country, he said.

"Almost every base has some kind of waitlist and that's due to a lot of people, a lot of turnover, and intentional regulations for child-to-caregiver ratio," Bialick said.

"You don't want one person caring for 20 infants, that would be nightmarish for them,

but also to ensure young kids are getting the engagement they need. That also means you need a lot of people," he continued.

Child care and caregiver shortages and high costs have been impacting not only military bases, but other sectors across the state.

In California, the average annual costs of infant child care is \$16,945—about \$1,412 per month—and 111.3 percent more per year than in-state tuition for four-year public college, according to the Economic Policy Institute. That makes California one of 33 states and Washington, D.C., where infant care is more expensive than in-state, four-year public college tuition.

The fact that child care and in-state college tuition can be spoken in the same breath should be alarming for people, Bialick said.

According to ZipRecruiter, the average salary for California-based military service members is \$49,041, or about \$4,000 per month, making the average child care costs about a quarter of their paychecks.

"It's always [a] government employee scale based on seniority [and] based on where you are located, but you can always say it's not enough," Bialick said. "[Even] for high earning families, child care is disproportionately expensive as a cost; the cost of child care is a significant addition to a family budget."

Service member Martinez was fortunate to have family in Lompoc to look after her daughter when she had to work outside the care center's normal hours, but she empathizes with those who don't have such support.

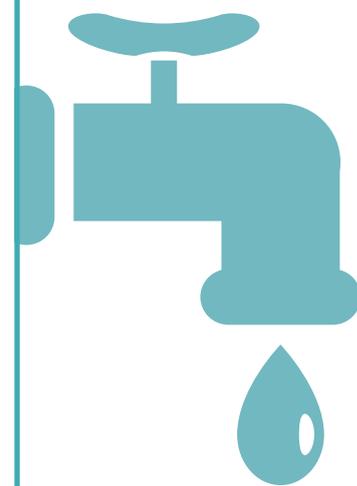
"For my daughter it wasn't a huge deal, but for anyone else's kids it's difficult," she said. "You're spending the night at a stranger's house, it happens. We are a tight-knit community, but the kids [I assume] feel a little awkward about it," she said.

Vandenberg's Facebook groups have posts asking fellow service members to watch their kids when parents have to go on shift, leaving them with uncertified providers and "perfect strangers" at odd hours, she said.

"[The child center] curriculum and care is great, all the providers are super helpful and very nice; it's just there isn't enough of them," she added.

The Vandenberg Child Development Center currently has a six-month wait, and the Center did not respond to the *Sun*'s request for an interview. ○

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



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VALENCIA-DE ZAMORA, MARTA, 73, of Santa Maria passed away 11/12/2021 arrangements with Magner Maloney Funeral Home

VARGAS, YOLANDA "YOLI", 80, of Lompoc passed away 11/4/2021 arrangements with Starbuck-Lind Mortuary

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOMPOC PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



DASH: Young runners take their marks at the start of the 2019 Kids Turkey Dash hosted by the Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department. This year's Turkey Trot will be held on Nov. 21 at River Park in Lompoc.

Trotting to food

Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department hosts annual Turkey Trot for the first time in two years

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time to devour delicious turkeys, homemade stuffing, and creamy pies. It's a time when you unbutton your jeans to fit more food and indulge in the cheat day of a lifetime.

But for some people, it's an opportunity to get a run in and stay active before that traditional feast of bountiful food. For the first time in two years, the Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department is honoring those active people with its annual 3-mile Turkey Trot and 1-mile Kids Turkey Dash, said Lompoc Supervisor of Sports Chad Dawson. "I hope people will be anxious to get out and run again. This is our first run since Jan. 1, 2020," Dawson said. "I'm excited; anything that can bring families out to have fun and get exercise at the same time is worth it."

Dawson said he hopes for a turnout of about 30 people, and the weather on run day is expected to be in the 80s—rare warmth for this time of year.

"Generally, I hope people feel safe enough to participate, and I do think people really want to get back to being active. ... Thus far, turnouts for our events have been pretty high as we've opened," he said.

Check-in—or day-of registration—begins at 8 a.m. Nov. 21 at the River Park Fitness Trail, and the 1-mile kids run begins at 9 a.m. The 3-mile event begins at 9:30 with everything wrapping up around 10:30 a.m., Dawson said.

Pumpkin pies will be awarded to the second and third place best overall times in each category, and the winner of the fastest overall time will go home with a frozen turkey. First, second, and third place winners in women's, men's, and children's groups will receive medals at the end of the race, Dawson said.

"About 90 percent of the people that show up go home with something," he added.

Dawson said he's most excited for the community—from ages 8 to 75—coming back together and giving people the opportunity to be active.

"There's a giant sense of camaraderie. Everyone's rooting each other on," he said. "They are competing against one another, but they are really competing against themselves [to get better]."

Turkey trotters aren't limited by levels of expertise; people can walk or run the 3 miles. People can also show up and support if physical activity isn't their pre-Thanksgiving priority, he continued.

"We have participants

all the way from athletes on the cross country team, to the person just going out trying to do the exercise and lose a little weight," he said. "We have people that can run it in 18 minutes, and people that are doing a quick walk [in] 45 minutes."

"You do not have to run; it's open to any person that wants to participate in something healthy," he continued.

There are no COVID-19 mask requirements since it's an outdoor event, but participants are welcome to wear masks and are encouraged to follow CDC social-distancing guidelines. The Lompoc Parks and Recreation staff will be wearing masks during the event, Dawson said.

Dawson's main concern prior to the event is making sure everyone brings enough water to stay hydrated on the warm, sunny day; recreation department staff will bring extra water to hand out during the trot.

"Just bring water, sunscreen, and a positive attitude," he said.

Pre-registration is open until Nov. 19; it's \$25 per adult athlete and \$10 per child; day-of registration will be \$5 more for each age group, and it's cash only. T-shirts will be available to purchase for \$10 the day of the trot. The River Park Fitness Trail is located at Highway 246 and Sweeney Road.

For more information, contact the Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department at (805) 875-8100.

Highlight

• Santa Barbara County nonprofit C.A.R.E.4Paws invites community members to support the Donation Drive-Thru and Home for the Holidays Adoption Festival on Dec. 4. The event will provide resources that keep pets with their families for life and inspiring forever homes for adoptable animals. The C.A.R.E.4Paws team needs dry and canned pet food, and financial contributions—which will go toward pet food and mobile clinic wellness services. Businesses wanting to participate should contact C.A.R.E.4Paws at wendy@care4paws.org, and volunteers can sign up prior to the event by emailing volunteer@care4paws.org. The Santa Maria adoption festival will take place at the Elks Lodge—1309 N. Bradley Road—from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ○

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

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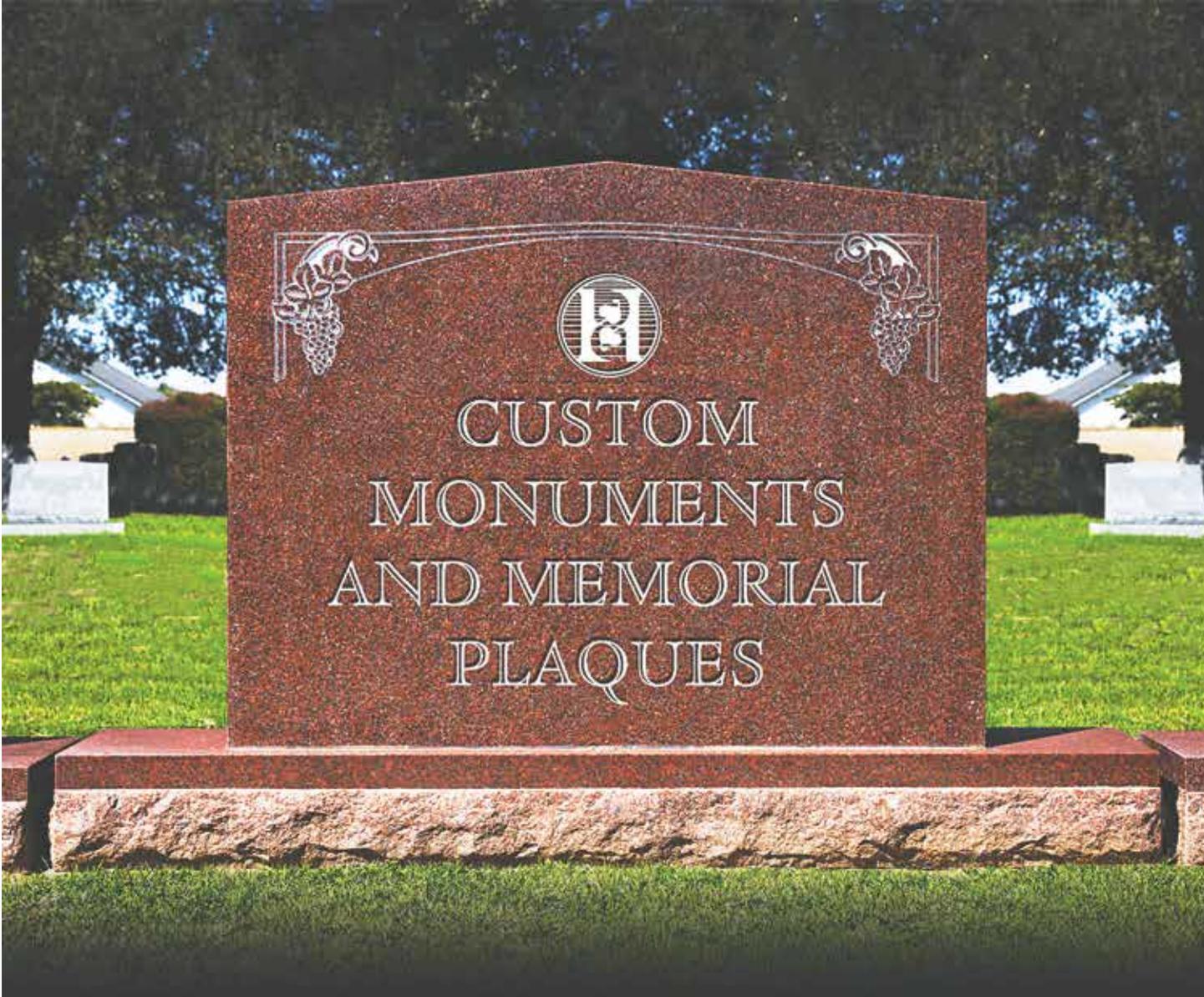
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Online Poll

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

- 46% We should invest in other community outreach programs to keep people out of jail.
- 36% It's good that it will be improved, but they should have selected a different rehabilitation option.
- 18% It's smart that the Board of Supervisors decided to invest \$24 million in improvements.
- 0% The jail needs to be torn down, and we need to start fresh.

11 Votes

Vote online at www.santamariasun.com.

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Surplus stupidity

Two Lompoc City Council members showed their lack of understanding of budgeting when they voted against public safety

BY RON FINK

One thing you can always count on when an item involving a cooperative agreement between the city of Lompoc and the county of Santa Barbara is that Councilman Dirk Starbuck will oppose it every time. Even though he is usually wrong in his assumptions, at least he is consistent. The other thing you can count on is that Councilman Victor Vega will probably support his objection even when facts indicate he is wrong.

The most recent "no" vote concerned a proposal for the city to join in a Consolidated Dispatch Center for fire and emergency medical services. The center would be operated by the county and managed by a board consisting of all fire agencies that signed up to the agreement; any changes to the system would require unanimous approval by the board, thus assuring that no one agency could dominate the systems' management or fees.

This was a very good deal because Lompoc would only pay based on the number of calls the center processed that originated in our city and be provided much improved enhancements to the way medical and fire emergencies were handled.

But true to his principles, Starbuck threw a bunch of barn dust into the debate and in the process convinced Councilman Vega to join him in opposing the project.

Chief among Starbuck's concerns was where the money was going to come from to pay for this new service. Well, voters had answered that question twice—once by approving a sales tax increase and again by approving a cannabis manufacturing tax.

But it was Starbuck and Vega along with former Councilman Jim Mosby who had diverted all the sales tax money for the next 15 years to theoretically "save \$20 million in retirement system payments,"

so there was none of this new revenue left, and both Starbuck and Vega couldn't grasp the fact that the city manager affirmed three times during the hearing that anticipated revenue from the cannabis manufacturing tax would be more than adequate to fund the agreement.

Starbuck was also complaining about the current budget shortfalls as justification to resist joining the Consolidated Dispatch Center. He correctly stated that we are about \$200,000 in the hole.

Here is what the adopted 2021-23 budget says about that: "The adopted biennial budget for [fiscal years] 2021-23 general fund reflects a surplus of \$2 million. The projected surplus is vital to restore the general fund's depleted unassigned fund balance. As of June 30, 2020, the city's unassigned fund balance was negative \$0.2 million."

The Law Insider Dictionary says "surplus funds" means, "at any given date, the excess of cash and other recognized assets that are expected to be resolved into cash or its equivalent in the natural course of events and with a reasonable certainty, over the liabilities and necessary reserves at the same date."

The Government Accounting Standards Board describes how to use the "unassigned classification" this way: "The unassigned classification should be used only to report a deficit

balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned."

From these statements you could draw two conclusions: 1) There is a surplus of \$2 million that is "expected to be resolved into cash or its equivalent in the natural course of events"; and 2) the unassigned fund balance was negative \$0.2 million "resulting from overspending for specific purposes."

So, a reasonable person could assume that the \$200,000 should be erased by the \$2 million surplus during the two-year budget cycle.

The other point Starbuck wanted to make in defense of his "no" vote was that the reserve fund had been depleted. When he was elected in 2010, the general fund reserve balance was \$6.5 million.

Councilmen Starbuck and Vega, who both cast no votes to join the Consolidated Dispatch Center, used a condition that they helped create and failed to consider future revenue sources to justify throwing public safety under the bus.

He says it's zero now; was he correct? Yes, however you must follow the events that have occurred since 2010, all of which he was part of.

In 2014, Mosby was appointed as a council member while the reserve fund was still a healthy \$6.6 million; he, Starbuck, and Vega controlled the budget approval process in the following budget

hearings until the 2019-21 budget.

Led by Mosby, they thought they were budget geniuses and micromanaged the process. Ultimately this led to the 2017-19 budget showing a decline in

budget reserves to \$4.5 million, and by the 2019-21 budget it had shrunk to half the amount when they took office. Starbuck, Vega, and Mosby supported each of those budgets.

The 2021-23 budget addresses the problem this way: "The City Council's adopted general fund reserve policy target is 25 percent of annual expenditures of approximately \$11 million. While the (current) surplus is a positive achievement for Lompoc, the general fund will require an additional \$9 million to follow the city's funding policy and restore the general fund's reserve fund to the target of \$11 million. Each budget for the next four budget cycles will attempt to restore full reserves."

So, city staff is managing the problem. Now it's up to future City Councils to assure that the plan is implemented and they don't spend every penny of the revenue they receive.

Lastly, this agreement doesn't come in to play until 2024. Revenue from the cannabis manufacturing tax will begin early next year. The city manager said three separate times that he anticipates that this new revenue stream will more than pay for this project.

I use all of this to demonstrate why Councilmen Starbuck and Vega, who both cast no votes to join the Consolidated Dispatch Center, used a condition that they helped create and failed to consider future revenue sources to justify throwing public safety under the bus.

Fortunately, they are no longer in the majority, and the matter passed on a 3-2 vote. ○

Ron Fink writes to the Sun from Lompoc. Send a response via the editor at clanham@antamariasun.com.

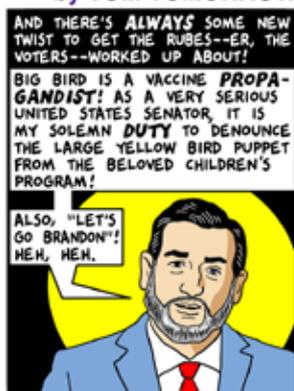
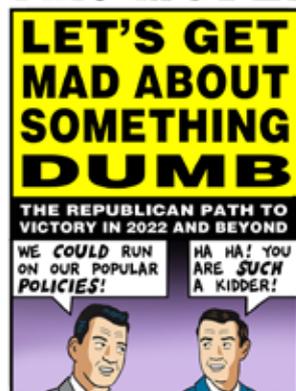
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by TOM TOMORROW



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OPINION

Reality rehabilitation

How do we live well in reality while also dreaming about and moving toward a better future?

Well, some in authority don't really do a great job of either, until they get caught or something gets broken. In the case of the **Santa Barbara County Main Jail**, both happened. The county got called out for its breaking-down facilities.

In 2017, a lawsuit, *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara*, claimed that the jail's conditions were "dangerous and unconstitutional." In the settlement, the county agreed to address those issues by improving medical and mental health care, among other improvements.

Yes, in an ideal world we wouldn't need jails; we wouldn't need law enforcement. If we're going all the way into ideal utopia territory here, we wouldn't need laws, right? But we do because humanity and its systems have been broken for a long, long time.

But I digress.

The county is working on fixing its broken reality with \$24.2 million from the **Department of Justice's** Community Oriented Policing Services grant fund (which sounds like a pretty idealized name, or maybe it's just me who hears that name and thinks the money is for community programs that keep people out of jails in the first place, not for rebuilding the community where we send people who break laws). Another digression.

This rehabilitation project for the main jail is "the least expensive alternative to address immediate deferred capital, the amount of time required is considerably shorter than other options, and it provides adequate time to develop a needs assessment for future requirements in a post-pandemic world and evaluates the need for additional program requirements," said **Assistant County Executive Officer Jeff Frapwell**.

Specifically, the money will get the building more in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; update the roof, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and plumbing; and improve cells, among other things.

First District Supervisor Das Williams heard that and raised a red flag.

"I submit to you that the main jail is a money pit, and facilities usually don't get better as they age; it usually gets worse. It's not just \$24 million, it's \$24 million plus increases as the facility continues to age," Williams said, going on to say that staffing costs, maintenance, others will cost an "unknown amount of millions more."

Fair point.

To which **Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson** replied that jails aren't solutions, they're simply tools to overcome crime, which is a reality that's alive and kicking locally.

"I'd much rather be spending these dollars on roads, building parks and trails, but this is one of those necessary things we have to do," he said.

Here, here. But like fixing the leaky windows in your condo or getting your car's oil changed—you'd sure rather spend that money on a fancy outing in Santa Barbara or subscription to another streaming service—you've got to keep your home and car in working order.

The county can't do nothing. It's got to move out of this broken reality. The lawsuit should be a fire lit under its butt to fix this problem. Then the county can find more federal dollars to maintain the jail (until we don't need them anymore) and then move forward. ○

The canary's cage needs to be rehabilitated. Send comments to canary@santamariasun.com.



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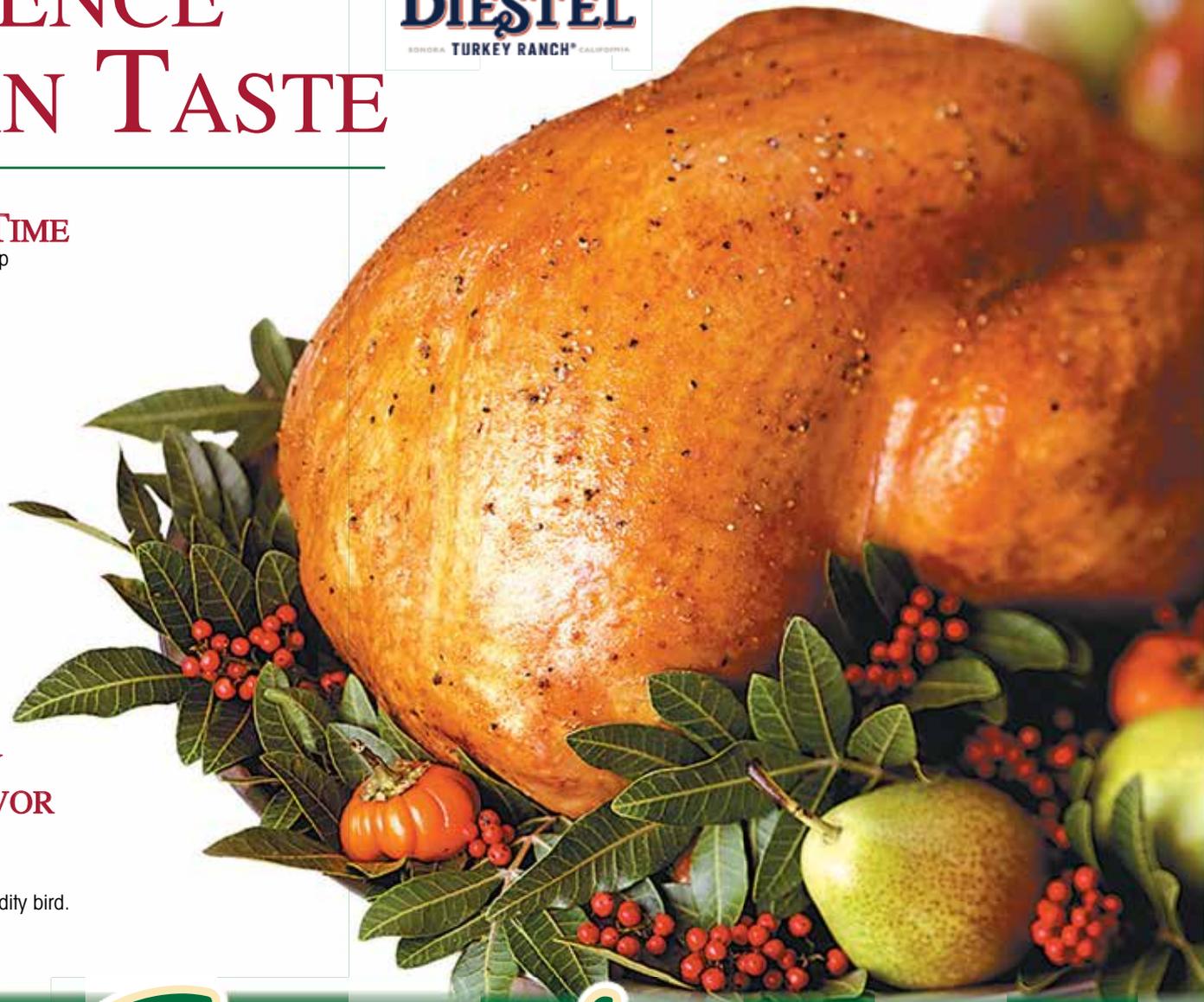
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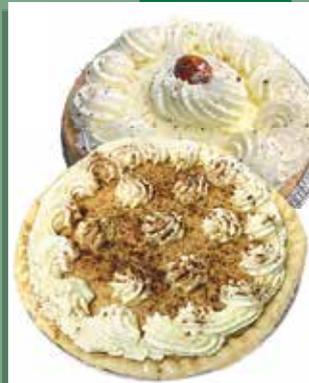
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LOCAL LINEUP

The Clark Center for the Performing Arts in Arroyo Grande presents *Whose Live Anyway?* on Friday, Nov. 26, at 8 p.m. This live comedy show features cast members of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, including Jeff B. Davis, Joel Murray, Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops (pictured, from left to right). Tickets range from \$47 to \$77. Call (805) 489-9444 or visit clarkcenter.org for more info. The Clark Center is located at 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande.

—Caleb Wiseblood

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLARK CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

ARTS

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

ART IN THE GARDEN Painters, photographers, poets, and other practitioners of the arts are welcome to gather once a month for a free, self-directed happening described by art therapist Stacey Thompson as “an outlet for people during this difficult time.” Last Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. santaynezyvalleybotanicgarden.org/. Santa Ynez Botanic Garden, 151 Sycamore Drive, Buellton.

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.

LAUGH THERAPY AT MAVERICK SALOON Laugh Therapy returns bringing the healing power humor when we most need it. Enjoy an evening of side-splitting laughs in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley when Host Paco Zamora brings a lineup of top comics to remind us how therapeutic a good giggle can be. Last Wednesday of every month, 8-10 p.m. \$15. 773-401-2998. Maverick Saloon, 3687 Sagunto St., Santa Ynez, mavericksaloon.org.

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 wildingmuseum.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. 805-922-0663. Santa Maria Airport, 3249 Terminal Dr., Santa Maria.

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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.

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. Through Dec. 23 pcpa.org. Marian Theatre, 800 S. College Dr., Santa Maria, 805-928-7731.

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.

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 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.

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.

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. 18** and **Nov. 19** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFT FAIR Get your Holiday shopping done early at our annual outdoor Arts and Craft Fair, with more than 30 local artists and vendors. **Nov. 21**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 805-595-7600. Avila Bay Athletic Club, 6699 Bay Laurel Place, Avila Beach.

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. \$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. LiA Creative Community, 1147 East Grand Ave. suite 101, Arroyo Grande.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

ACTOR'S EDGE: ACTING CLASSES Actor's Edge offers film and television acting training in San Luis Obispo,

plus exposure to Los Angeles talent agents. All ages and skill levels welcome. Classes available in SLO, LA, and on zoom. ongoing \$210 per month. actorsedge.com. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

DECONSTRUCTED FREEDOM A descendant of the Cahuilla Band of Indians, Eric Jon Boyd creates mixed-media artwork that takes account of history and culture from an Indigenous perspective. This exhibition illustrates a history of events that changed the landscape of California. Through Nov. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/deconstructed-freedom/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo.

FREE 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. Through Feb. 6, 2022, 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, spiritsofafricagallery.com/.

PAINT YOUR PET FUNDRAISER FOR WOODS HUMANE SOCIETY Come paint your pet and raise money for animals in need at our annual fundraiser. All profits will go to Woods Humane Society. Event features Woods alum, Luba. **Nov. 20**, 11-3 a.m. \$60. 805-550-2181. blackrabbitstudioslo.com/classes. Black Rabbit Studio SLO, 1154 Mill St., San Luis Obispo.

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

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- Food & Drink..... [18]
- Music [18]

ARTS continued page 15

necessity, and influence. This exhibition is hosted in partnership with the Central Coast Sculptors Group. Through Nov. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 805-543-8562. sloma.org/exhibition/visiting-the-vessel/. San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., 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. 520-730-9733. 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 Free. 8052389800. 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 walk-through 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.

CALL TO ARTISTS: SWEET AND SOUR Invites artists from all mediums to join the "Sweet and Sour" exhibition at Studios on the Park. In this exhibition, artists are encouraged to make a play on the dichotomy or pick a side of Sweet and Sour. **Nov. 19** Entry fee. 805-238-9800. studiosonthepark.org/events/call-to-artists-sweet-sour/. Studios on the Park, 1130 Pine St., Paso Robles.

COMEDY NIGHT AT THE CASTLE Back by popular demand, Comedy Night at The Castle returns. This time, we have comedian Michael Palasak to keep you laughing. **Nov. 20**, 6-9 p.m. \$30. 805-369-6100. toothandnailwine.com/pages/live-music-events. Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles.

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

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

WATERCOLOR AUTUMN LEAVES GARLANDS Come get seasonal with us as we create for each other a living autumn gale of watercolor and invention, perfect to hang in your home. Class costs include materials and snacks. **Nov. 20**, 4-5 p.m. \$25. 805-464-0533. the1artery.com/events/autumn-garlands. The ARTERY, 5890 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

ALLISON REIMUS: FEELINGS IN A FAMILIAR FRAMEWORK New paintings by New Jersey-based artist Allison Reimus. Opening reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. ongoing 805-305-9292. leftfieldslo.com. Left Field Gallery, 1036 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos.

BETTER GNOMES AND GARDENS Join us for a fun class in clay ceramics. In this workshop you will build a Gnome and Planter. The first two Mondays will be hand-building your gnome and planter. The pieces will be bisque fired and ready for glazing on the third and fourth. Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon through Dec. 13 \$150 Members; \$165 Non-Members (for the 4-day workshop). 805-772-2504. artcentermorroby.org/index.php/shop/. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

BOOK-SIGNING WITH KEVIN CARROLL Left in the Stygian Shadows a nail-biting time-travel thriller novel by debut local author Kevin Carroll. Set in 2001, it is a tale between worlds and across time, of betrayal and thievery, and of mutiny and murder. Meet the author himself. **Nov. 27**, 1-3 p.m. Free. Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St., Morro Bay, 805-772-2880. coalescebookstore.com/.

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. Free. 805-772-1068. galleryatmarinasquare.com. Gallery at Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero suite 10, Morro Bay.

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

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

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.

JERILYNNE NIBBE: A RETROSPECTIVE Looking at a life of creativity. Featuring Nibbe's monprints, watercolors and woodcuts. Mondays-Sundays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Feb. 1 Free. 805-772-6394. Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay.

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

LEARN BEGINNING FUSED GLASS WITH LARRY LE BRANE Call or email host, or check website for more precise info on workshop dates (dates vary). Make fused-glass home/garden décor, gifts, dishware, or use in your own artwork. No previous art skills are needed. All



THE FINAL FRONTIER

Allan Hancock College presents Asteroid Days, a series of special workshops, lectures, and other events in celebration of NASA's upcoming DART spacecraft launch, on Monday, Nov. 22, and Tuesday, Nov. 23. The series includes a two-day NASA expo at the Mechanics Bank Student Center, located at Hancock's Santa Maria campus, and a launch viewing event at Hancock's Lompoc Valley Center. Visit hancockcollege.edu to find out more.

—C.W.

materials for 3-5 projects are included in \$135 fee. For 4-6 students. No drop-ins. Registration at larron4@charter.net. Through Jan. 29, 2022 \$135. 805-528-8791. facebook.com/larry.lebrane. Central Coast Glass Blowing and Fusing, 1279 2nd Street, Los Osos.

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

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

MOSAICS FOR BEGINNERS Learn mosaic basics from cutting, gluing, grouting to cleaning to create a masterpiece. Choose project on website. Everything provided to complete project in class. Preregistration required. **Nov. 28**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

SEA GLASS HAMMERED METAL JEWELRY Learn how to drill holes in sea glass (for safety this will be a demonstration), hammer metal to strength and texture it, and basic jewelry making skills to create a necklace and two earrings. Everything is provided to complete the projects including local sea glass. **Nov. 27**, 10 a.m.-noon \$50. 805-286-5993. CreativeMeTime.com. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., 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. artcentermorroby.org. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

LOMPOC/VANDBERG

LOMPOC TURKEY TROT Includes a Turkey Trot 3-mile Fun Run and Kids Turkey Dash. Prizes include medals, turkeys, and pies. **Nov. 21**, 8 a.m. cityoflompop.com. River Bend Park, McLaughlin Rd. and A St., Lompoc, 805-875-8100.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

ALTRUSA'S FESTIVAL OF TREES Sponsored by Altrusa of the Central Coast, the event gives sponsors a chance to decorate a Christmas tree and place gifts under it before raffling off each one to the public. **Nov. 26-Dec. 11** \$1 per raffle ticket. altrusaofthecentralcoast.org/. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP (ONLINE) Join us for this Caregiver Support Group online. Sponsored by the Santa Maria Wisdom Center and Dignity Health Family Caregiver Support Program. Open to everyone. Call to have zoom link emailed, or for questions. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 p.m. through Dec. 31 Free. 805-354-5326. smwisdomcenter.org. Santa Maria, 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.**

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 16

2021 NEW TIMES MUSIC AWARDS



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR'S EVENT A SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

ABOUT TIME

B POZ

BLYTHE BERG

BOB AND WENDY

CARBON CITY LIGHTS

GHOST/MONSTER

GRAYBILL

LOUIE & TALIA ORTEGA

LU LU & THE COWTIPPERS

MISS LEO

NICOLE STROMSOE

PETE PIDGEON

RIO FLEMING

ROGUE STATUS

THE BOGEYS

THE FEARLESS MESSENGER OF LOVE

THE SANTA CRUZ FAMILY BAND

THE TIPSYPY GYPSIES

WALLY BARNICK

NewTimes

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SLO BREW ROCK

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Robbo Music

the krush 92.5 • THE PERFECT BLEND

Pirate Radio 104.1

1ST CAPITAL BANK

MY 805 TIX

NewTimesSLO.com

20, Nov. 22, Nov. 23, Nov. 24 and Nov. 27 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.

ONE-DAY MOVIE MATINEE *Raya and the Last Dragon* (PG, 114 minutes). Drop by for a family movie at the Library. No sign-ups or tickets required. All ages welcome with caregivers. Sorry, food and drinks are not allowed at this event. **Nov. 22, 2-4 p.m.** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. 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, Nov. 22, Nov. 23, Nov. 24 and Nov. 27 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.



PONDS TO PONDER

The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center is hosting a community hike from Oso Flaco Lake to Myrtle Pond on Saturday, Nov. 20, from approximately 9 a.m. to noon. Participants can register for the hike in advance at my805tix.com. Closed-toed shoes are required, and long pants are highly encouraged. Attendees will meet at the Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, located on Oso Flaco Road in Nipomo. Call (805) 343-2455 or visit dunescenter.org to find out more about the event and other upcoming community hikes.

—C.W.

SPECIAL MOVIE MATINEE WEEK *How to Train Your Dragon* (PG, 98 minutes). Drop by for a family movie at the Library. No sign-ups or tickets required. All ages welcome with caregivers. Sorry, food and drinks are not allowed at this event. **Nov. 23, 2-3:30 p.m.** Free. 805-925-0994. engagedpatrons.org. Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria.

SPECIAL MOVIE MATINEE WEEK II *How to Train Your Dragon 2* (PG, 102 minutes). Drop by for a family movie at the Library. No sign-ups or tickets required. All ages welcome with caregivers. Sorry, food and drinks are not allowed at this event. **Nov. 24, 2-4 p.m.** Free. 805-925-

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

SPECIAL MOVIE MATINEE WEEK III *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* (PG, 104 minutes). Drop by for a family movie at the Library. No sign-ups or tickets required. All ages welcome with caregivers. Sorry, food and drinks are not allowed at this event. **Nov. 27, 2-4 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

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.

POINT SAN LUIS LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR Join a live docent via Zoom for an interactive virtual tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. \$10. pointsanluislighthouse.org/. Point San Luis Lighthouse, 1 Lighthouse Rd., Avila Beach.

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO

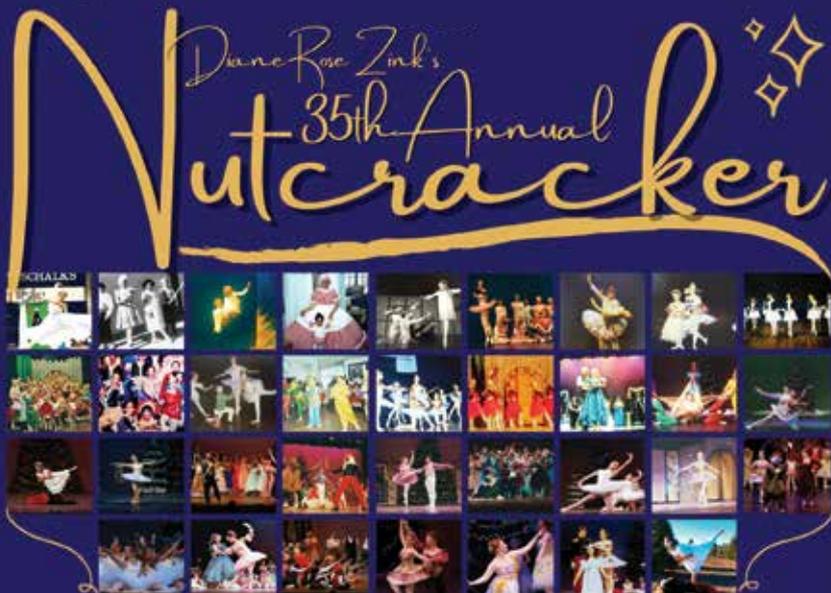
ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES 101 Free webinars on all-electric homes, which use electricity instead of fossil fuels for energy needs such as heating and cooking and reduce greenhouse gas emissions **Nov. 18, 5-6:15 p.m.** Free. 3c-ren.org/event/all-electric-homes-101/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

BDSM 101 This monthly class from the Central Coast Kink Community provides a basic overview of kink, consent, rules, and information to help practitioners be successful and safe. Attendees must be 18+ years of age. Virtually meets via Zoom. Fourth Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m. No admission. galacc.org/events/. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

BIRDS AND BOTANY MONTHLY WALK AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDEN The Garden is excited to present a monthly bird walk series on the fourth Thursday of every month which explores the intersection of birds and botany.

CULTURE & LIFESTYLE continued page 18

Everybody Can DANCE and the Santa Maria Civic Ballet Present



The Central Coast's Longest Running Nutcracker

35

Start Your Holidays With Us Thanksgiving Weekend

Audience Members are Required to Wear Masks

Saturday, November 27 7pm

Sunday, November 28 3pm

Adults \$25

Children \$20

Clark Center for the Performing Arts
487 Fair Oaks Ave, Arroyo Grande

Tickets available online, by phone, or at the Box Office
www.ClarkCenter.org 805-489-9444



Santa is coming to Orcutt!



Come to Oak Knolls Hardware Saturday, December 4th from 11-3 to get your photo with Santa during our Toys for Tots fundraiser

Make any nominal donation or bring in a new, unwrapped toy to get your photo with Santa!

Bring in a new unwrapped toy from now until December 20th and get a free raffle ticket for your chance to win a Traeger!

Raffle tickets also available for purchase for \$5 for your chance to win a Traeger Pro 22!



OAK KNOLLS HARDWARE

1155 E. CLARK AVE, ORCUTT • 805.937.3536

We're back! It's time for

ALTRUSA's Festival of Trees

Nov. 26 - Dec. 11

Santa Maria Town Center Mall
Downstairs, near Red Robin

Each \$1 ticket is an opportunity to
win a tree with up to \$1000 in gifts!

Winners will be drawn Dec. 12th



SCAN ME FOR
EVENT DETAILS

HOLIDAY GUIDE

BOOK ADS BY: November 18
PUBLICATION DATE: November 25

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

LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE

BOOK ADS BY: December 3
PUBLICATION DATE: December 9

Help our readers find the
perfect last-minute gifts

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

BOOK ADS BY: December 24
PUBLICATION DATE: December 30

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

VOLUNTEERS January 13
HEALTH & WELLNESS January 27
OUTDOORS February 17

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO TODAY



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Be your own boss.

BUSINESS LAUNCH DAY!

NOVEMBER 20TH | 11AM - 3PM
SANTA MARIA TOWN CENTER MALL

Come support Santa Maria's youngest CEOs as they
open their businesses to the public!

Fourth Thursday of every month, 8-11 a.m. \$10 for Garden Members; \$40 for general public. 805-541-1400. slobg.org. San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., San Luis Obispo.

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

CAL POLY FOOTBALL VS NORTHERN ARIZONA Help us honor the Mustang senior athletes as they play in their final home game at Spanos Stadium. **Nov. 20**, 5 p.m. gopoly.com/. Alex G. Spanos Stadium, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY VOLLEYBALL VS HAWAII Don't miss the biggest volleyball match of the year as the Mustangs take on Hawaii. **Nov. 20**, 8 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LOUISVILLE Don't miss the home opener as the Mustangs take on nationally ranked Louisville. **Nov. 23**, 5-7 p.m. gopoly.com/. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MONTANA STATE It's day two of the Holiday Beach Classic and the Mustangs take on Montana State to wrap up the tournament. Admission is free for all fans. **Nov. 27**, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ST. THOMAS It's day one of the Holiday Beach Classic as the Mustangs take on St. Thomas. Admission is free for all fans. **Nov. 26**, 12-2 p.m. Free. gopoly.com. Mott Athletics Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-7297.

CAL POLY WRESTLING VS SF STATE Join us for this outdoor wrestling duel at O'Neill Green and enjoy the Mustang Corral BBQ while you watch the Mustangs take on SF State. **Nov. 20**, 3-5 p.m. gopoly.com/. O'Neill Green, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, 805-756-4849.

CENTRAL COAST CONJURERS (SLO COUNTY MAGIC CLUB) Monthly meeting of magicians of all levels. Please call or email for more info. Meet like-minded folks with an interest in magic, from close-up to stage performances. Last Wednesday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. 805-440-0116. IHOP, 212 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo.

HANUKKAH DOWNTOWN 2021 The SLO Jewish community is honored to continue its annual tradition of lighting the public menorah outside the Old Mission of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa each night of Hanukkah. All members of the SLO community are invited to join us to celebrate. **Nov. 28-Dec. 5**, 5-6 p.m. Free. 805-426-5465. jccslo.com/hanukkah.html. Mission Plaza, 989 Chorro St, San Luis Obispo.

HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE You can mail gift cards to PO Box 125, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, or drop them off at office locations in SLO and Paso Robles. Through Dec. 20 luminaalliance.org. Lumina Alliance, 51 Zaca Lane, suite 150, 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.

MONTHLY TRANS* THERAPY GROUP Join our therapist led group for local trans* community members. Please email therapists@galacc.org for a screening interview prior to your first group. Offers in-person and video-conferencing options. Sponsored by GALA Pride and Diversity Center and Tranz Central Coast. Fourth Monday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. through June 28 805-762-4598. galacc.org/events/#calendar. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

OUTDOOR YOGA CLASSES Hotel San Luis Obispo, Piazza Hospitality's first property on California's scenic

Central Coast, offers outdoor yoga classes on its rooftop terrace. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays \$10-\$15; complimentary for hotel guests. 805-235-0700. hotel-slo.com. Hotel San Luis Obispo, 877 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

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.

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY One Cool Earth believes every child deserves a place to grow. By giving any amount, you will help students at our 23 partner schools grow into healthy, happy, and smart youth by supporting integrated outdoor education. **Nov. 23** onecoolearth.org/rooted-in-community.html. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

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

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 aarappgroup@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.

TRANS* YOUTH PEER SUPPORT GROUP This group is a safe place for trans* and gender non-conforming people, as well as those questioning, from ages of 11 to 18. A facilitated emotional support group to be heard, share your story, and hear stories that may sound surprisingly like your own. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. GALA Pride and Diversity Center, 1060 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, 805-541-4252.

TREE AND WREATH SALE FOR SLOHS AND LAGUNA BANDS Trees and wreaths can be preordered online and picked-up/delivered (within SLO) on Dec. 4. Proceeds fund uniforms, transportation, and more for the SLO High School & Laguna Middle School Bands. PayPal and credit cards accepted. Through Nov. 18 slobandboosters.org. Online, See website, San Luis Obispo.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

ECHO'S NORTH COUNTY TURKEY TROT Suggested is \$20 per person. Includes a 5K Fun Run/Walk (around the park). Prizes for Turkey costumes. **Nov. 25**, 8:30-midnight Donations. 805-462-3663. echoshelter.org/turkey-trot. Atascadero Lake Park, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero.

NAR-ANON: FRIDAY MEETINGS A meeting for those who know or have known a feeling of desperation concerning the addiction of a loved one. Fridays, 12-1 p.m. Free. 805-221-5523. North County Connection, 8600 Atascadero Ave., Atascadero.

NAR-ANON: TUESDAY MEETINGS Nar-Anon is a



TEACHER'S PET

Black Rabbit Studio in San Luis Obispo hosts its Paint Your Pet Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 20. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds of this art workshop will benefit the Woods Humane Society. Admission is \$60. For registration and more info, call (805) 550-2181 or visit blackrabbitstudioslo.com. The studio is located at 1154 Mill St., San Luis Obispo. —C.W.

support group for those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. naranoncentralca.org/meetings/meeting-list/. The Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4500 El Camino Real, Atascadero, 805-221-5523.

OPEN AIR VINEYARD YOGA Intentionally carve out time for quiet, movement, and a little self pampering in the open air of the vineyard with Yogi Chelcy Westphal Johnson, of Mindful Movement Collective. Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$28-\$150. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

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

TOPS SUPPORT GROUP: WEIGHT LOSS AND MAINTENANCE A self-help support group focusing on weight loss and maintenance. Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. 805-242-2421. tops.org. Santa Margarita Senior Center, 2210 H St., Santa Margarita.

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

CAMBRIA CHRISTMAS MARKET The Cambria Christmas Market returns through Dec. 23 (open until Jan. 1 for hotel guests only). This beloved, annual event features 2 million twinkling Christmas lights, complete with themed vignettes, visits from Santa, cozy fire pits, delicious food and drink, and more. **Nov. 26-Jan. 1**, 5-9 p.m. \$15-\$25. cambriachristmasmarket.com. Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Dr., Cambria, 805-927-4200.

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-Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 805-691-9413. standingsunwines.com. Standing Sun Wines, 92 2nd St., Unit D, Buellton, 805-691-9413.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

LAUNCH DAY: SWACK'S SQUEEZY LEMONADE Jaxson, a 10-year-old graduate of a Jr. CEO program, is donating \$1 from every cup to Toys for Tots. Enjoy specialty lemonade with strawberry boba. Near the movie theater inside the mall. **Nov. 20**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria.

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

ARROYO GRANDE FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 12:25 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, Pismo Beach.

NORTH SLO COUNTY

HOLIDAY ARTISAN CRAFT AND FOOD SALE Caliwalla is hosting an outdoor Holiday Artisan Craft and Food Sale. Come shop for lovely and unique handmade gifts and delicious food by local vendors. Masks and social distancing are required for safety. 20 percent of sales benefits the ECHO homeless shelter. **Nov. 20**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 805-365-7555. Caliwalla Food Market and Deli, 22202 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita, caliwalla.com.

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

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

MUSIC

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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

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

SANTA MARIA VALLEY/LOS ALAMOS

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

SOUTH COAST SLO COUNTY

JOHN CRAIGIE LIVE Numbskull and Good Medicine **MUSIC** continued page 19

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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.

SINGER-SONGWRITERS HEARD HERE (SSHH) CONCERT SERIES Produced by Songwriters at Play. The goal is to create an intimate, listening atmosphere, presenting performers of original music to appreciative audiences. **Nov. 23**, 6:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Puffers of Pismo, 781 Price St., Pismo Beach, 805-773-6563.

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/.

GLISSANDO: FALL HARP MUSIC BY C. HITE A new harp release for listening and download at bandcamp. You can relax and imagine autumn leaves scampering about in an autumn wind in original songs that are written with the heavenly glissando strumming technique. Through Dec. 9 carolbethhite.bandcamp.com/. Online San Luis Obispo.

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

NORTH SLO COUNTY

EASTON EVERETT TRIO Neo-folk pop. **Nov. 21**, 1-4 p.m. eastoneverett.com. Tooth and Nail Winery, 3090 Anderson Rd., Paso Robles, 805-369-6100.

FLAVOR PACKET Contemporary jazz. **Nov. 27**, 1-4:30 p.m. eastoneverett.com/. Shale Oak Winery, 3235 Oakdale Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-4800.

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

POIGNANT PIANO: TORSTEN JUUL-BORRE On the program will be intriguing music by Amy Beach, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, and Frederic Chopin. **Nov. 21**, 5:30 p.m. my805tix.com. Cass Winery And Vineyard, 7350 Linne Rd., Paso Robles, 805-239-1730.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES JOSH ROSENBLUM, LOREN RADIS, STEVE KEY Songwriters at Play host Steve Key will share the garden stage with Josh Rosenblum, and Loren Radis. Josh's originals are influenced by funk, R&B, and jazz. Loren's blend of acoustic/rock is influenced by Simon & Garfunkel, Iron & Wine, and Damien Rice. **Nov. 20**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

SONGWRITERS AT PLAY FEATURES STEREO CHICKENS Songwriters at Play host Steve Key presents an afternoon of live music featuring the trio called Stereo Chickens, California's premier Americana group blending Country, Bluegrass, Folk, and Gospel into their own unique sound. Ken McMeans, Cynthia Ford, and John Nowel are big favorites locally. **Nov. 27**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. 805-204-6821. stevekey.com/events. Sculpterra Winery, 5015 Linne Rd., Paso Robles.

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

NORTH COAST SLO COUNTY

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

THE TAPROOTS IN CONCERT The Taproots are best known for their creative songwriting, strong harmonies and innovative guitar work. The band performs a unique blend of original contemporary Americana music incorporating rock, folk, and jazz influences. **Nov. 20**, 6-9 p.m. Free. 805-772-8388. savorypalette.com/index.html. The Savory Palette (formerly Morro Bay Wine Seller), 601 Embarcadero, Morro Bay. ☪

Spread the word!

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



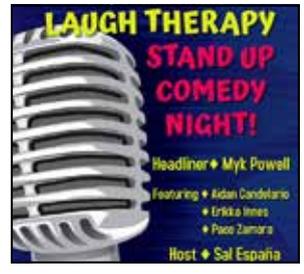
Poignant Piano: Torsten Juul-Borre SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Light Up a Life Remembrance Ceremony TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 Mission San Luis Obispo



5CHC Fundraiser: Drive-Thru Seafood Dinner TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 Fin's Restaurant, Grover Beach



Laugh Therapy Stand Up Comedy Night WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 Maverick Saloon, Santa Ynez



Sip and Shop Holiday Market SAT & SUN, DECEMBER 4 & 5 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Victorian Style Holiday Brunch with Brynn Albanese SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 Point San Luis Lighthouse



"Spirit of the Holidays" Cocktail Party Workshop SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Holiday Estate Beef Winemaker Dinner: Prime Rib FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Avila Beach Civic Association Santa's Doggie Parade SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 Avila Beach



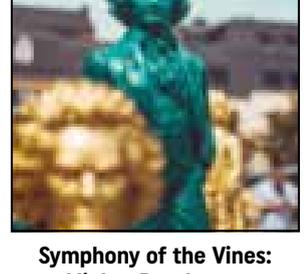
Cambria Stars: Holiday Sing Along SUN & MON, DEC. 12 & 13 Robin's Restaurant, Cambria



Community Hike at Oso Flaco Lake SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes



New Year's Eve CASSino Party! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 Cass Winery, Paso Robles



Symphony of the Vines: Mighty Beethoven FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 Mission San Miguel

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COURTESY IMAGES BY MARICA BURTT

Arts Briefs

2021 Lompoc Valley Photo Contest announces winners

FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUG JENZEN



The city of Lompoc announced the winners of this year's 2021 Lompoc Valley Photo Contest in the beginning of November. Participant Darrell Tullis' photo, *Train Over Still Waters*, won Best of Show. Tullis also scored both first and third place in the Amateur Adult Photographer category (the latter for Tullis' additional entry, *Holding Up the Train*), alongside fellow winner Sue Doran (who scored second place for *Table for Two With an Ocean View*).

Participant Doug Gorham also scored multiple wins in the contest, taking home first place in the Faces category (for *Butterfly on a Patio Bloom*), third place in the Nature Landscape category (for *Lompoc Harvest Moon*), and both second and third place in the Animals category (for *Hummingbird Breakfast* and *Another Missile in Rocket Town*, respectfully).

Additional contest winners include photographers Jim Spaulding, who won first place in both the Animals and Landscape categories (for *Looking at Me* and *Tribute*, respectively), and Nancy Aguirre, who won second place in the Nature Landscape category (for *Bee on Lavender*).

Visit cityoflompoc.com for more info on the 2021 Lompoc Valley Photo Contest and future updates on next year's event.

Solvang Theaterfest hosts pop-up concert with Steely Dan tribute band, Doctor Wu

IMAGE COURTESY OF SOLVANG THEATERFEST



Doctor Wu, a Los Angeles-based Steely Dan tribute band, will be performing at the Solvang Veterans Memorial Hall on Friday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). This pop-up concert will be the first in a series hosted by Solvang Theaterfest. While the Solvang Festival Theater is temporarily closed during its ongoing reconstruction, this concert series will be held at several alternative locations throughout the Santa Ynez Valley.

Led by frontman Tony Egan, Doctor Wu is an 11-piece ensemble that aims to replicate "the textures and authenticity of Steely Dan's music," according to press materials. Tickets to the upcoming concert are currently available in advance at solvangfestivaltheater.org. Admission to the concert is \$22. Attendees are required to wear masks while indoors at the Veterans' Memorial Building, regardless of vaccination status, except when actively eating or drinking.

To find out more about Doctor Wu, visit doctorwuband.com. For more info on the show's venue, call (805) 688-5575. The Veterans' Memorial Building is located at 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang. Construction on Solvang Festival Theater's rebuilding project started in September and is expected to be completed in July 2022. ○

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



GRATEFUL TREAD: Gratitude at Gallery Los Olivos showcases a collection of Marcia Burtt's colorful landscapes. Through plein air painting, she's able to combine two of her passions—art and nature. "Standing in nature and intently observing it is the high point of any outdoor painting experience," Burtt said.

Great attitude

Gallery Los Olivos showcases artist Marcia Burtt in latest solo exhibit, *Gratitude*

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep one local acrylic painter from using her preferred medium. Over the past 40 years, Marcia Burtt can only think of a handful of times when weather conditions nearly tempted her to switch to the dark side—oils.

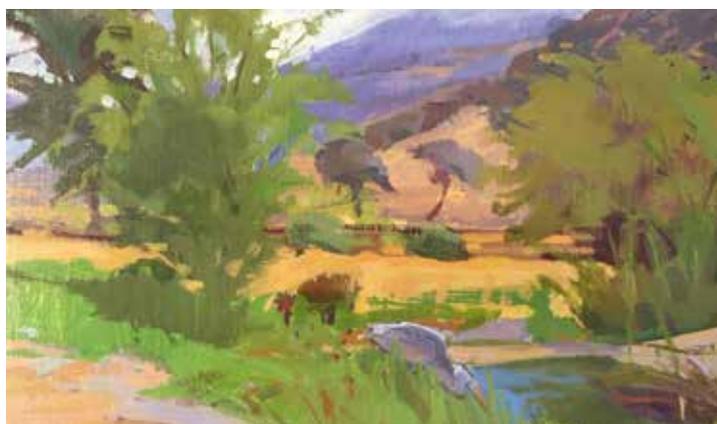
One February in Yosemite, Burtt remembers meeting with a group of oil painters the day after a heavy snowfall.

"The air was moist and the temperature just above freezing. Acrylic dries by giving off moisture and other volatiles, but that can't happen at very low temperatures," Burtt explained. "Tears ran down my cheeks as acrylic dripped down the canvas while my oil painting buddies turned out gem after gem."

But Burtt stood her ground and came across a silver lining, thanks to a nifty solution.

"In spite of the chill, the day was sunny so I was able to lay the painting on my car's dashboard and let it dry for 10 minutes at a time—I managed to get a couple of nice memories on canvas," said Burtt, whose acrylic paintings are currently on display in her latest solo show at Gallery Los Olivos.

The show is full of colorful landscapes, painted by Burtt on location and in the moment. Through plein air painting, she's able to combine two of her



SLICE OF LIFE: As a longtime conservationist, artist Marcia Burtt not only strives to illustrate the beauty of the open spaces she paints, but protect and preserve them as well. "I've been painting for conservation since The Oak Group was founded back in the '80s," said Burtt, who's also a founding member of the Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE).

Give thanks

Gratitude will remain on display at Gallery Los Olivos through Tuesday, Nov. 30. The gallery is located at 2920 Grand Ave., Los Olivos. Call (805) 688-7517 or visit gallerylosolivos.com for more info.

passions—art and nature.

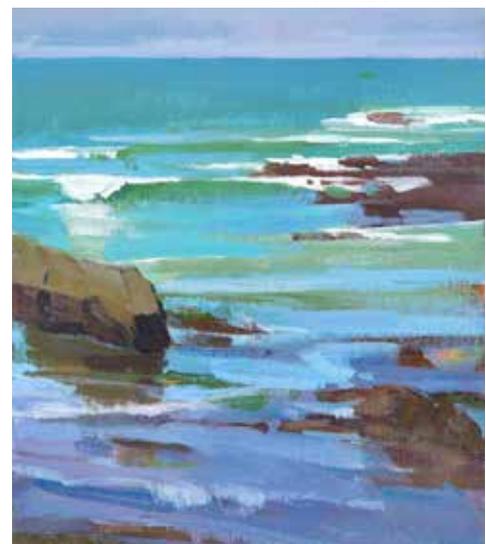
"Standing in nature and intently observing it is the high point of any outdoor painting experience," Burtt said. "Looking itself becomes a kind of communion that isn't about making a product but rather about trying to join with, and describe, the visible world."

Burtt's pursuit in capturing said world has taken her to painting expeditions across the country—Florida, Hawaii, and Maine, to name a few states—and to Europe as well. Still, she can't seem to rank any locales higher on her favorites list than the spots she finds along the Central Coast.

"Although I've been lucky enough to paint in many of the most beautiful places in the world, I find the Central California coastline—Channel Islands to Big Sur—excites me the most," Burtt said. "This might be the effect of simply painting it often. Like affection in a personal relationship; paying attention increases love."

Burtt specified that her all-time favorite place to paint is Goleta Beach.

"The combination of placid water in the estuary, waves rushing in, a distant view of headlands, and nearby cliffs, and tall stands of eucalyptus offer great variety," Burtt said, listing her favorite things about the spot. "There is always something deeply moving to



OCEAN EYES: Local painter and conservationist Marcia Burtt described observing and painting nature as "a kind of communion that isn't about making a product but rather about trying to join with, and describe, the visible world."

paint at Goleta Beach."

As a longtime conservationist, Burtt not only strives to illustrate the beauty of the open spaces she paints, but protect and preserve them as well.

"I've been painting for conservation since The Oak Group was founded back in the '80s," said Burtt, who's also a founding member of the Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE).

Burtt also owns her own gallery, Marcia Burtt Gallery in Santa Barbara, which she's owned for about two decades. She described the gallery's origin as accidental.

In 2000, Burtt and her husband purchased a building on Laguna Street, designed to be "half residential and half commercial," the artist said.

"I intended to use the lovely commercial space for painting portraits," she said.

But before turning "the empty space into a cluttered studio," Burtt decided to use the building to host an exhibition for her close friend and fellow artist, Meg Torbert. She enlisted an additional artist, Pat Doyle, to showcase her works as well, forming a duo show between the two.

Twenty-one years later, Burtt is still curating local artists at the venue with the help of her gallery manager.

"Life intervened," she said. "My great, good fortune in gaining the talents of a wonderful gallery manager after the first year enabled the gallery to, little by little, become lighter, cleaner, and more sophisticated aesthetically." ○

Arts Editor Caleb Wiseblood feels fortunate too. Send comments to cwiseblood@santamariasun.com.

Showtime!

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



THIS IS THE END: Marcia Burtt has traveled to Florida, Hawaii, Maine, and other states for painting expeditions, but her all-time favorite locales to paint are all along California's Central Coast. Pictured: *End of Day*, painted at Condor's Hope in Santa Barbara County.

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LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE

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How the West was fun

Co-writer/director *Jeymes Samuel* (*They Die By Dawn*) helms this revisionist Western populated by fictionalized characters based on historical Black people of the Old West. At the center of the revenge story is Nat Love (Jonathan Majors), who as a child saw his parents gunned down by the outlaw Rufus Buck (Idris Elba), who also carved a cross into the boy's forehead. As an adult, Love—now an outlaw who robs other outlaws—learns Buck has been sprung from the penitentiary and is heading to his old stronghold of Redwood City, where they're headed for a bloody showdown. (139 min.)

Glen: This film—one of a rare few Westerns whose principal characters are all Black—is aimed squarely at a modern audience with a nonchalant rendering of transgender character Cuffee (Danielle Deadwyler), multilayered explorations of racism both within and outside the Black community, and a pumping soundtrack featuring reggae, hip-hop, and more. Despite the film's characters being based on historical figures, this isn't a history lesson—huge liberties are taken with who these people were, and the story itself is fantastical—but it's entertaining as heck! The violence is very Quentin Tarantino-esque—stylized, sudden, and bloody. On one side is Love, who for 20 years has been pining for revenge for his parents' brutal murder. While he's killing one of Buck's gang members, his partners—sharpshooter Bill Pickett (Edi Gathegi) and quickdraw Jim Beckwourth (R.J. Cyler)—ambush a gang that's just robbed a bank, taking their \$25,000... loot that was supposed to go to Buck. Love's revenge has just begun. Meanwhile, Buck arrives in Redwood City, where he takes control

of the community, demanding its Black residents pay him a \$50,000 tribute. It's pretty standard stuff story-wise, but between the acting, cinematography, soundtrack, it makes for a deeply engrossing tale of the Old West. **Anna:** It definitely held my attention in spite of being a pretty inside-the-box Western. The revenge-flick element mixed with gunplay and some innerworkings of the characters' relationships made for an entertaining ride. Not to mention the cast worked well together—and the heavyweights here in Majors, Beats, and Elba shine. I don't remember Deadwyler from her past roles, but she's been in several things I've seen. That being said, I won't soon forget her performance as Cuffee, a quickdraw gunslinger with a smart mouth and a deep loyalty. It's hard to praise this film for being super innovative because story-wise it really wasn't, but sometimes the standard is what it is because it's tried-and-true entertaining, and for me that's the case here. It's just a good ol' fashioned showdown with enough backstory to give us a side to root for. The soundtrack is wonderful, and in that department *The Harder They Fall* wasn't a usual Western at all. The music and cinematography definitely were two key components to my enjoyment—it looks great and sounds awesome. That's two boxes ticked for me!

Glen: Despite the lengthy cast list, the characters are fleshed out and memorable. One, Jim Beckwourth, I'm well versed in as he's a figure in the Reed family murders at the San Miguel Mission in 1848. Beckwourth was a Pony Express rider when he happened upon the murder site. If you look them up, the other characters also have their own Wild West bona fides. Mary Fields was born into slavery but became a star-route mail carrier, which was very dangerous work. Trudy Smith is based on a

THE HARDER THEY FALL

What's it rated? **R**
 What's it worth, Anna? **Full price**
 What's it worth, Glen? **Full price**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**

known pickpocket, though in this film her character is far more treacherous. Nate Love was also a former slave who became a cowboy and horse breaker, though he was eventually captured by a band of Pima Indians. After his escape, he became a Pullman porter on the railroad and died in LA in 1921. Aside from the murderer Cherokee Bill, Rufus Buck was the only other historical outlaw, who ran a mixed-race gang of murderers, rapists, and thieves. These real-life Black figures from the Old West are fascinating, and though they don't bear much resemblance to their film characters, that doesn't stop the story from being a mayhem-filled ride. I'll watch it again. **Anna:** I loved that local connection to Beckwourth. It's so fun that they used actual historical figures, even if they don't match up much with their namesakes. Westerns have been such a staple of American cinema for so long. It can be hard to be innovative, but the filmmakers here found a good formula. I didn't check out, I followed the story, and I invested in the characters. The film has gotten pretty good ratings from both critics and audiences on Rotten Tomatoes and sits at a 6.6 on IMDB, all around pretty respectable reviews. We're heading into the season



HISTORICAL FANTASTICAL: Nat Love (Jonathan Majors) and Stagecoach Mary Fields (Zazie Beetz) shoot it out with a rival gang, in *The Harder They Fall*, a revisionist Black Western streaming on Netflix.

of big blockbusters, and while *The Harder They Fall* has a great and well-known cast and obviously wasn't made on a shoestring budget, it doesn't feel like a big, overblown movie. I'll take it where I can get it as we head into the Christmas season! I believe this is only a streaming film as of now, and it's totally worth using your Netflix subscription to watch. It may not be on my top movies list for the year, but that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy it. If you like Westerns, this will be a great little distraction for a couple of hours curled up on your couch. ○

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

Film Reviews

FINCH

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Apple TV Plus**
 Miguel Sapochnik (*Repo Men*) directs this family-friendly charmer about an ailing robotics engineer named Finch Weinberg, who lives with his dog, Goodyear (Seamus), and a robot (voiced by Caleb Landry Jones) that he created to take care of the dog after his inevitable death. Finch knows his days are numbered. Though his ailment is never disclosed, it may have to do with the destroyed environment. It's been 10 years since a solar flare put holes in Earth's ozone layer, bringing surface temperatures soaring and creating unsurvivable ultraviolet radiation. Finch has to wear a spacesuit to venture outdoors in daylight, where he's constantly in search of supplies. With a massive storm heading toward St. Louis that's predicted to last 40 days, Finch knows he and Goodyear will both be dead if they can't find a more hospitable area. The joy of the film is watching Finch bring Jeff online. Like a newborn, Jeff must learn to talk and walk, and—most importantly—learn how to care for Goodyear. They hop into Finch's

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBLIN PARTNERS



ROADTRIP! In a post-apocalyptic America, robotics engineer Finch Weinberg (Tom Hanks); his dog, Goodyear (Seamus); and a robot named Jeff (voiced by Caleb Landry Jones), hop into a fortified RV and travel west from St. Louis toward San Francisco, in *Finch*, screening on Apple TV Plus.

fortified RV and head west, hoping for the best. It's very sweet watching Jeff learn to care for Goodyear and learn what it means to be human, and Hanks is predictably wonderful. Very young kids might find it overwhelming—it's sort of the end of the world, after all—but at its heart, the story is about holding on to hope and humanity. (115 min.)

—Glen

New Flicks

RED NOTICE

What's it rated? **PG-13**
 When? **2021**
 Where's it showing? **Netflix**
 Writer-director Rawson Marshall Thurber (*Skyscraper*, *Central Intelligence*, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*) helms this old fashioned action heist comedy about FBI Agent John Hartley (Dwayne Johnson) who's brought in by Interpol Inspector Urvasi Das (Ritu Arya) to help capture one of the world's greatest art thieves, Nolan Booth (Ryan Reynolds), who is being set up by another art thief, The Bishop (Gal Gadot), in a story of shifting alliances. The prize at stake is a trio of bejeweled eggs purportedly given as a wedding gift 2,000 years ago from Marcus Antonius to his bride Cleopatra. The film is self-reflective enough to mention these are essentially MacGuffins—nothing more than an object to motivate the story's characters. What we're really here for is to watch the verbal sparring between Reynolds and Johnson, the well-choreographed chases and fights, and Gal Gadot being... well, simply stunning. This breezy caper flick, which is included in your Netflix subscription—isn't doing anything new to update the genre, which may be why it's been roundly panned by critics, but in its defense, it's not trying

PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX AND SEVEN BUCKS PRODUCTIONS



SLICK FLICK: In the comedy action heist *Red Notice*, two art thieves—Nolan Booth (Ryan Reynolds) and The Bishop (Gal Gadot)—and FBI agent John Hartley (Dwayne Johnson) are forced to work together as they search for three bejeweled eggs, screening on Netflix.

to do anything new. In fact, it seems more interested in nodding to its influences and letting its stars' considerable chemistry carry the weight of the film, which they do. Reynolds is laugh-out-loud funny, Johnson is hulking but vulnerable, and Gadot is charming and dangerous. It's an easy watch. (118 min.) ○

—Glen

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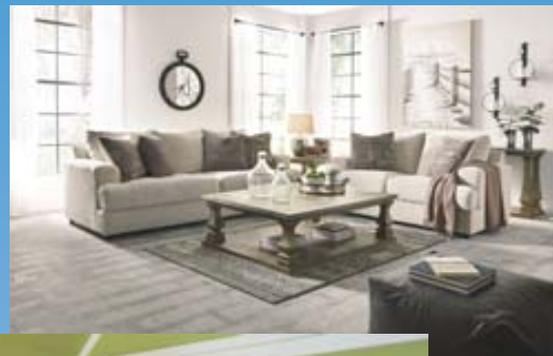
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CUPID'S ARROW: Husband and wife Tim and Anna Arrowsmith moved from England to the U.S. in 2014. The prolific duo ended up buying a ranch with a compact vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley, and opened Arrowsmith's Wine Bar in Solvang in 2020.



SWEET TREATS: Wine, beer, tea, and decadent specialties (including the bar's chocolate hummus with biscuits) are just a few offerings bringing first-timers and regulars (back for more) to the bar over the past year.

British invasion

Vintner and former filmmaker Anna Arrowsmith reflects on her wine bar's first year in business

BY CALEB WISEBLOOD

Fudge, toffee, kipper, biscuit, truffle. Is this a list of snacks, cute dog names, or wine club tiers? Answer: all of the above.

While donating a dollar per wine shipment to Little Wolf Rescue (a California-based animal rescue organization), the two co-owners of Arrowsmith's Wine Bar decided to name the venue's wine club levels after their five pups.

For wife and husband Anna and Tim Arrowsmith, it's hard to believe a full year has passed since their bar's grand opening, during the fall of 2020, about six years after they moved from Britain to the U.S.

"We decided after two days in the Californian sun that we wanted to stay,"

said Anna, as the couple's 2014 California getaway evolved into a permanent stay.

They ended up buying a ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley with a compact vineyard, although neither Arrowsmith had aspirations to work in winemaking prior to moving in. With a Ph.D. in gender studies, Anna was working as a lecturer at UCSB before setting her sights on a possible career shift.

"I kept driving past Wandering Dog Wine Bar for a few months when it was for sale, which was one of the few places we liked to drink in the valley, and I couldn't drop the idea of buying the business, so eventually I did it," Anna said.

While transforming the former home of Wandering Dog into Arrowsmith's Wine Bar, Anna said getting situated into the local winemaking scene was the kind

Follow the arrows

For more info on Arrowsmith's Wine Bar, visit arrowsmithwine.com. The venue is located at 1539-C, Mission Drive, Solvang.

of feat she and her husband have become used to facing over the years.

"Tim and I both have varied backgrounds, we've changed careers a couple of times before, so we're used to adapting," said Anna, who—under the pseudonym Anna Span—formerly worked as a prominent director and producer in the European adult film industry, starting in the late 1990s.

In 2010, Anna ran for a seat on British Parliament and based her campaign on subjects of feminism and freedom of speech. She's also authored two nonfiction books, one on adult filmmaking, and another based on her 2013 Ph.D. thesis on gender studies.

When it comes to the couple's new wine bar venture, one former job Anna constantly refers back to is her stint as a bartender.

"When we first moved to the States, I worked in a bar in Altadena, California, where you would rub shoulders with



WANDERING EYES: "I kept driving past Wandering Dog Wine Bar for a few months when it was for sale, which was one of the few places we liked to drink in the valley, and I couldn't drop the idea of buying the business, so eventually I did it," said Anna Arrowsmith, who transformed the site into Arrowsmith's Wine Bar.

all types of people, from literal rocket scientists to construction workers and everything in between, which is why I worked there, it was great," Anna said. "I wanted the same vibe at my bar, so I worked on keeping it that way."

One of the best things about walking into any bar in California is "you never

know who you are talking to," Anna explained. "Pretty much everyone has got an interesting story to tell."

Speaking of stories, many readers are probably getting curious about how Anna and Tim first met. Let's take a

EATS continued page 25

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EATS from page 24

moment to rewind a bit, to 2007.

“We were both on Guardian Soulmates, the dating site for the British newspaper, back when online dating was weird,” Anna said. “We actually messaged each other 50 times before we met, which seems archaic now.”

Eighteen months later, the two were married. Like Anna, Tim is a passionate scholar, currently in the middle of his Ph.D. research project through the London College of Fashion. His concentration is on post-WWII British motorcycle clothing, roughly spanning from 1945 to 1970. Tim’s project entails a deep dive into the roles and ramifications of social groups in British culture, including British late-night cafe culture.

These are just a few of the unique academic topics the couple hopes to bring to an upcoming lecture series at the wine bar, although the series will mainly consist of guest speakers. The series’ diverse topics will range from various subjects, including philosophy and science, aiming “to get a balance of interests across the board to appeal to as many people as possible,” Anna said.

Events like these, including the venue’s new poetry night series as well (slated to kick off on Sunday, Dec. 5), tie into the Arrowsmith’s goal of bringing something fresh and unique to Solvang’s bar scene.

“We didn’t get into this to make just another bar, we wanted something special, something different, and we are constantly striving to stand out against the corporate beverage world,” Anna said.

Wine, beer, tea, and decadent specialties (including the bar’s chocolate hummus with biscotti) aren’t the only offerings bringing first-timers and regulars (back for more) to the bar. Live music is

COURTESY PHOTO BY HEATHER DAENITZ



THE RED WINES ARE COMING: While turning the former home of Wandering Dog into Arrowsmith’s Wine Bar, former filmmaker and lecturer Anna Arrowsmith said getting situated into the wine industry was the kind of feat she and her husband have become used to facing over the years. “Tim and I both have varied backgrounds, we’ve changed careers a couple of times before, so we’re used to adapting.”

already a mainstay at the venue, and with additional weekly events on the horizon, it’s sure to become even more of a happening hangout spot.

“It’s such a joy to look back on it and see the community we have built around the bar, that’s exactly what we wanted, lots of interesting, fun people to hang out with,” Anna said. ○

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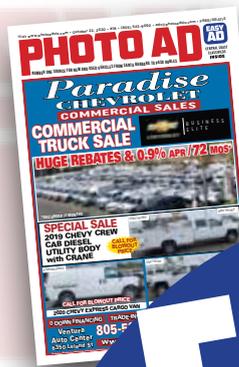
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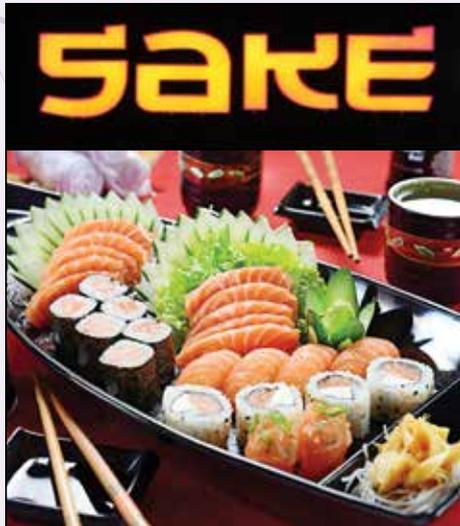
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